

# MOSTLY



# MASONRY

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

Vol. 1

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No. 2

### GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

In a few short days, the end of the year will be upon us. It will be a time for reflections to consider what has taken place during the year and if you are an officer in your Lodge, have you succeeded in accomplishing what you hoped to do. Most of us have ideas about what our objectives are but, whether we attain our objectives, or not, often depends on whether we make proper plans and pursue them to fruition. Success depends on sound planning and the involvement of the officers and members. If you are the Master of your Lodge, remember to set the craft to work and give them proper instructions. It will create more interest in the Lodge and will hopefully increase your attendance. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and PUSH!

Gordon W. Coffey  
Grand Master

### GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

Feb 7	Carleton Union #8 Saint John	7:30 p.m.
Feb 13	The Corinthian #13 Hampton	7:30 p.m.
Mar 5	Mananook #38 Grand Manan	8:00 p.m.
Mar 14	The New Brunswick #22, Saint John	7:30 p.m.
Mar 20	Sussex #4, Dorchester	8:00 p.m.
Apr 3	Hartland #46, Woodstock	8:00 p.m.

### A FIRST EDITION (Well almost)

Congratulations! You have in your hands, the first province wide printing of Masonic news and information, in nearly 40 years.

This edition in its new format, is a continuation of an idea that became a reality last May, when the first Masonic bulletin, Mostly Masonry, was distributed to those who attended Grand Lodge. Reaction from it was encouraging, with the result the Board of General Purposes at the June meeting, set aside in the budget, money for printing and distribution.

The plan is to distribute three bulletins a year, and expand at some future time, when the Board so decides.

Your involvement as a reader and as a contributor is most important. This is your bulletin, and any suggestions you can offer, to make it more meaningful, will be appreciated.

I, along with many other Masons, have talked about some form of jurisdictional communication, and it is the hope that this will fill that need. Thus we will link each Mason, over 7,000 in New Brunswick, into one large family of brothers, so that all may become better informed, so that none may feel left out.

Bill Murray  
Editor Pro Tempore

## THE LITTLE BLUE PAPERBACK

What is it that offers History, financial information, Craft Lodge events, District news and Inspiration?

It's all found in the little blue book, that most overlook. . . . the Grand Lodge Proceedings. Masters and members are missing out on an excellent source of Masonic information, that is printed and distributed to each Craft Lodge, each year. Know who the first Grand Master was? Who served as Grand Secretary the most number of years? These questions can be answered, along with a number of other things, relevant to Masonry in New Brunswick.

Between its covers you'll find the business of your Grand Lodge for the preceding year. There are reports on the Grand Lodge standing committee's, a report from each of the seven DDGM's, that details activities in each District. There's the Grand Master's yearly address, an excellent source of information of interest to all Brethren. In addition to this, you'll find additional educational material in the Grand Historian's Annual Report, and then for inspiration, spend some time reading again, the message imparted by the Grand Chaplain, during the divine service at the beginning of your Annual Convocation.

It must be remembered, only a small number of Masons attend this Communication in May. So by using this book as a basis for information during regular Craft Lodge meetings, you broaden the base of communication and increase the knowledge of more Masons.

So you can tuck this idea away, or pass it along to your Education Committee chairman. It could come in handy when planning a future Craft Lodge meeting. If you are not using the Annual Grand Lodge Proceedings, you're missing an excellent source of information. So look up your Lodge copy

and see how you can put this little Blue Paperback to use.

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Based on a suggestion in "Masonry in Manitoba"

## THE BOOK CORNER

We are looking for contributors for the Book Corner. Reviewing a book and sharing that information with others can be most rewarding, and if you send it in, we will include it in a future edition of Mostly Masonry. Speaking of books and writers, are you familiar with the writings of George F. Fort. It seems his name is not exactly a household word in Masonic circles, yet, his writings during the 19th Century were considered as first rate, reflecting a high regard for accuracy and truthfulness on the subject of Masonry.

Brother Fort was born in Absecon, N.J. about 1843, son of a Methodist minister. He was a lawyer by vocation and a student of languages. He became proficient in 17 languages and dialects. He was raised a Master Mason in Camden Lodge in Dec., 1868.

He immediately became an involved Freemason, and his studies led him to publish "The Early History and Antiquities of Freemasonry" in 1875. Since then it has gone through three editions and numerous printings. It was regarded as a standard history of Freemasonry and was recognized by the Encyclopaedia Britannica, as an authoritative source on Masonic subjects.

The most logical conclusion one can draw, is this. The writings of George F. Fort seem to be based on factual historical research and not written from supposition or colored with an overenthusiastic pen.

**THE EARLY HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF FREEMASONRY —**  
George F. Fort — Published 1875.

## THE WARDEN'S COLUMNS

Ever wonder why and how the custom originated? The SW has on his pedestal, a column which is representative of the right hand pillar that stood at the porch of K S temple. The JW has a similar column before him, that represents the left hand pillar at the porch of K S Temple. The column of the SW is erect during Lodge labour, while the JW's is lying down. At "Refreshment" the reverse is true. The main reason for this procedure is to draw a visual distinction to the members of the Lodge that the Lodge is officially opened at "labour" or whether it is officially closed or at "refreshment". This custom dates back to the early days when Lodges met, conducted work and refreshment, all in the same room. Today's W's columns seldom look anything like the two columns that stood at the porchway or entrance of K S's Temple. They are made in various sizes and shapes. They may or may not include the symbol of the SW and the JW. Most are made from wood. A traditional column is about 18½ inches high with a 4 inch base.

Some columns are Corinthian, Ionic or Doric in design.

No doubt you have seen the W's do this, and perhaps wondered why it was done. This is one of the explanations of a Lodge function that's a traditional part of our Masonic ceremony.

## SOLICIATION—PROPER OR IMPROPER?

If you want to evoke some discussion in a Lodge, bring up the subject of solicitation, and you are sure of a lively exchange.

I offer the following item, taken from the notification of the United Grand Lodge of England for its Quarterly Communication in Dec. 1981. It is entitled "Solicitation of Candidates for

of improper solicitation of candidates has been raised on many occasions and the Board (United Grand Lodge) feels that a statement on this matter would be helpful to the Craft." "There is no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. There can be no objection to his being reminded. Once that approach is made, the potential candidate should then be left to make his own decision, without further solicitation."

This was the answer given by the United Grand Lodge of England, in reply to the question on Solicitation. It is a subject that we note other Canadian jurisdictions are discussing, in view of the decline in membership over the past ten years. As the old Grandfather said to his grandson . . . "Which Masonic Lodge are you going to join, your father's or mine!"

Do you feel there is proper solicitation?

## SPONSORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

When we read the statistics covering the past several years on Lodge membership loss, one fact seems to stick out. A high percentage is because of non payment of dues. Is there an answer to this on going problem? Some feel there is and it can be traced back to those who sponsor candidates. When you sign that application, and propose a new member, you put your Masonic reputation on the line. It is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly and once undertaken, should continue if possible, throughout the petitioner's Masonic career. It is not enough that a sponsor be present on each occasion his candidate receives a degree, but he should be available to offer encouragement and guidance to help him build a solid foundation to carry him all through his Masonic career.

honor on his Masonic sponsors and on our Institution as a whole.

Maintaining an interest in that member is important for Lodge retention to prevent member suspension.

Review those members you have sponsored. Are they attending Lodge? If not, why not! Remember, that absent member is usually just a phone call away.

*Computers are definitely smarter than people. When have you ever heard of six computers getting together to form a committee?*

— Orben's Current Comedy

### THE BOARD OF TRIAL

When a Master appoints a Board of Trial for the purpose of determining the status of a visiting brother, those on the committee should understand, they are only to ascertain, if the would-be visitor is a Mason in good standing. It is not their task to find out how much he knows about Masonry, how good a ritualist he is or to point out how different his ritual is from yours.

The committee and the visiting Brother are brought together for one purpose, and only one purpose, to make sure he is a Mason. When this fact is confirmed to the satisfaction of all, the purpose of the Board of Trial is fulfilled and the WM's orders are completed. Don't make it an experience that will keep the brother from visiting other lodges. Keep it a positive and pleasant experience.

And do become a visiting Brother. You're missing a lot when you don't visit other lodges.

### ATTEND YOUR LODGE

"How can you be a Brother to someone you don't even know?"

### FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

Naturally, I am very pleased and highly honored to have been recently chosen to serve as the 13th Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick & A.M. but at the same time I also feel a deep sense of humility, as I recognize my limitations and strive to maintain the high standards of service and efficiency set by my predecessors. They possessed a wealth of knowledge, experience and dedication that will be most difficult to emulate.

I am fully confident and determined however, that, with the help, aid and assistance of all my brethren throughout the Grand Jurisdiction, including their output of ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc., I will be able to justify the honor conferred on and trust reposed in me.

B. A. Prescott  
Grand Secretary

### POSTSCRIPT

This brings us to the "30" mark for this first bulletin. If you are a student of Freemasonry, you're likely familiar with much of the material. But for most Masons, I trust we have included something that is new to you. It must be remembered that speculative Masonry is just three degrees in Blue Lodge. The interpretations and embellishments that fill volumes are the product of many literary minds. Look for the next bulletin with your May Lodge notice.

Remember, the success of any venture is acceptance. We look forward to your comments.

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Written contributions to Mostly Masonry are most welcome and will be credited to the writer who submits. We look for Craft Lodge news on all things you feel will interest other Masons. Please send all information to the Grand Lodge Secretary, Box 6430, Station "A", Saint John, N.B.