

# MOSTLY



# MASONRY

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

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### MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

With this 4th issue of Mostly Masonry, we continue to provide the 7,292 Masons of New Brunswick, with a forum for Masonic discussion. I am pleased to announce that as of this edition, V: W: Bro. Alex Pincombe, Past Grand Historian, takes over the reins, to serve as editor of Mostly Masonry. We wish him well, and remind all readers, your continued interest is most important for the success of this Grand Lodge printing.

### AS OTHERS SEE US

Bro. Percy Bendell, C.D., B.A., M.Ed.,  
Zetland Lodge

Jaques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, along with some other officers of his Order, were burned to death, as heretics, in Paris. This event is commemorated in the ritual of the Order of De Molay, an order for sons of Master Masons.

The charges against de Molay, and against all the members of the Knights Templar, were witchcraft, devil worship, denial of Christ, and sodomy. Confessions were extracted under torture; and the wealth of the order was shared between the king of France and the Church. Throughout the intervening centuries, until quite recent times, the charge of devil worship has persisted. The present-day Masonic Order, claiming descent, in part, from the Templars, has been subject to the same vilification.

On the island of Malta, in the Mediterranean, my father was a brother in United Brethren Lodge, being raised in 1909 A.D. One morning, his helper, a Maltese, told him about a speech in his church. The priest told his congregation that he had climbed a tree outside the Masonic temple; that he had looked through a window at the meeting; and that he had seen all the Masons present, worshipping the devil. (Whether the devil appeared, in person, does not appear to figure in the story.)

The rigid prohibition against Masonic membership, in some sections of the Roman Catholic Church, seems to be relaxed now. In New Brunswick, there are quite a few Roman Catholics amongst our members; and I, personally, welcome them and the permissiveness which allows it.

Still, in different locations and in different walks of life, there is still a considerable prejudice against the Masonic Order, and against Masons. The fact that we are known to have secrets (innocent though they are) and that we have been found to come to one another's assistance, have been held against us.

In every walk of life, there are people who look only for the worst. These folk revel in discovering something to another's discredit. If they can find nothing, they suspect the worst possible; to hear of anything being kept secret, inflames their imaginations to the greatest degree. So they go on, fabricating evil occurrences out of thin air.

Some of my own in-laws have told me that membership in Masonry gives license for any form of sexual wickedness, and protection from the punishment for any crime, no matter how horrible. This is the product of minds who are not willing to believe that things hidden can be anything but bad. How they can reconcile the large number of Masons who are anything but profligate, and the number of Masons who are either poverty-stricken or next door to it, with the ability to profit from the lawlessness they ascribe to us, I do not know.

Clippings from newspapers will illustrate the real and present dubious opinion of Masonry which are still common. Why it is, that our true nature, and the ideals which we hold, are so distorted, I believe I have explained here. What is needed is some form of more favourable presentation of our aims and activities, to the general public.

The unfavourable opinions appear to be held all over the world. In many countries in Europe, and also in South America, Masonry and Masonic lodges are outlawed; known Masons face criminal charges. The fact of having a few innocent secrets, and maintaining our meetings private, creates such suspicion, that governments dare not allow the existence of Masonry.

This is in spite of the fact that Masons and Masonic Lodges work constantly for the betterment of the people around them. This is in spite of the fact that most individual Masons are highly respected, admired and loved: and that so many Masons hold positions of trust and responsibility. (Few Masons have ever been found lacking in civic behaviour, moral worth, industry, or ability. Though perhaps this itself creates jealousy.)

What seems to be needed, in order to create a more favourable opinion in the general public, is some sort of publicity campaign. True, there are obstacles to this. We must not be interpreted as soliciting membership: members must still come, seeking the benefits without

any pressure from others. We cannot publicise the work done at meetings; we are greatly limited in even publishing the decisions arrived at amongst our lodges, to the public benefit. Our work must remain mostly our own concern and discussions confined to our own membership.

This seems to be a matter which should be taken up at Grand Lodges. Not only the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, but Grand Lodges all over the world, should study the matter. (Newspapers report differing and largely unfavourable opinions of Masonry, all over the world.) We should follow the advice given in St. Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Every Mason should give this matter some thought. Evil spoken of any Mason, blackens the reputation of every Mason. We must all promote the good name of Masonry. It is not sufficient to agree with Galations 6:10: "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men;"--we must ensure that our light is not "under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." (Matthew 5:15)

## WOODSTOCK LODGE HALL DEDICATION

A milestone in the history of Woodstock Lodge No. 11 occurred on December 8, 1984, when the new Masonic Hall in Eastwood Heights was dedicated.

Two Past Masters, Coburn Patterson and David Page, have prepared a history of Woodstock Lodge and from it we learn that Morning Star Lodge No. 46 received a Warrant from Halifax in 1822. Many men from Maine joined this Lodge with several meetings being held in Houlton. In 1830 a lodge was established in Houlton and this so weakened the Woodstock Lodge that it ceased to operate until 1847. The five, which destroyed much of downtown Woodstock in 1877, levelled the hall in which the Lodge had only met twice. A

new hall was erected on Main Street, where the brethren met on the night of the full moon, so they might find their way home on dimly lit streets. Woodstock Lodge is fortunate to have a photograph of this Lodge room (with the brethren present) taken in 1898. They are also pleased to acknowledge the assistance given by Victoria Chapter No. 1, of the Eastern Star, which was organized in 1909.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

In fairness to himself, as well as in justice to the Order to which he belongs, every freemason should, at least occasionally, look closely at the freemasonry which he professes, and try to estimate its quality and genuineness. It is very easy to make mistaken judgements and to labor under a delusion in regard to what we profess. One cannot imagine anything much worse than being a freemason merely in name and lacking in the spirit of it. Every now and again it is surely a good thing for every brother of the Craft to ask himself the question: What is really freemasonry and are its ideals and principles finding expression in my life and character? We are living in a very needy world, and whatever freemasonry may do for us personally or whatever possibilities it may possess for influencing and moulding the character and quality of a man's life; we shall all do well to be personal with ourselves and by a searching personal test, seek to ascertain whether the great teaching of freemasonry is finding expression in our daily life and conduct. It is by living masonically that the example so set, tends to attract others to membership of our Order.

The official visitation list is included at the end of this message and I would ask that all Brethren make a special effort to attend. Important subjects will be discussed at these visitations, and your opinion is important in shaping any Grand Lodge decisions. "Show that you care, by making sure you are there."

J. William Murray

### GRAND MASTERS OFFICIAL VISITATIONS (1985)

Sept. 3	8:00 p.m.	Saint John's No. 2, Saint John
Sept. 6	8:00 p.m.	Salisbury No. 20, Salisbury
Sept. 11	8:00 p.m.	Grand Lake No. 47, Minto
Sept. 16	8:00 p.m.	Miramichi No. 18, Chatham
Oct. 2	8:00 p.m.	Hartland No. 46, Hartland
Oct. 3	8:00 p.m.	Bethel No. 40, Edmundston
Oct. 9	8:00 p.m.	Westmorland No. 44, Port Elgin
Oct. 15	8:00 p.m.	Landmark No. 51, Boiestown
Oct. 28	8:00 p.m.	St. Martin's No. 30, St. Martin's
Nov. 4	8:00 p.m.	Alexandria No. 33, Fredericton
Nov. 7	8:00 p.m.	Carleton Union No. 8, Saint John
Nov. 14	8:00 p.m.	Victoria No. 26, St. Stephen
Nov. 20	8:00 p.m.	Granite Lodge No. 54, Nackawic
Nov. 22	8:00 p.m.	Fownes Lodge No. 45, Havelock
Dec. 10	8:00 p.m.	Northumberland No. 17, Newcastle

### KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION

"How many new Masons can a Lodge make in one day?"

FIVE, unless by dispensation . . . .

### TO TOP POSTS

Several prominent Masons in New Brunswick have been elevated to top offices this year. All have served in various offices in New Brunswick Grand Lodge. R:W: Bro. Carl Jarvis of Miramichi No. 18 was elected in January, Potentate of Luxor Temple, in Saint John.

## PGM GORDON COFFEY FETE

May 18, 1985 is a date M:W: Brother Gordon Coffey will remember for a long time. On that evening at the St. Stephen Legion, Masons and their wives gathered from all New Brunswick and Maine to honor him. R:W: Bro. Jack Flewelling gave a brief biography of the Guest of Honor, and this was followed by special salutes from Orville Mitchell, M:W: Fred Haycox, R:W: Bro. Gilbert Irvine and Worshipful Brother Nate Rubin.

It was also an evening for presentations, and the John Beardsley Medallion was given M:W: Bro. Coffey by the Grand Master of the New Brunswick Grand Lodge, J. William Murray.

A large framed portrait of Past Grand Master Coffey was unveiled and this will enjoy a place of prominence in Sussex Lodge No. 7 in St. Stephen. A popular part of the program with both the audience and the guest of honor was a selection of songs by soloist Dorothy Murchie. Trudy Coffey was not forgotten in this special salute, and numerous mentions of her contribution to Past Grand Master Coffey's two years in office, were noted. She was also presented with a very lovely bouquet of flowers by Mrs. McKenzie, wife of DDGM, Lloyd McKenzie. The evening was a tribute to the devotion and esteem, Masons in New Brunswick and Maine, held for Past Grand Master Gordon Wilmot Coffey.

### TO TOP POSTS (continued)

In May, R:W: Bro. Charles Webber, Coverdale No. 52, was elected M.P. Grand Master, Supreme Grand Council Royal and Select Masters, Eastern Jurisdiction of Canada.

Then in June, at Sussex, New Brunswick, R:W: Bro. Carl Carter, Steven No. 37 was installed as First Grand Principal of Royal Arch Masons of New Brunswick.

## FROM THE CRAFT LODGES

Masons in Districts Two and Seven demonstrated their appreciation to their district Deputies with special testimonial dinners. On May 16th, a large number gathered at Lebanon Lodge, Sackville the invitation of Worshipful Master Wayne MacCarther, to express their appreciation to District Deputy Grand Master Lewis Clarke, for his contribution in Freemasonry to the Lodges in District Two. A Highlight was a presentation of a Past DDGM apron to R:W: Clarke, on behalf of members of Lebanon Lodge No. 28, by W.M. MacCarther.

At Fownes Lodge, Havelock, a large number of Masons and friends held a special night to honor District Deputy Grand Master Delbert Alward. The June 1st event took the form of a Testimonial Roast, and some good natured fun was showered on R:W: Del Alward during the evening. At the conclusion of this Masonic happening, R:W: Horace Dimock, made a presentation on behalf of the members of Fownes Lodge 45 of a Past Deputy Grand Masters apron to R:W: Delbert Alward.

Both District Deputies responded and expressed their appreciation to the Brethren for the co-operation and fraternalism each enjoyed during their tv year term of office.

Grand Master J. William Murray attended both dinners, and brought greetings from the New Brunswick Grand Lodge.

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Written contributions, approximately 225 words, should be mailed to the Grand Secretary, Box 6430, Station "A", Saint John, N.B. E2L 4R8. Articles submitted by Wor. Bros. Baldwin and Hale will appear in our next edition.