

Vermont Supplement



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Robert Burns

Jan. 25, 1759 to July 21, 1796

2009 - The 250th Anniversary of his Birth

It would seem appropriate that we reflect for a moment on the life of Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest poet and an active and dedicated Mason.

He was Worshipful Master of his lodge St. James Tarbolton. On a visit to the Border country (Scotland – England) Burns was made a Royal Arch Mason in St. Abb's Lodge.

He lived for only 37 years but during that short period of time was prolific producing poetry and song. An example of the high esteem given him by his peers is shown in the Masonic minutes of May 19, 1787:

"At a general encampment held this day, the following Brethren were made Royal Arch Masons, viz. Robert Burns from the Lodge of St. James– Tarbolton, Ayrshire and Robert Ainslie from the Lodge of St. Luke's, Edinburgh Robert Ainslie paid one guinea admission dues, but on account of R. Burns' remarkable poetical genius, the encampment unanimously agreed to admit him gratis; and considered themselves honoured by having such a man of such shining abilities for one of their companions."

Probably his best known song is "Auld Lang Syne" but his verse is often quoted. For example, the following is one that leads into the next topic.

"The heart benevolent and kind
The most resembles God."

KNIGHT TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.

The 41st Voluntary Campaign ended on May 15, 2009. The Vermont Grand Commandery raised a total of \$4,203.65, part of which was donated by friends and organizations other than Sir Knights. In fact, statistics show that the average donation by our Sir Knights as of May 1st came to \$3.65.

The Mission Statement of the Foundation is:

To provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye. (Must be a U. S. Citizen).

From their news report dated Dec. 1, 2008

The total paid out for last fiscal year --- \$3,247,797.00

Since the Foundation inception:

Payments on Cases --- \$104,995,054.00

Research Grants have exceeded \$10 Million

Applications received to date --- 84,606

How your dollar was spent 2007/2008

Hospital costs (including anesthesia)	44.0 cents
Doctors Fees (including glasses)	26.8 cents
Research Grants & Seniors EyeCare Program	16,9 cents
Administration (Salaries, Rent, etc.)	8.7 cents
Public Relations (Printing, Postage, etc.)	3.1 cents
Patients' Miscellaneous	0.5 cents
Total	\$1.00

I had the pleasure of being Chairman for the 41st Voluntary Campaign. Upon a more in-depth study, it soon became abundantly clear that this is a tremendous philanthropy that deserves our zealous support. The 42nd voluntary Campaign begins July 1, 2009. Sir Knight Russell J. Slora is the Chairman. All Commanderies and Sir Knights are urged to give this campaign their best effort.

Fraternally yours,

David H. Bartlett, Grand Commander