



# ● Mostly Masonry ●

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK



## Winter 2010

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

### Grand Master's Message

**Brethren;** Brethren, the year 2009 is now behind us and we are now looking forward with anticipation to the current year 2010 and what it has in store for us. The work of the Strategic Planning Committee with RWB E. Burrige, as Chairman and each of you providing your thoughts and ideas to this endeavour I am sure will contribute to a document – a living vibrant document which provides a focus-a direction and ideas which we can all work toward for the benefit of this wonderful organization of ours, but always keeping in mind the fundamentals of our fraternity.

I had the opportunity in November to attend the Board of General Purposes meeting in St Andrews and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Quinn House – a senior's house named in honour of Brother William Gibson Quinn. I was impressed by the presentation researched and given by MWB Hitchcock which clearly captures the challenges associated with this endeavour and the success achieved by the efforts of many of our brethren. I feel that it is important to share this portion of our history with you the brethren who were unable to be present in November. The success of this undertaking and the formation of the corporation were also instrumental in the long term participation of "Camp Goodtime".

#### QUINN HOUSE

All stories, no matter how long they are, no matter how they turn out in the end, have a beginning. Some begin slow and pick up speed while others start fast and slow down as they become more and more complicated. Our story today has a happy ending but it all began with a death in our Masonic family. Our Brother William Gibson Quinn, who received his three degrees in 1926 in Hiram Lodge #6 in Fredericton, N.B., died in 1974. He had been a highly respected and successful businessman who had in the fullness of time acquired a significant estate including his substantial residence which he had hoped could be used as a residence for senior masons following his death. Brother Quinn donated this residence and a sizable portion of his estate to the support of this wish but a study of the facility soon proved that the residence was not suited to senior's living requirements.

The property was sold and the funds as well as the funds allotted to support his wish were invested and the William Quinn Trust Fund was born. This fund, or at least the earnings from the fund, was used for various purposes over the next few years but the concept of a Masonic Housing Project was never forgotten.

In 1985, under the leadership of Most Worshipful Brother John William Murray, the concept of a Masonic Housing Project resurfaced. Our MWGM appointed a committee to study the feasibility and need for a senior's Housing Facility within the bounds of our jurisdiction and to ensure that the study got done he put RWB Donald Gruchy,

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### Just the facts:

#### Dedicated Tax Collector

Adoniram who has an important part in Masonic history because he served as tax collector to three kings including King David, King Solomon and King Rehoboam and it has been written to have been intimately involved in the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem. It appears he was too good at his work because he was stoned to death by a group of unhappy taxpayers

#### Chief Point

In lodges of the 1700's the emblems and symbols of the different degrees were drawn on the floor of the lodge with chalk or charcoal. They were obliterated at the end of each meeting because lodges met in rented rooms, and they did not want strangers viewing their secret writings. As this was troublesome and messy they were next painted on cloth or canvas, carried to each meeting and laid on the floor, hence the name 'carpets'. Today, these carpets, or charts as they are now called hang from walls or frames.

The official newsletter of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick



# Editorial

Since the 2009 Grand Lodge Communication there has been an attempt at Masonic Revival through increasing Masonic education throughout the jurisdiction. It must be admitted there have been a number of very informative and interesting sessions presented by individual Masons and groups of Masons at a number of lodges.

Although there can be very little criticism of the material presented and facilitators must be commended for their efforts, for the knowledge and enlightenment which they put forth, one must also reflect on what happens after the applause has gone silent. It must be remembered it is up to the individual Mason as to what he does with the information he receives in the education sessions.

With the millions upon millions of words written about the tenants and the obligations along with the yearly lectures and readings in all the lodges of this jurisdiction one would think that any serious Mason would know what is required to attempt to be a good Mason.

Astonishingly as it may seem, it would appear for many Masons the tenant of **Relief** is the most important of all the tenants and to which they expend most of their time and energy. The essence of the following quote would seem to indicate that without **Truth** first nothing else can be truly accomplished in the proper Masonic manner.

*"Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue we*

*join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."*

Should the premise of the above statement be accepted, then every endeavour being undertaken in the name of Masonry or as a Mason must be conducted with total truth. Keeping that in mind, should a Mason be aware or be made aware of something that was done or is being done in an untruthful manner, has the obligation to correct it or stop it if it be within his power to do so, would only seem reasonable.

No one is above the possibility of making a mistake but the commitment to honesty for a Mason comes from admitting he has made a mistake then corrects it when it comes to his attention either through his own doing or by being made aware by some else. The importance of the final total on the bottom line on a balance sheet, whether it be the personal dealings of a Mason, individual lodge business or a fundraising event, should not supersede the level of truth by which the results were obtained.

Truth and plain dealing do not only include financial issues but also should be applied as to how we treat our fellow Masons and those non-Masons with whom we come in contact with on a daily basis. Whether it be doing business or participating socially one must do his best to be as truthful as possible without causing undo harm or embarrassment to anyone. Just because one may disagree with what has been expressed does not make it wrong or dishonest but manipulating the facts, using unsubstantiated information, letting personal issues or goals affect ones opinion is not practicing the tenant of Truth in the manner in which a Mason should be endeavouring to do.

**This what I think,  
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.

Editor Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, WB WG Macx MacNichol

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**"Honesty: The best of all the lost arts**







## Visiting

The issue of visiting and travelling to other lodges has long been a topic of concern in our Fraternity. To some, it is an indication of the level of commitment to Masonry while to others it is something nice to do when the time is available. It is my hope that we visit other lodges because we want to but also because we believe it to be a part of our responsibility both to our own lodge as well as the other lodges and the Fraternity as a whole.

I believe that Visiting/Travelling is very often underrated in terms of its importance both to the visiting lodge members and to those of the host lodges. It is through visiting that we are able to observe, often from the sidelines, how the ritual is conducted in other lodges as well as how meetings are organized. It is through visiting that we are able to make acquaintances with our brothers throughout the jurisdiction and beyond. It is through visiting that, on some occasions, we are able to offer our assistance and contributions to the host lodge and its members. Visiting brings about return visits to our lodges and allows us to more fully utilize the capacity that we have in our lodge rooms that, sadly, is often seriously underused. We often see lodges that make a determined effort to visit, in force, receive that same courtesy in response. Sadly, we also see the opposite where lodges that have been active visitors let that commitment become weak or disappear and in turn, receive a like commitment. Visiting strengthens the fraternity as a whole and the individual lodges and brethren who participate. I have met and become friends with a large number of Masons throughout this jurisdiction as well as others. I am confident that I can rely on friends and brothers in virtually every corner of this province – even if I have met them only once.

I believe that the importance of visiting is not only for the more formal aspect of the lodge communication but also, sometimes more importantly, in the fellowship and socializing that occurs in the banquet halls of the lodges. It is in the banquet hall, at refreshment, that many of the most poignant and meaningful discussions are held. Often, I believe that we have it backwards. Maybe we should consider conducting some of our “business” in committees of the whole where all the brethren of the lodge may assemble and make decisions concerning the buildings, finances, etc. and leave the lodge communications to structured programs that encourage those poignant and meaningful discussions and teachings. Some lodges in our jurisdiction that have the good fortune to receive many new candidates have made the decision to conduct much

of the degree work at emergent communications to which all interested brethren are invited. The candidates receive their degrees in meetings that are specifically designed to focus on them and their initiation, passing and raising. This has, in turn, permitted those lodges to conduct regular lodge meetings that focus on the business of Freemasonry and not the business of facility or finances. Some lodges are considering options to the reading of minutes by the early distribution of unapproved minutes by email with a FEW printed copies available for perusal by brethren who do not receive email. All that is required in the meeting, at that point, is a call for errors or omissions and a pronouncement of acceptance either as distributed or modified. All of these tactics effectively enable regular lodge communications that are meaningful to all attendees thus encouraging more visitors and, perhaps more importantly, some of our regular members who have long grown tired of the routine.

While I believe that visiting/travelling is very important, I don't believe it to be the most important aspect of our lives as masons. Visiting and travelling assist in enabling us to improve ourselves in Masonry but it won't ensure that it happens without an ongoing and renewed commitment on a frequent and regular basis at the individual, lodge, district and grand lodge levels. As we have gone through the installment period of our year and as our lodges ensure that the Ancient Charges are read and many open “on 11”, we are provided with an abundance of opportunities to identify areas for growth, discussion and education. We are offered the opportunity, on a frequent basis, to reach out the hand of brotherhood and brotherly love to those of our fellow Masons who are either unable or unwilling to join in regular communication. It is through these expressions of brotherly affection, concern and interest that we will be able to reconnect and “bring back” many of those who we don't see often enough. It has to be meaningful and it must be sincere and it must be enjoyable.

Visiting, like most other priority functions, will not address our needs and concerns by itself. A visiting program must be part of an intentional plan to become more fully active and committed to our Masonic way of life – to learn to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry. A formal visiting program in a lodge may well address some of the concerns about attendance both by visitors and members.

Submitted by: DDGM RWB Ed Burrridge, District # 2





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**Major Lodge Events and items of interest:** Your support for these lodge events would be greatly appreciated by their organizers.

**Sussex Lodge # 4:**

- **13 Mar. 2010 from 730 to 11 am, St Patrick's Pancake/Waffle Breakfast** with 7 toppings for your enjoyment. Cost \$5.00. To support local youth and Camp Goodtime.
- **02 May 2010 from 4 to 6pm Roast Beef Dinner** with the works. Cost \$12.00 per person.
- **12 June 2010 from 730 to 11 am, Shiretown Days Breakfast** mixed menu of eggs, sausage, bacon, beans with on the extras. \$5.00 per person.

**Grand Lodge of New Brunswick:**

- **The 2010 Grand Lodge Communication** will be held in Saint John, NB, on 08-09 May 2010. This is a great opportunity to support those who work very hard for the fraternity in the jurisdiction; a big turnout is always appreciated.

**In Cuba**

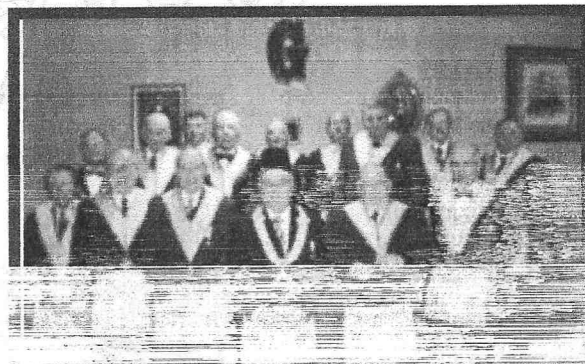
Fidel Castro recounts that when he was captured by Cuban National Guardsmen after the storming of the Moncada in 1953, he was sure that this was the end of him. Ordinarily he would have been taken out into an alleyway and shot in the back of the head. His comrade however, gave a peculiar Masonic sign to their captors and the commandante was summoned. Their summary execution was stayed and they were taken prisoner and brought to trial. Castro was imprisoned until an amnesty was declared and he was released. Today, with over 200 lodges and some 30,000 members, Freemasonry is alive and well in Cuba, although Castro isn't a member.

**Frei Betto's Fidel and Religion, 1987 Masonic Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon.**

**June 2008**

**Canada, Dorchester, NB**

The members of Sussex Lodge # 4, are proudly celebrating the establishment of their Masonic Lodge 170 years ago with the present day temple being constructed entirely through the efforts of dedicated Masons back in the early sixties. It is known to have one of the most unique altars' in the New Brunswick jurisdiction created from maritime stone and under the supervision of a member who was an actual stonemason. There are plans underway for celebrating the history of Sussex Lodge over the next few months with a special communication on 16 June 2010 at 2 Harrop Ave, Dorchester, NB. It is the hope as many Masons as possible will visit Sussex Lodge # 4 at least once over the next 9 communications in 2010. [macxjack@rogers.com](mailto:macxjack@rogers.com) or 1-506-379-2211.





**The Gallery**

**Trip Winner In Coverdale 2009**



**L to R: Dave Creighton, Camp Goodtime Fund Raising Committee Chairman 2009; Lynne Coyle – (Station Manager Westjet) Moncton; Bob Reid, winner if the Westjet trip for two of tickets to any scheduled Westjet destination.**

**GM Accepts \$17,000 Cheque for Camp Goodtime**



**L to R: Bro. John Gould, Coverdale Lodge # 52; Bro. Leigh Manning; Keith Lodge # 23; GM MWB Miles R Graham; RWB Ray Joudrey, Fundraising Committee and RWB George Bowness, Acacia Lodge # 49 at cheque presentation.**

**2009 Camp Goodtime Fundraising Event**

On October 17, 2009 approximately 275 supporters gathered at the Coverdale Centre in Riverview for the Greater Moncton Mason's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, Silent Auction and Dance. The three Masonic Lodges, Keith No. 23, Acacia No. 49 and Coverdale No. 52 collaborate in organizing this popular annual event which always attracts an enthusiastic crowd in support of Camp Goodtime. The \$17,000 raised at this event will be turned over to the Canadian Cancer Society to support the annual summer camp for kids with cancer held at the Rotary Camp facilities at Grand Lake, NB, as part of the total camp budget of \$35,000 per summer.

The organizers would like to thank the Band "The Arrows" who has donated their time and talents in support of six of seven of these fundraisers as well as Don Peterson and his Cheers staff for preparing serving the meal over the past three years. The support provided by local businesses and individuals is greatly appreciated whether it be either cash or in kind. The most popular feature of this annual event, the Westjet sponsored draw for two return trip tickets donated to any one of their scheduled destinations is considered one of the main reasons for the fundraising success.

**International Raising of a Master Mason.**



**L to R: PSGD WB JJ Leadbetter; WM Richard Wood, Keith Lodge # 23; Bro. Gilles Courregelongue, Consul General of France raised as a Master Mason on Dec. 02 , 2009. Note: the red apron and gloves regalia used by Blue Lodges in France.**



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



**Family Member Honoured Masonicly**

PM Glenn Steeves on behalf of the Steeves family presenting a new gold set of sq & compass to Colebrook Lodge #39 Master WB Daniel Martin. In remembrance of PM Guy Johnston who had been the lodge sec for many years,



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the Deputy Grand Master of the day, in charge. The committee was dubbed the "Masonic Senior Citizens Complex Study Committee" and after much travel and research they filed their preliminary report with the Board of General Purposes in November, 1985. They also addressed the need for a Provincial Masonic Need Survey to get a picture of the requirement for such projects around the Province.

For reasons connected with wording of the attached motions this report got tabled by the Board. As with any good story, this is where we feel that hope is fading and good has lost the battle against evil and we, and all our plans, are about to go down in flames. But like every good tale here is where we introduce our first hero. RWB M.J. Linkletter stepped up at the next Grand Lodge meeting in May, 1986, and after getting everyone's attention by having the Report of the Board of General Purposes rejected, he moved 'That this Grand Lodge endorses the concept of Masonic Assisted Senior Citizens' Housing and that the Committee appointed to study this and the Board of General Purposes make all efforts to make this project possible. Also, that a Special Communication of Grand Lodge be called to deal with a commitment to build as soon as the report is completed and the date of this Communication to be no later than 20 October 1986, at a place to be chosen by the Grand Master.' His motion passed and by it the forward progress of this project was guaranteed.

The Special Communication of the Grand Lodge was held on October 25, 1986, and presided over by the Grand Master, MWB John William Murray. The only order of business was to deal with a commitment to build Masonic Assisted Senior Citizens' Housing. The gravity of the situation being what it was a motion was moved and subsequently passed that any motion on the committee's report require a two thirds majority in order to pass.

RWB Donald Gruchy, after stating the findings of his committee for those present, presented the following two part motion;

1. That Grand Lodge endorses the erection of a senior citizens' apartment complex and authorize the steps necessary to ensure the project will see fruition, keeping in mind that there is to be no liability to Grand Lodge and that guarantees are to be in place to provide for non-deficit operation of the complex.

2. That a corporation be set up to administer the operation of the senior citizens' apartment complex, and construction of the complex is to occur at such time and place as the directors of that corporation deem best.

The motion was voted on by secret ballot to ensure that none would feel pressure to do anything except that which their own conscience dictated. The result was 75% in favour of the motion and the seniors' Housing Project was a reality. This same motion laid the groundwork for the formation of the Masonic Charities and Housing Corporation which we still have today. Not everyone was pleased with the result and one high ranking mason was heard to say to one of the supporters of the motion, "Congratulations on having successfully divided the Fraternity in two." I guess this proves that no great change comes without stiff resistance.

Some of those in attendance at this landmark meeting are household names among the masons of New Brunswick and include but are not limited to Bill Murray, Stewart Brooks, Gordon Coffey, Owen Walton, Osborne Nason, Harvie McWhirter, Sam Best, Fred Haycox, Basil Prescott, Gordon Young, Carr Graham, Robert Anderson, Frank Bean, Robert Kidney, Milton Palmer, Les Brown, Jim McKenna, Douglas Ellsworth, Doug Mayes, Maurice Linkletter, Jim Keays and Don Gruchy.

By May, 1987, the Masonic World in New Brunswick was optimistic and feeling great about the direction they were headed in. Thanks in large part to the work of Doug and Scott Ellsworth from the Moncton area, the legal problems surrounding the formation of the New Brunswick Masonic Charities and Housing Co. Ltd. had been overcome and the company had been born. Before all the paperwork was final the efforts of RWB James McKenna, Worshipful Brother Freeman Dunnett and Brother Peter Crocco were required to ensure that the Company achieved its charitable status under registration number 0787226-01.

The Officers and Directors role again reads like a who's who of New Brunswick masonry; Don Gruchy, Myles Chown, Leonard Desormeau, James McKenna, Tom Winter, Bill Murray, Freeman Dunnett, Bill O'Mahoney, Garth Girvan, James Wilson, Les Brown, Maurice Linkletter, Jim Davis, Alex Smith, Murray Clouston, Eric Caldwell, Robert Anderson, Lewis Clarke, Ritchie MacRae, Bob Stokes and John Fournier.

All seemed well and destined for greatness but as so often happens in all good stories we found a bump in the road, one which required the gentle touch of a Grand Master to surmount. MWB Kenneth Legassick was always full of fun and always had a quip or funny remark at hand but that only served to reinforce the fact that when he had something critical to say it hit home even harder than usual. In his Grand Master's report of May, 1988, he says, "The new foundation set up under the title; The New Brunswick Charities and Housing Co. Ltd. has been working hard and putting a great deal of effort into this worthwhile scheme, but I am disappointed that no more progress has been made. When one considers the numerous housing complexes built by different organizations in this province by bodies much less numerous than our own, I must say again that I am disappointed by the lack of anything tangible on our part."

A further study of the Grand Lodge Reports of that year show that, although the Most Worshipful the Grand Master may have been disappointed in the lack of a physical building going up, the Masonic Charities and Housing Corporation Co. Ltd. were not delinquent in their responsibilities. They held four official meetings during the previous year and had at each dealt with issues which were of importance to the functioning and prosperity of the company. Housing was their focus of concentration and applications had been authorized to be sent to the N.B.H.C. for both the Moncton and Woodstock areas where studies had been carried out. Further reading in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge session shows that there was significant debate on whether or

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not a large donation to the Company from the William Gibson Quinn Trust Account should be given or not. After significant debate a donation of \$75,000.00 from the income of the Trust was authorized on a motion by Worshipful Brother Robert Stokes. Administration problems they undoubtedly had but the words of the Grand Master must have tickled a nerve because less than one year later the Most Worshipful the Grand Master had his tangible product. After disappointing rejections of sites in Miramichi, Woodstock and Oromocto, an application to the N.B.H.C. for a site in St. Andrews showed promise and was accepted. The first committee formed by St. Mark's Lodge #5 to assist the project was then set up under the chairmanship of RWB Peter G. Williamson and their first task of negotiating with the Town Council of St. Andrews began. This committee from St. Mark's Lodge still exists today and though members have changed over the years RWB Frank Langley, one of the originals, is still a valued member of it.

I would conclude our story of the beginning with a direct quote from the reports of our Past Grand Historian RWB Bud Gilmer: "With the project approved, a land site selected and rezoned, with a cost set at \$40,000.00, of which the Town of St. Andrews offered \$25,000.00 of the price, with N.B. Masonic Charities and Housing picking up the remaining \$15,000.00, the land deed to be in the name of the Charities and Housing.

The contract price bid for construction of \$429,000.00 was offered by Stairs Construction Ltd. of Meductic and accepted. The amount available from N.B. Housing was quoted as \$487,620.00. This amount was based on the price of constructing seven one bedroom units at a cost of \$59,500.00 each and a two bedroom unit of \$71,120.00. The mortgage to be amortized over a thirty-five year period.

With approval of the project and financing in place, the plans of the architect Blair Roma, Stairs Building Ltd. commenced construction. RWB Langley was appointed as a signing officer for Quinn House expenses (and still is).

With the building completed, all units rented, the time for the Grand Opening was at Hand. MWB Kenneth Legassick and Grand Lodge Officers, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 1989, laid the commemorative cornerstone in a most exemplary manner. Despite poor weather 300 masons, wives and friends as well as representatives from Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments as well as citizens of St. Andrews were present. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Algonquin Hotel where 400-500 attended."

The historical record also gives congratulations to two individuals instrumental in organizing this day of celebration, WB Jonathan Logan from St. Andrews and RWB Douglas Mayes from Saint John.

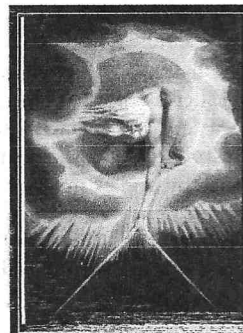
I would make my last statement by quoting from the Grand Masters address to the Grand Lodge Assembly of 1989 where MWB Brother Kenneth Legassick says; "As I stated last year in my message to you the Masonic Charities and Housing Company was the only thing that was causing me concern because of the slowness of their progress. A gentle chiding seems to have produced a great result. I thank you and everyone who brought this Housing Complex to completion."

**Miles R Graham, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Brunswick**

**Have you ever?**

- Have you ever said: "That meeting was sooooo boring?"
- Have you ever said: "I wish I didn't have to go tonight?"
- Have you ever said: "I'm the only one who does anything?"
- Have you ever said: "I'd rather be doing housework?"
- Have you ever said: "Why doesn't the WM pick something a bit more flattering?"
- Have you ever said: "There is too much to learn I can't do it!"
- Have you ever said: "Those people are so picky and petty?"
- Have you ever said: "Someone is always correcting my mistakes?"
- Have you ever said these things in the earshot of family and friends who are NOT members of the Order?
- If so, why should they join you in such a miserable lifestyle?
- If you are not enjoying yourself, why would they?
- That is why they are not coming in. Your attitude reflects the Order. You may have enjoyed yourself many times. You may be so glad you are there once you get there. But do you say these things to others?
- Do you keep speaking the negative and keep the positive to yourself?

- Change your attitude around and the Order will turn around with you!
- Have some fun in your lodge and tell others about it. Don't expect the members who don't come to hear about the good times by leaning into the wind.
- Let them know what is going on in your bulletins. Not just a list of dates and times. Give a hint of what is going to happen.
- Make it interesting enough so that YOU want to come. They will start to come, too!



*How do you measure your time?*  
The Ancient of Days Measuring Time, 1794 by William Blake



## The Generation Chain has not been Broken



**L to R:** WB William D. Millet; WB William A. Millet;  
Brother Alex Millet The Most Worshipful  
The Grand Master of NB, RWB Miles Graham



Numerous Brethren supporting the  
Millet family on the Initiation night  
of Bro. Alex Millet

## The Thoughts of A Masonic Father

Many years ago, I silently thought to myself, if - or when my son asks for an application to join the fraternity, I want his introduction to be the best possible degree it can be. I would like it to be with people he has been associated with for these many years in the DeMolay world. The list of things I wanted my son to experience goes on and on. Much the same as any of you may have every wanted something for your own children, and been willing to go that extra step to see it come to fruition. A couple of Saturday's ago, we all assembled at the Moncton Masonic Temple to come together as a team and portray the Entered Apprentice Degree for my son Alex. No matter how big or how small the part may have seemed to be to you, none of them were small or insignificant. Each one, both speaking and non-speaking had great significance and specific purpose.

All of you heard the comments that came at the end of the degree. Many of you have not heard the comments that have come directly to me. I am a believer in the philosophy, if it went wrong, the burden of blame would rest with me, but if it went right, the celebrations and congratulations are to be shared by all those involved.

I hope those who were there, who seemed to have been impressed or impacted in some big or small positive way, will share their experience with others. How profound and moving our ritualistic ceremonies can be if they are delivered well, with meaning, as they were always intended to be done. And how maybe, just maybe, we as a group may have been able to have some small impact on what they, both members and candidates, do, or see, or think.

I have come to rely on the sincerity of Stirling Matchet, the candid off the record comments of Wes Kingston, the dialogue from a Wayne Hitchcock, and the straight forwardness of the presiding master Rick Wood. None of them needed to say it was the best they had ever seen, or almost the best. And the funny part of it is, as my own worst critic I know where I slipped once or twice. I know where a senior warden was called a senior deacon, I know where we didn't follow New Brunswick Ritual exactly as printed, but I also know everyone didn't have to say it was as good if not better than the old days. I know Stirling didn't have to be emotional. I know Wayne didn't have to brag it up like he did to Alex. I know I didn't have to come away feeling pretty damn proud of being a Mason and being able to share it with my father and son, and you guys, my friends and brothers. The why, because everyone one of you wanted to be there. You wanted to participate in the ceremony of initiation of a new Brother. You did your parts with near flawless execution, with emphasis where needed, and of most importance, with feeling. What you did was convey one of the tenants of our profession as a mason, Brotherly Love, and you did it in fine fashion.

