

District 'C' Chronicle

June 2009

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 10

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will raise close to \$8000. This is fantastic and as much as I thought supporting student nutrition programs for our young children was a worthy cause, I thank everyone else who agreed with me and supported it so generously.

Over the years there has been many other worthwhile District Projects and on Sunday May 24 my wife and I and several other masons and their families from the Hamilton area attended the official dedication and opening of the Masonic Nature Center at Camp Trillium-Rainbow Lake in Waterford. This is a camp that children with cancer can attend with their family members and the Masonic involvement started during R.W. Bro. Paul James term as District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master officiated at the ceremony. This truly was a day when one can say "I am glad to be a mason".

BY OUR GRAND MASTER



FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Brethren, as I write this message I realize the month of June and summer are fast approaching. The month of June also signifies that my term as your District Deputy Grand Master is nearing completion. This has been a wonderful and exciting year and through my travels I have made many new friends from across Ontario and from all walks of life. It is because of this great fraternity that I now have these new Masonic friendships that will last forever.

We had a successful District Spring Meeting earlier in May and plans are well under way to start the new Masonic year off right. The masons of Hamilton District 'C' will again be involved in supporting a MasoniCHIP Program at the Ancaster Fair at the end of September and a bus trip to the Detroit Masonic Temple is planned for October. Our District Charity Project continues to be well received and supported. Currently we have received over \$7000 from the lodges and/or through private donations and as this project will continue until the Grand Lodge Communication in July, I am sure we

"What we do to teach good men to become better men."
...or, how does Masonry take good men and make them better? When a man joins Freemasonry, he has no concept of what is about to take place nor any real idea what the organization is about.

How do men become better men? I shall try to answer that with the following random thoughts:

The obligations that are taken in the three degrees instil in us a feeling whereby one would not want to violate his oath.

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The **DISTRICT CHRONICLE** is published monthly and will be 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' Chronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

Fraternizing with other like-minded brethren keeps us on the straight and narrow.

Attending Lodge meetings regularly, learning memory work, planning meetings, sitting on the executive, taking part in the chairs, obligates us to our responsibilities towards the craft in such a way that we have little time for idle thoughts or deeds.

The example set by the brethren that we meet and trying to live up to the expectations of these brethren behoves us to try our best. We do not want to let them down.

Through repetition of the ritual and understanding of the work we, just as in reading the Holy Volume, become more aware of what it is to be a Mason and how one should act as Masons.

Our constitution gives us a pattern for living with our neighbours, our lodge members, our families, our God, and a guide to our behaviour within and without the lodge and our civic responsibilities.

*We are taught to cultivate brotherly Love.
We are taught that all men are equal.
We believe in the immortality of the soul.*

If one takes to heart and into practice all that one learns both in the Ritual and in the Constitution then I feel that gradually one cannot help but become a better person.

When you type in “making good men better” in the Google internet search engine, 9 out of the first 10 hits take you to either an article about Freemasonry or to a Masonic Lodge. The same holds true for the Yahoo search engine.

One of the hits is a video on YouTube. It’s a black background with a greyish-white set of a square, compass and the letter 'G'. A Gregorian plainsong is quietly sung in the background.

One word appears on the screen then fades to present the next word and then the next, and the next ...and for the next 92 seconds, 19 words are presented.

What are some of the words?

***HONOUR, LOYALTY, FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT, VALUE,
FRATERNITY, EXEMPLARY, ENLIGHTENMENT,
TRUTH, CHARITY, FAMILY, KNOWLEDGE,
TRADITION.***

Brethren, these are some of the words that appear, and are connected to the term “making good men better”.

The phrase “making good men better” has long been associated with our gentle craft. But what is a better man? That, my Brethren, is what Freemasonry attempts to answer and nurture. One who merely passes through the degrees receives little, and will never be a Mason in the truest sense of the word. He must first put something of himself into it, by working at it, studying it, learning its lessons and then put

them into practice in his everyday life and actions. He will then begin to receive that for which he began to search as an Entered Apprentice Mason.

By giving of himself, his time, his ability without any kind of fee or reward, a Mason gains many things whether he accepts an office or just works in the lodge.

- He learns how to speak in public,
- He learns how to conduct a meeting,
- He learns how to interact and get along with others,
- He learns reverence for the Great creator,
- He learns how to pray,
- He learns how to walk uprightly and proudly as a Mason,
- He gains a better understanding of human nature, its weaknesses and its strengths under different conditions,
- He makes lifelong friends,
- He shares in the happiness and sorrows of others,
- He improves his habits, and learns courtesy,
- He practices tolerance with a smile,
- He takes part in teaching others the Masonic way of life and in doing so he has learned more than those he has taught,

Hundreds of lessons have come his way and his life is made richer, better, happier and more satisfying in every way. By upholding the basic tenet of Freemasonry, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” he has learned that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

As you know brethren this is how “Masonry Makes a Difference” in a man’s life and how he becomes a better man and the effect shows in our homes, our lodges and in our communities.

A few weeks ago a master mason proposed the toast to the GM and GL at one of our major receptions. He so wanted to become a Mason that he literally had to stop someone in his car who had a Masonic emblem and that then led to him becoming a Mason. On the night he received his third degree, after the ceremony, he pulled out a crumpled piece of paper with the following poem that he had scribbled on it.

Being a Mason

I approached a man one day
Whom I had never met before
To ask if I can be a Mason
From there, its opened doors

A door that's opened many facets
That's helped me through and through
It's shown me how much I can be
And how much that I can do.

Being a friend, a helper,
Or even a volunteer.

The potentials here are endless
It just depends on where you steer.

If you steer towards pursuit
And involve yourself in more
There's no telling what will lie ahead
And furthermore, what's in store.

The pride I have inside a Lodge
Holds true when I'm outside
With the rules that govern this beautiful craft
Forever I will abide.

From Apprentice, to Fellowcraft,
To what I am today
It's made me stronger as a man
What more, can I say

In my brief time as a Mason
I feel there are no others;
Knowing how many friends I've made
How many life long Brothers

Many Brethren have helped me through
There's so many Brethren to thank
Without their guidance and support
My ship would have sank

-Nick Andras

Brethren, in conclusion, it is not the Masons who make the man better, but the man himself when subjected to Masonry's teachings.

*As Presented by the Grand Master
at the Conference of
Grand and District Grand Lodges of Canada
Winnipeg, March 27th, 2009*

Much of the above thoughts have been acquired over many years and from many great Masonic writers whose efforts are gratefully acknowledged.

GRAND MASTER'S OVERVIEW ON PROSTATE CANCER

I chose Prostate Cancer Research as the G.M.s project because I have seen too many great Masons brought down by this illness along with other good men within my community of Woodstock.

You have indicated, by your collective actions from across the province, that this is no longer a topic that we will ignore. Some may say it leaves us open to the accusation of self-interest. Perhaps, yes, but not narrow mindedness. I am not saying that masonry should pursue this charity at the exclusion of all others. We do have other areas of concern such as our

long involvement with blood donations and encouraging others to do like wise, our support for hearing research in several locations in our province along with an array of local projects at the district level. These must be maintained. The Masonic Foundation, the *Masons Charity of Choice* has definitely taken up the challenge of Prostate Cancer by sponsoring a new Public Awareness program through a major donation to Prostate Canada (name change May 1, 2009). The medical profession does not know, at the present time, how to cure prostate cancer, but there are various treatment modes. What is known about prostate cancer is that early detection significantly affords the patient the very best outlook for a long and productive life. If the cancer is contained totally within the prostate then the outlook for living a long and productive life is at its greatest. This gives rise to the statement, *you are more likely to die with it, than of it.* If one complains about lower back pain, slow urination or difficulty walking then the problem is much further advanced and the prognosis becomes less favorable.

Currently the best chance for early detection is by use of an annual PSA screening test and DRE (physical test), starting as early as age 40. The PSA test is a noninvasive blood test which does not require fasting. Results taken over several years can give an early indication of any changes. It should be remembered that PSA screening does not, on its own, diagnose prostate cancer but may indicate if further tests are required or whether watchful waiting is appropriate. Please remember that any form of cancer affects not only the patient but also the rest of the family especially our ladies.

Brethren the time for action is upon us. Let us act!
I do expect to turn over to Prostate Canada a significant sum of money on the Tuesday at Grand Lodge.

I sincerely thank you for taking up the cause. Your efforts will *Make a Difference* to the good health of many in the future.

Al Petrisor, Grand Master.

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

When four London lodges met together at the Goose and Gridiron Ale-house under the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral on St. John the Baptist's Day, 24 June 1717, their object in creating the first Grand Lodge was to enable their lodges to achieve things working in concert that could not be accomplished separately. In the 292 years since that momentous day, hundreds of Grand Lodges have been constituted throughout the world based on the English model. The purpose of mutual support remains unchanged. The Preamble to our Constitution states: "*in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to insure tranquility, to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft.*" The standing and special committees of Grand Lodge exist solely for the benefit of the lodges, and all the programs they produce and administer have been devised with '*the general welfare of the Craft*' foremost in mind. As the current Masonic year

TESTIMONIAL TO OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

draws swiftly to a close and year end reports are being written, success and failure being honestly evaluated, it would be a profitable exercise to review how the programs available from the Committees of Grand Lodge might be advantageously utilized and implemented: membership, education, finances, ritual, protocol, fraternal environment, etc. You are urged to take full advantage of the many presentations being made by Committees in your region during the next few weeks.

On occasion the question is asked, "Why is our Grand Lodge not more open and transparent in its workings? Freedom of information in all levels of government is the order of the day." The real question is "Why are our Brethren not better informed of the published documents that are readily available to them?" The annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge is published in December each year, and a copy is sent to every lodge in the jurisdiction clearly marked, "*The Proceedings should always be available for use by all members of the Lodge.*" (emphasis added) Statistics, complete financial statements, reports of all Committees, summary reports from every District, and Fraternal Reviews of other Grand Lodges are all included. Yours to discover!

Section 240 of the Constitution requires the Master to: "*read or cause to be read at one or more regular meetings such portion of the proceedings of the last annual meeting of Grand Lodge as in his opinion will prove most instructive and beneficial to the membership of the lodge.*" Personal copies may be purchased from the Grand Secretary's office.

It was recently my privilege and pleasure to meet and talk with W. Bro. John A. Braun, the young and enthusiastic Worshipful Master of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M., Westfield, New Jersey. His Master's Message in the April Summons contained this 'thank you' note addressed to the Brethren of his lodge: "*YOU are the reason I am having so much fun as Master. YOU are the reason more Masons are coming to the Lodge. YOU are the reason our Lodge is flourishing. YOU are the reason I love Masonry more each day.*"

Many lodges across Ontario will hold the annual Ceremony of the Installation of the Worshipful Master and Investiture of the Officers in the coming weeks. Do not forget to share the credit for the success you have enjoyed during the year where it is due – with the Brethren in the lodge. Also, those Brethren that are now 'heir apparent' or Master-elect should seriously consider the necessity for good team work in the officer line.

Best wishes for a successful, rewarding and satisfying year in the Chair of King Solomon.

Raymond S. J. Daniels,
Deputy Grand Master

Leaders serve rather than lead.

Right Worshipful Sir,

As our "District C" Spring Meeting marks an opportunity to introduce our future District leaders, it also affords us an opportunity to accentuate our successes. It seems like February 7th was just yesterday and we were all gathered here looking at the success of your efforts and of course there are always adjustments to be made. R.W. Sir your team and particularly the Chairman for the most part, have relayed the utmost respect to our "Grand Lodge" and the District's expectations and that does not come without the guidance from the office of the District Deputy Grand Master. This comes from within the confines of "you". I have seen you take the helm, take the bull by the horns, take and keep the Brethren on course.

R.W. Sir, your homecoming brought a full lodge room of Brethren which is a testament to your admiration within the District and our jurisdiction. At your homecoming you made reference to "your" Lodge. I compliment you on making this visit personal; you have put a personal touch throughout this past Masonic year and that comes from your heart. I know that the next couple of months will be busy for you, compiling reports and meeting the time lines of Grand Lodge, but you can do that with your head held high and a sense of accomplishment that comes from the support that you so well deserved.

Thank you R.W. Sir for strengthening our District.

R.W. Bro. R. James Stewart
I.P.D.D.G.M.
District Advisor

WHAT WE LEARNED AT THE SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

- 39 brethren representing 12 lodges, attended the Spring District Meeting
- the concept of a District Masonic Picnic was deferred until 2010
- 140 people attended the latest Divine Service, representing 25 lodges. Lodge Chaplains and the chosen Church need to promote these events more.
- 8 Lodges were represented at the Lodge of Discussion under the leadership of the District Masonic Education Committee.
- The parents of some 210 children receive Masonic Chips Kits last year at the Ancaster Fall Fair. This clinic will again operate from September 25-27 at the Ancaster Fair.
- Over \$7,000 has been donated to the District Charity (PIN) so far, which will be open for donations until

Grand Lodge. All were most pleased with the excellent response to this project for the welfare of needy school children.

- The Historian announced that next year, each Lodge will be supplying a lodge history and pictures to the Chronicle.
- 10 of 14 lodges sponsored Blood Clinics this year, plus 2 brethren made private donations. Hopefully all lodges will get in the groove for next year. To date 815 donations of blood are registered. The District now has accreditation from Partners in Life (see May Chronicle). Plans are to expand Clinics for next year. Always a need for volunteers.
- Communications: 10 or 14 lodges have a profile on the Website. 5 are now listing future dates of degrees. Masons can sign up for online notification of Obituaries when posted. Currently there are 322 subscribers signed up for the Chronicle. There will be a Communications Workshop in the fall to bring all lodges on line.
- The regalia portfolio has been stabilized.
- **A District Bus Trip to the Detroit Masonic Temple (1034 rooms), Saturday Oct 3,** leaving Toys R' Us Plaza, Upper Wentworth Street at 7:00am. Contact person John Johnston. This was most enthusiastically received. Flyers were handed out to each lodge for posting and to share with lodge members.
- Names for the position of DDGM next year were presented by Lodge of the Ancient Landmarks No. 654 incorporating Doric No. 382, Wardrope No. 555, and Hugh Murray No. 602, which will be voted on at the Hamilton District C. Meeting at Grand Lodge in the Saskatchewan Room at 5:00 pm on July 15th.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION THIS GRAND LODGE

(synopsis)

[The Full Report by the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence was mailed to all Lodge Secretaries by the Grand Secretary, in mid April.]

1) DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORTS

104 (b) The DDGM shall send to the Grand Lodge Chairman on the Condition of Masonry within 14 days of his Official Visit to each lodge, a copy of his report, which will include, but not limited to, the Lodge Master's/Secretary's completed report, the District Secretary's completed report, and the DDGM's observations on the Condition of Masonry within the lodge.

2) APPLICATION FOR INITIATION

Form 6 (Section 307) add (d) that I have not been convicted of a criminal offence for which a pardon has not been obtained. Add, Upon request that I will produce a police clearance letter.

3) APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION

Form 7 (Section 358) add, Upon request that I will produce a police clearance letter.

4) POWERS OF CONSTITUTION AND JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

136 (d) add to 2nd paragraph, will read 'To consider the regularity or irregularity of proposed amendments to the Constitution of Grand Lodge and may make recommendations or comments on same to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge or the Board of General Purposes.'

5) LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

152 (c) to read \$500.00 for the commutation of dues to Grand Lodge.

185 to read: No lodge may authorize Life Membership

- (a) A Lodge will not authorize, elect, sell, confer, create or otherwise establish a Life Membership for any Mason of this or any other jurisdiction;
- (b) Life Members currently listed as of Dec.31, 2008 are grand fathered and the Lodge must continue to maintain the Trust Fund fully funded;
- (c) Members who purchased such Life Membership are expected to contribute their fair share annually to cover operating costs.

186 to read: Upon a life member withdrawing from the lodge of which he originally became a life member, and joining another lodge, such other lodge shall not be obliged to pay any annual dues to Grand Lodge on his account; but if such life member does not withdraw and affiliates with another lodge, the latter lodge shall be liable to Grand Lodge for his dues.

187 is deleted and a new 187 is to read: Where the Lodge by-laws authorize Honorary Membership, the Lodge shall admit a Mason in good standing under the following terms;

- a) Any brother 50 or older who has rendered outstanding service to the Craft in general or any lodge in particular may be proposed in open lodge by 2 members presenting his credentials and then by a ¾ vote by ballot of the members present, be elected an Honorary Member with exemption from dues, provided prior notice of motion to confer such honorary memberships has been published in the Lodge summons.
- b) Furthermore an Honorary Membership cannot be purchased and can only be conferred as detailed in 187 (a) above. Additionally, no more than 2% of total members may be honorary members.

- c) The Lodge shall immediately pay \$2500.00 for such Membership into a separate Trust Fund to adequately cover the cost of continued service to the member without encumbering the lodge or its dues paying members.
- d) For each Honorary Membership, the Lodge shall forthwith pay to Grand Lodge the prescribed fee noted in Section 152 (c) for the commutation of dues, which payment shall exempt the lodge from further dues.
- e) 188 is deleted and a new 188 is to read:

188 (a) The \$2500.00 paid by the lodge to establish the Honorary Membership, together with any monies already held by the lodge on account of existing Honorary Memberships and/or grand fathered Life Memberships, shall be kept separate and apart from the General Funds of the lodge in a separate Trust Fund.

(b) If the Honorary/Grand fathered Life Membership Trust Fund is fully funded, then the interest equal to the number of such members times the lodge’s annual dues less the commuted fee to Grand Lodge may be transferred to the General Fund.

(c) If there is a decrease in the number of Honorary and Grand fathered Life Members, and the Trust is fully funded, assets in addition to the annual dues may be transferred to the General Account. Before making any such Trust withdrawal or transfer, the lodge must request approval from the Grand Secretary.

189 is deleted and a new 189 is to read:

189 (a) Honorary and Grand fathered Life Members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Lodge and shall be amenable to discipline in the manner as regular members.

(b) In as much as Centennial Lodge No. 684 London has from the outset accepted only Life Members, said lodge is Grand fathered in this regard, providing always the Lodge Trust Fund remains fully funded.

Regulations Governing Life Membership Trust Funds, Pages 188 to 190 are deleted.

6) LODGE SEAL

302 add 302(x) all Dues Cards

7) NOMINATIONS

37 proposed to read as:

37 (a) Nomination for any elected office requiring nomination and for the Board of General Purposes, except for a District Deputy Grand Master, shall be made in writing, give the full name, occupation, or (if retired), former occupation and post office address of the candidate, together with the name, number and Masonic District of his lodge, the year he was Master of his lodge,

any elective or appointive Grand Lodge office and the year(s) of such election or appointment, the year(s) of service on the Board of General Purposes, the Standing and/or Special Committee(s) of Grand Lodge on which the candidate has served, and the year(s) of service, the Standing and/or Special Committee(s) of which the candidate has served as Chairman, the year(s) of service, and the office for which he is nominated.

8) GRAND LODGE LIBRARIAN AND GRAND ARCHIVIST

Two additional appointive Grand Lodge Officers, namely the Very Worshipful Grand Librarian, and the Very Worshipful Grand Archivist, will amend Section 11 to read before The Very Worshipful Grand Piper, The Very Worshipful the Grand Librarian and The Very Worshipful the Grand Archivist.

Section 12 would be amended by inserting after Past Grand Historians and before The Grand Piper, The Grand Librarian, Past Grand Librarians, The Grand Archivist, Past Grand Archivists.

PART III – REGALIA AND INSIGNIA DRESS JEWELS, PRESENT AND PAST FOR GRAND LIBRARIAN AND GRAND ARCHIVIST

396 (b) would be amended by inserting after (ix) Grand Historian

- (x) Grand Librarian – Scroll, surmounted by a stylized lamp of learning
- (xi) Grand Archivist – Scroll, surmounted by a treasure chest, representing a “Lodge box”
- (xii) Grand Piper – the Bagpipes

9) FEES PAYABLE FOR LATE FILING OF SEMI-ANNUAL RETURN

Fees payable to Grand Lodge in Section 152.

Add section 152 (p) cost of submitting a semi-annual return will be \$100; if received by Grand Lodge on or before January 8th or July 8th for the preceding six months, the fee is waved.

10) POWERS AND DUTIES OF OTHER GRAND LODGE OFFICERS.

Amend Section 120 by adding the following Officers:

120(a) Assistant Grand Secretary

The Assistant Grand Secretary shall assist the Grand Secretary under his direction and perform such appropriate clerical duties in the Grand Secretary’s office as may be assigned by the Grand Secretary.

120 (b) Grand Organist

The Grand Organist shall have professional musical training, skill and keyboard ability such as to enable him

to perform with competence, conduct and preside over the musical part of the ceremonies of Grand Lodge.

120 (c) Grand Historian

The Grand Historian shall from time to time compile and preserve a record of all matters connected with the history of Grand Lodge.

120 (d) Grand Librarian

The Grand Librarian shall be qualified with academic training and professional experience in Library Science to act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Librarian would be a member ex-officio. The Grand Librarian would serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, and in accordance with the provision of Section 42, be subject to reappointment annually.

120 (e) Grand Archivist.

The Grand Archivist shall be qualified with academic training and professional experience in Curatorial Science to act in an advisory capacity to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Library, Museum and Archives of which the Grand Archivist would be a member ex-officio with particular reference to the collection, cataloguing, and storage of all documents and artefacts. The Grand Archivist would serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, and in accordance with the provision of Section 42, be subject to reappointment annually.

120 (f) Grand Piper

The Grand Piper shall have musical training, artistic skill and ability in bagpiping such as to enable him to fulfill the duties of the office with competence.

People’s actions are based upon their beliefs, not facts.

THE OLD MASTERS WAGES

I met a dear old man today who wore a Masonic ring,
It was old and faded like the man himself; it’s edges worn and thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat to give the old brother his due,
I said, “I see you’ve travelled East,” he said, “I have, have you”?

I said, “I have and in my day before the all seeing sun,
I played in the rubble with Jubala, Jubilo and Jubalum”.

He shouted, “Don’t laugh at the Work my son, it’s good and sweet and true,
And if you’ve travelled as you said, you should give these things their due”.

“The Work, a Sign, the Token, the sweet Masonic Prayer.

The Vow that you have taken, you have climbed the Inner Stair.

The wages of a Mason are never paid in gold,
But the gain comes from contentment when you’re weak and growing old.

You see I’ve carried my obligations for almost 50 years.
It has helped me through hardships and the failures full of tears.

Now I’m losing my mind and body, death is near, but I don’t despair.
I’ve lived my life upon the Level and I’m dying on the Square”.

Sometimes the greatest lessons are those that are learned anew,
And the old man in the park today, has changed my point of view.

To all my Masonic brothers, the only Secret is to care,
May you live upon the Level and Part upon the Square.

By Neil Neddermayer, G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, 2001.



From left to right V.Wor. Bro. Allen Cooper, W.Bro.Rick Ellison (father), Bro. Robb Ellison, R.W. Bro. Tom Marshall, W.Bro. Glen Campbell (maternal grand father) and R.W.Bro. Ronald Small.

A picture of Bro. Robb. Ellison joining Wardrope Lodge No.555. Robb is a 5th Generation Mason, and the 4th generation to join Wardrope.

To have joy one must share it -Lord Byron

THE CURIOUS CASE OF MANLEY P. HALL



This paper was presented to Hamilton Centennial Daylight Lodge No. 679 by Bro. Michael Novakovic, of Westmount Lodge No. 671, on the Official Visit of the D.D.G.M., March 17, 2009.

Man is climbing an endless flight of steps, with his eyes fixed upon the goal at the top.

Many cannot see the goal, and only one or two steps are visible before them. He has [The Mason] learned one great lesson – namely, that as he builds his own character he is given strength to climb the steps.

Hence a Mason is a builder of the temple of character. He is the architect of a sublime mystery—the gleaming, glowing temple of his own soul.

He realizes that he best serves God when he joins with the Great Architect in building more noble structures in the universe below. All who are attempting to attain mastery through constructive efforts are Masons at heart, regardless of religious sect or belief.

A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect. The Masonic brother pledges himself to assist all other temple-builders in whatever extremity of life, and in doing so pledges himself to every living thing, for they are all temple-builders, building more noble structures to the glory of the universal God. 1.

Manley P. Hall [The Lost Keys of Freemasonry](#)

With these words of wisdom and clarity many including myself have chosen to join the illustrious order of Freemasonry rather than be its avowed spectators. As students of history, religion, philosophy and mysticism I, like many others were led to the Masonic path however, we thought it would be easier to be individual peers of this wisdom rather than partakers of its secrets and mysteries. For many who have reached this junction the truth-seeking

realities presented in the various works of Manley P. Hall have spurred our spirits to unite with those souls that are continually improving their character and the world around them. It is no exaggeration to assert that Manley P. Hall and his philosophical and Masonic treatise have brought many to the portal of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry, and it is the belief of this writer that it will do so for many generations to come!

To put forth the claim that Manley P. Hall was a “renaissance man”, would be more than appropriate to describe his search for knowledge, wisdom and spirituality. Like the alchemists of yore who studied science, metallurgy, medicine, scriptures and occult, Mr. Hall encompassed this cross-fertilization of sciences, philosophy and religion to bring into being the self fulfilled yearning of the spirit of man to know God and fulfill his duties on earth. The best way to illustrate Hall’s life is to reproduce his short but significant biography as presented by the Philosophical Research Society called [Manley P. Hall 1901-1990 Portrait of an American Sage](#).

Born on March 18, 1901 in Peterborough, Ontario, Manley Palmer Hall was raised by his maternal grandmother who brought him to the U.S. when he was very young. From an early age, Mr. Hall studied the full range of the world’s ancient wisdom traditions. Unlike so many of his contemporaries, he concluded that wisdom was not to be found on only one path or in only one religion. Instead he saw wisdom as the highest realm where philosophy, religion and science come together without boundaries. Barely twenty years old, the gifted young man began his public career in the fall of 1920 when he was invited to speak to a small group in a room over a bank in Santa Monica, California, on the subject of reincarnation. The following year he was asked to hold a lecture program in L.A. and continued teaching and writing for another six decades. He showed thousands how universal wisdom could be found in the myths, mysteries, and symbols of ancient Western Mystery teachings and how to embody this wisdom in their own lives. Once when a young student asked him to autograph one of his books, he wrote:

"To learn is to live, to study is to grow, and growth is a measurement of life. The mind must be taught to think, the heart to feel, and the hands to labour. When these have been educated to their highest point, then is the time to offer them to the service of their fellowman, not before."

Mr. Hall always felt that before the student could embark on an esoteric career; they must first build a sound and sane personality from which to launch such an endeavour, this he explains in his book [Self Enfoldment by Disciplines of Realization](#).

His first publications were two small pamphlets, “The Breastplate of the High Priest” and “Wands and Serpents”. Two books he wrote in the early 1920’s, [The Lost Keys of](#)

Freemasonry and The Ways of the Lonely Ones, are available and have enjoyed numerous reprints.

During this period Mr. Hall began planning his large volume on symbolical philosophy, The Secret Teachings of All Ages. He travelled extensively in 1923 and 1924, visiting many great cultural centres in Europe, Asia, and Egypt. A favourite place of Mr. Hall's for searching out rare and ancient wisdom texts was the British Museum in London.

"The great centre of learning in England is the British Museum, with its miles of Bookcases, which caused De Quincy to sit and weep because he could not read all the volumes. In order to gain access to the two principal departments of the museum one of rare books and the other of manuscripts, it was necessary to be appropriately sponsored. I had the good fortune of becoming acquainted with General Sir Francis Younghusband, the man who led the British expedition into Tibet in 1903-1904. While dining one day at the Officer's Club, Sir Francis confided to me that he was known as the conqueror of Tibet, but he regarded this as a dubious honour. The real fact, he said, was that Tibetan religion and philosophy had conquered him. A note from Sir Francis immediately gave me admission to the most valuable parts of the British Museum, and I was able to examine the originals of many of the world's most priceless books and manuscripts."

These travels strengthened his convictions about the importance of comparative religions and deepened his understanding of significant contributions made in the interest of human spiritual salvation. Immediately upon his return, he set seriously to work on his encyclopaedic outline of the Western esoteric tradition, The Secret Teaching of All Ages, which describes in some detail the most ancient theory of education, which was in the keeping of the mystery schools.

It took Mr. Hall six years to complete the work on the book and raise the enormous sum of \$100,000 in 1928 necessary to print the first edition. During this time he had a brief career on Wall Street, the outstanding event of which was witnessing a man depressed over investment losses take his own life. Of this period he wrote,

"My fleeting contact with high finance resulted in serious doubts concerning business as it was being conducted at that time. It was apparent that materialism was in complete control of the economic structure, the final objective of which was for the individual to become part of a system providing an economic security, at the expense of the human soul, mind, and body. I felt strongly moved to explore the problems of humanity, its origins and destiny and I spent a number of quiet hours in the New York Public Library tracing the confused course of civilization. With very few exceptions, modern authorities downgraded all systems of idealistic philosophy and the deeper aspects of comparative religion. Translations of classical authors could differ greatly, but in most cases the noblest thoughts were eliminated or denigrated. Those more sincere authors whose knowledge of ancient languages was

profound were never included as required reading, and scholarship was based largely upon the acceptance of a sterile materialism. Fortunately since contemporary had little regard for the wisdom of the past, there was no premium on the earlier texts. As a result I assembled a fair collection of works of those forgotten sages to whose labours the world owes a tremendous debt of gratitude."

In 1934 Mr. Hall founded the Philosophical Research Society, dedicating it to the ensoulment of all arts, sciences, and crafts, devoted to the one basic purpose of advancing the brotherhood of all that lives, to meet all lovers of wisdom on a common ground. The society still hosts a wide range of lectures, seminars, workshops, and performances on philosophical subjects and runs a bookstore and library. Located in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles since its inception, it has for decades been a place for learning for all spiritual traditions and was designated a Cultural Site by Los Angeles City Council in 1994.

In 1973 Mr. Hall was recognized as a 33 degree Mason (highest rank in the Scottish Rite), at a ceremony held at the PRS on December 8th. No doubt this honour is due to Mr. Hall's lifelong study of the philosophical basis of Freemasonry, writing several books on the subject, The Lost Keys of Freemasonry, Masonic Orders of Fraternity, Freemasonry of the Ancient Egyptians, The Secret Destiny of America, and his belief that our continent was set aside as a great experiment of enlightened self-government by ancient philosophers, and that the seeds of this plan for the founding of America were planted one thousand years before the Christian era and is partly revealed in the symbolism of the Great Seal of the United States.

"Thousands of years ago, in Egypt, these mystical orders were aware of the existence of the western hemisphere and the great continent which we call America. The bold resolution was made that this western continent should become the site of the philosophic empire. Just when this was done is impossible to say, but certainly the decision was reached prior to the time of Plato, for a thinly veiled statement of this resolution is the substance of his treatise on the Atlantic Islands."

However, to ally any conspiracy enthusiast, it should be clearly stated that the PRSA is an entirely separate organization with no links to the Masonic movement. Surely it must be a measure of the man, that Mr. Hall never used PRS as a recruiting station for Masonic membership, and what he held important was the inner philosophical tradition of Masonry.

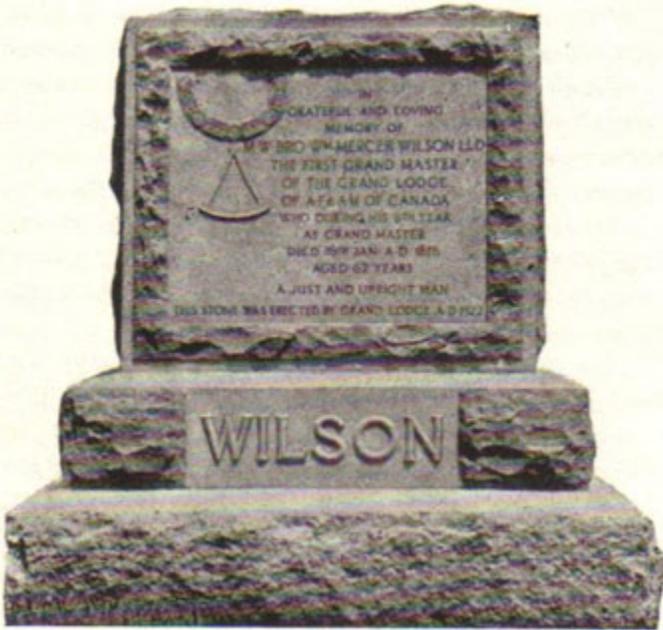
To be continued in the July Chronicle.

**FROM THE GRAND RIVER LODGE
SUMMONS, MAY 2009**

“In the ceremony of Installation Final Charge, a Masonic Lodge is defined as a Temple of Peace, Harmony, and Brotherly Love. Peace and Harmony are derived from the Brethren of diverse backgrounds, with similar sets of values, coming together and working towards a common goal. We all meet on the level no matter your rank or station in life. All of you, individually are important and valuable to me. Each of us made our entrance into Masonry for our own reasons. Each of us brings to the Craft a fundamental desire to be more...to do more...This fuels the feeling of Brotherly Love. Our differences, be they race, religion, sexual orientation, or creed are not what separate us from each other and those outside of Masonry. How we act on them does. Those differences are spaces placed there by the G.A.O.T.U. to leave room for you and I.”

Fraternally, Derek Wildfong, W.M. Grand River Lodge No. 151

PILGRIMAGE TO THE GRAVESITE OF OUR FIRST GRAND MASTER



Each year Norfolk Lodge No.10 in conjunction with the Wilson South Masonic District hosts an Annual Pilgrimage to the Gravesite of our first Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson in the quiet country churchyard at the St.John's Church, Woodhouse (a few miles south of Simcoe). All Masons and their families are welcome. Regalia is worn. This year the Pilgrimage is on **Sunday June 28, 2009 at 2:30 pm.**

For many years the last resting place of our first Grand Master had remained unmarked by a suitable monument. Grand Lodge which is itself a never-fading monument to his memory, felt that a tangible memorial in keeping with the greatness of the man and Mason should be placed upon his grave. Here on the 16th of June, 1922, in the presence of more than one thousand Masons from all parts of the jurisdiction, a massive

block of granite, wrought in a chaste and beautiful design, by master craftsmen of the ancient mystery was unveiled, where the moral remains of William Mercer Wilson had been consigned to the dust forty-six years earlier. Annually, this Pilgrimage has continued, this being the eighty-seventh year.

The only thing rare about common sense is the lack of it.

BROTHERS WAR

When the publicity surrounding the release of the movie "Angels & Demons" has quietened down, you will get a chance to see "**BROTHERS WAR**" which is based on real events in the final days of WWII <http://www.brotherswar.info/> involving a British Officer & a German Officer who are both Freemasons.

In: http://www.brotherswar.info/the_real_history.htm they quote Freemasonry as the largest fraternal organization in the world and the oldest, with a recorded history dating back at least as far as the 1400's. When the Nazis took power in Germany in 1933 they outlawed all unions, social societies, Freemasonry and other such organizations. The German Freemasons went underground and abandoned their lodges. They started wearing a "Forget Me Not" flower or a blue flower lapel pin, rather than the traditional Compass and Square, for the purpose of enabling them to recognize each other. Many German Freemasons joined the German Army and blended in, waiting for better times where they again could meet at their Lodges.

As German soldiers invaded the countries around them, the SS raided the various Lodges and sent all the Masonic regalia to the SS Museum in Berlin. An interesting note is that before Adolph Eichmann was put in charge of Jewish affairs in the SS, he served as secretary for the SS museum. Freemasons were rounded up along with the Jews and confined to work and labour camps, only to later perish in concentration camps.

Throughout history, authoritarian regimes have gone out of their way to persecute secret societies, even to the present day, despite the fact that it is well known that Masonic Lodges do not involve themselves in matters of religion or politics. One of the reasons the Nazis gave for this persecution was that the Masons were helping the Jews of Germany in their alleged "world conspiracy." This was supposedly proven by the book "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion", claimed to have been written by a 32nd degree Mason, which describes this supposed world conspiracy. The book was later proven to be a fraud created by the Soviet Intelligence Agency to discredit the Jews around the turn of the century.

It is believed that many of the top leaders in Germany during the war had been Freemasons. Heinrich Himmler took a great interest in the organization and it was said that Göring was a Mason as well. When the war ended and the Red Army occupied Berlin, the Soviets took possession of all the Masonic regalia in the museum and send it to Moscow where

it was stored until the 1990's, at which time the regalia was returned to the European Lodges from which it had been seized by the SS during the War.

The Freemasons fared little better during Soviet Communist rule in Eastern Europe, where they were also persecuted and banned as an organization. See Pg. 4, March edition of the Chronicle, for current information on Russian Freemasonry.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What is the most important item of a successful lodge?

A. COMMUNICATION.

Q. Why are the deaths of our District Brethren only known after the fact in the Chronicle?

A. The deaths of all District Brethren are recorded on the District Website, and can be posted by all District Lodge Secretaries. There is an automatic notification system on the District Website available for any brethren wanting to be notified when new Obituaries are posted. You can find it at the base of the Obituaries Page. All questions can be directed towards our District Webmaster through the District Website.

Q. How can my lodge learn more about using the Website?

A. The Communications Committee will be holding a Workshop for all lodges and all masons in District C, this fall. Watch the Chronicle for the date to be announced. Feel free to contact the Webmaster through the District Website in the interim with any questions.

THE LATEST DISTRICT NEWS

IN MEMORIAM: R.W. BRO. CHARLES A. SANKEY.

Member of University Lodge No. 496; P.M. of Perfection Lodge No. 616 in 1950; DDGM of Niagara District A. in 1967. Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on April 29, 2009. Age 104. 82 years a Mason. 33rd degree Mason 1946. Member of the Royal Order of Scotland 1947. Past Chancellor of Brock University.

Memorial Service on Saturday June 20 in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University at 2:00 pm. Masonic Service Sunday June 21 at 2:00 pm. at the Masonic Temple, 23 Court St. St. Catherines ON.

IN MEMORIAM: BRO. CYRIL SULLIVAN: Member of Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602. Recently lived in Nova Scotia. 50 years a Mason. Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on May 11, 2009. Visitation at Bay Gardens Funeral Home on Rymal Road East, Thursday May 14, 2-4, 7-9. Service Friday, May 15, at 11 am.

VALLEY LODGE No. 100: 4th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT and CHARITY AUCTION, Saturday, June 13, 2009. KING'S FOREST GOLF COURSE, 100

Greenhill Avenue, Hamilton. Golf, Dinner and Charity Auction \$125 per person. (includes Golf, Power Cart, Banquet and Auction). Dinner and Charity Auction \$50 per person. Proceeds of Charity Auction to benefit the Chrohn's & Colitis Foundation of Canada. Contact: Bill Paul 905 719-6464; John Mackay 905 632-7412; Bill Millar 905 573-382.

ELECTRIC LODGE No. 495: will be celebrating its **100th ANNIVERSARY** on **Friday, June 26th** in the Norman E. Byrne Cathedral in the Masonic Centre at 7:00 pm, with the dedication of the new regalia lead by the Grand Master. This will be followed by a dinner in the Main Banquet Room. Tickets in advance only, \$5:00. Contact Peter Mouriopoulos by email at: pcmour@mountaincable.net or 905-387-4079

46th ANNUAL STEAK FRY, sponsored by Hanover Lodge No. 432, **Monday, June 29th, 2009, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Lodge 7:30 p.m.** No degree work, speaker: **R.W.Bro. Gregory Hazlitt.** Bring your own plate and cutlery. Dress: Business Suit and regalia. Email Al Morrow at alm@bmts.com for reservations or 519-364-4810.



BLOOD DONORS CLINIC: Friday July 17, 2009, Paramount Alliance Church, 1035 Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek. 1:30 to 7:30 pm.



MASONIC BEEF AND CORN ROAST: Wednesday, August 26th, 2009, Opens at 5:00 pm, Corn at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm. Adult \$15, Children under 13, \$5:00. At the **NEW ANCASTER FAIR GROUNDS**, 630 Trinity Rd, at Hwy 2. See lodge Secretary for tickets. No Tickets sold at the door. Sponsored by Seymour Lodge No. 272.



MASONIC CHIP CLINIC: Taking place at **THE ANCASTER FALL FAIR** on **Sept. 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2009.** Hamilton Masons will be on hand to further the safety of area children. More information in the **July Chronicle.** Chairman David Wilkinson needs volunteers. Contact him at 905-549-0656 or dsw593@gmail.com.

The publisher **Random House**, has just announced that Dan Brown's latest novel, **THE LOST SYMBOL** will be released in September.

ELECTRIC LODGE GALA DINNER & DANCE: to commemorate their 100th Anniversary on **Saturday October 24, 2009** to which wives and lady friends will be more than welcome, details will be released shortly, as will Tickets be available. Please check with the Hamilton District "C" Website <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org/> for updates.

HAMILTON MASONIC DISTRICT 'C'
TOUR OF THE
DETROIT MASONIC TEMPLE
SATURDAY OCT. 3RD, 2009



A limited number of seats are available for this tour

Reserve your bus seat by forwarding a cheque (\$50 Cdn) payable to Hamilton Masonic District 'C' and a photocopy from your current passport to:

W. Bro. John Johnston
44 Glen Valley Dr.
Hamilton ON. L8K 5W5

Please include your email address & phone number so a confirmation and other details can be returned.

Bus departs from Toys R' Us Plaza, Upper Wentworth Street, Hamilton at 7:00am.

Anxiety is just borrowing pain for the future.

