

MOSTLY



MASONRY

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

Vol. 4

Autumn 1988

No. 2

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren:

I wish to extend to you my very best wishes for a pleasant summer; that you may enjoy good health and happiness, and that you will all return to your respective Masonic activities in the Fall with renewed vigour.

Masonry can only flourish through the efforts of the individual Lodges. Each lodge must have a purpose. When a man is made a Mason he must never cease to improve himself in Masonry. His efforts should not cease when he completes his degrees. It should be his life-long ambition to improve himself as the years go by. No matter how proficient he becomes there is always a room for improvement. There is no perfection except that which is attained in the Celestial Lodge Above. Let us strive to the best of our ability to improve ourselves and the Craft as the year progresses. This can only be done through attendance at your Lodge and by visiting in a brotherly fashion the sister Lodges.

Do you find your Lodge dull and boring? Many brethren enjoy such activities. Could it be that you are dull and boring? Masonry is only what the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren make it. Let us therefore make Masonry an attractive activity. Make your Lodge a place where Masons enjoy to gather together in unity. This is incumbent upon all of us. This is my challenge to you for the coming year. Make your lodge a place where the brethren can meet together in good fellowship, and leave with the feeling that it has been worthwhile being there.

Fraternally,
Kenneth Legassick
Grand Master

60 YEAR BAR PRESENTED IN OTTAWA

It is a genuine pleasure to acknowledge the cooperation of Union Lodge of Portland No. 10, Saint John and the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, particularly Ottawa District 2, whose District Deputy Grand Master is R.W. Bro. Charles E. Clark.

Bro. Paul B. Cross will be remembered by an older generation of Masons in New Brunswick. He spent a large part of his life in the Naval Reserve and during the Second World War he commanded several warships and later held several senior shore appointments reaching the rank of Captain in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve.

Bro. Paul Barbour Cross was presented with his 60 year pin and bar at the regular meeting of Bytown Lodge No. 721 on 17 September, 1987. R.W. Bro. Charles E. Clark, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick.

"Bro. Cross appears to be in excellent health and is 87 years old. He expressed his sincere appreciation for being remembered and for the presentation. My District Secretary, Wor. Bro. George Gourlay, arranged for his transportation to and from Lodge and seeing that they were both

Initiated, Passed and Raised in the ritual of New Brunswick they had something in common."

Submitted by Wor. Bro. Simon MacDonald,
Secretary, Union Lodge of Portland No. 10.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Is Freemasonry A Secret Organization?

Absolutely not. Where and when Masons meet is public knowledge, as are their objectives and activities. The only "Secrets" are the ways in which Masons recognize each other.

Is Freemasonry Some Sort of Religion?

It is not a religion and the subject is never discussed at Masonic meetings. A Mason must have a belief in a Supreme Being, but his particular faith or creed is a personal and private matter.

Are Masons Obligated to Help Each Other in Business?

No, Freemasonry is not organized for member profit, career enhancement or political advantage. Its purpose is to teach morality, encourage charity and practice worldwide brotherly love.

Do Masons Ever Discuss the Order with Nonmasons?

Yes, Masons welcome opportunities to talk about Masonry. As a policy, they do not solicit new members but are always ready to respond to those interested in becoming a member.

Submitted by A. R. MacRae, D.D.G.M. No. 3

*This message courtesy of Union Lodge No. 9, A.F. & A.M. Napanee,
Prince of Wales No. 146, A.F. & A.M., Newburgh, Ontario.*

MY THREE SONS

It was a proud occasion for Doug Ellsworth, a member of Keith Lodge No. 23 in Moncton, on Thursday, May 12th when he witnessed his third son, Donald Bruce Ellsworth, receive his Master Mason Degree in The New Brunswick Lodge No. 22 of Saint John.

Doug, accompanied by his other sons, Scott and Barry, who are Senior Warden and Senior Deacon respectively, of Keith Lodge, travelled to Saint John for the occasion. Prior to the opening of the Lodge, a delicious roast beef dinner was served in the banquet hall.

The Degree was exemplified by the Past Masters of The New Brunswick Lodge with R.W. Bro. Gordon Young presiding in the East. Truly, it was a proud and memorable evening for Doug Ellsworth.

Submitted by Gordon Young, P.D.D.G.M.

*I see you at the meetings but you never say hello;
You're busy all the time with men you already know.
I sit among the fellows; still I am a lonely guy;
The new ones sit there with me while you quickly pass us by.
But gosh, you guys have asked us in and you talked of fellowship;
You could just step across the room but you've never made the trip.
Why can't you nod and say hello, or stop and shake my hand.
Then go and join your other friends.
Now, that I'd understand.
I'll be at you next meeting, too, on that you can depend.
So won't you introduce yourself? I want to be your friend!*

From Keith Lodge No. 17, Halifax, N.S.

WHAT ABOUT BLUE LODGE?

Ever stop to think that if you had not been honored by some B¹ Lodge you would never have received any of the degrees of the RIT? Ever stop to think of those three obligations you received in the Blue Lodge and the duties they imposed?

Ever think back to the time, when as an Entered Apprentice and as a Fellowcraft, you were fitting yourself for better work in this world?

Remember the fellows who sat with you on the sidelines?

Perhaps you have been keeping pace in this fast-moving world and have drifted from your Blue Lodge association. Many of the Brothers of your time were able to keep up with the pace and will still be found there. They probably wonder why you haven't dropped around to visit.

Stop in next week. They'll all be glad to see you.

ATTEND YOUR BLUE LODGE

Moncton Valley, A. & A.S.R., Ill. Bro. C.H. Jarvis 33°, Grand Secretary

DID WE FORGET?

"The part which he.... played in organizing the first Masonic Lodge in Calgary will never be forgotten as long as Freemasonry exists in Calgary..."

(Calgary Albertan, February 3, 1910).*

On May 13th, 1883, amid rain and snow, this Scotsman from New Brunswick arrived in Calgary on the west side of the Elbow River within earshot of the Fort. He borrowed a tent from the NWMP until he built the first frame building in Calgary just three days later. This was to be his harness making shop. He put his name in the window thus having the first advertizing sign in Calgary. He purchased a lot on the "... east side of the Elbow River, south side of the lower trail..." (approximately where Frenchy's Sporting Goods is today), and had Mr. J. Rivet build him a log shack, into which he moved on July 29. He had this shack photographed with himself and two friends, McArthur and J. Grue on September 3. This photo is frequently seen.

On Friday, August 24, 1883, the first Calgary gathering of "Masons met in the shack and adjourned." On Sept. 14, thirteen masons met and arranged the preliminaries to form a Lodge. On October 12, November 9 and 13, more meetings were held to pledge funds, rent a hall, name the Lodge and choose the officers.

From November 29, 1883 W. Bro. George Murdoch* of Hibernia Lodge No. 3, G.R.N.B., who became Calgary's first mayor, was kept busy arranging for the furnishings in this first Masonic Lodge Hall. The location was upstairs over McKelvie and Graves Store on First Street E. and Stephen Avenue. The first Masonic Lodge meeting was held on Monday, January 28th, 1884 according to Murdoch's diary.

Such was the beginning of what was then Bow River No. 28, G.R. Manitoba, and the present Bow River No. 1, G.R.A. and such was Bro. George Murdoch's part in its organization.

Submitted by Bro. Don Jackson, King George No. 59

Our thanks to R.W. Bro. Fergus Price, Hibernia Lodge No. 3, Saint John, N.B.

FREEMASONRY - A Fraternity, Not A Religion

The Record (December, 1986) has two items concerning the Masonic Order which may be offensive to Freemasons who are Christians and Presbyterians. It may come as something of a surprise to those two correspondents that we Presbyterian Masons consider ourselves to be no less Christian than those persons themselves might be, as most Masons, except perhaps for an idiot fringe, are well aware that Masonry has no theology and is therefore *NOT* a religion, but a fraternity, and nothing else. There is nothing very new in these attacks either, which official Freemasonry usually declines to answer. Notwithstanding, individual Masons, the writer included, respond on behalf of some of our newer brethren who may find it difficult to answer such criticism.

Both of these two correspondents have tried to prove, erroneously, that Masonry is some sort of religion, using quotations from unofficial sources to prove their point. Each of them quotes Mackey's writings, taking his words out of context in order to mis-represent what he did, in fact, say. In the letter published, your correspondent quoted exactly 28 words out of a 1500 word article. What fair-minded person could credit such nonsense as being honest and objective? And to compound the slander, these persons impute Satanic influences to Freemasonry which any

Christian Presbyterian Mason must denounce as malicious and irresponsible—and wonder at the editorial integrity of our church paper. The so-called Masonic sources quoted are not official, nor do these statements correspond to the principles adopted by our Grand Lodge, the official authority to which all Masons in our jurisdiction must be subject. The objections cited are without foundation in fact.

The Papal Bull of 1783, and subsequent papal rulings forbid all Catholics to be Masons to this day (although there are many Catholic Masons) which rulings are probably due to priestly hostility to any association that that church cannot control. The basis for attacks by other Christian churches seems to be based on the false assumption that Freemasonry is a religion. In reference to this question, the premier grand lodge of Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge of England adopted a declaration in 1962, on the relationship of Freemasonry to religion, to which our Grand Lodge concurs, and which reads as follows:

“It cannot be too strongly asserted that Masonry is neither a religion nor a substitute for religion. Masonry seeks to inculcate in its members a standard of conduct and behaviour which it believes to be acceptable to all creeds, but studiously refrains from intervening in the field of dogma or theology. Masonry, therefore, is not a competitor of religion though in the sphere of human conduct it may be hoped that its teaching will be complementary to that of religion. On the other hand, the basic requirement that every member of the Order shall believe in a Supreme Being and the stress laid upon his duty towards Him should be sufficient evidence to all but the wilfully prejudiced that Masonry is an upholder of religion since it requires a man to have some form of religious belief before he can be admitted as a Mason, and expects him when admitted to go on practising his religion.”

Further, quoting from the words of an eminent brother, who is also a Christian minister:

“Neither functioning as a church nor as a political group, Freemasonry has tried to maintain its integrity and meaning as a fraternal fellowship. Transcending the traditional barriers of sectarianism, politics, nationalism and race, it is a fraternity and does not pretend to be anything else.”

.... and: “offering a haven of brotherhood in a frequently hostile world, the fraternity serves as a reminder to all that men are and must be brothers as childre of a divine Creator.”

When a Christian becomes a Freemason, he already understands the nature of God as expressed in his own church tradition, including salvation through Jesus Christ alone, without reservation. Becoming a Mason in no way diminishes a brother's Christian devotion—and in fact a good Mason, by his vocation, must also be a good churchman and a supporter of religion generally. As a long-standing Mason, a Past Master, Past Grand Steward, a Christian, a Presbyterian churchman and elder active in my church, I am offended by these ill-founded generalities, founded on fallacy, perpetrated in ignorance, and condescendingly propagated. In almost 300 years, Masons have been vilified, slandered and accused of all sorts of outlandish and half-baked nonsense, so I expect this is just another example of such flawed thinking. I certainly expect the fraternity will survive this one, as well.

It is my hope that none of my brethren who are also Presbyterians will take these carpings too seriously, and will exercise both Masonic and Christian charity toward the ill-informed and the credulous. After all, the objective of Freemasonry is friendship, not animosity.

Submitted by Wor. Bro. Fraser Hale

By Stewart L. Thurtell, *The Presbyterian Record*, February, 1987.

R. W. BRO. HOLLETT HONOURED

Acacia Lodge No. 49 at the May Communication honoured one of its Past Masters who had just completed his term as Deputy Grand Master. During the social period after lodge, the Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. Mike Swetnam, presented Bro. Hollet with a commemorative cake, beautifully frosted to resemble the Apron of the Deputy Grand Master. Although taken completely by surprise, Bro. Charlie responded by thanking the Lodge for this most unusual but pleasant gift, which he then cut for distribution to all present.

I SEE YOU'VE TRAVELLED SOME

*Wherever you may chance to be--
Wherever you may roam,
Far away in foreign lands,
Or just at Home Sweet Home;
It always gives you pleasure,
It makes your heart strings hum
Just to hear the words to cheer--
"I see you've travelled some".*

*When you get the brothers' greeting
As he takes you by the hand,
It thrills you with a feeling
That you cannot understand.
You feel that bond of brotherhood
That tie's sure to come
When you hear him say in a friendly way,
"I see you've travelled some".*

*And if you are a stranger,
In strange lands all alone,
If fate has left you stranded--
Dead broke and far from home,
O, it's a grand and glorious feeling,
It thrills you-makes you dumb
When he says with a grip of fellowship--
"I see you've travelled some".*

*And when your final summons comes
To take a last long trip,
Adorned with Lambskin Apron White
And gems of fellowship
The Tyler at the Golden Gate,
With square and rule and plumb,
Will size up your pin, and say,
"Walk in-I see you've travelled some".*

Submitted by Chesley R. Bateman
P.D.G.M., Zetland Lodge No. 24

DEDICATION SERVICE HELD

A goodly number of Masons joined relatives and friends on Saturday afternoon, May 7th in Fownes Lodge No. 45, Havelock, for the purpose of dedicating a plaque in the memory of Brother Leon D. Cumming, a 60 year Mason and member of Fownes Lodge.

The plaque was unveiled by his sister, Mrs. Helen Fish of Moncton and then dedicated by Wor. Bro. Ronald M. Hoar, Immediate Past Master of Fownes Lodge. Several members of the Cumming family were in attendance, including another sister and brother.

Bro. Leon D. Cumming had a great concern for Fownes Lodge and the village in which he was born. Although he had resided in Florida and where he was summoned to the Celestial Lodge Above 17 May 1987, he kept in touch and was a great benefactor throughout the years. In the summer of 1987 new vinyl siding was put on the Lodge hall along with replacing some windows and other badly needed repairs.

Worshipful Master Gerald Tingley introduced the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Charles Hollett and the District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 2, R.W. Bro. Alex Pincombe. Bro. Pincombe gave a short talk on Masonry after which R.W. Bro. Horace Dimock spoke on Fownes

Lodge and Havelock, with particular reference to the Cumming family and the close association with the village and the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master thanked the Committee in charge of this Service and invited all present to a reception in the banquet hall at which time all Masons had an opportunity to meet members of the Cumming family.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Horace Dimock

THE LODGE IS JUDGED BY YOU

*There are some few who do not know
The Craft we hail with pride;
Their only way to judge it through
Is how we act outside.*

*If we in public lead in prayer,
In private, rob and steal;
Or if we breathe out words so fair
Yet aid no brother's weal.*

*Or if through temperance one exalts
Yet yields too much to drink;
Our Order must be wholly false
Or so the world will think.*

*But if, as one united band
We practice what we preach;
If on the side of right we stand
And each gives aid to each;*

*If on good deeds each day we trudge;
If we are slow to blame,
The world will see our acts and judge
How well we earn our fame.*

*And so, no matter what befall,
Be always good and true;
Remember as you leave the hall
The Lodge is judged by you.*

Unquestionably, to maintain and perpetuate the Freemasonry that you and I know and respect, the last line of the verse must be called.....
"The Lodge is judged by you"

Submitted by M.W. Bro. J.W. Murray

* * *

Please address all items to the Editor,
C. A. Pincombe
49 Orchard Drive,
Moncton, N. B.
E1E 3L2