

## Masonic Burial in Arizona.

The following true narrative of the first Masonic burial in Arizona, as related to me by my old friend, Col. W. M. Williams, of Cairo, Ill., will doubtless interest your readers. I give it, as nearly as possible, in his own words:

In 1860 I was in Arizona as superintendent of the St. Louis Mining Company, located on the San Pedro river, a short distance west of what is now known as Tombstone and 40 miles east of Fort Buchanan.

On one occasion I made a visit to the Santa Rita mines located in another part of the territory. These were managed by Cincinnati parties and were known as the Heintzleman mines. When I arrived there and introduced myself, as none of us had ever met before, I was greeted with that cordial hospitality known only to those who have lived on the frontier or in mining camps by Mr. H. C. Grosvenor, of Cincinnati, the superintendent, with two others who occupied positions at the mines.

One of these, Mr. J. T. Mason, I found seriously indisposed; the other I sent to Fort Buchanan to bring Dr. J. B. D. Irwin, surgeon at the post. I then devoted my time to the sick man, who was growing more feeble each hour. He told me if he died he wanted to be buried with Masonic honors.

I had "tried" him and found him to be a bright third degree Mason. I promised to do all I could to carry out his request. He died before morning, and the messenger sent for the doctor had not returned, and it was uncertain when, if ever, he might return.

As in those days there were not over 40 Americans in the territory outside of the troops, the taking of life by the Indians was daily expected. In this emergency it devolved upon me to arrange for the burial of our friend. I sent peon messengers to Tubac and other places where Americans were known to be to come to my aid.

During the day I selected a beautiful spot overshadowed by a large mesquite tree and there had a very deep grave dug, as in that country the coyote is a kind of hyena, that will unearth any corpse if not laid deep in the ground. This work was done by peons, while I stood guard to keep the Indians from surprising us.

By midnight the messengers I had sent out commenced returning with the few who could come with them. I found among those who arrived two or three Masons, who, like myself, were "rusty" in the Masonic burial ritual. We opened the trunk of the deceased, hoping to find something to guide us in fulfilling his last request. The only thing we discovered was an Episcopal ritual. The following persons composed the funeral cortege: Dr. C. B. Hughes, J. Howard Wells, William S. Oury, H. C. Grosvenor, Col. Titus, S. Warner and myself.

We had determined to bury the body at night, in the darkness, having no light except a candle in one of the old time perforated tin lanterns by which I could read the service.

After lowering the body into the grave I commenced to read the service. I stood close to the head of the grave, and Mr. Howard Wells held the lantern behind me. A rustling sound was heard. It was supposed to come from lurking Indians, and every one looked out for himself. The man holding the lantern dropped it into the grave, and I fell in after it.

There I was with the corpse in a deep grave. I had my pistols and Sharp's carbine with me, and I realized that if the Indians peered into the grave I could fill it with dead bodies. I listened. Not a sound was heard. My companions had, I suppose, secreted themselves and no doubt thought I had done the same.

After the lapse of about four hours day began to dawn, and as I stood upon the corpse (no coffins were in use in Arizona at the time of this occurrence, the head being simply wrapped in their blankets) and cautiously looked over the brink of the grave to take in the surroundings.

I soon saw my comrades, one by one, emerging from behind rocks, where they had hastily secreted themselves, no one knowing where the others were. I called aloud for help and was soon assisted from the prison in which I had been confined for fully four hours, and as this is the first Masonic funeral that was ever held in Arizona I think it deserves a record.

After comparing notes we discovered that the mesquite tree under which we were holding our solemn service was the roosting place of a colony of crows, our intrusion having disturbed them and thereby causing us to stampede.

As the sun rose above the mountain tops we returned to the grave and completed the reading of the ritual and covered our friend with the clouds of the valley and left him sleeping where he will rest until the resurrection morn. Evelyn B. Baldwin in New York Masonic Standard.

## COMMISSIONER ROSS ROYALLY RECEIVED.



*Reception and Banquet Last Night an Artistic, Social and Culinary Triumph—Flow of Soul, Viands, and Feast of Reason—Many Subjects Toasted—Good Feeling Permeated All Present—Many Pretty Tributes Were Uttered.*

From Tuesday's Daily.

Hon. James Hamilton Ross has been received by the people of Dawson and it is safe to say that the manner of his reception will not soon be forgotten either by the gentleman himself or by those whose pleasure it was to participate in the happy event.

Decorated and festooned as never before, the Pioneer hall, the scene of last night's festivities presented a most beautiful as well as cheerful appearance. On the walls hung artistically draped the flags of Britain and of the United States, set off at intervals with pictures of notables, prominent among them being those of King Edward and the late lamented queen. The walls were also set with various arms and paraphernalia of the N. W. M. P. The long tables were arranged in the shape of a horseshoe and nearly every seat was occupied during the evening. Covers were laid for a few more than 100 persons and at a few minutes past 8 o'clock fully 100 business, professional and mining men of Dawson and the Klondike sat down to a sumptuous banquet as was ever served in any country, served, too, in a manner which would do credit to Delmonico in his most palmy days.

The excellence of the menu and the manner in which it was served were the subject of most favorable comment. The wine list was in keeping with the abundance and variety which characterized the banquet as a whole. A full coterie of waiters were in attendance and all guests were served almost simultaneously. The Savoy theater orchestra was present and all during the evening rendered airs suitable to the glad occasion and many varied were the airs caught up and sang with fervor and gusto by the banqueters for men will sing on such occasions who are not even able to carry a tune in a basket.

It was after the merry feast had continued for upwards of two hours, and when all reserve had given place to jollity, sociability and good cheer that Toastmaster H. T. Wills called order and proposed a toast to King Edward, which was drunk with a will. Without going into detail in describing the various toasts proposed and responded to, a few words will suffice for each.

"The President of the United States" was nicely handled by Acting U. S. Consul H. Te Roller who spoke at some length on the strong and closely cemented ties of friendship which bind John and Johnathan, British and Americans, together, and when he closed it was with enthusiasm, good will and many "here's to McKinley" that glasses were emptied, filled and emptied again.

Capt. Hulme, of the Dawson volunteers, proposed the toast "The Army, Navy and Volunteers," and in doing so paid a glowing tribute to the Canadian soldier and to his valor on the field of battle. Lieutenant Tobin, fresh from South Africa, where he served with honor to himself and credit to his country as a member of Strathcona's horse, responded in a most happy and interesting speech in which he related scenes both amusing and pathetic. Capt. W. H. Scarth, who is soon to leave for the land of veidt and biltong was the next speaker and in a most happy manner explained that he does not know what he will do until he gets there. Overflowing bumpers were drunk to the success of the young officer on the field of action. In his usually happy vein Captain Starnes responded to the toast, "The Northwest Mounted Police."

"Parliament and the Yukon Council" was a combined subject on which Justice Dugas spoke at some length and in a most interesting and entertaining manner. He extended to Commissioner Ross a most hearty and sincere welcome and closed with a rich tribute to Retiring Commissioner Ogilvie both as a man and an official. Councilman Prudhomme followed the judge, speaking on the same subject briefly but to the point. On "Commerce and Bank-

ing," Thos. O'Brien, E. A. Mizner and R. J. McLennan spoke.

"Our Guest" was responded to by Mr. Ross in a manner that stamped him as the man for the important position he was sent here to fill. He complimented himself in having more American constituency than any other official in Canada, and paid a high tribute to President William McKinley. He spoke of those who had preceded him to the Yukon, carved out for him a path and made rough places smooth. He stated that he believes in self-government and had been advocating it for the past 18 years. He highly complimented the police, told a good story and got everybody to yelling "Good boy," "He's all right," etc. The impressions made by Mr. Ross last night augur well for his success and great popularity as commissioner of the Yukon territory.

In a most happy and felicitous address Justice Craig proposed "The Retiring Commissioner," and in so doing touched upon the work accomplished, the hardships endured, the obstacles surmounted and the halo of glory that had finally surrounded the ex-commissioner as the result of his energy, uprightness and integrity.

Mr. Ogilvie responded briefly and feelingly and was most enthusiastically termed a "jolly good fellow" by all present.

Mr. Ross proposed "Our Mining Interests," which was learnedly responded to by Mr. Purchas, others who were to speak on the same subject not being present.

Messrs. Wade, Congdon, Woodworth and Dr. Thompson all spoke briefly but interestingly and to the point on "The Learned Professionals." Mr. Noel toasted "The Ladies" which wound up the toast list. A number who were listed to speak had gone home before their turns came, consequently they were not heard. The above talks were interspersed with music from the orchestra.

Three o'clock had come and gone before "God Save the King" was sung which closed the most elaborate as well as the most successful banquet in the brief but brilliant history of the Yukon; a banquet at which with heart and hand the people of Dawson welcomed to his high official seat Hon. James Hamilton Ross and, though loath to part with his predecessor, bid him God speed on his way to even higher official preferment.

tra, also by songs from Mr. McPherson, Ben Davis and Billy Doyle.

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## EATABLES SCARCE

In Koyukuk Country as Early as January.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

M. D. Nunan, of 30 below on Sulphur is in receipt of an interesting letter from Elmer Calhoun of Emma creek in the Koyukuk country as printed below. This is an authentic account of the condition existing in that district at the time of writing and can be relied upon for absolute veracity. Emma creek is 75 miles above Bettles and five miles above Coldfoot where the center of activity was last season. Mr. Calhoun owns Nos. 1 and 6 above on Emma creek:

Emma Creek, Jan. 14, 1901.

M. D. Nunan: Dear Friend—I will write you a few lines hoping it might help you a little, if you come in next spring. Grub is getting scarce at Bettles and cannot get any flour, rice, bacon, lard, rolled oats, granulated potatoes, milk and very little canned goods; whisky is also getting scarce, so the report is going up here. Tobacco is all gone. They have some flour, rice and canned goods at Bergman yet, but outside of that I guess they are out. Can get plenty of beans, fruit, sugar and butter at Bettles yet. There was over 200 men stayed in here this winter. Rubber boots are \$17 and can't get any No. 9's; they have 7's and 8's nothing larger.

McNamee cleared above expenses about \$10,000, they claim; they got a \$136 nugget.

No. 11 Myrtle creek done very well. Bettles took out good money on Gold Bench also; they paid \$1.25 per hour. Two men claim to be taking out pay on Gold creek; they have been working there all winter.

We took out of 1 above last fall \$230 each; worked one month from time we commenced sawing lumber. The largest nugget we got was \$18.

Discovery was jumped again the first of this year, also Berry's claim, but doubt if they will hold.

There is lots of overflow on the creeks here and also plenty of wind so it keeps the trail very bad. There is about 2½ feet of snow here now. We have had some cold weather; been as low as 62 and about that cold now I think by the atmosphere outside.

When you come in, come straight to Emma Creek. I have a cabin on 6 below and plenty of room. I have started a hole on the upper end of 6 and down to feet, getting plenty bowlders. The water has been bothering a good many in sinking, the gravel not being frozen.

I think I will go to Fort Yukon in the spring for some more grub, as I will need some more flour, rice, bacon and milk. I destroyed those papers you and McFarlane gave me, as you wrote me when at Slate.

There has not been anything new found since last fall. Well, Matt, I can't think of anything more to tell you so will say good bye, expecting to see you early in the spring.

ELMER CALHOUN.

## A PRETTY COMPLIMENT

Paid to Dawson Newspapers by  
Mr. Ross.

In his response last night to the toast "Our Guest," Mr. Ross, the new commissioner, paid a pretty compliment to the local press by saying that he had on his arrival been particularly impressed with the newspaper enterprise of Dawson and disposition manifested to secure and publish information for the benefit of the reading public.

An observing and experienced man of the world as Mr. Ross certainly is can readily size up a town and the calibre of its people by a casual glance at the local papers; therefore, his opinion of Dawson and her people was doubtless quite favorable, judging from his remarks last night regarding his first impressions of the Dawson press.

Consul J. C. McCook is slowly recovering his health and it is expected he will be up in a short time.