

District 'C' Chronicle

November 2008

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.3

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FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Brethren, a couple of months have passed since our lodges got back into the full swing of things and I thank the brethren and lodges of Hamilton District 'C' for their warm reception and hospitality at my Official Visits and Installation. To serve as a representative of our Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Master for District 'C' is a humbling experience and I am enjoying every minute. I thank you for the honour that you have bestowed on me.

October is a month of giving thanks, and I would be remiss if I didn't thank the brethren and lodges who have already given generously to our District Project, 'Supporting Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton'. By working through the Hamilton Masonic Districts' Board of Relief and in conjunction with the "Hamilton Partners in Nutrition", I am confident District 'C' can make a difference in the life of the children in the Hamilton area. Another equally important cause that we as a District must support is the work with the Canadian Blood Services Organization. Whether we donate through the giving of blood, to volunteer at a blood donor clinic, or for a lodge to sponsor a clinic, we all can and must do our part. I thank the lodges that have already supported through financial contributions and I look forward to more support as we go forward. Brethren, November is a Month for

Remembrance. Please remember our veterans and the members of our Armed Forces that put their lives in risk every day so we may live under the blanket of the freedom and protection that they supply. Sect.143 of the Constitution permits brethren to wear their regalia at Remembrance Day Ceremonies where brethren take part.

Finally, our District website is up and running and I thank Bro. Devin Tuinstra and his team for their hard work and effort. Brethren, log in and navigate through, there is a lot of good information and even more to come as the individual lodges become more interactive with it.

Fraternally, Tom Marshall

MASONIC EDUCATION WORD QUIZ #1

The following short educational activity is offered by the District Masonic Education Committee. It intends to make a short educational program/activity available monthly to each lodge. This program will deal with the meaning of various words. It may be used as a lodge educational program by simply giving the word and let participants give a definition of the word. Continue until all the different meanings of the word have been brought out. It works better when it can be entertaining. About ten words are enough for one program. Individuals could have a file card to simply read the word, then read the answer.

Feel free to make your own list:

ACACIA: *A genus of woody plants. There are some 500 species, mostly trees. They show bipinnate leaves (having leaflets growing in pairs) often with thorns. In Freemasonry it is considered as an emblem of immortality. In ancient times it was planted on graves to keep people from walking on the grave.*

ALAS: *"LAS" is Latin-meaning Wretched or weary. Alas then means "Ah wretched (that I am). It expresses grief, pity, or concern.*

ATHEIST: *One who does not believe in God--period.*

AGNOSTIC: *An Agnostic is one who doubts there is a God, or that nothing can be known about God, a skeptic.*

INFIDEL: MAY AN INFIDEL BE A MASON? *Yes! An infidel is a person professing a belief other than the one you profess. For example, a Hindu, a Moslem, or a Buddhist would be an infidel to most American Masons. Since they believe in God, they can become Masons.*

LIBERTINE: *A Libertine is "a free thinker", one dissolute in his sexual conduct, one with loose morals, one who scoffs at religion.*

CABLE TOW: *Originally it was an hour's journey or about 3 miles. It has been changed gradually until now it corresponds with 1/10 of a nautical mile or 608 feet. In Freemasonry it means "The scope of a man's reasonable ability."*

INCULCATE: *From the EA charge--means to teach something, impress upon the mind, by constant repetition and emphasis.*

COMPASSES: *An instrument used to draw circles or arcs. It is not "Square and Compass." It is Square and Compasses. A compass is a magnetic device to tell direction. Compasses are like trousers or scissors, always plural. Incidentally, the compasses on a PM ring or emblem is opened at 60° with a quadrant, which is a part of a circle.*

OBLIGATION: *The word is from Latin, which means to bind. An obligation is not an oath. An obligation is a binding agreement or moral responsibility. Incidentally, raising the right hand is a throwback to ancient times when a man could lose his right hand if he broke a vow.*

PARAPHERNALIA: *Miscellaneous personal belongings or equipment of the lodge. Other words with similar meanings are: apparatus, gear, equipment, belongings or property.*

FRATERNITY: *The state of being brothers. A private social group for males. A brotherhood*

FROM ONE OF OUR 89 YEAR OLD SENIOR MASONS

"Maybe tomorrow I can find copies of the two parts and attach them to an E-mail thingy. I am not too swift on many things, even after all these years, on a computer. I want it to do what I want it to do and not get any sass from it. However, it does what it wants to do in spite of what I want it to do which sometimes it does not do. Typical computer eh!"

~from Chester

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES



R.W. Bro. Bob Wands receives his 60-year pin in Landmarks/Doric No. 654



R.W. Bro. Roger Parliament receives his 50-year pin in Meridian No. 687

MASONIC ETIQUETTE

It has been most gratifying to note the tremendous fellowship and camaraderie that prevails among our brethren prior to, during and following Lodge and banquet assemblies. But there ought to be a healthy respect and reserve in all Masonic greetings and salutations. Our brethren can scarcely be faulted if they, from time to time adopt some familiarities when they hear such salutations as Bro. Tom, or Bro. Dick from the lips of some of their leaders. All brethren should be addressed by

their surnames and preferably as well by given names or initials at all times at Masonic gatherings.

P.46 The Proceedings, 1973

THOUGHTS FROM A LOCAL BROTHER

When I think of it, it really makes me sit in awe of the mind of God in setting in motion all of these multi-millions of "little plays" (peoples' lives), overseeing them with his all seeing eye and interacting in every one of them in ways that we cannot fathom.

This Thanksgiving, especially, makes me even more poignantly grateful for the blessings we have as a family - blessings that more than 99% of the world doesn't have - our good health, our safety, our well being, our freedom from evil spirits, our kind hearts and our sense of humour and most of all, our gratitude for them. It was my initiation into Masonry that started me feeling this way, and for that I'm especially thankful for that moment of kismet that changed things for me.

TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE

William Reid Donkin, Q.C., on September 22nd, was a member of Meridian Lodge No.687. Masonic Service Thursday September 25th, and Funeral Service on Friday September 26th at Grace Anglican Church in Waterdown.

John "Bubba" Wilkinson, on October 12th, after a battle with cancer, was a member of **Hugh Murray Lodge No.602**, and proud member of the Shrine Club. Masonic Service at the Shrine Club on October 16th at 8:30 pm.

Richard N. (Rick) Richards, on October 19th, **Grand Master, 1979-80**; Past Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland; Honorary Doctor of Sciences by Laval University in 1967; First Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College of the University of Guelph. Memorial Service at St.Andrew's Presbyterian Church, October 25th, 3:30 p.m.

THE BANQUET

By tradition, many lodges continue to hold their festive hour after lodge. If the lodge is closed by ten o'clock the brethren have some inducement to remain for fraternization at the banquet table. For many brethren the social hour is the most enjoyable part of the evening. It is the only part into which originality and informality can be introduced, without of course neglecting the tone and spirit of the lodge ceremonies.

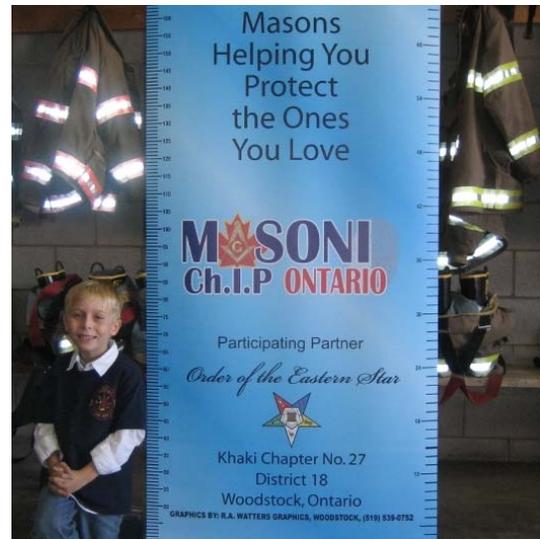
Some lodges by tradition hold their festive hour before lodge, starting at six or six-thirty, with lodge opening at seven or seven-thirty. This practice is becoming more popular

with our more health conscious members, not wanting to load up with extra (fatty) food late at night. We are seeing an increasing number of lodges holding banquets for special occasions before lodge. This prevents the brethren leaving immediately after lodge closes, and the Junior Warden being left with piles of excess food to dispose of and the food budgets more economically sound and within reason. Each lodge has its unique way of covering banquet costs, from members paying a stipulated cost, to setting out a collection plate for donations, to draws of articles to assist in covering the costs, to no charge at all. I personally believe that we as members should be expected to pay for our banquet hour, and if we invite a guest, that we should pay for his dinner. In this day and age, there should be no free meals. What do you think?

The banquet room programme should be prepared as carefully as that in the lodge room. Those who are proposing toasts should be given lots of notice, and might be counselled to limit them to two minutes. Likewise the responses should be limited to no more than four minutes.

Proceedings at the banquet table may be relaxed, but should at all times observe that propriety and worthiness which is in keeping with the lodge ceremonies. Every banquet room should have a lectern, the Canadian flag, and be set up before the banquet hour. If the head table is unable to hold all guests, one or two reserved tables in front of the presiding officer should suffice.

MASONIC CHIP PROGRAMME



"7 year old John, was designated the 10,000 person to be identified.

To date there have been 121 clinics sponsored by lodges in Ontario. Since starting in August 2007, some 10,600 children and adults have been identified. 45 kits at a cost of \$3,000 each have been purchased or dedicated, with the optimum number desired for a fully functioning programme being 65-

75. Last year in Ontario 21,293 children went missing. Over 2,000 children every year are never located. New York masons were the first to initiate this Child Identification Programme.

Sponsored by the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, the MasoniCHIP program consists of five major components – digital photographs; digital video; digital fingerprints; vital child information; and a dental bite impression or Intra Oral Swab for DNA. The photographs, video, fingerprints, and child data are burned onto a C.D. that is compatible with Amber Alert. The dental impression provides a virtual diagram of the child's biting surface, which, like fingerprints, is unique to each individual, and further supplies saliva to provide a DNA sample. Combined, this five-part process **provides a dramatic, time-sensitive recovery tool for authorities.**

Would your lodge like to sponsor a MASONiCh.I.P. event ? Some community events constitute ideal situations for this program. Some would include health fairs, festivals, a Saturday at a shopping mall, open houses etc. The only requirement is that most successful MASONiCh.I.P. events are held where there is a concentration of children. MASONiCh.I.P. is a terrific program and it is well received when properly placed before the community. Assistance with the protocol and procedures is available by contacting Bill MacPherson email address wjmac@sympatico.ca

DISTRICT C MASONS DO TRAVEL



R.W. Bro. Eduardo Cordero and his wife Lesley visited New York City on October the 12th, which just happened to be the celebration of Columbus Day, and witnessed this Hispanic Parade on 5th Avenue. "Latinos living in USA and particularly the Big Apple take this celebration very seriously. It was the largest parade I have ever seen live in my whole life. This picture is of Masons, who appear to belong to a Grand Lodge of Spanish speaking Masons."

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE . A hands-on Training and Information Session for lodge secretaries and tech-savvy delegates from each lodge will be held **on Sunday, Nov. 16 at the Masonic Centre starting at 1:00 p.m.** Enter via the Club Entrance, 4 Queen Street, and bring your Lodge History for the Website.

PAST MASTERS MEETING (Open to all Masons) On **Saturday, November 29th**. The Masonic Past Masters Association of the Hamilton Districts, will hold a breakfast meeting at The Scottish Rite Club, 4 Queen St S. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for a good breakfast. Cost \$11:00

The speaker is Wor. Bro. David Pass, a financial advisor for the firm Edward Jones. His topic will be "Short Term Thinking and Long Term Goals". With all the financial woes in the media of late, David's talk may be most timely. **8:45 am. Meet and Greet; 9:15 am. Breakfast; 10:00 am. Meeting begins.**

Please make your reservation for breakfast with Tom Young, at 905 318-0182, before November 25th.

LANDMARKS/DORIC LODGE No.654; 52nd Annual Bonspiel will be held at Glendale Golf and Country Club, on Saturday November 29th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you have always wanted to try this sport, this is your chance. Curling experience not necessary. Teams are balanced according to experience. \$38 includes 2 games, a lunch, and prizes. If you only wish to watch, lunch at a favourable price. Contact Bob Gilbank at 905-383-1596.

CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 513; Installation on Thursday, November 27th, Banquet at 6:00 p.m., Lodge at 7:00 p.m. Our Grand Master will be in attendance along with V.W.Bro. John Scarr, who will be the Installing Master for his son Peter Scarr.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What is the origin, significance and symbolism of Grand Honours?

A. An explanation of the origin of the Grand Honours may be found in Bro. Harry Carr's book "*The Freemason at Work*" p.392-393. The code for extending them is in Section 15 of the *Book of Constitution*. The method of extending them is on p.83 of Meeting the Challenge. All members who are present in the lodge give the Grand Honours, while those who are receiving them, and those who are accompanying the recipients, stand at the S.of F.

Q. Why does the Tyler announce that the D.of C. is introducing, and, on some occasions, that he is presenting, and who is entitled to be received under the wands?

A. Only those who are authorized to preside are presented, and they are also received under the wands, accorded Grand Honours and given the gavel. The Grand Master (*Book of Constitution*, Sec. 82), a Past Grand Master of our Grand Lodge (*by custom*), the Deputy Grand Master (*Book of Constitution*, Sec. 95) and, the District Deputy Grand Master (*Book of Constitution*, Sec. 96).

Q. Why do we not refer to Worshipful Masters as Incumbent Masters?

A. The presiding officer of a Masonic Lodge is the Worshipful Master. The terms “ruling”, “sitting” or “incumbent” are superfluous and improper. (See *Meeting the Challenge* p.76, No.2).

LANDMARKS

The ancient landmarks of the Order you are to preserve sacred and inviolable.

According to the Merriam-Webster On-line dictionary the definitions of a landmark are:

- 1: an object (as a stone or tree) that marks the boundary of land
- 2 a: a conspicuous object on land that marks a locality
- 2 b: an anatomical structure used as a point of orientation in locating other structures
- 3: an event or development that marks a turning point or a stage
- 4: a structure (as a building) of unusual historical and usually aesthetic interest ; *especially* : one that is officially designated and set aside for preservation

Which of these applies to Masonic Landmarks? Luckily we have some experts to help us. We could ask a Master-elect because, according to the Ceremony of Installation he ought to be "well skilled in the ancient charges, regulations and landmarks." Of course, an experienced Master would also know them in order to "guard the landmarks against encroachment" when superintending the "sentiments and opinion on such subjects as are regularly introduced in the lecture".

So Masters, what are the landmarks? How many are there?

Various authors and authorities have set down lists of landmarks. Most lists compromise up to twenty-six items, although they're not always the same twenty-six! Here is Albert Mackey's list:

1	Modes of recognition
2	Division of symbolic Masonry into three degrees
3	Legend of the 3rd degree
4	Government of the fraternity by a Grand Master
5	Prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft
6	Prerogative of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for conferring the degrees at irregular times
7	Prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges
8	Prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight
9	Necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges
10	Government of lodges by a Master and 2 Wardens
11	Necessity of tiling lodges
12	Right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and instruct representatives
13	Right of every Mason to appeal from his Lodge to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons
14	Right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge
15	No unknown visitor can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination
16	No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge or give degrees to brethren of other Lodges
17	Every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic jurisdiction in which he resides, even though he may not be a member of any Lodge
18	Candidates for initiation must be men, unmutilated (not a cripple), free born, and of mature age
19	Belief in the existence of God as the Great Architect of the universe
20	Belief in a resurrection to a future life
21	A "Book of the Law" is indispensable in every Lodge
22	Equality of all Masons
23	Secrecy of the institution
24	Foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and symbolic use and explanations for the purpose of religious or moral teaching
25	These landmarks can never be changed

table from <http://bessel.org/landmark.htm>

If you look at this list you will see some landmarks we obviously don't follow, such as the second part of number 16 (No Lodge can ... give degrees to brethren of other Lodges) And what is "Making Masons at sight"? The authorities can't even agree on what that means. Other lists contain such "landmarks" as "men made Masons must be of

mature age, free-born, of good report, ..., and no eunuch" (Minnesota 1856), "The official duties of Masonry are esoteric" but "The selection of Masonic material and the general labours of the Masonic Craft are exoteric" (Morris 1856). The ceremony of Installation of a Master was once called a landmark (in the early years of the United Grand Lodge of England).

Albert Pike wrote "most of these *so-called* landmarks were *not known* either to Ancient Craft Masonry in England or Scotland before the revolution of 1723, or to the new Masonry, as landmarks, for years afterwards... A mushroom may grow ever so tall, on a boundary line or at a corner, but it will never be mistaken for a landmark."

Interestingly, our Grand Lodge, like the United Grand Lodge of England, does not make any lists. This has been a strictly American past-time.

But what then is a Landmark?

Well, it's not so easy a question. Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia devotes 13 pages to a discussion of landmarks. It gives 41 different definitions of what a Masonic landmark is. Of these, 12 emphasize antiquity, 9 emphasize universality and 13 emphasize immutability. Two declare them to be laws, three call them unwritten laws, two deny they are laws at all, and five deny their existence. Some of these definitions follow:

J. Mason Allan wrote: "Landmarks are those elements in our peculiar system of spiritual philosophy that, if any of them were omitted or changed, the completeness, the consistence, and the symmetry of the system would be marred."

Thomas Carr of Michigan: "The original landmarks (of Operative Masons) were lines or cords which were laid from the center point of the four corner points and were carried on beyond the corner of the intended structure, and marked by landmarks, so this if the corner point were at all displaced it might be immediately seen and rectified."

Rev. John T. Lawrence: "A land mark not only defines but separates. It is a term used by conveyancers. The artificial division of property such as walls and fences are always dependent upon landmarks. A water course, a ravine, an old tree, a mountain, are landmarks; but a wall or a drain or a newly planted tree could not be so regarded. Bringing this into the Craft, there are certain practices and beliefs which distinguish our system, that is, establish its peculiarity; which also divide it from other systems of morality, and which have both antiquity and universal recognition in their favour. It follows that every point of the boundary of a property is a landmark. Not only is a stream a landmark, but every bend in the river, and every tree planted by the waterside. Mackey quotes 25, but there is no reason why there should not be 2500."

Perhaps the most cynical definition is by Robert Freke Gould: "Of the ancient landmarks it has been observed with more or less foundation of truth: 'Nobody knows what they comprise or omit as they are of no earthly authority, because everything is a landmark when an opponent desires to silence you; but nothing is a landmark that stands in his own way.'"

by R.W. Bro. David J. Cameron
for The Committee on Masonic Education
November 2008