



Spring 2008

Mostly Masonry

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK



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Just the Facts:

In the 1600s many trades operated what have become known as box clubs where their members would set aside earnings for the group or individual members to fall back on when they suffered hard times. Those without such assistance usually starved through lack of other reliable welfare support. Evidence indicates these box clubs began to admit members outside their trade and had many of the characteristics of early masonic lodges. Perhaps Freemasonry arose from an early and successful box club framework which was later taken over by the leading intellectual lights that emerged in the seventeenth century?

What are your thoughts on this information?

What is your idea of Masonic Education for the individual Mason? See what it means to others in the fall 2008 edition of Mostly Masonry



The Most Worshipful The Grand Master for The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick: William Boone Elected May 12, 2007 at the 140th Annual Communication held in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

Grand Master's Message,

Greetings Brethren:

Not long ago a young Mason – in years as well as membership – spoke of attending three or four meetings following his Master Mason's Degree during which he harbored some serious doubts as to whether he would continue attending Lodge or not. Looking around the room where the average age would be several years his seniors, he asked himself, "What do I have in common with these men?" He went on to say the gap in interests, experience, concerns, and focus was so large, in his opinion, he doubted if it could be bridged. Fortunately, the words and actions of a particular brother convinced him otherwise. Those "words" and "actions" contained no profound wisdom or enlightenment, just a friendly grip and a warm fraternal greeting, an interest in his well-being, and so forth. A simple formula really.

There is little doubt long-time members tend to gather together at lodge meetings, not because they deliberately ignore newer members, but because they enjoy each other's company. To be sure, as the young Mason observed, they are close in age and have common interests whether it be grand-children, retirement, or joint lodge activities. Obviously any new-comer would feel excluded in this situation.

But if given a little thought, we find there is much we share in common with each other regardless of age difference. Learning to apply the principles of Masonry; how we can best put into practice the lessons we learn; how to best serve our fellow man as well as support our brethren and their families. Within the walls of our institution we all meet on the same level: the rich, the poor; the professional and the laborer; the thinker and the doer, the leader, the follower. It matters not what age we are, Masonry is the grand leveler of human greatness that provides the environment within which we live by the principles of Brotherly love, Relief and Truth.

We as older Masons have to keep in mind that discussing our grandchildren with a Brother who has young children may not hold much attraction for him. To be sure there may be times when such a conversation can be of benefit, but far more important is the kind word of greeting, the standing invitation, stated or not, of assistance with all things Masonry, will do far more to bring the ages into harmony than anything else.

The new Mason must be able to feel his presence, his contribution to the discussion, his efforts on behalf of the lodge, is welcomed regardless if some old crotchety past master sings the familiar refrain "We never did it that way!" Teach him all we know about Masonry. Build within him a pride of belonging by becoming a role-model of the ideal Mason. Never let an opportunity pass by to speak a word of encouragement, a concern for his needs, and an offer of assistance should any be necessary. Include him in our group discussions. Ask his opinion. Ask for advice. The goal is to make him feel at home, make him eagerly await each meeting with the expectation of learning something new.

We often speak of Masonry being a charitable organization. Yes, it is. And, Brethren, the most charitable thing we can do is take that new Mason under our tutelage and make him an important part of this institution. The legacy we leave behind will benefit him, and mankind, years after we are long forgotten.

Fraternally

What is your Meaning of Relief and Charity

The tenant of Relief (Charity) was originally intended for the benefit of Operative Masons, their widows and orphans who may have been in distress, with very little regard for anyone outside the Fraternity.

In today's society true Relief or Charity has lost much of its original intent. Social relief has now become big business, with massive publicity campaigns, enormous bureaucratic networks and high pressure public relations departments all designed with the goal of raising huge sums of money for every possible cause imaginable, of which only a portion is used for the intended propose. Although philanthropy is very much needed in the world over, there are aspects to being charitable other than opening a wallet, signing a cheque and getting a receipt.

"There is a beggar on the street corner asking for money to buy a meal; Man "A" stops and drops money into the beggar's hat then moves on; Man "B" stops and asks the beggar if he would like to eat, after the beggar says yes, Man "B" takes the beggar to a restaurant and shares a meal"

Who is the most charitable Man "A" or "B" ?

Many individuals turn over and/or help raise thousands of dollars each year in the name of charity for many reasons not all of which are benevolent. Acting charitable solely because of peer pressure, obtain social status, self-gratification or for career advancement does not portray a true meaning of the tenant of Relief (charity) or benevolence.

How many Masons truly enjoy the hundreds of hours they work at the various fund raising events which are held throughout the New Brunswick jurisdiction?

As expressed by RWB Dwight L. Smith, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, USA, "being able to show a collection of thank you cards, canceled cheques and income tax deductions are not all that is required to show one is benevolent".

What percentage of the membership have actually visited Camp Goodtime at least once or even twice?

Such actions as visiting someone unexpectedly and sharing a tea or coffee while informing the distressed person on what may available to relieve the negative situation that is causing the individual problems, can be considered very benevolent because the time and fellowship is given freely without underlying pressures or motives .

The thing that is most commonly forgotten is charity is more than collecting and dispersing money. The giving of time and talents selflessly in service of mankind and community can also be considered as charitable and benevolent. There is the view that the non-financial aspects of charity will become more popular as costs of living and services continue to rise that may prevent individuals from being so generous with the their disposable income. These same people would be willing to participate in projects which would provide that same charitable and benevolent gratification previously found through financial donations.

As Speculative Masons, we should not always equate money with relief or charity. Neither should any of us consider participating half-heartily in an event with the intention of being seen as one who projects being a man of caring and benevolence to those outside the Fraternity. None of these types of attitudes do anything for the Fraternity because they can't be hidden .

We all should remember, the original purpose of the tenant of Relief was mainly to assist those in distress who had some connection to the Brotherhood. That is not to say in modern times lodges should not extend a helping hand to those outside the Brotherhood who require assistance but Masons should not loose site of the fact our fellow less fortunate Brethren must not be forgotten while members of the Fraternity try to cultivate favor with those who only want the fund raising abilities of the vast Masonic organization.

This is what I think.

Mostly Masonry

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITORS OR THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

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Traveling Masons

Traveling for members of the Masonic Fraternity has changed tremendously over the past centuries and is going to change again very soon.

In the distant past Operative Masons usually only traveled to work on new building projects and in some cases that meant traveling to distant lands where new lodges were eventually formed. The custom of visiting lodges was a way of developing fellowship amongst members of the same craft which were spread throughout the new and old worlds.

In today's world Masons make hundreds of visits every year in support of lodges which may have decreasing membership, to special fund raising events in support various charities or mainly to share evenings of Fellowship.

The custom of visiting lodges is about to go through another major change due to the economics in a world of high costs for long distance transportation especially to lodges in outlying areas of our province.

The days of a number of vehicles with one or two Brethren traveling to visit lodges several times a month is going to change. Those Brethren who have been retired for years and live on fixed incomes are now going to start re-thinking just how much they are going to be able to travel or how will they make adjustments in order maintain the same level of contact with others in the Fraternity.

Many Brethren are going to have to start scheduling their visits in a more efficient and cost effective manner while communicating with others about which lodges they would like to visit as a group.

The days of one Mason traveling a long distance to visit a lodge is becoming to costly and when brethren travel as a group it must become the custom for masons to

contribute towards the cost of individual trips regardless who is providing the transport. As Brethren we must make it our habit to share the burden of travel costs in a fair and forthright manner without reservation or embarrassment whether it be in the giving or taking of an offering.

By adjusting our habits, combining our resources and with better planning we can maintain the same number of regular lodge visits that are so enjoyable and a very important in the life of our Masonic Family.

From my own experiences in traveling I have found the fellowship we all seek and enjoy usually starts as soon as there is more than one Mason in a vehicle and increases with the number of Masons sharing a ride. I have also noted that when traveling long distances with a couple of Masons the trip appears shorter than when I travel alone.

As a result of everyone considering the suggested amendment to how we travel to other lodges could be not only beneficial financially it could provide greatly fellowship and could lead to an increase in the number of brethren who will travel because there are now a more amiable circumstances to share the burden of travel costs where as presently a Brother may be restricted in the number of trips he could make due to costs.

In conclusion Brethren, make your travel plans and wishes better known to others and by doing so you may share a greater amount of fellowship with fellow Masons and could increase the number of visitors to lodges at reduced a cost thus making it possible for more Brothers to travel.

Submitted by Editor

OUR CHARITIES WORK

ALTHOUGH MASONIC RITUAL VARIES BETWEEN JURISDICTIONS, A CONSISTENT MESSAGE CONVEYED TO EVERY CANDIDATE IS THAT CHARITY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF FREEMASONRY. FROM THIS PHILOSOPHY COMES MUCH OF A 'MASON'S WORK', GIVEN FREELY AND WILLINGLY. CHARITY COMES IN MANY FORMS, BOTH LARGE AND SMALL.

No one could completely list all of the charitable work done by Freemasons. There are many which are local and private. In fact, much Masonic charity occurs in this quiet way. Other activities, are so broad that they cannot be hidden and we'll point you to some of them right here. It is the obligation of every Mason to know and practice the true definition of charity, do you?

NEWS AND VIEWS
TO & FROM LODGES AROUND THE PROVINCE

Things to do over the next 4 months.

Camp Goodtime

This year's Visitors Day at Camp Goodtime is scheduled for July 19, 2008. We, as Masons who support the Cancer camp for kids financially should try and participate in the day's activities. This is a great opportunity for groups of Masons to travel together and share a day and see the benefits of their fund raising efforts they do throughout the year.

An Albert County Pig Roast

On July 20, 2008 Howard Lodge # 15 has scheduled their 5th Annual Pig roast which is schedule for between 5:30 and 7:30 pm in the Kiwanis Building in Hillsborough, NB. Tickets are \$15.00 or \$25.00 per couple. Children get few hot dogs. There will be a pie and cake auction. Call Paul Kyle for further information at 734-2363.

Royal Arch BBQ

During Salisbury days Royal Arch Botsford # 7 will be holding a BBQ on 16 August 2008. The Royal Arch Masons in Salisbury would appreciate all the support they can get to get much needed financial requirements.

For further information call Paul Parker.

Lobster Dinner

Zetland Lodge # 24 will be holding a lobster Dinner in the month of August as a fund raising activity call for further information.

For information about and contacts for all Lodges visit the NB Grand Lodge web site.



As reported 18 June 2008
Submitted by W Bro. Robert Wheaton
W. Bro Charles Holt, Past Master of Steven Lodge # 37 receives his 50 year pin and certificate from presiding Master of Steven Lodge # 37 WB Robert Wheaton.



As reported 18 June 2008
Submitted by W Bro. Robert Wheaton
Alice Wheaton, widow of WB Chester Wheaton receives a widows pin and certificate from presiding Master of Steven Lodge # 37, WB Robert Wheaton, April 09, 2008,



The Masonic Rock Chips
June 23, 2008

L to R: John Jefferies; Allan Ground water; Gordon Steeves; Bruce Ward; Ray Joudrey; Mike Corey.
These brethren put on display of how a group can provide entertainment through their personal interests. The appreciation was shown when the a those in attendance started to sing with the group.



Acacia Widows
June 23, 2008

Front Row L to R: Vivan Steeves; Florine Reid; Carol Ladham; Midge Ferguson; Verna Lefurgey.
Center Row: Vickie Brace; Dorothy Jones; Joyce Hargrove; mercy Pond; Lillian Harris; Phyllis Hamlyn.
Back Row: Art Young; Miles Graham; Carl Dungee; Paul Conard; me Pike.

Goodbye George Cooper

For those who are unaware, the New Brunswick jurisdiction of Freemasonry has had to say good bye to a Brother and a gentleman who added much to his lodge and to every visit he made to other lodges. Brother George Cooper is now sharing his spirit and intensity in around his new home in Northern Ontario.

Although all of us have lost by his departure from this jurisdiction his new lodge will sure gain from our loss but as Brother Cooper continues to do his excellent presentations and work for the benefit of others the biggest benefactor will be the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. I would like to take this time to thank Brother Cooper for what he brought to lodge those times when he visited all the lodges in mew Brunswick. So from the staff and administration of "Mostly Masonry" and the entire membership of the New Brunswick jurisdiction we wish Brother George Cooper and his family the very best of luck in his new endeavors.
"George it was a pleasure."

Our Charities

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. I do not agree with the big way of doing things."

Mother Teresa, Albanian-born Roman Catholic missionary

Although Masonic ritual varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, a consistent message conveyed to every candidate is that charity is an essential part of Freemasonry. In some rituals, in fact, reference is made to the wide-breadth of the star-decked canopy of Heaven and that a Mason's charity should be equally extensive. This concept has remained throughout the centuries of Freemasonry's existence.

"To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Freemasons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections. Illustrations of Masonry, p. 72 William Preston, 1772.

Note carefully that date! It is not an error of our typing. Written some 225 years ago, it addresses Masonic charity just as well today!

From this philosophy comes much of a 'Mason's work', given freely and willingly. Charity comes in many forms, both large and small. Whether it's something as simple (but appreciated) as a holiday basket delivered to a shut-in by local lodge officers, something much larger such as a donation of funds to support a community project or an on-going scholarship fund, or something as enormous as a chain of 22 hospitals which provide totally free care to burned and crippled children, Masons regularly engage in charitable work as part of their Masonic membership.

No web site could fully and completely list all of the charitable work done by Freemasons. There are many which are local and private. In fact, much Masonic charity occurs in this quiet way. Other activities, however, are so broad that they cannot be hidden and we'll point you to some of them right here.

We've tried to broadly categorize the works Masons do as follows:

- ◆ Caring Concern - Some of our programs to help those who are suffering medical problems are well known. Others are not. Take a look and you'll be surprised at what we do.
- ◆ Saving History - It's natural that the oldest fraternity in the world would have an interest in preserving history. What's not as well known is how that interest is translated into helping everyone!
- ◆ Helping Hands - Whether it's scholarships or food for the needy, Masons are often found helping out. Here are some of the many, many examples of that.

Masonic charity has often been 'quiet' as compared to civic charities whose presence is flouted in order to garner additional contributions. Thus a researcher can only capture the data from formally organized and public Masonic activities and even this doesn't tell the whole story.

What has been said about Masonry

Good Masons make good churchmen. Every clergyman can testify to the truth of this. They make loyal and sacrificing patriots. Our colonial history supplies the proof of this assertion. All Masons are not ardent church members but neither are all church members ardent for the church. Yet the proof is clearly and abundantly evident that the Masonic fraternity is an influence for good in personal and community life.

Freemasonry is not a religion. It has never claimed to be, and has always corrected those of the Brotherhood who unthoughtfully would say 'Freemasonry is my religion.' Freemasonry has always been a friend and ally of religion. Religious people have found a congenial fellowship within the Lodge and have not been embarrassed by what takes place there. In many respects, Freemasonry may be called a religious institution owing its 'origin and morality to the religious element.' But this is something different from being a religion. A hospital can be a religious institution but not a religion."

**The Rev. Bishop Fred Pierce Corson
Methodist Bishop of Philadelphia and
President of the World Methodist Council**

Help others by Looking for a Scholarship?

If you or someone you know is looking for information about Masonic scholarships, start by asking someone in your local Masonic Lodge. They will know of any scholarship opportunities in both the lodge itself and in the Masonic District as well as at the Grand Lodge level. (If they don't know, they can put you in touch with someone who will.)

In addition, don't overlook scholarships made available by the 'appendant bodies' of Freemasonry: Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, York Rite, DeMolay, Rainbow, Job's Daughters, Triangles, Cedars of Lebanon, Shrine, and SO many others.

While some of these scholarships may be limited by the original donors to those who meet specific criteria (a member of a local school district, a graduating high school senior, someone pursuing a technical school education, or something else perhaps), others have no such limitations. Some scholarships require that an applicant be related in some way to the Masonic family or to the particular body which grants it but many are unrestricted: anyone can apply.

Regrettably, there is no central repository for information about Masonic and Masonic-related scholarships. Just as with other financial aid, however, a little bit of effort can yield great rewards.

Mostly Masonry wishes you the best in your, relative or friend's continuing educational endeavors

**Grand Chaplain's
Chatter**
by Rev. Dean



Charity!

When we were at Grand Lodge this past year I spoke on Charity as it pertains to love and how that is implemented in Masonry. The Love of God as pertaining to people is to "Wish someone well" no matter what the circumstances. Well I think charity is an attribute of love which is extended from that feeling of wishing someone well. We see charity in our community more prevalent at some points in the year rather than others. Christmas is a "fine" example of this when people seem to freely give so the hungry are fed and the homeless are sheltered. Unfortunately people go hungry at other times of the year as well and shelter along with clothing to keep warm is always needed. When we think of charity amongst our brethren we automatically think of Camp good time which is a wonderful outreach. I have noticed that charity extends beyond our Lodges and brotherhood. An example of this: Recently one of our brothers took a trip to Cuba and attended a Lodge meeting while there. He came back and was bothered by the fact that though he had a wonderful time his lodge brothers didn't have aprons but still met as a fraternity and brotherhood. So our lodge got together and sent three officers aprons to them so the Master and Wardens would have Aprons matching ours in our Lodges here while conducting meetings. As small thin thing can mean a lot to a person who may not have as much as we have. I have often known people in need either financially or spiritually in our Order and may have just needed to talk confidentially and get something off their "chest" as they say or needed help to get through a rough spot in their lives. Masons have a habit of being there for one another. Sometimes "Charity begins at Home" This gives us an opportunity to reach out to one another. As Grand Chaplain I hope I am available to listen either via Email or sitting down on "one to one" with anyone wishing to talk with confidentiality an assurance. It is my hope that we will continue to reach out to one another with Love and Charity which our Fraternity instills in each one of us.

Fraternally yours.

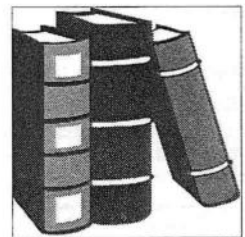
Dana Dean
Grand Chaplain, My Email in case anyone needs to talk danardean@hotmail.com

From The

**Book
Shelf** by WB WG Macx MacNichol

Titles with Masonic material.

Reasoning from the Scriptures with Masons
Ron-Rhodes



Solomon's Builders Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington, D.C.

Christopher Hodapp

The Secret History of Freemasonry

It's Origins and Connection to the Knights Templar, Paul Naudon

01 Things You Didn't Know about the Freemasons

Notices and Greetings

Would all brethren re-send their email addresses to macxjack@rogers.com because of technical difficulties I have to redo my distribution lists for mailing out "Mostly Masonry" electronically.

Would all Brethren who receive this edition of "Mostly Masonry" assist in sending out copies to brethren who they know have email. Forward all addresses to me to ensure I get the best possible mailing distribution as possible for the fall edition. Do not worry about duplication I would sooner receive an address twice or more than miss one.

I would request all announcements be sent for the fall edition as soon as possible, it is a first come first served because of limited space. Remember to remind all Brethren all editions of "Most Masonry" will be on Grand Lodge web site for their viewing.

This edition has a theme which attempted to address the issues of Charity and Relief, the Fall 2008 edition will have the theme of Masonic Study and Education pertaining to the individual Mason.

Have a Happy Holiday over the 2008 summer.

Drive Safety and enjoy New Brunswick

Remember To Visit Camp Goodtime on
19 July 2008

Zetland Lodge # 24, in Shediac, of the New Brunswick jurisdiction, is the only Lodge which operates during the summer months call ahead to get information about their summer events.