



AFS CENTRAL OHIO CHAPTER

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Dear AFS Members and Friends:

The clock is ticking and time is running out quickly. Do you realize there's only eight more days left to make your reservations for the "Melting Hearts Foundryman's Valentine Dinner Dance" ? You really owe it to yourself to treat your sweetheart to a Valentine's Special, so make sure you get in before they reach capacity and have to close the doors.

A question came up the other day about how to dress for a Non-formal event. Well, the party is entertainment for the ladies so dress code is Ladies choice and guys, why don't you dress to please your lady.

In these AFS messages we usually cover various topics of technology and foundry stuff but since this is supposed to be a Valentine's message I thought we might try some trivia for those interested. And since Love makes the world go 'round why not learn about some of the most famous couples and lovers in history, their love stories and effect on mankind.

Who do you think would qualify for this category?

Well, we can start with Adam and Eve but since there weren't any nosy neighbors or reporters around at that time, details of their affairs (other than they had an apple tree) are not well documented.

A little bit later Cleopatra and Marc Antony caused quite a stir. Who hasn't heard of Cleopatra and Marc Antony?

Cleopatra, brilliant and beautiful, was Egypt's last Pharaoh and became known as one of the most famous women in history. Marc Antony was the Roman general who first came to conquer her land. We know they were real people and made history. Power, politics and intrigue, however, played a big role in their famous relationship and both gave their lives because of it.

Another famous couple was brought to life by Shakespeare in his fictional play when he made Romeo and Juliet probably the most famous romantic couple we remember. Even today, more than 400 years after the play was first presented, Romeo and Juliet symbolizes true burning love.

Looking closer to home we find that Ohio also can boast of at least one famous couple. Annie Oakley of Darke County in western Ohio and Frank Butler, the noted marksman and vaudeville star.

They met at a show in Cincinnati when Annie took up a challenge by Frank Butler, when he boasted he could beat any local marksman in a shooting contest. Annie not only won the shooting contest but also Frank's heart and they were married soon afterwards. Annie then joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and Frank gave up his career to manage Annie's.

Annie died in 1926. Her heartbroken husband died just 18 days later. Their happy marriage had lasted 44 years. Irving Berlin immortalized this American love story with his musical "Annie Get Your Gun".

But the most famous couple, no doubt, was Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal of India. The names of this couple are probably not well known to most of us but the monument built by Shah Jahan's true love and devotion is known by almost everyone today - the Taj Mahal.

Shah Jahan was ruler of the Mughal empire in India and married Mumtaz in 1612 when she was only 15 years old. Mumtaz followed her husband everywhere he went. Their love was monumental and she became his inseparable companion on all his journeys and even military campaigns. She was his comrade, his counsellor, and inspired him to acts of charity and benevolence towards the weak and the needy. They had 14 children when Mumtaz died during childbirth at the age of 33.

Overcome by grief for his beloved wife the Emperor made plans to build a monument in her memory so beautiful that nothing known on this earth would equal it's beauty - a monument of eternal love. Using master craftsmen from many countries it took 20,000 workers and 1,000 elephants nearly 20 years to complete the project.

The Taj Mahal is located at the city of Agra, south of New Delhi, and is one of the most beautiful masterpieces of architecture in the world, in fact it is regarded as one of the eight wonders of the world.



How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach . . .

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

So there you are, we learned something new again. People will be people always, and we haven't changed since time began. Love is a driving force, sometimes to destruction, sometimes to the highest accomplishments - whatever we decide. And speaking for myself, I don't plan to build another Taj Mahal anytime soon, (do you realize what banks want as collateral these days?), but I can do the next best thing and that is take her to the Winter Party. What about you?

See you there!

Chris Doerschlag, P.E.
Director
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PS: If you lost the details for the Winter Party go over to <http://www.afscentralohio.org> and check it out.