Mistrict 'C'hronicle

HAMILTON DISTRICT 'C'

'C'hronicle

SILVER AWARD

2016, 2017

April 2024

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.188

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Our District Deputy Grand Master

Hello Brethren:

April is now here and with it comes preparations for spring seeding. How fast the planting can get underway depends upon the April showers. An early Easter, like this year, often means planting will be late.

Leap day and the Easter season are now behind us. In April we will witness a Solar Eclipse.



Please take precautions if observing this rare event. This could also affect our weather patterns and we don't know if they will mild or damaging.

Realignment of the Hamilton Districts will see the current three districts shrink to two. Their new names will be Hamilton North and Hamilton South. The lodges making up each district will be determined in the near future.

This past month I made an Official Visit to Westmount Lodge No. 671. In April, official visits will be made to Seymour Lodge No. 272 on April 9th and Dufferin Lodge No. 291 on April 18th. Thank you for the support the brethren have shown at all my Official Visits this year.

We regret the passing, to the Grand Lodge above, of R.W. Wayne Robinson. Wayne was a Past Master of Westmount Lodge No. 671 and served as District Deputy Grand Master for Hamilton "C" District in 2012-13. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time. A Memorial Service will be held in May 2014.

Brethren, always remember our sick and shut-in members. A call, a card or a visit will always cheer them.

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. Raymond Wilson



4H - ARBOR AWARD RECOGNITION

Arbor Day is an important day in the 4-H year. It recognizes re-growth of the organization in a new year.

Each spring at the 4-H Ontario AGM deserving 4-H volunteers are recognized with the honour of being chosen as Arbor Award winners. This is the highest award that can be afforded a 4-H volunteer. Each county association may nominate a deserving volunteer from their respective association. A committee is selected to review the applications and are charged with selecting two or three who they feel are deserving of the award from across the Province. All forms of volunteering are considered in addition to their 4-H efforts. These would include other associations they volunteer with, their church, Masonic work, etc.

The recipients of the Arbor Awards receive a desk top trophy of a tree and funds are provided for each recipient to purchase a tree and have it planted in a prominent place in their community; such as town halls, agricultural societies or even at the recipients home. The planting of a tree will hopefully represent longevity of the 4-H program in particular and all volunteering efforts in our communities.



District 'C' Charity -Hamilton - Wentworth 4-H Cheques for donations to:

Masonic Foundation of Ontario Project # 2456

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.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

Grand Master's March Communique

My Brethren:

The comments received from last month's Communiqué were so positive and plentiful that I am going to use the same strategy and quote from another email I have recently received. This month I want to share a few great lines I received from that great Muskoka Masonic horse work Honorary Member of the Board of General Purposes, R.W. Bro. Iain



Wates, while wearing one of his many hats – that being the recorder, tracker and communicator of the interested men who have requested more information via the Grand Lodge web site and those funneled to us via the 'Not Just a Man' campaign.

"I have just finished updating the prospective member District files and it suddenly struck me, how fortunate we are as an organization. It is easy to get wrapped up in the daily Grand Lodge work we all do and miss the really important things.

What went through my mind, was a thought about whether the Knights of Columbus, Lions and Rotary Club, etc., get 60 – 100 membership enquiries each month. I would be surprised if they do.

We all recognize where our membership issues lie, that being retention. Not withstanding this issue, we need to remember how fortunate we are to have so many men believe that Freemasonry offers something different and special. We need to understand how special and important it is when a man knocks on a Lodge door. We need to enthusiastically embrace the fact that he wishes to be one of us, because he sees something special in the organization."

Although our organization continues to face membership challenges, when we look at the overall enquiry numbers, we must feel very fortunate that over the past thirty-four months, we have averaged over sixty enquiries each month. Clearly, men see something special in Freemasonry. These numbers are continuing to increase. Last month we almost hit the one hundred mark for prospective members. We are now tracking 2,700 men with almost 80% of these being engaged by a Lodge.

We applaud Bro. Wates and his first layer team of R.W. Bro. Ed Denbeigh and R.W. Bro. Mike Locke who took on the charge of your Grand Master some four years prior when we signed up for the 'Not Just a Man' web site initiative. It was determined at that time that we had to track the progress of these men making inquiry and

track the Lodges in their performance of "processing" these inquiries to assure no potential Mason got dropped.

What does this mean? You should all know my feelings regarding protecting the West Gate by now so I will go right on to our number two need to be successful in driving our demits and suspensions downward. It is an effective mentoring program at every Lodge that has received one of these inquiring men to pursue.

The success of an effective Mentor is to ensure that every Candidate accepted into the Craft is properly instructed in the fundamental principles of each Degree attained. For every new man knocking at the West Gate to assimilate into our Fraternity and feel comfortable with his new Brethren and surroundings, it is necessary that he is provided guidance, instruction and assistance throughout his Masonic inquiry and further development.

This is required not only for what he learns in each of our three Degrees but also in how he can become a knowledgeable, active and participating member in his Lodge, his District and, in due course, his Grand Lodge. That involvement is not likely to occur if he does not attend Lodge because he is unsure of what he has learned or how he is to participate in Lodge.

Every Candidate at his Initiation begins a life-long journey of discovery, and although this journey is the Candidate's alone, with everything being new and, perhaps, overwhelming for him, an interested, supportive and effective friend and guide makes understanding the true meaning of our ceremonies much easier to absorb and retain.

The importance of having an effective Mentoring team in each and every Lodge cannot be overstated for these inquiring men to become active and participating members of the Craft. We believe that as they continue their Masonic journey toward that "Perfect Ashlar", a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding of the tenets and principles that they hear during their various Degrees will provide for a more enjoyable, lasting and rewarding journey.

Thomas W. Hogeboom



Deputy Grand Master's March Communique

Brethren.

Welcome to the month of March and to the newest edition of the Ontario Masons Magazine. I believe that the OMM Team is doing an excellent job of bringing this Grand Lodge publication to the Jurisdiction. V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard and his Committee are working hard to bring you the very best.

March is the month where some of the membership is thinking about allowing their name to stand for an election to a higher office and I congratulate their desire to serve their District and/or our Grand Lodge.

The office of District Deputy Grand Master deserves the most qualified Brother that is available. He not only represents his respective District, but he will be the Grand Master's representative for the ensuing Masonic year. He ought to be knowledgeable with the programs that Grand Lodge offers, with the requirements of the Grand Master and with the workings of his District.

He ought to know the Ritual and Ceremonies, he should know how to dress for every occasion and he ought to have a working knowledge of the Constitution. More importantly, he should have a plan for his year in the District. In order to help him to succeed in the quest for a great year, Grand Lodge offers two paths to achieve your goal and at least one of them is required as laid out in the Constitution. The Past Master's Course from the College of Freemasonry is one path and attending the District Deputy Grand Master Preparation Committee presentation is the other path. I would always suggest taking both paths but only one is required.

In some Districts it is becoming a question of, is the person ready to become an effective DDGM or maybe this Brother should wait for another year to pass in order to gain some more, much needed experience. In this case I would say that maybe it's time to ask a Past DD if he would fill in for the year. A Past District Deputy is a viable option in order to keep a strong District moving forward. It's been done before and it works.

I am not going to open the discussion yet on electing a suitable DDGM by open vote at large or by a rotation of some variation. That will be a topic for a future talk. I have mixed feelings on both ways but I feel very strongly about electing the best and strongest aspirant no matter what or how he gets there. Just remember that the senior Grand Lodge Officers are here to help you. Advice is free but keeping the District strong, energetic and engaged is up to the voting membership.

If your ambition is to put your name forward to run for the Board of General Purposes, I would strongly encourage you to give it some serious consideration. The Board needs energetic, dedicated members whose goal is to move our Grand Lodge forward in a positive way. You will still need to have completed the Past Master's Course from the College of Freemasonry but that is the price of admission if you want to run. The Grand Lodge Committees needs members from all

vocations, there is always a committee that could benefit from your experience.

If you have any questions or need any further information about either of these positions, please feel free to contact the Grand Secretary or myself and we will try to answer everything that we can. You will need to submit your name on the proper nomination forms which can be found on the Grand Lodge website. No matter what office you are aspiring to hold, there is help available to guide you and to advise you on how to make it possible. Everyone needs mentoring and these two offices are no exception. We need strong District Deputies to lead our Districts and the Grand Lodge Committees need strong Brethren to work on them as well. If you are the right candidate, you have my support. If you need to gain some more experience first, I applaud your commitment, you will be needed in the next year or two to carry the torch forward.

In conclusion, as always, my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better !!! Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there.....let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless.

Jamie R. Ireland Deputy Grand Master

Nomination for Grand Lodge Office or Board of General Purposes:

- Due on or before April 1st.
- Candidate Nomination Form and Candidate Information Form available on Grand Lodge website.
- Please consider serving your Grand Lodge as an Elected Grand Lodge Officer or an Elected Member of the Board of General Purposes.

Grand Master's Banquet on July 17, 2024:

- Tickets go on sale April 1st.
- https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/grand-masters-banquet-2024-tickets-863985071607.
- Further details will be distributed to lodges in the usual April package.

Nomination for William Mercer Wilson Medal:

- Due by March 31st.
- Regulations and Guidelines document available on Grand Lodge website.

Petition the Grand Master for a Grand Lodge Appointment:

- Due by May 1st.
- Suggested Format document available on Grand Lodge website.

Candidate for District Deputy Grand Master:

- Due by May 31st.
- Contact your DDGM for more information.

Dates to Remember

April 2024

D.D.G.M. Official Visit Seymour Lodge No. 272

Tuesday April 09, 2024 Dinner N/A Tyle 7:30 pm Accompanying: Meridian No. 513 **Ancaster Temple**

DDGM Homecoming!!

D.D.G.M. Official Visit

Dufferin Lodge No. 291

Thursday April 18, 2024 Dinner N/A Tyle 7:30 pm Accompanying: Westmount Lodge No. 671 West Flamborough Temple

Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief **Spring Divine Service**

Sunday April 28,2024 7:00 pm Location: TBA Sponsored by: The Electric Lodge No.495

May 2024

Installation Buchanan Lodge No. 550

Thursday May 02, 2024 Dinner N/A Tyle 7:30 pm

Installation The Electric Lodge No. 550

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 Dinner 6:00 pm Tyle 7:00 pm

Installation Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No. 654

> Tuesday, May 28, 2024 Dinner NA Tyle 7:30 pm

Hamilton District 'C' Spring Meeting -

Saturday, May 25, 9.00am. Hillcrest Temple

District Realignment



Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario **Grand Secretary**

February 24, 2024

Hamilton A District

R.W. Bro. Nicholas Leon Laine (nlaine@civlodge190.ca) All lodges in the Hamilton A District (via lodge email address)

Hamilton B District

R.W. Bro. Raymond Corrin (ddgm@hamiltonmasons.com) All lodges in the Hamilton B District (via lodge email address)

Hamilton C District

R.W. Bro. H. Raymond Wilson (ddgmhamc@gmail.com) All lodges in the Hamilton C District (via lodge email address)

Re: Realignment of the Hamilton Districts - Grand Master's Directive

Dear Brethren,

Thank you R.W. Bro. Nicholas Leon Laine for your email and suggestions.

The Hamilton Districts recognized a number of years ago that realignment was necessary. Grand Lodge applauds the Hamilton Districts for all their hard work toward home-grown realignment that regrettably did not produce positive results.

By command of the Most Worshipful, Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Thomas W. Hogeboom, in consultation with the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland, you are hereby directed as follows:

- 1. The Hamilton Districts will be reorganized into two districts to be known as:
 - · Hamilton North District; and
 - Hamilton South District.
- Hamilton South District.
 There shall be an equal number of lodges in each district.
 Lodges may join a different nearby district, subject to agreement of such district.
 The proposed district for every lodge shall be agreed to by the lodges and districts and reported in writing to the Grand Secretary on or before September 1, 2024 collectively by the District Deputy Grand Masters of all impacted districts.
 Any proposal requires the approval of the Grand Master.
 If agreement is not reached, or is not reported before the deadline, or is not approved, the Grand Master shall solely determine the district for each lodge.
 The Grand Master shall announce the new districts and their respective lodges no later than May 1, 2025.

- no later than May 1, 2025.
- 8. The new districts shall be effective Thursday July 17, 2025.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Louis M. Domjan Grand Secretary

Copy: Grand Master

Deputy Grand Master

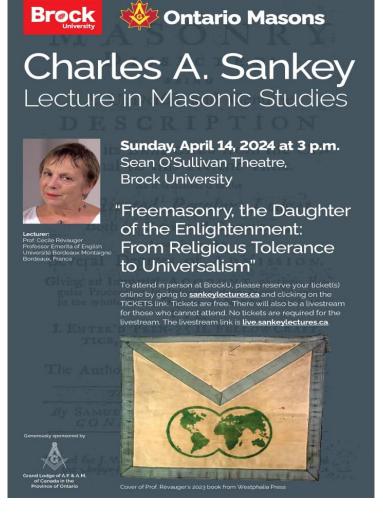
September 1, 2024 Notify Grand Lodge which District your Lodge requests membership in.

Around the District



Members or Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No. 654 and Temple Lodge No. 324 celebrate the proving of Bro. Andres Avila and Bro. Iain Calderwood-Smith





Royal Arch Masonry Consecration Norman E. Byrne Cathedral Hamilton Masonic Centre.

On March 2nd 2024 the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario along with RAM from St. John's Chapter No. 6 and numerous companions from surrounding districts assembled to conduct the dedication ceremony for the . *NORMAN E. BYRNE* cathedral in the Hamilton Masonic Centre

As a dedicated/ Consecrated site the area can be used for RAM ceremonies and degrees

Some of the pictures taken to show the participating Companions lead by the M. Ex. Comp. Paraag Suchak ,Grand First Principal and the furnishings within the cathedral.









If you would like to know more about the Mark Master, Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch Degrees, just ask the Brother who is wearing the R.A Mason keystone jewel or contact

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Canada 361 King Street West Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1B4 Phone: (905) 522-5775

Fax: (905) 522-5099 www.royalarchmasons.on.ca



Masonic Education:

The Moon in Masonic History

by Bro. James P.W. Goss, Grand Historian
- Grand Lodge of Vermont

Submitted by: V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom, St. Clair lodge No. 577, GL of Canada in the Prov. of ON from his Phoenix Masonic Forum

There is no more spectacular reminder of our Masonic historical and ritualistic heritage than the moon at its height of fullness. While astronomers view the moon with the analytical eye of science, the moon has been a focal point for cultures around the world throughout history and has inspired music, poetry and religion alike. However, for Masons, and particularly Vermont Masons, the moon has not just been a symbolic light in our ritualistic teaching but also a literal light to our Brethren of long ago. It thus behooves us to take a moment to remember the moon and its long association with the Craft and its origins. Our direct Masonic tradition regarding the moon begins with the ancient Hebrews.



Source: https://twitter.com/SaintPetersGate/status/1214986335137566720

In Genesis 1:14-19, we are told that on the fourth day of creation, "God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night." Despite the specific prohibitions against lunar worship in Deuteronomy and the Book of Kings, the moon was still regarded as a strong symbol of permanence and regularity associated with its usage to measure the passage of time. In fact, the monthly offerings to the moon found in Numbers 28:11-15 are still read in some Jewish synagogues.

It is from the medieval European science of Alchemy that the first uses of the moon in the graphic and ritualistic manner that Masons are accustomed to derive their meaning. The Alchemists were a group of mystics who first appeared in the 12th century and were the forerunners of our modern chemists. They believed that with the proper mixture of chemicals and methods base metals such as iron and lead could be turned into gold and silver. Beyond this however, the Alchemists were true philosophers who used symbols and drawings extensively in their teachings and who insisted on strict secrecy from their initiates. Much of the graphic

symbolism used in Masonry, such as images of the plumb, square, level, rough ashlar and perfect ashlar, were taken from Alchemical texts.



Source: https://stock.adobe.com/ca/search?k=alchemy+moon

To the Alchemists, the moon was a symbol of the metal silver and was used to depict that substance in the obscure writings, which transmitted their secret formulae. One of the most prevalent images used by the Alchemists was the stylized drawing of the sun and the moon with human faces.

It is in the Craft Ritual and the structure of the Masonic lodge itself that we must bring together all of the foregoing elements to give a true picture of the use of the moon in Masonry. In modern American ritual the primary reference to the moon is as the second of the "Lesser lights," of Masonry. This modern usage follows from the early 18th century English ritual reference to the Three lights of the Lodge being the "Sun, Moon and Master-Mason." In addition to these "moveable lights," there were also in these early English Lodge rooms three "fixed lights," which are described by some Masonic historians as three windows in the lodge room "to light men to, at and from their work." These three windows were later replaced with three candles located at the East, South and West corners of the lodge and situated before the Master, Junior Warden and Senior Warden, respectively.

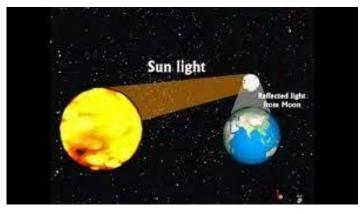


Source:https://library.hrmtc.com / /2023/11/04/the-three-greatlights/

The reference to the Sun, Moon and Master of the Lodge as the three lesser lights of Masonry and their particular association with these three burning tapers and the associated officers was developed by the so-called Antient Grand Lodge which was active in England from the mid to late 18th century.

Antient Grand Lodge, was headed up by Irish Masons, who were at odds with the now called "Premier Grand Lodge." The ritual of the Premier Grand Lodge only referred to three "great" lights without the Antients' reference to the "lesser" lights. The fact that the Antients held to the above interpretation of the three lesser lights was particularly significant for American Masonry as was their use of deacons in their degree work, as we shall see.

In modern American Webb work ritual, the moon is referred to in the First Degree as one of the three lesser or moveable lights and is identified as the biblical ruler of the night and as a reference of regularity for the conduct of the Master of the Lodge. In the higher symbolism of the lodge, the moon has always been particularly identified with the Senior Warden in the West, thus following the Egyptian tradition associating the moon with this direction. Some Masonic philosophers have found this to be a fitting parallel for as the light of the moon is a mere reflection of the greater light of the sun, so the Senior Warden, the officer associated with the Doric pillar of Strength, is intended to be a reflection of the "light" of the Worshipful Master who is associated with the Ionic pillar of Wisdom. It is thus particularly significant that the messenger of the Senior Warden within the lodge is the Junior Deacon who, as his jewel, wears the square and compasses enclosing the moon.



(Barry's note: this is used by pre-1813 Rites or as I like to call them "Antient York Masons" but this is not entirely true if their roots came from the Premiere Grand Lodge of England)

There is one other strong association of the moon with Masonry, which in many ways is more meaningful than all of the above. In the early eighteen hundreds when Masonry in Vermont was still a new venture, the Green Mountain State was a wild and unsettled place. It is difficult for us to imagine the thoughts and feelings of a nineteenth century Vermont Mason stepping into the bitter cold of a winter night after a lodge meeting to pursue his travel homeward. For him, a trip of several miles at night after a lodge meeting was a major undertaking where even the task of finding one's way was formidable. For this reason, many of these early

lodges in Vermont and other jurisdictions adopted the custom of holding their meetings during the week of the full moon. Hence, these lodges became referred to as "Moon Lodges."

(Ed Note: Pictures for this submission were sourced as indicated in this article.)

Following the phases of the moon was no trouble at all for the agrarian folk of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the brilliant "lesser light," provided a beacon that guided our elder brethren homeward along the dirt roads and beaten pathways of early Vermont. Thus, in 1817, 26 of the 40 lodges in Vermont were "moon Lodges," with the bulk of the others being located in areas of higher population and presumably better lighting.



Source: https://science.nasa.gov/moon/moon-phases/

But alas, as with so many customs of old the advent of modern society and its technology has slowly driven the Moon Lodge to the status of a quaint anachronism. The invention of the automobile and street lighting together with the general decline of agriculture made the setting of lodge meetings by the phases of the moon, rather than on a fixed day, a nuisance without purpose. Thus by 1979, of the 98 lodges working in the State of Vermont, only 8 still set their meetings by the phase of the moon. Hopefully, the few Moon Lodges left in Vermont will not surrender this old custom. They serve as a reminder to modern Masons travelling home by the light of the moon that they are in essence following in the footsteps of their elder brethren for whom the moon was a real as well as symbolic light

(Barry's note: Mizpah Lodge, located on Prince Edward Island is a 'Moon Lodge').



https://peifreemasonry.com/mizpah-lodge-no-17/

In Memoriam



We are saddened to announce the passing of a Husband, Father, Grandfather and Friend to many, Wayne Robinson.

Wayne loved his family and friends, he was a true social butterfly who interacted with everyone. His deep involvement with fraternity led to his active engagement at all levels of Freemasonry. Wayne was a member and past master of Westmount Lodge #671 and a proud DDGM of Hamilton District C in 2012. Wayne was also a proud member of the Scottish Rite and York Rite, as well as a member of the Shrine. In addition, Wayne was an active member of the Loyal Order of Moose in Hamilton.

Those that knew Wayne, loved his humour, commitment and character. He will be sadly missed by all who loved him. Wayne's long fought battle with his health came to an end and now he is finally at peace. Cremation has taken place and a Masonic service and a celebration of life will be announced in the near future.

Wayne's Masonic career began in 1994 when he was initiated into Westmount Lodge No. 671. He was installed as the W. M. for the 1999 - 2000 term and served a second term in 2001 - 2002. Wayne was Westmount Lodge's Officer of Instruction for many years. In 1995 Wayne affiliated with Centennial Daylight Lodge No. 679 and was the W. M. for two years, 2005 - 2006 and 2008 - 2009. He is also an affiliated member of Tuscan Lodge No. 551.

Wayne was a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the Knights Templar in the York Rite and a member of the Noble Mystic Shrine of Hamilton

D.D.G.M. Hamilton C District 2012-2013

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above March 12, 2024

IN MEMORIAM

W. Bro. Robert (Bob) Colin Twitchett Seymour Lodge No.272

> Initiated February 10, 1981 Passed March 10, 1981 Raised April 14, 1981 Worshipful Master 1988

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 25, 2024

W. Bro. Edgar (Ed) James Coomber Seymour Lodge No.272

> Initiated February 8, 2005 Passed May 10, 2005 Raised October 11, 2005 Worshipful Master 2009

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above February 29, 2024



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

Editor's Note

Brethren,

Sad news about R.W. Bro. Wayne Robinson, We will publish details of his Memorial Service when it is made available. He was my first guide into the role of D.D.G.M. and was always made the time to be there for you.

With the eclipse coming up on April 8th I was happy to receive the Moon Lodge submission from V.W. Bro. Barry Thoms. I think it dovetails nicely with last months columns submission and took the liberty of adding some images to highlight the content.

Congratulations to the York Rite on the Cathedral Consecration Ceremony and thank you for the submission of photos. It

looked spectacular

Here's to Spring, warmer weather and Arbor Day!!

Glen gnotman@hotmail.com





Editorial Team

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www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org