

District 'C'hronicle



May 2020

Hamilton Masonic District C

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Cum Luce
Salutem!

With Light
Salvation!

Brethren, I hope each and everyone of you and your families are doing well!

I came across this poem by M. W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada.



LIGHT

by William Mercer Wilson
First Grand Master Of Canada

"Let there be light." Jehovah said,
And primal darkness heard and fled;
Then, as the waters from the land;
He parted with almighty hand;

Light ridged the mountain chain with gold;
Light through the vales in glory rolled;
Light silvered ocean, lake and stream;
Light made the pall-like vapors gleam;

Light shone the forest vistas through;
Light gave the sky it's burning blue;
Light fell in life-awakening showers;
On torpid leaves and sleeping flowers;

And all the universe waxed bright
Robed in it's makers effluence-light.
There is a darkness of the mind;
As thick as dark, as undefined;

Ere God had said, " Let there be light."
But as creations morning burst;
On chaos, and the gloom dispersed;
So does the " Day star from on high."

Light to the darkened soul supply;
As that which wrapped the world in night;
So does God's grace, that ray divine;
On the beseeching sinner shine;

Dispelling from the soul despair;
And shedding floods of glory there;
Oh, when there's doubt and gloom within;
Black fruits of un-repented sin;

Search thou this book, and searching pray;
So shall thy sin be washed away;
So shall a beam illuminate thy night;
From him who said, " Let there be light."

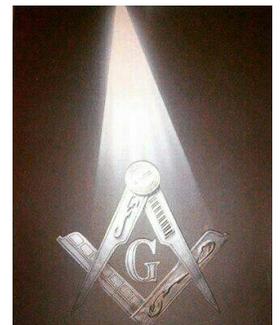
Light because we can see truth, the arts and sciences, our world and our love. Light because God's hand is at work! Light is the key. Cum luce Salutem!

Brethren, please spare a moment to pray for all those affected by this disease in Hamilton, in Ontario and in Canada. Please keep the peoples and Brethren of the United States and the world over in your thoughts and prayers.

To all the sick and shut in Brethren (nearly everyone now), may the G. A. O.T. U., relieve you of your burdens and ease your pain!

God Bless you all!

R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch



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

Brethren,

I hope this finds you safe and feeling well. This is a difficult time for all of us, and nobody knows how long it will last, but be assured, it will not last forever.

Although all in-person Masonic meetings and events have been called off, that does not mean that Masonry is called off: true Freemasonry dwells in the heart of each and every initiate.



Mystic arts and rites reposing; Sacred in each faithful breast.

This is an opportunity to slow down and reflect on the lessons our Craft has to teach. There is time to go over your ritual by yourself to prepare for when we resume labour. There is time to read those books you always wanted to but didn't have the time. The College of Freemasonry continues to offer its courses on-line, and although there may be some reference books that you cannot access because the libraries are closed, there is much you can complete using what you have at home already and what they have on-line at

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/publications/college-of-freemasonry-books>.

There are some excellent podcasts out there to listen to, and Masonic websites to explore. And, if so inclined, this would be a great time to write something up to share with your brethren when lodges resume.

As I said last month, Mentoring is a life-long process. In this time of human need for connectiveness when you are reaching out to the vulnerable members of your lodge, call your mentor and have a chat, then connect with those whom you have mentored. They'll be glad to

hear from you. And don't forget the widows of your lodge. They may need help with picking up supplies. Your involvement in helping your non-Masonic neighbours also will not go un-noticed.

I have been extremely impressed by the number of initiatives that I have heard our brethren have been taking. From offering to fetch groceries and medicines to revamping their businesses to make needed supplies. Thank you brethren!

Social distancing and isolation can be very hard on your mental health. There are help lines to call if you need them. Check with your local health authorities for the numbers. Also, the Big White Wall is a good on-line resource <https://www.bigwhitewall.com/>.

Remember that your brethren are thinking of you. Check the public health updates regularly. Stay home as much as you can. Look after yourself and look out for each other

I close off with a verse from our parting ode:

*God of light, whose love unceasing,
Doth to all Thy works extend.*

*Crown our Order with Thy blessing
; Build, sustain us to the end.*

Happy to meet; Sorry to part; Happy to meet again.

David J. Cameron



GRAND LODGE OF
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND SECRETARY

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COVID-19 Update April 27 2020

April 27 2020

Brethren,

You are aware that in the latter part of April each year, a package of material is distributed to all Lodges which includes the details of our Annual Communication held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in July.

You may also have noticed that to date this year, no package has been received and therefore many of you are beginning to ask questions about the Annual Communication.

You can appreciate that the cancellation of a Lodge meeting or a District social event does not have the same ramifications associated with either the cancellation, postponement or modification of our Annual Communication. Rest assured that your Grand Lodge leadership is working overtime to find the most appropriate solution to this issue.

Presently we are still guided by the local and provincial stay-at-home guidelines which now extend to June 30, 2020. Those guidelines govern our negotiations with the Royal York Hotel, which are also ongoing at this time and which contain significant financial penalties tied to those guidelines.

We are exploring all options and the many ramifications of each in an effort to make the best choice possible for your Grand Lodge in this unprecedented time. Our goal is to communicate the action plan to you as soon as we possibly can.

In the meantime, we ask for your patience and understanding as we look for the most appropriate solution that will not compromise the health and welfare of our Masonic population. Please continue to reach out to your brethren and obey all the local and provincial health guidelines.

Fraternally, Garry

D. Gary Dowling,
Grand Secretary

From the Deputy

My Brethren:

Welcome back to where we left off on our renewal of your Board of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs. It seems strange to be writing this with all our Masonic meetings in recess, but I want to let you know that the work of your Grand Lodge continues in our homes and with each other via video and teleconferencing.

This month, I would like to report on the progress of the Communications Pillar, under Chairman R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik, with an update on the progress of their special assignments given to them this year:

- 1) Support the Grand Lodge Committee communications efforts by providing the service of reviewing all Grand Lodge Committee documents for proper grammar and spelling and Grand Lodge branding and protocol prior to publication.

V.W. Bro. Rob Leffley and his team have been offering this service to the Committees of your Grand Lodge for the last several years quietly behind the scenes to assist the Grand Lodge Chairman in making their publications appear as professional as they do. The protocol for having documents reviewed by Publishing Review Committee is for the Pillar Chairmen to submit the document to be reviewed. After the document has been reviewed, it is returned to the Pillar Chairman with the recommended revisions. The originating Committee takes these suggested revisions into account, revises as necessary, and then the Pillar Chairman forwards the approved document to the Email Distribution team or Grand Lodge office for mass communication. Bro. Leffley and his team are to be commended as all documents are reviewed within a few days, larger ones may take up to a week and when documents are received, they are sent immediately to reviewers.

- 2) Library and Museums Committee needs to get the catalogue search working on their web site.

R.W. Bro. Lanny Salmon and his team were quick to get this very important Library service working again when it was discovered to be out of service.

- 3) Library and Museums Committee needs to revise their brochure for circulation via hard copy as the on-line Guidelines to view and order material was not functional.

The Library and Museum Committee was quick to reproduce their brochure and circulate it to assist with this function and correct the web site.

- 4) Explore the publication to assist Lodges in the preservation of their antiquated possessions a la "Caring for your Masonic Treasures" from the Massachusetts Scottish Rite.

The Grand Archivist, R.W. Bro. Dan Glenney, has produced such a document and future plans include placing current documents more appropriately on the new Grand Lodge web

site to ensure wider distribution, plus using the documents as a guideline for the assessment of the Masonic collection at Grand Lodge.

- 5) Share the Events Digest and Resource Digest with every Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction.

The Email Distribution Committee, under the direction of R.W. Bro David Neave, has the year-long charge to be the repository of Pillar documents so approved for distribution and Grand Lodge event communications that have been approved by the Grand Secretary via the Resource and Event Digests to every Mason. At this time, they are doing so via the Lodge Secretaries who have been further charged to forward these emails on to their membership via their electronic Summons database. Changes are coming where the Digests will be emailed to each individual member, but the current method is a big improvement over going through the District Deputy Grand Masters in past years.

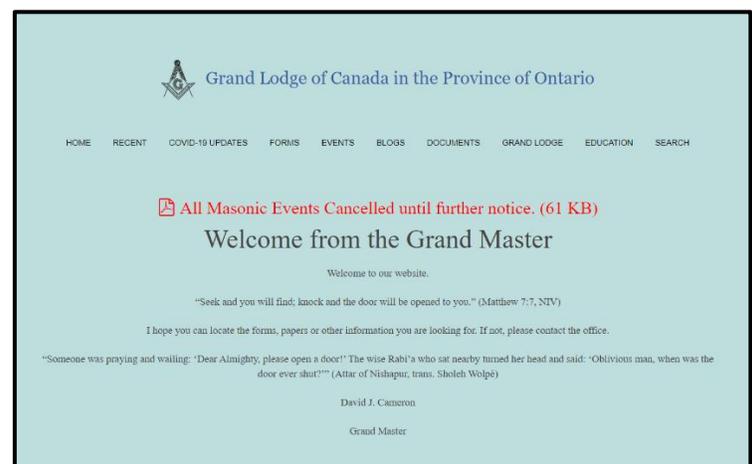
- 6) Review and report on potential copyright infringement regarding educational materials on the web site.

In addition to the regular work our Web Site Committee has been charged with under the direction of the Chairman and Web Master, R.W. Bro. Michael Locke, the team was charged with assuring our web site was not in violation of any copyright laws with material we had posted on the site.

We have received a lot of very positive comments on the changes that have been implemented on the Grand Lodge web site in the past year and look forward to the continued improvements being made by this team daily!

Please tune back in next month to hear how your Grand Lodge Operations Pillar is supporting these efforts. See you then!

Thomas W. Hogeboom, Deputy Grand Master



Members Area Landing Page on the Grand Lodge Website.

<https://grandlodge.on.ca>

Message From the U.G.L.E.

FREEMASONRY – IMPORTANCE

My Brethren, when asked what makes Freemasonry so important to me, I respond: it is a fellowship that brings out the best in people regardless of their religious or political convictions.



VW Bro. The Reverend Dr Simon Thorn,
Grand Chaplain UGLE
London Freemasonry April 2020

In 1939, King George VI said in his address when installing his younger brother as Grand Master:

One of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry is service, not only to members of the Order, but to the nation. While the opinions of brethren may differ in politics and religion, Freemasonry provides the means whereby brethren of all parties and sects are bound together by those virtues which are common to all who desire to serve their fellow men. (The Times 20/7/1939)

Our country – indeed, the whole world – is experiencing a crisis which threatens the health, lives and livelihoods of all. The current lock-down and isolation precautions affect our daily lives and put us all under great stress, physically, mentally and spiritually. How are we to deal with this?

As Freemasons, the first working tool we are presented with is the 24-inch gauge. It is worth taking time to reflect on its symbolism: the 24 hours of the day, part to be spent in prayer to Almighty God, part in labour and refreshment, and part in helping a friend or brother in time of need. We are thus reminded of our relationships with and responsibilities toward God, ourselves and our neighbour.

Prayer to Almighty God is not an opportunity to nag, but rather to give Him space to speak to us, and for us to listen to Him. You would be surprised how many clergy and religious professionals admit that as their lives have become filled with countless meetings, emails and bureaucracy, it is their prayer life that has diminished. So, find time in your day to pray for your family and friends, for those who are sick, anxious or depressed, for those who are lonely or grieving, and for those working in our hospitals and care homes.

Managing our time in labour and refreshment is a special challenge at present. Some people have been made redundant or furloughed; some are adapting to working from home; some are unwell or self-isolating. And there are many who are working longer shifts, and in more demanding circumstances as key workers, to keep the rest of us safe and well. However

we are occupied, we must remember to look after ourselves by exercising, resting and eating healthily.

Finally, we are charged to help our neighbour in time of need without detriment to ourselves or connections. We often call this ‘charity’. The Greek word used in the Bible is agape, meaning love. It is the unselfish sort of love that does not expect anything in return which – our ritual reminds us, drawing on Shakespeare – blesses him who gives as well as him who receives. As Proverbs 22:9 says: *He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.* If we look outward from ourselves and show God’s love towards other people, we are doing His will.

UGLE has constituted a COVID-19 response group to coordinate and support projects through which Freemasons will be able to bring relief to the most vulnerable and needy during the pandemic crisis. Each of us can participate, not just through individual acts of kindness, but together through our charity, companionship and generosity.

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Submitted from Facebook by R.W. Bro. Bill MacPherson

Masonic Education

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

Sere. Recall these words from the lecture: ‘sinking into the sere and yellow leaf of old age’. The word ‘sere’ entered the English language from the pen of William Shakespeare; in the play “MacBeth”, Act 5 Scene 3 “I have lived long enough: my way of life / Is fall’n into the sere, the yellow leaf: And that which should accompany old age...” In this sense ‘sere’ means the autumn of life. For the Mason who studies the liberal arts, hearing the word ‘sere’ in our Ritual comes as a pleasant reminder of the value of education to polish and adorn the mind. All Masons should make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.



W. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF, PM, Librarian & Historian
www.sarniadistrictmasons.ca

Ed Note there is now a Blog for W. Bro Kern’s submissions.
Find it here at: <https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/>

History of Mother Kilwinning

This very brief History of Mother Kilwinning was due to be delivered at Lodge Harodim 513, on Thursday 23 April 2020, but due to circumstances outside our control this was not possible.

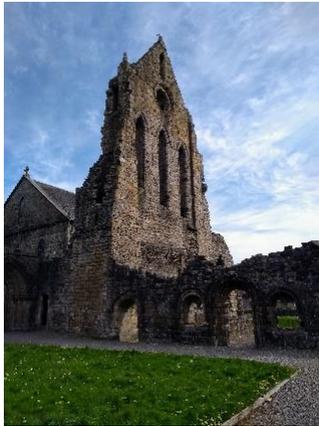
My ties to Canada were cemented in 2000 when as R.W.M. we took a party of 54, Brethren, wives & partners travelled to visit Kilwinning Toronto Lodge 565 and exemplified an E.A. Degree. A friendship with Bro. Don Cowie W.M of 565 at time which has continued to this day.

To begin, let me pose two questions.

- 1) Why the name Mother Kilwinning, The Mother Lodge of Scotland?
- 2) Why the Number – Nothing? (not zero, nought, nil, or any other derivative)

During this short presentation I'll give you answers to both questions.

The Ludge at Kilwinning takes its origin from around the year 1140, at the time of the building of Kilwinning Abbey, the ruins of which still stand at the rear of the Lodge premises. (The adjacent picture shows the ruins at the rear of the current Lodge building; the three openings from the right are the location of the Charter House, probably the location of original Lodge building.)



The Lodge unfortunately, has no minutes prior to the year 1600, which was the most recent one discovered in the archives of the Blair family, the Blair family. Colonel William Blair of Blair, was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Mother Kilwinning on the 22nd September 1789 installed as Depute Master on 21st December 1789 and then as Grand Master on 21st December 1805 and Commissioned as the Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire, serving 1807 to 1808, however from 1642 until the present day there are Minutes of every meeting held of the Ludge at Kilwinning.

The earlier Minutes were believed to have been lost at a disastrous fire at nearby Eglington Castle, the home of the Montgomery's, who were closely associated with the Ludge. (Archibald, 17th Earl of Eglington, Master and P.G.M 1949 – 1956)

Unlike all other lodges, Mother Kilwinning does have a Charter or Warrant, from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but works by special arrangement with the Grand Lodge.

Prior to the formation of The Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Ludge at Kilwinning was a Grand Lodge in its own right, issuing Charters and Warrants to enable other Lodges to be formed, many of whom still bear the name Kilwinning to this very day.

From the 2019 Grand Lodge yearbook, there are currently 15 Lodges on the Role of The Grand Lodge of Scotland who were originally Chartered by Kilwinning

With Scotland being a small country, it was not desirous to have two Grand Lodges. The Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in 1736. The Ludge at Kilwinning was represented at the formation of the new Grand Lodge and continued to be so, until it was decided to number Lodges according to their seniority.

Kilwinning not receiving her rightful place, that being at head of the Role of Lodges, in the new Grand Lodge of Scotland, withdrew from that Grand Lodge and continued to issue Charters as she had done previously.

The Schaw Statutes of 28th December, 1599, stated that Kilwinning was the second and head Ludge in Scotland. William Schaw was Maister of Wark to King James VI

This state of affairs lasted until 1807, when a meeting was held, on 14th October in the Star Inn, in Glasgow, between the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Kilwinning. The Kilwinning Brethren presented "The Declaration of Perth" as evidence that Kilwinning Lodge was in existence some 465 years prior to 1658, that is, 1193.

This meeting resulted in a suitable agreement between both parties, the most important of them were

- i) That Kilwinning be placed at the Head of the Role of Lodges, and
- ii) That whoever Kilwinning appointed as their Right Worshipful Master, he, by right of that Office, would be "ipso facto" the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire (44 Lodges)

also the Ludge at Kilwinning was recorded as Mother Lodge Kilwinning, the first time this title was recorded.

Neither the Mother Lodge nor the Grand Lodge made use of the No.0 (or any other number) during the negotiations. The No.0 does not appear in any of Kilwinning Minutes during 1807 to 1842. The first time it appeared in print was in the second edition of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge dated 1848. This appears to have been an administrative action by clerical staff at Grand Lodge, and has now been accepted by the Brethren and Grand Lodge.

History shows us that for 176 years this agreement was honoured by both parties, but the need for Masonic change was again placed on Kilwinning.

After much negotiation, a new and binding amendment, to the 1807 Agreement, was established in 1983, whereby Mother Kilwinning gave up previously held traditions, the most important being that of our Right Worshipful Master, by right of that Office, being the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire

This new amendment, gave the Brethren of the Mother Lodge new opportunities.

a) That there will be Erected and Consecrated a Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning.

b) That Mother Kilwinning will, for all time coming, nominate a suitable Brother for the position of Grand Bible Bearer of The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Thereby maintaining its singular position in the Masonic world in that Mother Kilwinning being the only Lodge in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning, and through that body, to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

I was initiated into Lodge Prestwick No.1060 in 1974 and affiliated to Lodge Mother Kilwinning in 1980, at that time the highest office an "ordinary member" of the Mother Lodge could realistically achieve was that of Depute Master, who actually carried out the duties of Master, more often than the Installed Master, as he was also P.G.M. of Ayrshire.

Since 1983, the Brethren can now progress through the Offices and attain the Position of Master of the Lodge although it can take between 16 – 20 years.

In Normal times Kilwinning Lodge meets on the Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, with Committee Meetings held on Ten Months, plus the Annual Installation and Festival of St. Thomas on the third Saturday in December, when we parade through the town in full regalia.

As a young Mason taking his first steps in 1974 I never for one minute thought that I would have had the following Masonic Honours bestowed upon me namely;

Right Worshipful Master Lodge M.K.O, 1998-2000
Very Worshipful Grand Bible Bearer 2013 – 2018
Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master 2018 – to present

Finally, I thank you for the opportunity to present this brief history of The Mother Lodge of Scotland. Hope you all stay safe and we can look forward to the time when we can all be united in Harmony once again.

Bro. Thomas Wood R.W.P.G.M. of Kilwinning.

Acknowledgment;
The information prior to the 1983 Amendment of the 1807 Agreement was taken from "History of The Antient Mother Lodge of Scotland" by our late Brother John A. Ness.
The Brethren of both Prestwick No. 1060 & M.K.O



R.W.P.G.M. Tom Wood with R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch

The Tassels and the North East Angle



When a new initiate enters the lodge at his initiation, he has an ancient artifact about him. This artifact binds him to his new life; for his cable tow connects him to the obligation he will take in the ceremony. As long as he never lets go it will forever hold him to the VOTSL. It will be a safety line stretching back to that anchor of Faith.

This cable tow is an artifact left over from our medieval brethren. It was an important tool of the stone mason. When a building was to be erected the land upon, which it was to be built was cleared and leveled. The master mason or architect commenced his work by placing an asherah or wand in the centre of the level area on, which the building was to be erected. He then stretched out the cable tow from this centre pin towards the rising sun in the east. Then using a very simple geometrical calculation formed a right angle. This was done by drawing a circle with his compass and from the centre point within the circle he created an angle of ninety degrees to form the corner of the intended structure. This was repeated at every corner to make them true till finally all the corners of the building were laid out and square.

These cable tows or ropes were quite long and were hand made of twisted fibers. To keep them from unraveling they were knotted at the ends. As the fibers unraveled before the knot they became tassels.

As the walls rose, from time to time a piece of wood was extended from the corner inwards and a plumb line dropped down to make sure that the walls were perpendicular and the angle was true on the vertical as it was on the base.

The corner plumb lines are still seen today hanging in the four corners of the Lodge room admonishing us to remember the four cardinal virtues so we can live our lives uprightly in the Hope of the divine blessings to come. They are represented by the end of the cable tow that was stretched from the centre pin and marked the corners of the structure.

Finally, the candidate is placed at the Northeast Angle where he is taught the important lesson of Charity. Tradition informs us that the medieval craftsmen, from whom we speculative masons descend, laid all corner stones in the northeast corner. This custom came from the Jewish, who, in turn, had taken it from the Egyptians. They believed that N.E. was the point of the compass from which the sun began its journey when it was first created. So all new entered apprentices are placed at the North-East angle of the lodge because this is where they are too figuratively to represent the corner stone of the Lodge as well as the temple they are now building for themselves. The apprentice is placed in the N.E. to impress upon him all the qualities required to constitute a "well-trying, true and trusty corner-stone"; truthfulness and uprightness of character; purity and holiness of life.

W. Bro. Ian M. Donald

Co-Chair of the Education and Mentors Committees
Hillcrest Lodge. No. 594 GRC Education Report

College of Freemasonry

Brethren, this was announced in the Ontario FreeMasons Group on Facebook by R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte

The College of Freemasonry is making its modules free to any Master Mason for the duration that all Lodge activities are halted.

You may request one single module at a time. When you complete that module, you may request another single module, etc. It doesn't matter which module you want except for module #17 for which you must be an Installed Master to acquire.

If you are new to the College, please fill out the registration form (ed note. Attached in the Facebook post,) and indicate which module you would like (module details are in the file). If you are a current/former student and wish to continue your studies, just email me and I will send you that module. E.g. if you have already completed the PM or WM course, you may request one of the other modules that you have not completed. When filling in the \$\$ amount, please state "Facebook offer".

Some modules may require you to purchase books from Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge is closed at this time so you may have to borrow some books from your fellow brethren.

I'm sure questions will arise, so please post them here and I will answer those questions as fast as I can. Don't forget to read the other questions and answers before you ask the same thing. lol

If the response to this offer is great, it may take a couple of days to get your materials from the College.

The College of Freemasonry email is: masonic.college@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/download/college-enrolment-form>



BONNIE and CLYDE: A Thumbnail Sketch

Bonnie Parker died on May 23, 1934, of multiple gunshot wounds, age 24, in a police ambush near Gibsland, LA. Her lover and accomplice in crime, Clyde Barrow, died with her. He was 25.

At the depth of the Great Depression, they had engaged in a two-year crime spree across Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Colorado, Indiana, and Minnesota.



It started innocuously enough. Clyde was a small time punk from an impoverished Texas family who once lived under their horse-drawn wagon, until they could steal enough money to buy a tent!

Clyde began robbing stores and cracking safes when he was 17. When he stole a car from outside the Masonic Lodge in Waco, TX, a judge sentenced him to 14 years in prison.

The judge was a Mason. And the car belonged to a Mason.

In prison, Clyde was repeatedly sexually assaulted. He killed his assailant with a lead pipe, but a lifer took the rap for him. He chopped off 2 of his toes with an axe, to avoid hard labour, and walked with a limp for the rest of his short life.

Bonnie, who, as a lonely and destitute teenager, had first married at 15, smuggled a gun into prison, and abetted in Clyde's escape. The rest is history.

The Barrow gang, which eventually included Clyde's brother, Buck, and his wife, Blanche, and the 16-year-old W.D. Jones, who killed 2 cops in his first week with the gang, went on a rampage to avenge Clyde's suffering at the hands of the Texas prison system. They even plotted to attack the prison where he had been abused.

Their infamous orgy of crime included robbing over 100 banks, rural gas stations, and small stores. Once they killed a store owner, and then a deputy, they were doomed. At least 4 civilians and 9 more cops died at their hands. Their notoriety meant that motels were out of the question.

The gang slept rough by a campfire, and bathed in cold streams. The Texas Ranger who eventually tracked Bonnie and Clyde down, and annihilated them, was Captain Frank Hamer.

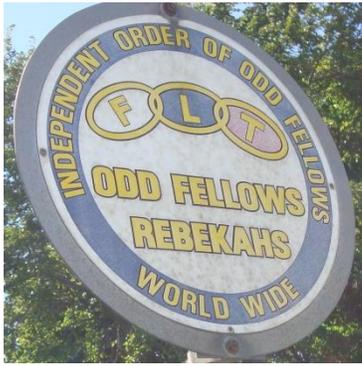
He, too, was a Mason.

W. Bro Lorne Evans (Feb., 2020).

The Rise of Fraternal Organizations

Part 5: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The independent Order of the Odd Fellows is a non-political and non-sectarian international order of Odd Fellowship, founded in 1819 in Baltimore, United States. Evolving from the



order of Odd Fellows founded in England during the 1700s. In 1851 it became the first national fraternity to accept both men and women when it formed the Daughters of Rebekah, adding another degree. In the latter half of the 1800s, also known as the 'Golden age of fraternalism' in America, the Odd Fellows

became the largest fraternal organization, at the time even larger than Freemasonry.

Twenty-four years later, the first Odd Fellow lodge instituted in Canada was Prince of Wales No.1 in Montreal, receiving its charter from the Grand Lodge of United States. Within 15 months, three Montreal lodges received a charter to operate the Grand Lodge of Canada under a Grand Master. Montreal being the capital of Canada, there were among the members many who were prominent elected members of parliament, and who regarded the lodges as private social clubs, where they could retreat from their daily hectic lifestyle to enjoy some private male activities.

The first Odd Fellows lodge in Canada West (Ontario) was instituted Victoria Lodge No.6, in the village of Belleville on June 17, 1845. This was followed with lodges in Ottawa, Toronto and Oshawa, and by 1847 totalled twenty-two in Ontario. A new charter was instituted on August 23, 1855 for Canada West, which was renamed Ontario with the 1867 Constitution of Canada.

Many events and achievements have since occurred, including the Odd Fellows and Orphans home, and the Odd Fellow Insurance company for the collection and payment of benefits. Ontario enjoyed a great period of fraternalism peaking in 1920 with 403 lodges containing 61,833 members. Members were able to obtain many social values, which made them better citizens in the everyday life of their respective communities, the growth of a better Ontario.

From April 2019 – 2020, the IOOF is celebrating 200 years of Odd Fellowship in North America. Camp Trillium and the IOOF Seniors Home in Barrie are their major fund- raising initiatives. The IOOF Seniors Home is a non-profit charitable organization currently operating several facilities located in Barrie, providing a continuum of care for seniors aged 60 and over. Camp Trillium is for children with cancer related health issues.

The Good Samaritan Award is presented to one who had helped someone in distress, regardless of race, colour or creed, unselfishly without any personal consideration.

A Junior Oddfellows' lodge operates for those 10-18 years of age, of good moral character, believing in a supreme being, and who make application.

Currently there are 59 Ontario lodges divided into Districts supervised by District Deputy Grand Masters, with the Grand Lodge located in Stratford Ontario.



The next Grand Session of Oddfellows and Rebekah's will be held in Stratford from Sunday May 3- Wednesday May 6, 2020. Local lodges include: Unity No.47, Hamilton; Valley City No.117, Dundas; Oakville No.132, Oakville; and Ancaster No 138, Ancaster.



The three links represent a worldwide chain that binds men and women together in fraternal devotion to God and their fellow man, representing Friendship, Love and Truth, the cornerstone of the Order.

Submitted by R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie



Perspectives

A series of responses from different Masons across the District

*This may be the last submission for the Perspectives Series. You are welcome to send me an email with your answers to the "perspective questions", at gnotman@hotmail.com with **Masonic Response** in the subject line.*

This last submission is from a V.W. Bro. He really enjoys the quality of character that Masonry enables in its participants.

Why are you a Mason?

I am able to share my beliefs with others who feel the same. (believing in God, virtue...). It gives me a feeling that I can do something about society by promoting good manners, morality, teachings...and hope for the other members that they are not alone.

That being a good person is not futile, and by sticking together it gives me (and us) the chance to promote and act as per the work in the book.

What makes Lodge work for you?

The Lodge remembers me, my desired values, better understanding of myself. It makes me happy to impart to others the Work.

What makes Masonry work for you?

Bearing in mind what I preach (the Work) it keeps me trying to be a good person, neighbor, brother.

What would you change if we could?

Make members more aware about how to use the Work and how it should be transmitted. Learn the ritual with minimal writing (no books in Lodge). Tradition respected, more strict discipline and promoting members.

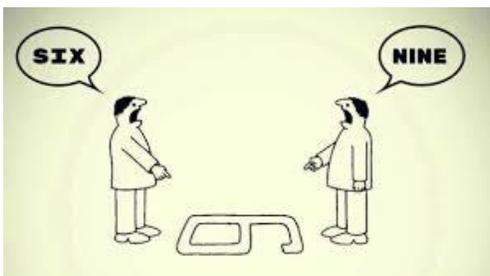
Give a better "real" meaning to the word "Brother".

What would you leave untouched?

Keeping mail working (not e-mail), and leaving aside theoretical progress, specially for older members. Respect the traditions, as we are required to. This organization is, and should remain, conservative.

How do you describe the benefits of Masonry to others?

By having patience and observing the transformation of oneself in time. By practicing the work, by understanding and discovering for itself the meaning of each degree.'



In Memoriam



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We Will cherish them in our hearts forever.**

From the Editor

Brethren,

Life goes on in our self-contained worlds. In my Lodge, we just completed a Zoom call to keep in touch with each other. It is amazing how much people miss the meetings, the community and the Lodge in general.

This month, Bill found some interesting things on Facebook, I plumbed the archives for submissions to give you things to think about and our DDGM gave us some history, some guidance and some leadership.

Unless I get some more responses, this edition marks the completion of the perspective series. Thank you to all who took the time to submit. I believe from the responses we had individuals submit from 6 different decades. We printed Perspectives, from members in the early 30's through the 40's, 50.s and 60's to at least one octogenarian.

The Rise of Fraternal Organizations part 6 will run next month. (Space allowing.) It has been an interesting year for the Chronicle team, with submissions coming in from a variety of people. I never know what potential content will hit the inbox.

Hoping to hear an all clear soon, but no one knows the future. Please feel free to drop me a line, or send in an article, picture, some humour or just whatever captures your fancy...And don't forget Mother's day, its on the Sunday May 10th so you still have time!

Feel free to reach out if you need a boost.

S&F Glen



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