Mostly Masonry

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK NOV 2001

M.W. Bro. R. Wayne Hitchcock
Grand Master, GLNB

Brethren,

It is a pleasure to once again be able to address you through the medium of Mostly Masonry. I have made no secret of the fact that communication is a very important spoke in the wheel of Freemasonry. Although I am visiting Lodges regularly and I enjoy our web site very much (and make use of it regularly), it is still the written word, through Mostly Masonry, which finds its way to all the Masons in this jurisdiction. Having said that, this is probably the most appropriate time for me to express my appreciation to the Editor of this publication for his hard work and dedication to Freemasonry.

As I previously mentioned I have been traveling a fair amount and the Lodges that I am visiting are, in the most part, the smaller, rural Lodges. Many of these Lodges are feeling the pressures of declining membership and dwindling attendance. In many cases these problems are compounded by a lack of candidates.

There is however a silver lining to all these clouds. First and foremost, nobody is ready to give up yet. This sense of survival is almost universal among these smaller Lodges. Secondly, very few Lodges are in financial trouble in spite of the low attendance. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, these Lodges can look at their situation as a golden opportunity to rebuild from the ground up. The situation they find themselves in is not dissimilar to that which faced their charter members many years ago. These few regularly attending members that are left, like their predecessors, must shoulder the burden of the builder. In their hands rests the fate of the Lodge and that means they can plan, design and execute a new image for their Lodge without fear that they are ruining a well established and working formula. If the formula was working after all, there wouldn't be so few of them left to worry about it.

Even a lack of candidates can have a positive impact if your focus is on the positive instead of the negative. The time normally allotted to degree work can be used for programs and educational sessions. Just recently it was my pleasure to participate in a Masonic play. It received a warm reception from the Masons who attended the performance and many asked if we could bring the play to their home Lodge.

There certainly would be nothing wrong with putting on Masonic plays three or four Lodge nights per year. If the Lodge had a relatively short business meeting it would be as easy to put on a half hour play for the Brethren as it would be to do a degree, maybe easier. The scripts are available and the interest seems to be there. I can imagine Masons visiting from a considerable distance to see something like a good Masonic play that they can not see in their home Lodge. Although this may not increase the membership of the Lodge directly, it does have several side effects that are beneficial. Increased attendance by visitors increases the fellowship available at the meeting. The work that goes into a play gives a sense of accomplishment and effective team work to the Lodge members which in turn increases their esprit du corp. This camaraderie forms the basis of the Lodge's collective spirit which it presents to the world. Anyone seeing these men work together with a spirit like that will want to know more and may even ask to join especially if he sees this during a Fellowship Night.

The point I am trying to make, in a round about way, is that if we are going to continue and try to build, we must adopt a positive and progressive attitude. We must try new things and not be discouraged if they don't work immediately. When our well thought out plans do not work, we must assess the reasons why and try again. If we give in to despair, if we give up over our disappointments, if we take a seat in the back of the Lodge room and grumble and complain and become a part of the problem, then we will never find the solution.

Brethren, rededicate yourselves to the positive and be a part of the solution. Remember that Masonry is not a finite thing that ends when your year in the Master's chair is finished. Masonry is a lifetime science that you must work at until the day you enter that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

We are a positive Fraternity whose most sacred goal is to build better men and better societies through the lessons we teach. There is no place in our organization for negative thinking or destructive forces. We are builders, not destroyers. Get on board. Make yourself better, make your Lodge better and finally make your world better through the example you set for the rest of mankind.

Fraternally and respectfully,
R. Wayne Hitchcock, Grand Master
Grand Lodge of New Brunswick

GRAND MASTER'S SCHEDULE - NOV. & DEC.

Nov 5 - Alexandria Lodge #33, Fredericton 1st Monday 7:30 pm
8 - Carleton Lodge #35, Florenceville 2nd Thursday 7:30 pm
12 - Lodge St Andrews #16, Rexton 2nd Monday 8:00 pm
13 - Northumberland Lodge #17, Newcastle 2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm
14 - Colebrook Lodge #39, Grand Falls 2nd Wednesday 8:00 pm
21 - Albion Lodge #1, Saint John 3rd Wednesday 7:30 pm
22 - Woodstock Preceptory #41, Woodstock 4th Thursday
Dec 3 - Coverdale Lodge #52, Riverview 1st Monday 7:30 pm
4 - St John's Lodge #2, Saint John 1st Tuesday 7:30 pm
5 - St George Lodge #12, St. George 1st Wednesday 8:00 pm
6 - Benjamin Lodge #31, Perth-Andover 1st Thursday 8:00 pm
12 - Westmorland Lodge #44, Port Elgin 8:00 pm
13 - Zetland Lodge #24, Shediac 8:00 pm
26 - 28 - Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston

You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments when you really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love. *Henry Drummond*

LODGE OF RESEARCH UPDATE

Brethren;

In the last issue of Mostly Masonry there was a short article on the efforts under way to establish a Lodge of Research in this jurisdiction. On Saturday, September 22, 2001 an organizational meeting was held in the library of the Masonic Temple in Saint John. From that meeting came an agreement to move forward with the establishment of the proposed lodge. To that end R.W. Bro. Bill Boone of Carleton Lodge was elected as the first Worshipful Master; W. Bro. Bill Koval, of Albion Lodge, as the first Senior Warden and R.W. Bro. David "Bud" Gillrie, of Hiram Lodge, as the first Junior Warden.

We are therefore pleased to announce that the Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W. Bro. R. Wayne Hitchcock in his wisdom, has seen fit to grant a dispensation for the establishment of the William F. Bunting Lodge of Research U.D. This is the first time in the history of the Craft in this province that such a Lodge has been established. The next meeting of the Lodge of Research is to take place on November 24, 2001 at Alexandria Lodge, Fredericton, N.B. Lodge will open at 2:00 pm. The Grand Historian, R.W. Bro. David "Bud" Gillrie will be presenting a paper on William Preston, of the Prestonian lectures and the Lodge of Antiquity.

Any Brother seeking information may contact the Worshipful Master or the secretary.

Worshipful Master;	**Secretary;**
RWB Bill Boone	WB Stuart MacDonald
399 Burnham Road	6 Kent Street
Oakland, N.B. E7L 2W1	Rothesay, N.B. E2E 3L6
(506) 392-6284	(506) 849-1183
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Appeal for Archival Material

As you just read, we now have a Lodge of Research established in this jurisdiction. Our objectives for the new Lodge are many, and to accomplish some of these objectives we turn to you for assistance.

One of the objectives is to create a database of information that may be used for reference by any member of the craft conducting research. Eventually this database of information will be available on a web site. Before we can load the database onto a web site we must first create one, and that is where you come in. We are asking any member who is in possession of old documents of historical interest to share this information with us. This would include old certificates, letters, biographical information of former members, pictures, newspaper clippings etc. We are also interested in receiving copies of papers that may have been presented in your lodge on some previous date. The submission of archival materials may be handled in one of several ways.

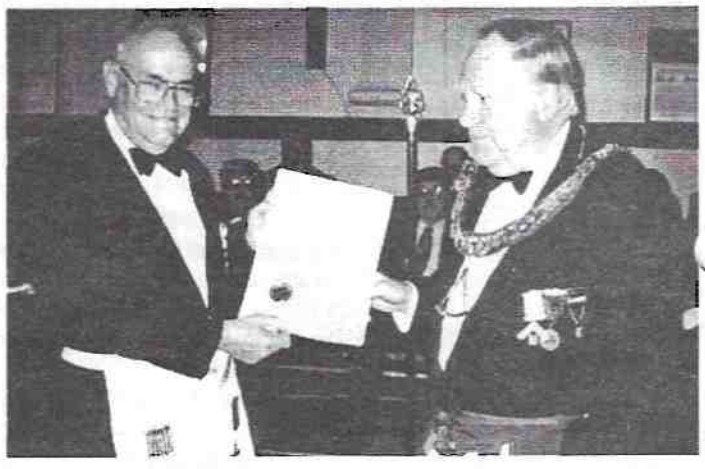
1) You can send the original document to be housed in our permanent collection or
2) you may make and forward a copy or
3) send the original clearly indicating that it is to be returned to you. A copy of the document will then be made and the original returned to the sender.

If you are unsure as to whether or not the document is of sufficient historical significance to be forwarded, you may contact the secretary at the address indicated below. You will then be contacted as to the appropriate disposition of the document(s) in your possession.

I look forward to hearing from brethren around the province as we begin to build a Masonic database that will be a benefit to all of the Craft in the Province.

WB Stuart MacDonald, PM
Secretary
William F. Bunting Lodge of Research U.D.

On April 9, 2001, as one of his last official functions as Grand Master, M.W. Bro. James Pike was pleased to present a 50 year pin and certificate to W. Bro. James McWilliam of Lodge St. Andrew #16 in Rexton.



At Acacia Lodge #49 on September 24, 2001, M.W. Bro. James Pike, PGM, presented W. Bro.Gerald Chaulk, PSGD with his appointment as the Representative of the Grand Lodge Representative of Delaware in New Brunswick. He explained that although the appointment had been confirmed earlier in the year, the certificate had not arrived in time for presentation at Grand Lodge in May.

On August 9th in Zetland Lodge #24, Shediac Cape, M.W. Bro. James Pike, PGM, presented certificates to R.W. Bro. Ralph Hatfield (l), Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in New Brunswick, and R.W. Bro. Dale Stevens (r), Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii in New Brunswick.

MASONIC RENEWAL

The Teachings of Masonry

Masonry's teachings cause a Mason to study and learn for himself. They make him search out the truth, which compels him to take the initiative, as a grown man should, so that the very act of learning is in itself of great educational value. The purpose of secrecy is not to keep the candidate in the dark, but to stimulate him to seek the light. The symbols and emblems do not conceal the teaching, they reveal it; but they reveal it in such a way that a man must find it for himself. Only when man finds truth for himself, is he likely to keep it as a permanent possession.

Freemasonry has three great tenants or teachings; Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Freemasonry is a fraternity devoted to Brotherhood — but this Brotherhood must be understood in a special sense. Freemasonry's position is that Brotherhood rests on a religious basis. We are all Brothers because God is the Father of us all; therefore religion is one of the foundations of Masonry.

Masonry is dedicated to God, the Great Architect of the Universe. It keeps an Altar at the centre of every Lodge-room and the Holy Bible lies upon that Altar. It begins and ends all its undertakings with a prayer. Its petitioners must believe in God. All this is genuine religion, not a formal religiousness. But religion in Masonry, like all else in its teachings, is not set forth in written creeds or in any other form of words. The Mason must come upon it for himself and put it in such form as will satisfy his own mind.

Along with religion, Masonry teaches the necessity of morality, requiring of its members that they be good men and true, virtuous when tried by the square, upright when tried by the plumb, their passions kept in due bounds by the compasses, just in their dealings with their fellows, patient with the erring, charitable, truthful, and honourable.

Concerning the theological values of Faith, Hope, and Charity, our craft says that "the greatest of these is Charity," that each of us must stand ready at any and all times to extend a helping hand in relief of an unfortunate Brother or his dependents. Masonry however, does not advocate a charity carried to the limits of fanaticism. There is such a thing as a Cable-Tow, the extent of ability and opportunity; and we are not expected to give relief beyond the point where it would do damage to ourselves or hardships to our families.

Another of Masonry's great teachings is Equality, symbolized by the level. This does not represent that impossible doctrine which would erase all distinctions and hold that in all respects all men are the same, for it is evident that in many respects men are very unequal, as in physique, in talent, in gifts in abilities and in character. It is rather, the principle that we owe goodwill to each and all, and that within our Fraternity all men travel the same road of initiation, take the same obligations, pay dues, and have the same rights, duties and privileges. A similar importance is attached to the need for enlightenment. The motto of Masonry is "let there be light," and almost the whole of the Second Degree is a drama of education. There is Masonry of the mind as well as of the heart and of the hand. To revere the wise, to respect teachers, to value and to uphold schools and to encourage the Liberal Arts and Sciences are among our most ancient traditions.

Outside the Lodge-room the Mason is to be a good citizen, loyal to his government and patriotic to his country, conducting himself as a moral and wise man, remembering in all things he has in his keeping the good name of the Fraternity.

These teachings arise out of the nature and needs of that Brotherhood for the sake of which the whole system of the craft exists. To endure through all trials and to satisfy our natures. Brotherhood must have a spiritual basis, hence the importance of the foundation of religion. Brotherhood requires that all men must be held together by unbreakable ties, hence the necessity for morality. Differences of beliefs and options must not be permitted to rupture these bonds, hence the need for tolerance. Men cannot fully enjoy fellowship unless they have the same rights and privileges, hence the necessity for equality. They cannot work together unless they understand the work to be done, hence the need for enlightenment. Brotherhood will not be perfect unless men are filled with the spirit of goodwill, Hence the need for charity and relief. And Brotherhood cannot exist save in a nation that admits of it , hence the need for masons to be good citizens. Through all the teachings of Masonry run these principles which lead back to the conception and practice of Brotherhood. Gain a clear understanding of that, and you will have the secret by which all else is made plain.

Contributed by R.W. Bro. Harold Planetta

Shown above, R.W. Bro. Wayne Rideout, PDDGM, (r) presents Worshipful Master Doug MacLean (l) of Hartland Lodge #46 with three Master Mason aprons once the property of two dedicated members: R.W. Bro. Harry Lanyon, PDDGM and his son, W. Bro. Tom Lanyon, PM. Sadly, both have entered the Celestial Lodge above. During the settling of the estate, daughter Judy Ahmad, New York, turned the Masonic artifacts over to R.W. Bro. Wayne Rideout for use in Hartland Lodge. R.W. Bro. Rideout is shown wearing R.W. Bro. Lanyon's PDDGM apron, a request by Ms. Ahmad in memory of her father.

Campbellton Lodge #32, Sep 10, 2001- A highlight of the evening came when the Grand Master presented Bro. J. David Sansom with his 50-year pin and certificate. Above (l to r) - M.W. Bro. Hitchcock, Bro. Sansom and W. Bro. Ralph Bain, Worshipful Master

At the District 6 Official Meeting, held October 4, 2001 at Hiram Lodge #6 in Fredericton, M.W. Bro. Hitchcock presented R.W. Bro. D.W. "Bud" Gillrie with a commission making him the Representative of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota in New Brunswick. R.W. Bro. Gillrie is the Grand Historian and Secretary of Hiram Lodge.

Caribou and Ashland, ME - Sep 15, 2001. At the invitation of M.W. Bro Wayne Adams, Grand Master of Masons in Maine (standing right), M.W. Bro R Wayne Hitchcock, Grand Master of Masons in New Brunswick, (standing left) took the opportunity to conduct a seminar on Masonic Renewal in Caribou, Maine. Brethren from around the State, dedicated to the advancement of the Craft, attended the informative session. R.W. Bro. Harold Planetta, JGW of the Grand Lodge of N.B. also took part.

Petitcodiac, Sep 11, 2001– R.W. Bro. Gordon Rattray, (c) is shown receiving his certificate and official appointment as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Australia in New Brunswick. Making the presentation are M.W. Bro. Wayne Hitchcock, Grand Master and M.W. Bro. James Pike, PGM. R.W. Bro. Rattray is a member of Howard Lodge #15 in Hillsborough.

Woodstock, NB - Sep 22, 2001- Approximately 75 members and their spouses gathered at Woodstock Lodge No 11 for Pin Day, with several members traveling from distant points. 50-year pins and certificates were presented by M.W. Bro. R Wayne Hitchcock, Grand Master of Masons in New Brunswick (see photo above). Pins were also presented to several brethren acknowledging their 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45-year milestones. The complete list of recipients:

E.E. Corey (58); Arnold Cronkhite (56); Ernest Grant (56); Wendell Bull (54), Thomas Everett (54), Beverly Pickard (54), Paul Thornton (53), Edison Stairs (53), Coburn Patterson (52), Eugene McKinley (52), S.L. Cunningham (51), Bertram Gardiner *(posthumously)* (51), Robert Price (51), S.P. Wright (51), Robert Montgomery (51); Thomas Scott (49); Dr Murray Mutrie (48); Eugene Burtt (46); George Slipp (44); Floyd Johnson (43); H.M. Rose (43); Walter Scott (43); Oswald Howland (43); K.O. Sidwell (43); Fred Rose (42); Eldon McCallum (42); William Spence (41); E.B. Avery (40); R.M. Avery (40); Arthur Noble (40); Dr M.E. Margison (39); J.E. Winslow (39); Edison Fox (39); Merlin Fox (39), Ralph Vail (39); George Leech (37); Donald Cluff (37); Frank Cluff (37); James Cluff (37); H.B. Kirpatrick (36); Sherman Hannah (36); Elmo Stairs (35); O.N. Monteith (34); H.A. Bonnell (33); Kenneth Dunn (32); Donald Manuel (31); Kurt Weisseneder (31); Avery McCordick (31); Gordon Gaddas (30); Roy Wilson (30); James McLellan (29); Dean Blaney (28); Donald Cox (28); William Bate (27); Robinson Bradley (26); William King (26); Roderick Robertson (26); John McLellan (25); James Arthur (25); David McNally (25); Robert McNally (25); Leigh Hutchinson (25).

The day concluded with a fine meal prepared by W. Bro. Tim Kirkpatrick, W. Bro. Bob Fowlie, Bro. Bob Wilson with assistance from a number of the Lodge members.

The real differences around the world today are not between Jews and Arabs; Protestants and Catholics; Muslims, Croats, and Serbs. The real differences are between those who embrace peace and those who would destroy it; between those who look to the future and those who cling to the past; between those who open their arms and those who are determined to clench their fists.

William J. Clinton

TRUTH is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; you may kick it about all day, like a football, and still it will be round and full at evening.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

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