

# District 'C'hronicle



February 2022

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.162

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## From Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, it was great to see such a strong turnout at your district's mid-term meeting last Saturday and, since our monthly newsletter reaches over 800 members, I thought it prudent to include my closing comments from the meeting here.

"I'd like to take a few minutes and recognise the efforts of your district team this morning. As with a duck swimming across a pond, it is often difficult to observe the hard work that goes into propelling it forward. So too goes the efforts of your team. This is doubly so when our in-person communications and meetings are hamstrung by a pandemic. To wit: plans have been laid and are progressing well on your 2022 Golf Tournament and Charity Event and this has happened due to hard work and planning. We held a well-attended and productive Open House which is yielding strong interest in the Craft. Our finances and financial planning continue even though we are in the vacuum of the pandemic. Our website and newsletter continue to stalwartly reflect the activities around the district, the jurisdiction and beyond. Our LRP team continues to hammer out suggestions for future success at the district level and beyond. And on a quieter note – benevolence is happening. Thank you!



I would also like to recognise the efforts of the individual lodge masters, wardens and secretaries. To the masters and wardens – you are leading at a very peculiar time – and I appreciate your awareness and importance of being flexible and innovative in your leadership. Thank you for your participation in our on-going think tanks and for bringing difficult topics to light and having the guts to embrace and discuss them. To the secretaries, thank you for your support in the district's communications with membership. You've received a lot of e-mails and attachments for distribution and I appreciate your diligence in this effort. Just a head's up, it will continue! So to you all, thank you for your efforts in these trying times – you are making a positive difference.

I'd like to close my comments by discussing the concept of agency. Agency can be defined as, "the thoughts and actions taken by people that express their individual power, to have them think for themselves and shape their experiences." As it relates to us, and in these strange times, I would ask each of us to consider our agency as it relates to our Craft. I would also ask our lodges to consider their agency. I am talking about taking charge of your Masonry. I am talking about not waiting for someone else to do so or for the pandemic to pass completely. I am talking about advocating for yourselves and shaping your own Masonic future – practice your Work to bring you to proficiency - now. Seek out Masonic Education – it is everywhere but you need to look. Find and engage your Mentor to grow your Masonic understanding and build your future. Take agency as it relates to your Fraternal relationships – if you haven't been in touch – get in touch – one phone call or Zoom or coffee can make a difference in the trajectory of a brother's disposition and Masonic future. Don't wait. Lodges, if you are struggling, take the bull by the horns because agency requires taking charge and proactivity. Conduct discussions to appropriately look at Amalgamations and Surrenders. Don't wait – the legacy of our Brethren that came before us deserve more than that. Waiting until we get back to ramp up your Work, engage in discussions about your Masonic career and reviewing the viability of your lodge serves no great purpose. You are not locked down in these regards. Agency comes in many forms. Get at it!"

Brethren, for your contemplation.

Sincerely & Fraternally,  
Bill

**R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul**

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

# From the Grand Master

## January Communique

Brethren,

Noah Reuben, a student at the University of Rochester, wrote for an article in the New York Times (2020/09/17):

*This has not been a good year. We have faced a global pandemic that threatens us as a species. I, in America, have been forced to grapple with our original sin, slavery, which has haunted our country since its founding. Hundreds of students have had to change the way they learn. It has not been a good year. I have found my record of these times defined by absence. In my senior speech I wrote for my high school that no one will ever hear. In the pictures I have on my phone of Times Square, empty for what will probably be the only instance in my lifetime. This year has challenged me in so many ways. However, I have found solace from the sickly absence which has haunted my year in a quote from a comic book called "The Sandman" by Neil Gaiman, "It's astonishing how much trouble one can get oneself into if one works at it. And astonishing how much trouble one can get oneself out of if one simply assumes that everything will, somehow or other, work out for the best." I will continue to assume that everything will, in fact, work out for the best. It is hope that fills the absences in my life. I have found myself becoming more hopeful. I have found myself looking forward to what is to come. As freshman in college, I find myself looking forward to the uncertainty that the next couple of years will bring as I find the certainty of uncertainty, in a strange way, comforting. I know that I am changing, and all I can hope for is that I am changing for the better.*

Brethren,

I do not know if this young man is a Mason (yet) but he shows the character of one we would welcome into our Craft. Yes, he makes references to things some would think odd: comic books and pictures on his phone. But he also espouses things with which we, as Masons, are very familiar: writing speeches, striving to become a better man, and trust in Divine Providence. One might say he is a model candidate.

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of gateways. He had two faces: one looking back and one looking forward. And so January is a time when we take stock; we look back at the past year, and we look forward, with uncertainty, through the gateway to the new year. Whatever befalls us, let us act as the dictates of right reason prompt us, cultivate harmony, practice charity, and live in peace with all men.

**David J. Cameron**



## COVID-19 Update January 28, 2022

Brethren,

The Provincial government has published the changes to the COVID regulations. Unfortunately there were changes from what they told us last week. In meeting and event spaces, regardless of whether one is eating or drinking or not, everyone must remain in their seats. This means we will not be able to do official openings and closings, ritual, elections or balloting. Regarding Masonic Memorial Services, the Registrar of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario has published directives for Funeral Homes which discourage the kind of movement our Memorial Service entails.

As announced, occupancy in meeting spaces will be allowed at 50% capacity.

Another new announcement is that we will not be required to collect contact tracing data, although we will still have to do active screening and show proof of vaccination (or medical exemption) at the door. Medical exemptions are now incorporated in the Verify Ontario mobile app, so that should make things a little easier.

**Therefore, as of January 31, 2022, lodges will be allowed to gather in their meeting spaces following the public health restrictions if the members wish, but they will not be able to do openings and closings, ritual, balloting, elections or Masonic Memorial Services. Unofficial business meetings may occur and rehearsing may be done as long as everyone remains seated.**

The full regulation can be read at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364> but a simplified summary of the parts relating to us is appended below.

The government also announced further reductions in restrictions to take place on February 21 and March 14, however the fine print for these are not yet available, and having learned our lesson, we will not be sending anything out until they are actually published!

And a reminder that you may also have local restrictions as well. Please check on these.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
David J. Cameron  
Grand Master

### Simplified summary of changes relating to lodges

- The total capacity must not exceed 50% (as calculated from the Fire Marshall's limits). This must be posted at the door.
- No more than 10 people may be seated together at any table.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Line-ups inside or outside the building must have physical distancing as well as masks.
- Everyone must remain seated at all times except when entering, exiting, going to the bathroom or lining up.
- No singing.
- Self-screening signage, Active Screening, Proof of Vaccination, Cleaning, Safety Plan, etc. as detailed before.

# January Communiqué From the Deputy

My Brethren:  
Happy New Year my Brethren!

I trust that each of you have been able to enjoy the holiday season in some fashion regardless of the COVID-19 conditions and restrictions that we are continuing to work through. Sitting here in the new Ontario epicentre of Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit where practically all social and recreational activities have been closed and gatherings of more than ten are restricted, it simply meant we had more turkey leftovers. I don't mean to sound flippant at this time of real suffering for many, but we do have to make the best of what we have and follow the government guidelines if we hope to come out the other side and resume our Lodge meetings and indeed our lives as we fondly remember.

Before we get further into the work of your Grand Lodge committees, I feel that a follow-up to last month's report of the Condition of Masonry Committee (COM) is required to let you know how the Management Committee has responded to the four COM recommendations to Grand Lodge.

- 1) That Lodges be required to provide a copy of the year-end financial report together with a copy of the audited statement.

Management Committee Decision: Based on history, rather than a Constitutional amendment, this request should be strongly suggested as a tool to assist the COM Committee in assessing the financial status of the Lodge. The Lodge Finance Advisory Committee is working on an easy two step program that will assist every member of the Lodge in understanding the financial status of the Lodge.

- 2) That District Secretaries be required to attend the District Deputy Grand Master Preparation (DDGMP) course prior to their appointment to the role to ensure that they are familiar with the duties of a District Secretary.

Management Committee Decision: This is no guarantee of aspiring DDGMs selecting competent District Secretaries. We need to stress the importance of picking the right District Secretary during the DDGMP sessions. And of course, encourage the aspiring DDGMs to bring along a Past Master with them as a feeler if they would like and that a proper pass down occurs between the past and next District Secretary including L-form completion.

- 3) The Constitution be amended to require the completion of the L1 (Master/Secretary Report) and L4 (Master/Treasurer Report) no later than 5 days prior to the date scheduled for the OV of the DDGM.

Management Committee Decision: The Constitution is not the place to enforce this, but rather through the DDGMP and COM training process of aspiring DDGMs.

- 4) a) If a Lodge receives a Green Report – The DDGM should attend the Lodge and congratulate them on their achievement.  
b) If a Lodge receives a Yellow Report – The DDGM and the District Secretary should attend the Lodge and offer suggestions or assistance to enable the Lodge to improve.  
c) If a Lodge receives a Red Report – The DDGM, District Secretary and a local Grand Lodge Officer visit the Lodge and encourage the Lodge to accept assistance from the Grand Lodge Committees that would best enable the Lodge to improve their current situation.

Management Committee Decision: This too should be a training issue and not a Constitutional amendment. The COM and DDGMP teams need to be training our future DDGMs that the delivery of a report card should never be mailed out without a face-to-face explanation of the details by the DDGM and District Secretary to the Lodge Committee of General Purposes. It is at this time they could make any necessary suggestions to improve such as connecting a Lodge with an appropriate Grand Lodge Committee. We have no doubt any local Grand Lodge Officer would be willing to assist with this communication.

We will continue next month with another report of the work of your Grand Lodge Committees so stay tuned...and WELL until then!

All the best of the season with health and happiness abounding in 2022 – and a safe return to our Lodges too!

**Thomas W. Hogeboom Deputy Grand Master**

## From the Grand Lodge Website

These items have a direct link for your convenience

**January 29, 2022**

[Covid 19 Update from our Grand Master - Jan 28, 2022](#)

**January 28, 2022**

[Town Hall Presentation on: Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro Sydney](#)

[Schatzker Topic: Grand Lodge Assessment Increase](#)

[R.W. Bro. David Armstrong, Chairman of Lodge Finances](#)

[Topic: Is Your Lodge Financially Sound](#)

**January 24, 2022**

[Covid 19 Update from our Grand Master - Jan 24, 2022](#)

**January 23, 2022**

[Is your Lodge Financially Sound?](#)

[Masonic Short Talks - The Apron In Ontario](#)

[Masonic Short Talks - The Four Tassels](#)

**January 7, 2022**

[DDGM Preparation Schedule 2022](#)

**January 4, 2022**

[Grand Lodge Covid-19 Update Jan 04 2022](#)

[The Communiqué 2022-01](#)

[Masonic Education Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 5](#)

[Candidate Information Form](#)

[Candidate Nomination Form](#)

[Grand Lodge Nomination Guidelines](#)

[Suggested format for petitioning appointments](#)

**December 31, 2021**

[GM Blog December 2021](#)

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/>



## Hamilton District 'C' -



Upcoming events listed on the Hamilton District 'C' website.

**Feb 7, 7:30 pm**

**97th Masonic Education and Fellowship Zoom Meeting**  
V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels, BGP, Mentoring Chairman,  
GLCPOO. **Web Link: TBD**

**Feb 21, 7:30 pm**

**98th Masonic Education and Fellowship Zoom Meeting**  
Bro. Peter Zarucki, Friendship Lodge No. 729, TED and  
R.W. Bro. Robert Kliaman, Canada Lodge No. 532, TED  
"Masonic Quiz 3 Test Your Knowledge  
(Common Knowledge at the EA Level)"  
**Web Link: TBD**

**Feb 28, 7:30 pm**

**99th Masonic Education and Fellowship Zoom Meeting**  
W. Bro. Massoud El Bani, St Paul's Lodge 374 E.R under  
UGLE - "First made a Mason in my heart. What is it all  
about?" **Web Link: TBD**

### Audit and Finance Committee



### Ontario Masons

#### Operations Pillar

### You are invited to a Virtual Town Hall

**Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 pm.**

If you have a question, this is your opportunity to get an answer to that question from the comfort of your own home.

Registration information below

#### Presenters

Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro Sydney Schatzker  
**Topic:** Grand Lodge Assessment Increase

R.W. Bro. David Armstrong, Chairman of Lodge Finances  
**Topic:** Is Your Lodge Financially Sound

#### Bonus Special Panelists

Grand Master, M.W. Bro. David J. Cameron  
Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom  
Grand Secretary, M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling

R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland, Chairman Masonic Education Pillar  
R.W. Bro. John Hay, Chairman Membership Pillar  
R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik, Chairman Communications Pillar  
R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman, Chairman Operations Pillar  
R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Chairman Community Outreach Pillar

#### Moderator

R.W. Bro. Michael Locke, Chairman Web Technology

To register for the workshop, please go to the following link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8791333656906345230>

## From the Benevolence Chair

When we attend lodge and do the Work, we all have parts that make us sit back and lament. For me, it's the charity we do. As Masons, we're bred, for lack of a better term, to support each other. This Masonic year, I was asked by our esteemed R.W. Brother to act as the district's Benevolence Chairman. I could not think of a better way to support my fellow Masons than by representing them to the Masonic Board Of Relief in times of need.

Late in 2021, a Brother from a lodge in District 'C' reached out to request financial support for a young man in the community. This young man was born with a rare muscular disorder that leaves him weak and unable to stand or reposition himself. He also quickly falls into a hunched sitting position due to muscle weakness. This 15 year old was in need of a powered wheelchair so he can continue his high school education, as he cannot operate a standard wheelchair himself. He is one of three children of a single mom, receiving no child support. Also, his younger sister has the same disorder and will, sadly, follow in her brother's tracks.

The Masonic Brother's lodge contributed some money to the wheelchair's purchase, along with some other community charities. When the application was submitted to the Board of Relief, there was only a few dollars left to be paid of the total bill. This is the power of community!

Brethren, if you find yourself in need of moral, mental, or financial support, remember to reach out to your Worshipful Master and your fellow brethren. We are here to be a pillar for each other.

W.B. Ed Manmohan [emanmohan@hotmail.com](mailto:emanmohan@hotmail.com)





# Scottish Rite Library and Archives

<https://scottishritecanada.ca/library>

## Reading List #1 –Getting Started (An Extract)

This reading list is geared to the reader approaching the subject of Freemasonry with minimal prior knowledge. It is intended to provide a basic factual foundation that will help the reader discern between sound, solid history and flights of fantasy (both of which are to be found in the published literature) when they proceed to more advanced texts.

### Foundational Books

#### 1. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry* by S. Brent Morris Ph.D.

This book is of course not actually for idiots, complete or otherwise. It is, however, a great overview of Freemasonry for any reader from within or without the fraternity. It is written in simple, straightforward language, and requires no foundational knowledge to fully understand it. This is an excellent starting point for any reader new to the subject of Freemasonry.

Dr. Morris is an extremely knowledgeable source on Freemasonry in general and Scottish Rite in particular. To say he is a Master Mason would fail to do this eminent scholar and author justice. He is a Past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076—the world's premier research lodge. He is a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the 33° from the Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A., author of numerous books on Masonic subjects, and until his recent retirement, Managing Editor of the Scottish Rite Journal—the largest-circulation Masonic journal in the world.

#### Where to find it:

New and used copies are available from many bookstores including <https://www.amazon.ca>

#### 2. *Freemasons for Dummies*

by Christopher Hodapp

This is a very popular book, providing a great introduction for new masons or others interested in Freemasonry. Written in the simple, unassuming style for which the “dummies” books are so famous, this is an excellent starting point for any reader new to the subject of Freemasonry. The author's blog is an impressively thorough and up-to-date source for news of interest to the world of Freemasonry.

Chris Hodapp speaks with authority on Freemasonry. He has been a Mason for over 20 years, is a Past Master, and a 33° Scottish Rite Mason hailing from the Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A.

#### Where to find it:

Online at Hodapp's website:

<http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/>

Also available from many bookstores including <https://www.amazon.ca>

#### 3. *For the Newly Made Mason*

by Raymond S. J. Daniels

The late Raymond S. J. Daniels was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario from July 2009 through July 2011. After a career as an educator, he had a passion for teaching, and writes in a simple, easy-to-read style. The target audience in this book is for early start masons in Canada (more specifically, in Ontario), but it is also a great reminder to masons of any tenure. This book was published by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, and although access to it is not restricted to Freemasons, nonMasons may find it difficult to obtain.

#### Where to find it:

Used copies may be available from eBay or other online booksellers. Ontario Masons can purchase it by having their Lodge Secretary place an order using the form at:

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/publications/book-sales>

Note: you will need a login ID for the Grand Lodge website to access this form.

#### 4. *For the Newly-Made Mason*

by H. L. Haywood (Ed)

First published in 1993, this book covers many areas of Freemasonry that a new member should become familiar with, including Masonic Origins and the history, philosophy, symbolism, structure and operation of the order. While the author is American and writes primarily for a U.S. audience, much of the material applies to Freemasonry in other countries.

#### Where to find it:

New and used copies are available from many bookstores including <https://www.amazon.ca>

Click this link to read the complete list and summary of these additional titles. [Reading-List-1-Getting-Started.pdf](#)

### Books on Masonic History

#### 5) *Whence Come We?*

by Professor Wallace McLeod Ph.D. (ED)

#### 6) *The Origins of Freemasonry – Facts and Fictions*

by Professor Margaret C. Jacob Ph.D.

#### 7) *The Rosslyn Hoax* by Robert L. D. Cooper

### Reference Books

#### 8) *Holy Bible* (King James Version)

#### 9) *Mackey's Encyclopedia*

by Albert Gallatin Mackey M.D. (Ed)

#### 10) *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*

by Henry W. Coil (with additional editors for the 1996 edition: William Moseley Brown, William L. Cummings, and Harold Van Buren Voorhis)

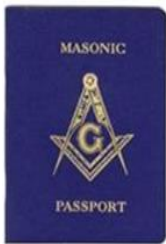
### Online Resources

#### 11) *Ex Libris Video Series*

Supreme Council of Canada Reference Library

#### 12) *Sankey Lecture Series*





## Masonic Passport

**Do you have these sites in your passport??**

**A little quiz for our readers, can you identify these locations?**



Site 1



Site 2



Site 3



Site 4



Site 5



Site 6

***Send your stories, and your pics!  
We will provide the location names next  
month!***

# A Tribute to Robbie Burns!

## Chain of Union

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59838057>

Why do people link hands to sing Auld Lang Syne?

BBC Dec 2021

Suggested by R.W.Bro. John MacPherson

Compiled by R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson

On New Year's Eve millions of people around the world link hands when they sing Auld Lang Syne



Now research from the University of Edinburgh has revealed the origins of the Hogmanay tradition are connected to freemasonry. Singing with arms crossed and hands joined was a parting ritual at many Masonic lodges. Musicologist Dr Morag Grant discovered the connection in the archives at Glasgow's Mitchell Library.

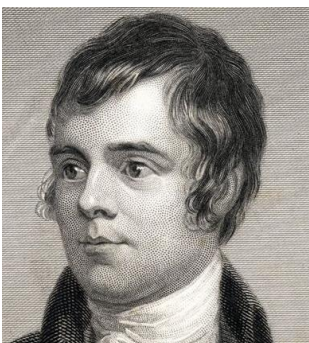
A newspaper report of an Ayrshire lodge's Burns Supper in 1879 describes Auld Lang Syne being sung as members formed "the circle of unity" - a Masonic ritual also called the "chain of union".

Dr Grant said the tradition of singing the song at times of parting, with crossed hands, emerged in the mid-19th century among Freemasons and other fraternal organisations. "Auld Lang Syne's sentiments didn't just resonate with Freemasons," she said. "Some of the earliest reports of the song's use at parting come from American college graduations in the 1850s."

"The many traditions and rituals associated with the song - as well as its simple, singable tune - are key to understanding its phenomenal spread, and why we still sing it today."

### What is the origin of the song?

Robert Burns was inspired to write Auld Lang Syne by earlier traditional songs.



Robert Burns was a Freemason. The organisation was instrumental in promoting the poet's work during his life and after his death.

He was inspired to write Auld Lang Syne by fragments of earlier folk songs. He wrote the lyrics in 1788 but the tune did not appear together with the song until after his death. In the final verse the singer offers his hand of friendship to an old friend, and asks for one in return.

Burns wrote: "And there's a hand, my trusty fiere. And gie's a hand o' thine."

Traditionally, at this point the hands are crossed and offered to the those on either side in the circle of singers.

Dr Grant uncovered the masonic link while researching her book *Auld Lang Syne: A Song And Its Culture*, which explores how its popularity spread around the world. She studied sources including written accounts, newspaper reports, theatre playbills, printed music and early recordings.

### How did its popularity spread?

- parting come from American college graduations in the 1850s."
- Japan where it was played at graduations. The tune - known as Hotaru no hikari - is still played at the close of business in some shops.
- In 1877, Alexander Graham Bell used it to demonstrate the telephone, and in 1890 it was one of the first songs recorded on Emil Berliner's gramophone.
- to see in the new year
- end of the first World Scout Jamboree in 1920
- new year tradition was so well established internationally that in 1929 a line from the song was displayed on the electronic ticker at celebrations in Times Square, New York. A song about the ties that bind us to others across the years

Dr Grant said: "It's remarkable how this song, written in a language which even most Scots don't fully understand, has become so synonymous with new year the world over. "Auld Lang Syne is a song about the ties that bind us to others across the years and even though its appeal is now global, it's very much rooted in the world Burns inhabited."

### How Auld Lang Syne took over the world.

He wrote the lyrics in 1788 but the tune we know now does not first appear with the song until after his death.

In 1799 Edinburgh publisher George Thomson included the song in his *Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs*. Both the words and the tune appear to be based on earlier fragments which Burns "restored" but the power of the two together has become unstoppable. Auld Lang Syne is an international anthem and one of Scotland's gifts to the world.

Burns scholar Thomas Keith says it is a song of reunion not of parting, as some people think. It recalls happy days gone by, separation and coming back together. Mr Keith says there is a family and friendship feeling to the song that everybody seems to immediately understand.

"It is something to do with that melody as well as the Burns lyrics, because the lyrics are sometimes known and sometimes not," he says.

### So what does Auld Lang Syne mean?

It would translate into standard English as "old long ago" or more colloquially "the good old days". In the modern idiom some might say "back in the day". It is a tale which looks back at old times with a friend from childhood and seeks to rekindle the past by a handshake and a goodwill drink (a guid willie-waught as Burns would have it).



The song's initial popularity coincided with the age of Scottish emigration, especially to Canada and the US, in the 19th Century. Its mood of family and friendship - and its good dose of melancholy - stayed in the hearts of the Scottish Diaspora and became stronger and more rooted as it became part of the countries they settled.

US military historian Robbie Wintemute says that during the American Civil War the Union tried to restrain singing of Auld Lang Syne because of the sentiments of returning home and reconciliation. However, after the signing of the surrender terms, General Grant ordered the band to play it, recognising that the country and the soldiers had been through a tremendous upheaval and that now was a time for healing.

### **Christmas Day Truce**

The international popularity and special significance of Auld Lang Syne was poignantly illustrated during the Christmas Truce at the start of World War 1. For a brief moment the guns fell silent and troops from both sides left the trenches to swap souvenirs and sing songs.

According to a letter from Sir Edward Hulse, of the Scots Guards, the British and German soldiers joined together to sing Good King Wenceslas, The Tommies Song and finally Auld Lang Syne.

Sir Edward wrote: "It was absolutely astounding and if I had seen it on a cinematograph I should have sworn it was faked."

### **Hollywood loves it**

In the early part of the 20th Century the film industry brought Auld Lang Syne to an even bigger audience. Charlie Chaplin used Auld Lang Syne for a New Year scene in the Gold Rush, a 1925 silent film which was re-released with a new score, devised by Chaplin, in 1942.

There was not a dry eye in the house when nine-year-old Shirley Temple sang the song to a dying soldier in the 1937 John Ford film Wee Willie Winkie, or during the final scene of Frank Capra's It's a Wonderful Life (1946).

There are hundreds more examples, including the 2008 movie of Sex and the City. Scottish singer Mairi Campbell's rendition of the song was used in a New Year scene in the hit film, after a special request from its star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Campbell says: "I like the way it was used in the film. I was quite taken aback. The focus leaves the shoes and the dresses and moves into forgiveness and compassion."

The 1989 comedy When Harry Met Sally has this memorable exchange at a New Year's party when Billy Crystal's Harry gets distracted immediately after declaring his love for Meg Ryan's Sally.

**Harry: "What does this song mean? My whole life, I don't know what this song means.**

**"I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'? Does that mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?"**

**Sally: "Well, maybe it just means that we should remember that we forgot them or something. Anyway, it's about old friends."**

Auld Lang Syne has been translated into many different languages and is sung in many parts of the world. In India and Bangladesh, the melody was the direct inspiration for the popular Bengali song "Purano shei diner kotha" (Memories of the Good Old Days) and in Korea, from 1919 to 1948, the lyrics of the national anthem were to the tune, which was introduced to the country by Western missionaries.

Its popularity in Russia stems from an admiration of the people's poet Robert Burns, and in China Auld Lang Syne is so established that many assume it is a native song.

It is popular in farewell parties in Mexico and many European scouting gatherings. The Danes have it as a folk song and the Dutch use it as a tune for their football song "We love Orange".

The Japanese got their hands on Auld Lang Syne in the 1890s when it was introduced into the school curriculum by an American teacher - Luther Whiting Mason - in a wave of Westernisation. The words were changed but the essence of the song remains. The song they call Hotaru no hikari speaks of remembrance, nostalgia and friendship.

It has become something of a Japanese school anthem and is commonly heard in graduation ceremonies and at the end of the school day. It is also used in stores and restaurants to mark closing time.

### **It's the New Year Party song**

Auld Lang Syne, with its themes of friendship, melancholy and reconciliation, is the perfect New Year song and is sung lustily at gatherings from Edinburgh to New York's Times Square.

But its place as an anthem for 31 December owes much to Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadian Big Band. Guy, who recalled hearing the song being played by Scottish immigrants in Canada, was instrumental in fixing it in the consciousness of Americans by playing it on his radio and TV shows which reached millions every New Year from 1929 to 1977. His broadcast was sponsored by Robert Burns cigars.

In the final verse the singer offers his hand of friendship and asks for his old pal's in return.

**"And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!/And gie's a hand o' thine!"**

The tradition has been that this is the point, and not before, where the hands are crossed and offered to the people on either side of you in the gathered circle.





## Masonic Education

*Here is a definition of a word found within Masonic ritual that is not common outside of our Lodge rooms.*

**Peculiarly** The common man hears this and thinks it means something is odd or strange.

The educated man realizes there is a context in which there may be a peculiar meaning. Indeed, those who study the origin and meaning of words note that in the early 1700s the word 'peculiarly' took on the meaning of a quality or characteristic unique to an individual or group. Thus, the Initiate is being told that certain excellences of character are expected of a Mason, because he is a Mason. These attributes may be found in others, but the charge to the new Mason provides esoteric knowledge that is unique or peculiar to our Fraternity.

Provided for your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge from the Sarnia District Masonic Library. V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern, F.C.F., Librarian & Historian. Blog: [Blog:https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/](https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/)



Dear Brethren, Family and Friends ...

I am delighted to have this opportunity to salute our ladies as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Of course we should honor and cherish our ladies every day, but Valentine's Day should be a little more ... a little something extra ... a special day I hope you will convey these thoughts to the women in your life because they are indeed so very special to Freemasonry .

Their support is critical to our individual growth and the growth of our Lodges. So, don't forget to say "Thank You!" in a meaningful way to our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters and especially the surviving spouses of our Brother Masons.

Fraternally,

**MW William J. Thomas**

**Grand Master New York State 2015**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Bro. John Francis Richardson**  
**Seymour Lodge No. 272**

Initiated - May 22, 1947

Passed - June 24, 1947

Raised - November 22, 1947

Seymour Lodge's eldest and longest serving member,  
almost 75 years a mason

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above January 28, 2022



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.**  
**We will cherish him in our hearts forever.**

*Only 145 days to  
the District golf  
tournament*



## From the Editor

Brethren,

Looking forward to in person meetings, one day but not this month. ....and still we wait.

Thank you to R.W. Bro. John MacPherson's timely suggestion for the tribute to Robbie Burns. Also to W.Bro. Ed Manmohan for updating us on benevolence in action. Even in these trying times, people are making things happen.

This month we have more content from the Scottish Rite Library, take the time to click the link for your daily advancement of Masonic knowledge. The videos on their site are worth the investment.

The Masonic Passport quiz from my Co-Editor **Bill MacPherson**. We will publish the answers next month. Send in any related pictures and stories

Finally a reminder for Valentine's day. Don't be that guy who forgets. Be well, be safe! S&F, Glen



## Editorial Team

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Editor:</b>                            | <b>R.W. Bro. Glen Notman</b>     |
| <b>Associate Editor:</b>                  | <b>R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson</b> |
| <b>District / Chronicle Photographer:</b> | <b>W. Bro. Chris Jordison</b>    |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>                         | <b>Bro. James Lannigan</b>       |

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