

The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick
F. & A. M.



MOSTLY MASONRY



Vol. 1 No. 1

M O S T L Y

M A S O N R Y

This newsletter, we hope, marks the beginning of a new information service from the New Brunswick Grand Lodge. This is the result of a request by the Board of General Purposes, that a first edition be prepared for distribution at the 1984 Grand Lodge meetings.

This initial effort contains information compiled from various sources. It is hoped that future newsletters will carry news of Craft Lodge activities in New Brunswick, historical treatises researched and written by Lodge brothers, listing of upcoming events, so Lodges across the jurisdiction will know what activities are coming up, program suggestions, that might be developed into Education features for Craft Lodge meetings.

We call it "M O S T L Y M A S O N R Y" so that its scope might not be limited. Yet, its PRIME PURPOSE will always be, to reflect Masonry.



J. William (Bill) Murray
Editor, Pro Tempore

May 11th, 1984

A message from the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master

GORDON WILMOT COFFEY

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to write a message for this Edition of the Newsletter. The idea of a Newsletter has been discussed with enthusiasm by the Board of General Purposes and it is proposed that we try it on an experimental basis. As I have made visitations in the jurisdictions, I have been encouraged by the show of attendance and interest in the various Lodges. Most Lodges are busy with degree work. What we must aim at now, is how to maintain the revival in attendance and membership which seems to be evident. The responsibility lies with the Master and Officers of each Lodge to provide interesting programs for the Brethern, preferably of an Education nature. This will not be something that comes from wishful thinking. It will take some planning and work.

It is hoped that this Newsletter and the suggestions and contributions from the Brethern will help bring your plans to realization.

BRETHERN

If your Lodge is to be meaningful and have a vibrant influence in the lives of its members and in the community, it must have well planned programs every month.

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER IS A KEY PERSON

It is the duty of the Worshipful Master to "draw designs upon the Trestle board". Well planned programs are essential today. Our Lodge meetings are in competition with many other attractions. We must provide interesting programs if we want to encourage Lodge attendance.

We cannot expect the Brethern to attend meetings, just to confirm the records and pay the current bills. Good meetings must be carefully planned in advance. They cannot be left to chance.

A well rounded program for a Lodge meeting should include good degree work, when degrees are scheduled, educational features, inspiration, entertainment and social fellowship

When the members of a Lodge are convinced that the Worshipful Master has devised a series of good programs that are really worthwhile, you will see members "coming back to Lodge".

SPECIAL NIGHTS WILL BRING MEMBERS BACK

Here is a list of suggested titles for special nights.

District Night	Masonic Music Night
Old Timers Night	Lawyers and Doctors Night
Past Masters Night	Father and Son Night
Questions and Answers Night	Junior Officers Night
Wardens Night	Hobby and Handicraft Night
New Members Night	
Anniversary Night	

And the list could go on and on. Always take into consideration the nature of your special program and then select the month you feel it would best serve. Check your meeting dates and see if they conflict with National or religious holidays or other events that may affect Lodge attendance. Then govern yourself accordingly. This is important, especially when guest speakers are being used.

USE YOUR COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

This committee should be a "real right arm" to any Worshipful Master in arranging good programs for meetings and also for conducting an active Masonic educational program for the Lodge. If you do not have such a committee in your Lodge, might we suggest one be appointed, if possible. First and most important, however, only competent and dedicated Members should be appointed to the Lodge Committee on Masonic Education.

If you feel such a committee cannot be established in your Lodge, then contact the Grand Lodge Secretary, for assistance from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education.

A NOVEL IDEA

At a meeting of one of the Manitoba Lodges in March, the Worshipful Master passed out a slip of paper to each member. On each slip was a question to do with Masonic Knowledge. What is the meaning of the East? What does the Perfect Ashler mean? etc. Instead of having a research paper read at the next meeting of the Lodge, each member was asked to give an answer to the question he received. The time for the replies will be limited and the opportunity for Masonic Education will be great.

This might open up a few libraries around the Jurisdiction, and get a few more members thinking about Masonic matters.

FAITH MAY MOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT ONLY HARD WORK CAN PUT A TUNNEL THROUGH.

A SMILE GREATLY INCREASES A PERSON'S FACE VALUE!

Here is a discussion topic you might use at some future meeting. The question asked:

IS IT TOO EASY TO BECOME A MASON?

The following background information might form a basis for introducing the subject.

In Denmark candidates must wait for 18 months after making a petition before the investigation is completed and the petition comes up for balloting. For a year the new Brother gets instructions nearly every week and after an examination he gets his second degree. Again a year of instruction follows. The Brother is again judged and when the

results are satisfactory, according to the aims of Masonry, he then becomes a Master Mason.

Think of it...over three years and a half have passed since his petition was presented.

In Germany there is a one year minimum waiting period between degrees, with intensive instruction during the interim.

In England membership in a Lodge is usually limited, like a private select club, making it a real honor to become a member. Attendance is almost compulsory, with members having to write or telegraph in advance giving a valid reason if they are unable to attend.

In Canada our mobile society often makes it very difficult to really know an applicant and his background. A survey of Canadian Grand Jurisdictions reveals that most have a minimum waiting period between degrees of 28 days (except British Columbia, two weeks and Newfoundland 14 days).

The following is some interesting information concerning the procession of candidates in Canadian jurisdictions, listing a few of the ways of slowing down the process: for example -

- longer and more careful screening of candidates
- give the candidate a degree every three months
- have a first degree three months in a row, then a second degree three months in a row, then a third degree likewise.

Let's face it, Freemasonry is not everybody's cup of tea. Freemasonry was never intended for all men. Frankly the candidate often doesn't realize this until he has been initiated, passed and raised and then it's too late. We may never see him again and wonder why.

A discussion period should follow this presentation, and this will give the brethren an opportunity to add their "two cents worth".

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CORINTHIAN LODGE No. 13, HAMPTON

One of the oldest things in the Western Hemisphere of Masonic Interest, is a flat slab of rock found on the shores of Goat Island in Annapolis Basin, Nova Scotia in 1827. On it was the date 1606 with the emblem of the square and compass. Different theories have been advanced as to its origin, but no definite answer has been found.

For more information on this, read the January, 1984 edition of Freemason, page 7

From time to time we find new words in our Masonic vocabulary and each must have a meaning. Let us note a word often used "TENET". This has the sound and look of a thin and tenuous word, but within itself, and when properly used, it has color, surprize and drama! The latin word "tenere" meant more than "to take hold of" - it meant rather to seize, to grip, to clutch, to hand on and if necessary, to struggle to hang on.

It passed into English almose unchanged in our tense, tendon, tension, tenor (so called because it was the voice that held the lead) and tenacious.

A TENET is some idea...belief...doctrine which the mind takes hold of tenaciously. An idea of belief, of which this is possible, is said to be tenable. In Freemasonry...the Principle TENETS are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and these are so-called, because in no place or time, under no circumstance will Freemasons let them go.

Two items from the files of the late R. W. Brother Jim Humphrey, taken from one of his newsletters.

THE DICTIONARY IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SUCCESS COMES BEFORE WORK.

A FEW WORDS ON LODGE ETIQUETTE

One occasionally hears the Master of a Lodge addressed as "Worshipful." It's a "no no" to avoid, being devoid of the respect, due the high position, the Master of a Lodge holds. Past Masters may sometimes

be heard, addressing the Worshipful Master as "Worshipful Sir," (thus implying we presume) the perfect quality of themselves with the Master. It too, is incorrect.

In the case of a Past Master addressing another, "Worshipful Brother" would be a better term. "Sir" belongs to the outer world. It has no Masonic flavor about it. It is better to leave it behind, when we enter the Lodge.

"WHENCE CAME THE LODGE AND THE MASTER'S PART IN IT"

The "Lodge" came from the old "Operative Guilds," the true founders of Freemasonry. Back in the 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries, groups of builders traveled about Europe erecting marvelous specimens of the stonemason's art. Some of these monuments in stone exist to this day as shining examples of the creativeness of dedicated "Masters" who had the ability to teach willing "Fellows of the Craft" priceless skills, which made it possible for them to perform herculean tasks with solid stones; placing them into their prescribed positions with astonishing correctness of fit, and without machines to lighten their task. The stones were quarried and hauled by "Apprentices." All these men put forth their most earnest efforts; not to become wealthy, but to "Build a Temple." The principal reward and the real motivation for their unstinting efforts was a burning ambition to learn how to use their "Working Tools" with skill and perfection equal to the "Master" himself. When they had reached the exalted state of perfection, they would no longer be "Apprentices" or "Fellow Crafts" but would, indeed, be "Masters of the Craft." Not a slave, not a skilled workman, not an assistant, but a true "Master" in his own right.

The laborious, endlessly tedious task of cutting, chiseling, polishing and fitting stones could only be endured if inspired by an incentive great enough to induce pride and accomplishment, a will to do, and respect for the "Master." All this was achieved by a mental attitude instilled into the very soul of these good men. It was not by coercion, not by fear, not by greed, but by mutual trust in a dedicated "Master" who was fair, just and kind in his governing of the "Craft" and in his effort to improve the lot of all while achieving the original goal of "Building a Temple."

This is where our Masonic Lodge came into being. Yes, it was against the south wall of the building under construction. It was the usual custom of early builders to erect a wooden lean-to or shed-type structure where the path of the sun provided light. This was called a "Lodge." It was used by the "Guild Master" to store tools and equipment, and to "lay out the work." It was a common custom in these days to use the floor of the "Lodge"

as a "Tracing-board" for the "Master's" plans and designs. Arches, pillars or windows were drawn to scale in order to provide the "Fellow Craft" with exact patterns to shape their "Ashlars."

The "Lodge" became the natural gathering place for the workmen. They spent their leisure hours studying the plans and in conversation among themselves in their eagerness to gain an understanding of the work they were doing, always under the supervision of the "Master" with his patient explanation of details. As time went on, the organized arrangement of "Wardens," "Deacons," "Tyler," etc., came into practice in order to ward off cowans and eavesdroppers and provide maximum security for absorption of the lessons embodied in the "Master's" lectures and descriptions, which were so important to them. This could very well have been the beginning of our present system of "teaching by Lecture or Ritual." In those early days, only the "Master" was qualified to give the lectures

Gradually, as the "Wardens," "Deacons" and other "Fellows of the Craft" absorbed the lectures, wisdom and dedicated enthusiasm and love for the "Craft" from the "Master," he then, with confidence, delegated some of the important work to others.

In so doing, he, in a true sense, completed his "Master's Work" and the "Lodge" was immeasurably enriched and endowed by his grand gift of wisdom, strength and the beauty of sincere love and affection for his Brethren.

Thus was the experience of the founders of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity. May we govern ourselves accordingly.

GRAND MASTERS ITINERARY

June 4th, 1984	Campbellton, No. 32 Monday 7:30 p.m.
June 5th, 1984	Restigouche, No. 25 Tuesday 7:30 p.m. (Dalhousie)
June 14th, 1984	Zetland, No. 24 Thursday 8:00 p.m. (Shediac)

And finally this FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

We wrack our brains a lot these days with charts and
plans and schemes,
To Make the World a better place if only in our dreams.
We gladly prate of world wide peace, of joys of men
made free,
Of universal brotherhood and hands across the sea.
But while we plan this brotherhood to which we all
aspire,
Too little do we realize, its simple to acquire.
To make the whole World better, here's all you have to do,
Start to be a brother to the man next door to you.

Author Unknown

We welcome your comments to this Masonic Newsletter,
and your suggestions. If it is to become a reality
the Masonic Education committee will require much
co-operation. All comments should be mailed to the
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Saint John, New Brunswick