• Mostly Masonry •

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Fall 2009

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The Most Worshipful The Grand Master for The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick: **Miles Graham.**
Elected May 09, 2009 at the 142th Annual Communication held in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

Grand Master's Message

Brethren; Masonry is not a secret society. Everyone knows that the Masonic fraternity exists and no effort is made to hide that fact. Our presence is seen in our buildings marked with the square and compasses, and in the many ways in which we contribute in our communities throughout the province. It is only the Wisdom of Masonry which is hidden - that which we are able to identify and understand the inner qualities and relationships revealed in the principles and teachings symbolically represented to us. In the quiet setting of the lodge room, in an air of respect and friendship, it teaches us the truth that makes us men, and upon whom faith and character must rest.

What is the secret of Freemasonry? Is it the method of its teachings, the atmosphere it creates, the spirit in our hearts and the ties it weaves between men? The secrets of Masonry, like the secrets of life, can only be discovered by those who seek it. It cannot be expressed in words; it can only be felt by the individual and demonstrated by his actions. It is for that reason that no one need to be alarmed about any article or book written to expose Masonry.

The true secrets of Masonry cannot be discovered by prying eyes or by curious inquiries. The secrets of Masonry can only be known by those individuals who are ready, willing and worthy to receive it. Only those with a pure heart and an open and honest mind can receive it. Masonry may be using the illusion of secrecy because it knows that it is the nature of man, his inane curiosity, to seek that which is hidden. We are seekers after truth and the supreme architect of the universe has made us so that we cannot discover the truth alone, but only in the service of our fellow man. We realize that like life itself Masonry is an education, a journey, an ongoing journey toward more knowledge and understanding. **This, my brethren is the real secret and we must continue to expand the emphasis and transition currently underway in many of our lodges to restore that educational theme (knowledge) around the history, principles and philosophy of this great fraternity of ours.**

We have all heard the phrase that Education (knowledge) is power and I believe that the reason that Masonry is still surviving where essentially all others that were in existence at the same time, in the middle ages, are not- is in the product they provided. Using the knowledge of the Operative Masons complemented by the addition of that of the Speculative masons, symbolically represented for our intellectual development, has stood the test of time. We have an obligation to our predecessors – our past; to ourselves- our present; and particularly to our new members to be – our future.

Fraternally

Miles R Graham
Grand Master

Just the facts:

Mason's Wind.

At the building of King Solomon's Temple, a Mason's wind was said to blow favourably when it was due east and west, because it was calculated to cool and refresh the men at labour.

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Chief Point

The chief point of Masonry is to endeavour to be happy ourselves, and communicate that happiness to others.

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Masonic Colours

The Masonic Colours, like those used in the Jewish tabernacle, are intended to represent the four elements; white typifies the earth, purple represents the sea the sky-blue is an emblem of the air and crimson of fire.

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Editorial

Reconnecting with you Lodge and Fraternity

Since accepting the post of editor of Mostly Masonry I have travelled to a number of lodges and spoke to many Masons but what astonishes me the most; I keep meeting the same brethren night after night.

Although I do not mind meeting our brethren frequently I would also enjoy meeting and speaking with brethren I have never met before.

Within our 3500 plus membership there are very interesting people from all aspects of our society who have lead lives they can be proud of but many of them seem to have lost their devotion and interest in their fraternity. Why or what happened?

Many brethren who have dedicated a large part of their lives to the fraternity through their lodges at some time have reached a point where they no longer want or can participate to their level of their capability. Why or what happened?

There are many nights when communications would have very small attendance if it were not for affiliates and that small group of brethren who visit lodges to the best of their ability. One has to ask: where are all those brethren who religiously pay their dues and remain registered with the jurisdiction of New Brunswick?

I realize there are circumstances where brethren are unable to attend upon their lodge or visit other lodges as much as other brethren but I don't understand why you never see many of those brethren who are capable of doing both of those aspects of Masonry? It is hard to understand those who profess to be dedicated Masons, are capable of attendance and participation but just don't.

There is a hope many more brethren would attend upon their lodges and make it clear as to what level they would like to participate and make the fraternity more interesting by their presence or participation.

All officers of the individual lodges are more than happy to assist brethren attend communications, be thankful for any participation from any brother in any activity or event at whatever level they are capable.

Any Mason who is setting at home thinking "I can no longer benefit my lodge or the fraternity" has only to contact his lodge, explain his situation and ask "Can I be of any assistance to my lodge?"

As Secretary of a lodge I would be very grateful if a brother or brothers would call and ask me how they could be of further benefit to our lodge? There are duties that could be done by masons that might be house bound and other members who could dedicate time to a project.

Those who say "I find the days long and boring because of no contact with others I can only ask "who do you think does all the paperwork, record keeping, filing, telephone calls, cleaning and basic organization of your lodge? Have you asked how and when can you do your part?"

Finally, to those Masons who say the lodge and the fraternity are no longer interesting, I again ask: "What have you done to make it more interesting and better?"

I just hope I will soon start meeting many brethren I do not know and we will approach one another openly at many of the communications held each month and at all the social activities held by lodges throughout the year which will help expand or renew our connection with the membership leading to a rededication to the fraternity to which we all made an obligation.

That is what I think
from The Editor

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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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One who fails to express a well prepared opinion fails to be creditable when participating

TRAVELLING MASONS : "Make a Difference"

Birthday Party"

Masons from throughout the Maritimes gathered at Sussex lodge # 4, in the Village of Dorchester, on 10 October 2009, to help celebrate 225 years of Freemasonry in the province of New Brunswick. The event was a success for the small lodge in a small community and the visiting Masons were a significant part of that special day. With members of Equity Lodge #106 from Nova Scotia using this event for their return visit to Sussex Lodge# 4 along with representation from the Grand Lodge jurisdiction of Prince Edward Island for the special day was one of the biggest in the history of Sussex Lodge # 4 in the memory of many senior member brethren. The Master and brethren of Sussex lodge # 4 would like to thank all those who supported their efforts to celebrate the long interesting history of Freemasonry in New Brunswick and to raise the profile of the local lodge. The list of names of those in attendance is much too long to insert with this article as with other events but everyone can be assured their names have been entered in the historic records of Sussex Lodge # 4.

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"Special Evening of Masonic presentations"

Monday October 26th 2009 saw several things take place at Acacia Lodge #49 in Moncton. Starting with the evening being designated Past Master's night, RWB George Bowness was in the East and all the offices were filled with Past Masters with the exception of the secretary's; the communication was dedicated as "White Apron Night"; the Master Mason Degree was conferred on two Brothers and the newly designed "Brother James Barnes Past Masters Medallion" was presented to RWB Brother Arthur Young.
The degree work lectures were delivered in a new and unique way. W B Bill Millett, Keith Lodge's resident "teckie", using a special DVD created the presentation with the help RWBs Young and Bowness. It was stressed from the East this was in no way to replace the live version of the lectures but to be a tool that may be very useful in the future. R. W. Brother Bowness expressed to all in attendance his appreciation to the team of past masters of Acacia Lodge; a special thank you was given to all the Brothers who attended to support our lodge and witness the raising of our two new Master Masons especially the visitors from other lodges.

On Wednesday October 28th R W Brother Young and Bowness visited with James Barnes, his wife Catherine and two of their children Lisa and Lori to inform them of what had taken place at Acacia Lodge two nights before. Jim, even in his weakened state, was able to sit with us for several minutes and express his appreciation. Catherine stated that this was one of the nicest things that she had seen and that she and her children would cherish this memory.

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"In honour of Alexander Keith's 214th birthday"

Using the backdrop of a historic individual Keith Lodge # 23, held a special communication on October 7th, 2009 at the Masonic Temple in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Lecturing and Education Committee of Keith Lodge are proud to present an event not seen in over 20 years in honour of Alexander Keith's 214th birthday. Following the regular business a very interesting program was presented by the Education Committee which included a collection of skits depicting Masonic recognition through the ages; Recitation of "Publicly Unknown & Empty Seats"; a "town-hall style" Masonic Debate and was terminated by WM Rick Wood's entertaining "Master's Word".

Following the closing of the lodge members and visitors retired to the banquet hall and honoured Alexander Keith in a manner befitted a historic Mason and brew master. The number of visitors to this event was greatly appreciated by the officers of Keith Lodge. The organizers of this event would like to thank the Alexander Keith Company for their support in the various ways through their donation of various items including the portable refrigerator won by RWB Ed Burridge through the raffle. There will be a complete copy of the presentation made by Bro. Alex Elaschuk, Jr. Deacon/Lodge Historian posted on the Grand Lodge web site in the very near future.

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"Make no mark on this earth for me.
For if I leave no mark on this earth for me, what good would your mark be?"

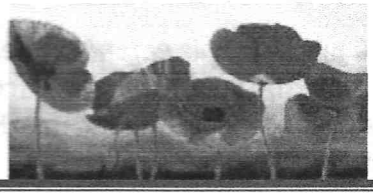
From the unpublished works: "The Thoughts of a Common man"

Pictorial View of Grand Lodge Activities and old friends

Bro. Murray Greenough is awarded his 25-year pin.

WB John Courtney also receives his 25-year pin from MWB Miles Graham

Bro. Eugene McKinley, a member of Woodstock #11, receives his 60-year bar from the GM MWB Miles Graham at Coverdale Lodge # 52.



Brother James DeWolfe receives his 50-year certificate at the October meeting of Coverdale Lodge. The GM MWB Miles Graham made the presentation

Bro. Vernon Barr & RWB Phil Hartford, DDGM, District #5

From L to R: MWB Miles R Graham, W B Edmund O Bell and RWB Philip D Hartford. WB O'Bell, recipient of the 2009 Mason of the year for District # 5.

"Remember those of today and those of yesterday, not just today but everyday"

Revitalization and Celebration through Lecturing and Education

From a Rookie's Point of View

I was excited and pleased when I was asked to be District Deputy Grand Master for District 2. But, although I had observed my predecessors closely over the years as well as my father when he was a District Deputy Grand Master, I really didn't have a clear idea of what was laying in store for me.

I love the fraternity and I truly believe that we have a lot to offer men of all ages. I enjoy travelling to other lodges and districts and meeting Masons throughout the province. I had a sense that I would be expected to provide leadership of some type and that I would be the representative of the Grand Master when he wasn't in attendance. How often would that be? Both candidates live in my area of the province. I knew that I had the support of the Worshipful Masters in the District and that there were a number of Masons, including my predecessors who were very willing to lend a hand.

But what is the job – exactly. It wasn't until I attended the annual training session for DDGMs that I got a real eye opener on this. I had read what was available and formed some ideas and some objectives for myself but this put a new shade to the picture. What I found out was even more exciting and challenging than I expected. This was going to be an opportunity to work directly with Masters and members of lodges AND with Grand Lodge to determine direction and assist the Masters in making it happen in their lodges. No sooner was this becoming clear to me than I opened my big mouth one more time and volunteered to chair a committee on Strategic Planning with a specific focus on revitalization, growth and renewal.

What was the real eye opener for me was, once again, the generosity and commitment of Masons throughout the province to be a part of the process. When that happens, it all becomes more manageable. I have received the support and encouragement of the Grand Master as well as an extensive committee representing Masons who have an abiding love for the fraternity and a concern that we need to get it right so that we can prosper in the future.

As I travel around Districts 2 and 7 as well as other districts, I am welcomed as all Masons are when they visit another lodge. There are Masons everywhere in this jurisdiction that want to express their opinions on what is right about the fraternity but what they believe we may be missing. There are Masons throughout the province that truly enjoys a worthwhile educational experience in lodge communications. These Masons love to listen and learn as well as participate in the discussions surrounding the lessons of Freemasonry. I don't believe that if I lived to a very ripe old age that we could ever run out of topics to study and learn.

I am impressed by the wisdom in the lodges that is demonstrated in the caring and thoughtful manner in which the work is carried out.

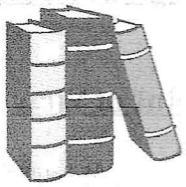
Do we have work to do? For sure! We need to understand our lodge, its rituals and its culture better than we do. We need to ask questions of each other to find what is most important to us individually and as a group. We need to involve our newest Masons in meaningful ways in our lodges. We need to demonstrate to society at large that we are a fraternity committed to personal growth that will benefit our communities. We need to demonstrate what we do.

But probably the most exciting thing of all is that all of these things are being done in pockets throughout the province at varying levels of development. We need to learn from each other and we can do that easily by visiting each other and socializing with each other.

My view from this position – I wouldn't change my decision at all. My personal growth over the past few months is rewarding and satisfying. The lodges in my district are supportive and tolerant of my ramblings – at least for now. I believe that we are moving forward and that, together we will bring our fraternity to a place that is representative of all that we value and honor.

Submitted by:
DDGM RWB Ed Burridge
District # 2
New Brunswick Jurisdiction

From the
Bookshelf
By WG Macx MacNichol



Book titles with Masonic themes and historical background to Masonry.

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Update of reading Interest:

"The Lost Jewel" a novel by Dan Brown appears to have caused a great stir within the general and amongst some members within the Masonic Fraternity. One must remember "it is just a novel with a Masonic background" and based partly on some actual historical events and should not be taken in any other context.
One of the criticisms is the author is not a member of the Fraternity thus how could any of his writings have any creditability or present a knowledgeable perspective about Masonry? To answer that question I would say one must realize an outside perspective can be of just two concepts; positive informed\uninformed or negative informed/ uninformed.
The only way to read the books such as "The Da Vinci Code", "Angels and Demons" and "The lost Jewel" is with an out mind in the context of them being entertaining novels with a familiar theme. The popularity of these types on novels with the general public may be of benefit to the Fraternity by raising the interest in Freemasonry but let us hope not with false expectations. All three books are great reading and very good entertainment.
Final note, the third book in the Templar Trilogy **"Order in Chaos" by Jack Whyte** did not let this reader down and fulfilled the expectations created by the first two volumes. Recommended reading.
Note: The recent edition of Focus Volume 16, issue 2 September 2009, from the Masonic Information Center, had very positive comments about Dan Brown's presentation of Freemasonry.

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Dealing with books

All Masons and lodges should be aware that any books they have and no longer need, can be of a great value when it comes to raising funds. There are number of organizations that raise large amounts of funds through the sale and exchange of used books to which you can donate your unneeded books. Secondly; lodges that are looking for a way to raise funds can either collect or sell the books on their own or if they do not have the manpower look for another group who would share the workload. Remember everyone can collect and sort books. What is needed is a place to store the books between sales and people to carry the boxes to and from the storage area.

Poetic Thought

TELL HIM NOW!

If with pleasure you are viewing
any work a brother's doing;
if you like him or you love him,
tell him now!

Don't withhold your approbation
Till the parson's grave ovation
as he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow.

Makes no matter how you shout it
he won't really care about it -
He won't know how many teardrops
you have shed.

More than fame and more than money
is the comment, kind and sunny,
and the unmistaken handshake of a friend.

If you think some praise is due him
now's the time to tell it to him -
for he cannot read his tombstone
once he's dead.

author unknown

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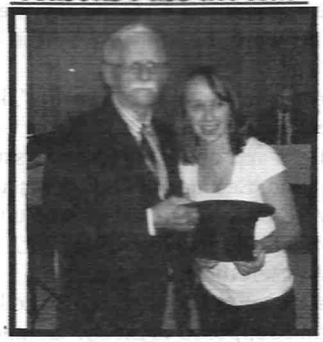
Publication Notice:

In the summer 2009 edition of Mostly Masonry I published a poem for readers to enjoy which I found on the internet. After publication I received an email in which a Mason who stated he was the author of the poem "The Old Master's Wages". I further misplaced his email and name now would wish to ask him to contact me again and I will be only too happy to publish his credit. My apology to all concerned for this error.

The Editor

The Gallery

"Masons Pass the Hat"



WB JJ Leadbetter with Emily Stubbert, a grade 12 student from the Tantramar Region High school, Sackville, NB. Emily received the hat that was passed following the banquet for donations. The passing of the hat was a token of appreciation on how well the team of students provided great assistance to the 225th anniversary celebration held by Sussex Lodge # 4 in Dorchester, NB. Donations were for the graduating class 2010.

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Widows Receive their Pins from Grand Master

From L to R: WB Peter Spence, D of C; Mrs. Sherman Estabrooks; Mrs. Audrey MacWhirter; MWB Miles Graham, GM, and WB Neil Horsman, IMP, Sussex Lodge # 4

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From L to R: WM Neil Horsman, Mrs. Burt Scott (Recent Widow) and GM MWB Miles Graham, at Sussex Lodge # 4 at the Widows and Wives Tea.

Another successful roast beef dinner at Zetland Lodge # 24, fall of 2010.

Now we know why many lodges do not let their kitchen help to mingle with the paying customers. But the efforts of Bro. Buddy Trenholm from Westmorland Lodge # 44 cannot be replaced. Those wanting poster size prints contact playgirl magazine.

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Celebration of Alexander Keith

From L to R: MWB Miles Graham, Grand Master; RWB Ed Burridge(winner of the Alexander Keith collectibles) and Bro Alex Elaschuk, historian and member of the Education Committee for Keith Lodge # 23

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By: *The Observer*

"Watch that guy; he'd stab you in the back in a minute"
Gary McNab looked up in surprise from his bowl of fish chowder. He and several other brethren were enjoying a light repast after the lodge meeting. Someone had commented on the ritual work done by Jubilo Jones as being near perfect to which others agreed. The comment from out of the blue so to speak, came from a long-standing member of the lodge, who was seated across the table from Gary.
"Why do you say that?" asked Gary wiping his lips with a napkin.
"Ah, he broke up another brother's marriage. Been seen coming an' goin' on a regular basis from her house. And her with two young children. Probably had something to do with that too; wouldn't surprise me." Cy Corkum sniffed in distain.
"You know all this for a fact, do you?" asked Gary.
"Pretty much accepted around here", was the reply.
Gary looked around the group in the immediate listening area. One or two nodded; another merely dropped his eyes to the coffee he was holding. No one confirmed or denied the older brother's accusations.
Looking at the brother across from him who had a pious look, Gary said slowly, "I hadn't heard that about Brother Jones."
As he stood, gathering his utensils, Gary said, "I knew of a man from a rural area who had attended law school, graduated in the top ten of his class and went on to become a successful lawyer in a prestigious law firm here in town.
One day he was in Ottawa on an appeal case before the highest court and had gone back to his hotel room to change into more leisure clothes before going out to eat. Being from the country, he liked the comfort of farm clothes which he wore whenever he could.
It was in this state of attire that he entered the hotel dining room, taking a small table near the back. Nearby a larger table was surrounded by three couples in evening dress; obviously coming from or going to a fairly ritzy affair. Three bottles of expensive wine sat on the table in various stages of use.
One of the patrons indicated the lawyer sitting by himself and said, in mocking tone to his companions, "Look at the hayseed over there. Let's have some fun with him".
"Hey, Rube", a man called. "Who's milking the cows while you're here passing yourself off as class in a classy hotel?"

The group laughed.

And so it went throughout the meal. Finally the lawyer got up to leave. Before he went, he stopped by the table with the tittering couples.
"I couldn't help overhearing your comments", he said, "which you probably intended me to hear."
"Because of my dress and appearance, you assumed I am but an ignorant farm hand. Because of your dress and appearance I assumed you were people of class. Unfortunately, we both erred in our judgments. For my lack of insight, I apologize."
With that, the lawyer left the dining area.
Gary turned to walk over to the kitchen area to leave his cup.
"What the hell is that supposed to mean?" demanded Cy.
Gary stopped and turned around. Looking at him for a long moment, he finally said, "You're a smart man. You figure it out."
With that, Gary left the room without looking back.

"Take the time to reflect on those who have served and those who are presently serving, their efforts will keep our country the great place it is for future generations."

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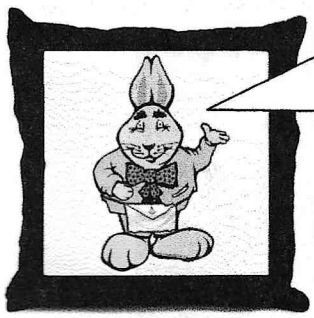
Message from "Hiramie" the Masonic Rabbit



"Welcome the Brethren, enjoy the communication, apply the education, share the fellowship and partake of the refreshments for great Masonic evening".
See you at your lodge