

District 'C'ronicle

April 2010

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 20

IN THIS ISSUE

From our District Deputy Grand Master	Pg. 1
From the Grand Master	Pg. 2
From the Deputy Grand Master	Pg. 2
From the Grand Secretary	Pg. 3
Pancakes, Pancakes, Get Your Pancakes!	Pg. 3
Winners of the Hele Spiel	Pg. 3
The Olympic Spirit Lives On	Pg. 4
50 Years a Mason	Pg. 5
Does Your Apron Still Fit?	Pg. 5
The Halliwell Manuscript or Regius Poem	Pg. 6
A Proud Father	Pg. 7
Hamilton Masonic Cemetery Plots	Pg. 7
United Empire Loyalists	Pg. 8
Dan Brown's Influence on World Peace	Pg. 9
Is the 'Lost Symbol' an Accurate Depiction?	Pg. 10
Hamilton Mason Helps in Haiti	Pg. 11
Masonic Foundation Update	Pg. 11
Questions and Answers	Pg. 11
In Memoriam	Pg. 12
District Events	Pg. 12



FROM OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Masonic Education is very important to the enjoyment of Masonry. I truly believe that every Freemason has a sincere interest in learning more about our beloved Fraternity. Participation in Masonic discussion groups is a method to

enjoy learning more about Freemasonry which is a way that is full of fellowship, and down-right friendliness, while forming great friendships with other Freemasons. These discussion groups can range from informal to formal gatherings, but one thing they all have in common is that they are fun to be a part of.

“Talk Masonry”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What does a "well educated" Mason look like - sound like - act like?**
- 2. What are some of the advantages and liabilities of bringing young men into the Fraternity?**
- 3. What are we doing or not providing that causes newer Masons to lose enthusiasm for and commitment to their Lodge (its meetings and activities)?**
- 4. What new learning methods should we be considering for the next generation of candidates, such as media-based lectures?**
- 5. Considering the important task of "passing the torch," what needs to be done to achieve a sense of ownership of Freemasonry in future members? Should we be building a commitment to social change?**
- 6. How can we help candidates understand they are not joining a social club, but accepting a new philosophy and way of life?**

The Hamilton Districts are very fortunate to have several auxiliary associations working on our behalf such as the Masters and Wardens Association and Hamilton Past Masters' Association. Both of these groups arrange for many informative and enjoyable programs or events during the year. We should endeavour to attend as many of their events as possible. Watch for notices in the newsletter or your lodge summons; they are open to all interested masons and are not restricted to just those in the association's name.

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'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

I have submitted a preliminary report to the GL Blood Donor Committee showing that we have been able with the help of several lodges, to support financially, with hospitality and volunteers, all of the Clinics at the Stoney Creek Mountain Community (6 per year) along with a few at McMaster University.

A thank you is extended to Seymour Lodge for their sponsorship of the March clinic and providing the hospitality volunteers.

POTS (parting on the square)
Bill MacPherson

FROM THE GRAND MASTER

At the Convention held at Hamilton in October 1855, when the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed, one of the First motions passed was to appoint a Committee “to revise and amend the rules and regulations.” The committee reported at the First Annual Communication in July 1856, and the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Canada was adopted. The Preamble states the purpose of the document: “*in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to insure tranquility, and to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft.*” Such is the importance of this document that it is presented to every Mason at his initiation, and to every Worshipful Master at his installation.

It has been said that “the biggest room in the house is the room for improvement.” One area in Masonry that needs improvement is succession planning. Lodges, Districts, and even Grand Lodge are all too often shortsighted when it comes to identifying, selecting, encouraging and mentoring potential successors – those that will take our place when time passes and so do we. We must realize that no one is irreplaceable or indispensable – in ritual performance, committee work, or leadership roles. While we all have our favourite ‘party piece’ that we take pride in delivering, no member, however senior, ‘owns’ any part of the Ritual. As in theatre, every star ritualist should have an ‘understudy.’ Every junior officer in the lodge should have a Past Master as advisor and mentor. Too often discordant issues arise when, for a variety of reasons, the Senior Warden is deemed unready to assume the chair as Worshipful Master, when inadequacies should have been identified and addressed at an early stage as he progressed as Junior and Senior Deacon of the lodge. Every Past Master in the Lodge should take to heart the advertising slogan used by Price Waterhouse, “*The best part of having experience is sharing it.*” Adequate preparation along ‘the Road to the East’ is the responsibility of the senior members of the Lodge, unfortunately one that is too frequently neglected.

The current District Deputy Grand Masters should consider it a duty to act as ‘talent scouts’ to insure that the best Past Masters in the lodges of the District are interested and willing to stand for election. The Ancient Charges of a Freemason

remind us in no uncertain terms that, “*All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only.*” The office of District Deputy Grand Master, serving as the personal representative of the Grand Master, is one of supreme dignity and utmost importance. While the office demands diplomatic skill, positive enthusiasm, and judicious resolve, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for great personal satisfaction. Share your positive attitude and rewarding experiences with the Past Masters of your District to inspire their interest in assuming leadership roles of added responsibility.

“*The greatest one generation can pass along to the next is the knowledge gained from experience.*”

– Henry David Thoreau

Congratulations are extended to M.W. Bro. Terence Shand, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary, on his election as Chairman of the Committee on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. This important committee provides invaluable advice to insure that Grand Lodges applying for Recognition conform to the established standards of Regularity.

I am also pleased to report that the trust fund to provide ‘Coffee for our Troops’ has reached almost \$38,000 to provide Tim Horton’s swipe cards for all our Canadian men and women deployed in the cause of freedom from terrorism.

Respectfully and fraternally,
Raymond S. J. Daniels

FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Recently I have become aware of more than one situation in which newer members of a Lodge were disappointed because their expectations for enlightenment were not being met. Many of the Brethren joining our fraternity today are very knowledgeable about the Craft even before passing through the West Gate. They are told that, as they progress through each of their degrees, all will become clear to them if they are but patient. Then, in many cases, the education that they receive by attending Lodge ceases and they are left on their own to pursue further Masonic knowledge, to discover the symbolism and allegories and to enrich their lives through Masonry. We may make an effort to have Masonic Education at our meetings, but how often do we find that such a presentation is simply a reading of some internet article, possibly even referencing material not pertinent in our own jurisdiction.

When the D.D.G.M and the District Secretary complete the L1 forms on the Official Visit, do they know whether the Lodge actually Coaches, Mentors or Educates?

If the Mentor Programme box is ticked as ‘yes’, does it mean the Lodge has some form of schooling, training or instruction for the candidate? Is the purpose of that coaching simply to get

the candidate through the memory work of the degrees? Coaching is just that, schooling or instructing. Mentoring goes beyond instructing to include the concepts of guiding and counselling. The Grand Lodge Mentors Programme clearly includes these functions in the role of the Lodge mentor, but is mentoring being performed in the Lodges as a natural extension of the coaching that candidates receive?

Finally we should be asking ourselves as we report on our Lodges whether we are providing any ‘education’ to our Brethren, especially our new Masons. Our Grand Master’s theme: *‘Get Knowledge, Get Wisdom, but with all thy getting Get Understanding’*, enforces the principles of enlightening and cultivating knowledge through education. Indeed some education can be acquired by an individual through his own efforts. But we have made certain promises to our candidates and those promises include **our participation** in his acquisition of Masonic knowledge. Enlightenment can only come through the sharing of our personal feelings on the symbolisms and allegories of the Craft. Isn’t that what ‘fraternity’ is all about?

Please visit the website at www.masonichip.ca for the current event list. At the recent Conference of Grand Masters of North America, our own Director, R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs, was re-elected to the Board of Masonichip International. Congratulations to Bro. Dobbs for representing our jurisdiction so admirably on the International Board.

Grand Lodge Communication runs Monday – Thursday, July 19 – 22. Have you booked your rooms?

D. Garry Dowling

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Several of our members are receiving personal emails from an alleged R. Peter Lowndes, & Associates, Attorneys at Law, Birmingham, U.K. While any response goes to a live email address, its content is a Scam and should be ignored.

Terence Shand

“Mistakes are part of life, it’s what you learn from them that counts.” Peter George

PANCAKES! PANCAKES! GET YOUR PANCAKES!



February 27th marked the first date that Dufferin Lodge No.291 opened its doors to the public and masons alike to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast. Pancake, sausages, juice and coffee were served up and the event was an earnest success, despite the weather. Dufferin Lodge will be running their Pancake Breakfast on the last Saturday of every month, and they invite everyone to come out and join in the fun. The event is all you can eat, and Adults are \$5, Children are \$4. Location: 200 Highway 8, West Flamborough, at the West Flamborough Masonic Temple from 7:30am to 11:00am.

THIRD ANNUAL HELE SPIEL



Hele Spiel 2010, sponsored by Valley Lodge No. 100 is growing and is fun. This year 10 teams participated and the winning team was Carolyn, Bill, Bryan, and Kristen Paul, shown in the picture.

THE MASONIC OLYMPIC SPIRIT LIVES ON

Two brothers expanded their Olympic Spirit and vision by sharing with their respective lodge and district some interesting relationships which we now are privileged to read.

THE OLYMPICS AND MASONRY

I am very proud, for a number of reasons. Firstly, I am proud to be a Canadian. For the past two weeks at every available opportunity, I have been glued to the TV to watch the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Besides the obvious reason for celebration, the gold medals awarded to our men's and women's hockey teams, the other Canadian athletes demonstrated that hard work and determination could net the desired results. These Winter Olympics have been a proud moment in Canada's history. As Jacques Rogge, the President of the IOC said; ***“these games have been excellent and friendly”***. Secondly, I am proud to be a Mason. It may be a stretch, but Masonry is not unlike the Olympics. We work hard...we progress through the chairs...we excel at our craft...and when leaving the east...we get a medal. However, our participation is not limited to meeting every 4 years. We get the opportunity to enjoy, practice and perfect our craft at nine meetings a year and then carry that forward every day of our lives. I could only hope that our past ***‘Masonic Olympians’*** who have received a ***‘medal’*** would come out and join us. All too often, leaving the east, for many is the end of their Masonic journey. To my way of thinking...it is just the beginning.

By Geoff Allan, W.M of the Electric Lodge No. 495

“Commitment, Determination, Dedication, is the purpose of our lives.” Ralph Ballantine

MASONRY AND THE OLYMPICS

From the Masonic Regalia.org website I came across the following:

Is the Olympic flame a source of Masonic Light? Freemasons, not surprisingly, are fascinated by the often hidden-in-plain-sight influence of Freemasonry on everyday culture. I came across a very intriguing example that will have particular relevance as the world held its attention on the just completed 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic games. The Olympic flame is a modern invention originating with the 1928 Summer Olympics stadium in Amsterdam, Holland. The Olympic flame burned in a huge chalice atop a tall tower adjacent to the stadium. The result was an effect not unlike a giant candle overlooking the stadium, a symbol that is familiar to all Freemasons.

Here's where the intriguing Masonic connection comes in. The designer of the stadium was the Dutch architect and active Freemason, Brother Jan Wils (1891-1972) who was a member of the l'Union Frédérique Lodge in Rotterdam. To be sure, it's fair to say that the candle-like tower was just a coincidence. Brother Wils did not become a Freemason until 1929, at least a couple years after he would have completed his design for the stadium.

But according to interview for the CTV, “Jan Wils, the architect of the Amsterdam stadium, was looking for inspiration. So, he turned to his lifelong infatuation with the Masonic order.” Further, once Wils became a member, he was very involved with the design of Masonic Lodge halls. For starters, he designed the lodge hall for the Silentium Lodge located in Delft Holland. Also, he was on the board of directors of the Foundation for Rites and Temple Building, a group dedicated to bringing modern ideas of architecture into the realm of Masonic lodge halls.

This foundation promoted the notion that lodge halls should employ subtle references to Freemasonry in the underlying architecture through the use of spatial geometry - connecting lines that form stars within circles, etc. - rather than overt iconographic decorations. These subtle Masonic gestures can be found in both public and Masonic buildings designed by the architects associated with this group. Therefore, is the Olympic Flame a re-tooled Masonic Candle? It's hard to say for sure. But the connections are, to say the least, quite striking.

By R.W.Bro. Kenneth Wood, DDGM Sarnia District

50 YEARS A MASON



V.W.Bro. John Lyness has his grandson Ryan Hadcock pin his Jubilee Medal at Wardrope Lodge No.555 on March 22, 2010, assisted by M.W.Bro. Terry Shand, P.G.M. and Grand Secretary who also presented John with his 50 year pin. This was a very special night for our most loyal, responsible and dedicated District Photographer, who never ceases in his quest to record Masonic happenings in the District and beyond. For us he is the 'energizer bunny'.

MASONRY IS A FAMILY AFFAIR



From lf - rt. W.Bro. Damon Allan, W.M of Wardrope Lodge No.555; son-in-law James Hadcock; V.Wor. Bro. John Lyness, 25 year Secretary of Wardrope Lodge No.555; grandson Ryan Hadcock; daughter Wendy Hadcock; M.W. Bro. Terry Shand, P.G.M and Grand Secretary; R.W.Bro. William MacPherson, D.D.G.M. Hamilton District C.

DOES YOUR APRON STILL FIT?

When a new Master Mason is raised, the Worshipful Master grants the Senior Warden the authority to invest the newly Raised brother with the "distinguishing badge of a Master Mason." Taking pride in his duty, the Senior Warden makes sure that the new apron fits the invested brother just right. It is snug, square and neat. The Brethren of the Lodge stand in admiration of this newly raised Brother among Masons who is standing there proudly donned in his perfect fitting "badge of

honour." The newly raised Master Mason takes pride in putting away that apron as he heads home, elated and happy, if not somewhat overwhelmed by the lessons he has learned about his new apron and the craft.

Then what happens?

For some the study of Freemasonry, the practice of its rituals, and the contemplation of the lessons learned become a lifelong pursuit. The badge of honour with which they were invested is but the beginning of a long and wonderful Masonic journey for them.

Some Brethren keep the same apron for the rest of their lives doing their best to make sure they always fit the apron. By helping whenever needed, being good men and upright citizens, exemplary husbands and fathers; their conduct as men and Masons ensures that they always fit the apron.

Some truly dedicated craftsmen seem to fit the apron so well that other, more colourful, aprons start to seek them out. These are the Masons that other Masons revere as our leaders and who, by following their example; all Masons become better men. This type of dedicated Mason fits every apron they will ever wear. For some however that "Badge of honour" once so proudly worn and carefully put away after each meeting, begins to get a little loose on them. They stop attending Lodge for any number of reasons or they do not want to do the duties they were charged to fulfill when they were first given their apron.

Perhaps they only joined for the apron, or the right to say they belong to the Masonic Fraternity. This type of Brother will pay his dues to keep up his membership thinking he is doing his part, but sadly will do nothing more. It is often said, "we get more out of Masonry than we put into it," which is obvious to those many members who get so much out of Freemasonry and yet put little or nothing back. One cannot continuously make withdrawals from the Bank of Freemasonry without being willing to make at least the occasional deposit.

These members do not fit their aprons.

Most of us know how well our apron fits when we put it on. Sometimes the apron belt needs to be stretched but sometimes we need to stretch too. The question should not be how well does our apron fit us, but how well do we fit our Masonic apron.

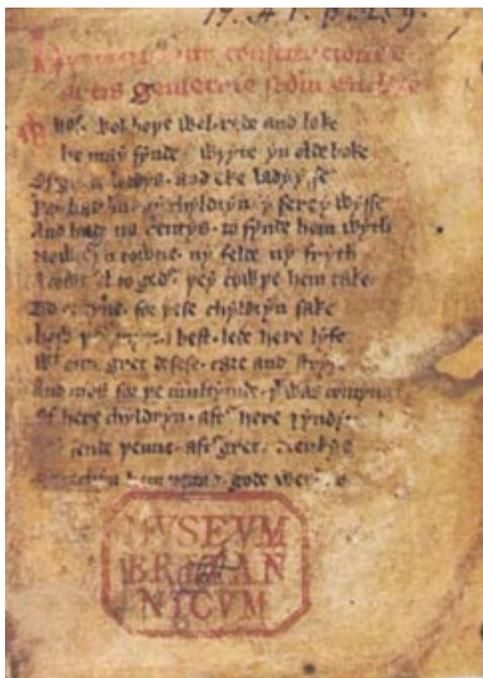
Brethren, how do you fit your apron?

If you are finding it a little too loose these days then change what you have to so you may fit the apron once again. Stretch yourself a bit instead of stretching the belt. As we all learned as apprentices, "being the badge of innocence and the bond of friendship. I strongly recommend you ever to wear and consider it as such; and be assured that if you never disgrace that badge it will never disgrace you."

By George Stamp of The Masonic Magazine

THE HALLIWELL MANUSCRIPT or THE REGIUS POEM

The Halliwell Manuscript, also known as the Regius Poem, is the first known Masonic text. It consists of 64 written pages in poetic form. The poem begins by evoking Euclid and his invention of geometry in ancient Egypt and then the spreading of the art of geometry into “divers lands.” This is followed by fifteen points for the master concerning both moral behaviour (do not harbour thieves, do not take bribes, attend church regularly, etc.) and the operation of work on a building site (do not make your masons labour at night, teach apprentices properly, do not take on jobs that you cannot do etc.). There are then fifteen points for Craftsmen which follow a similar pattern.



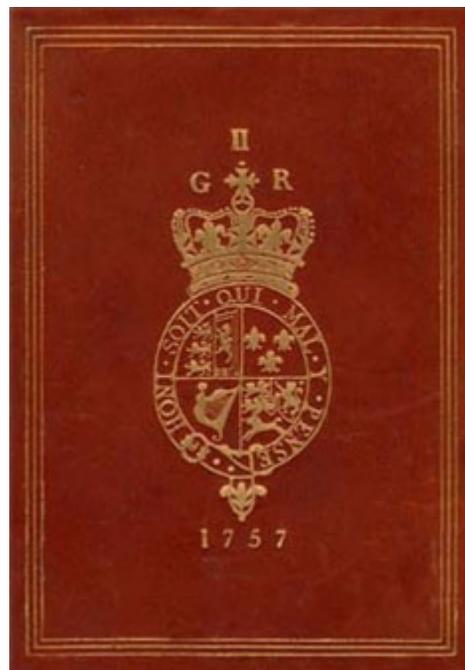
The general consensus on the age of the document dates its writing to between the late 1300s and the middle of the 15th century. The manuscript was recorded in various personal inventories as it changed hands until it came into possession of the Royal Library. The manuscript was donated to the Library of the British Museum in 1757 by King George II.

During this time, the document was generally described as a poem of moral duties. The significance of the document as relating to Freemasonry was not realized until it was featured in an article on Freemasonry by James Halliwell in 1840.

The text of the document states that Freemasonry was brought to England during the reign of King Athelstan from 924 to 939. The MS is a very small quarto on vellum, and is No. 17, A1. in the Bibl. Reg., British Museum. It is described in David Casley's Catalogue of the manuscripts of the Old Royal Library, 1734, page 259, as “A Poem of Moral Duties: here entitled, Constitutiones Artis Gemetrie secundem

Euclidem. - ‘Whoso wol bothe wel rede and loke.’”

The existence of this manuscript has been known for a long time, but its contents were mistaken until Mr. Halliwell-Phillips drew attention to it in a paper “On the introduction of Freemasonry into England,” read before the Society of Antiquaries in the 1838-9 session. He thereafter published two small editions of a work entitled “The Early History of Freemasonry in England,” giving a transcript of the poem.



“In the year 1757, King George II., under an instrument that passed the Great Seal, presented [the old Royal] Library to the nation. At that time it was deposited in the old Dormitory at Westminster, to which place it had been removed from Ashburnham House, at the time of the lamentable fire which broke out in that building on the 23rd October, 1731 from which it fortunately sustained but slight injury.” [Sims's Handbook to Library of Brit. Mus., 1854. p. 35.] The facsimile is the exact size of the original. It bears the Royal arms stamped on both covers, and G.R.II., with the date 1757. The lettering on the back has also been reproduced. The manuscript was bound in its present cover in or about the year 1838.

The age of the manuscript has been variously estimated. Mr. Halliwell and the late Rev. A.F.A. Woodford supposed it to have been written about 1390, or earlier.

The manuscript is admitted to be the oldest genuine record of the Craft of Masonry known. Mr. Halliwell pointed out that the writer of the poem was evidently a priest, from the words, “And when the gospel me rede schal,” on line 629. He also drew attention to line 143, which intimates a still older manuscript must have existed when the poem was written.

The variations which exist between the Halliwell poem or poems, and other Masonic manuscripts of later date, are very important. They indicate a difference of origin, and, by the points of difference, suggest several questions as to the early progress of Masonry in England.

The form of the Halliwell manuscript differs entirely from that of the others. The latter are in prose, while the former is in verse. The language too, of the Halliwell manuscript, is far more ancient than that of the other manuscripts, showing that it was written in an earlier stage of the English tongue. It belongs to Early English which succeeded the Anglo-Saxon. The other manuscripts were written at a later period of the language.

The Halliwell manuscript is evidently a Roman Catholic production, and was written when the religion of Rome prevailed in England. The later manuscripts are Protestant in their character, and many must have been written after the middle of the 16th century, at least when Protestantism was introduced in that country by Edward VI, and by Queen Elizabeth (reigns from 1537-1553 and 1558-1603, respectively).

All these facts concerning the gradual changes in the religious character of the institution, which by putting together the old manuscripts, we are enabled to derive from the Legend of the Craft, are supported by historical documents, as will be seen, and thus the "Legend," notwithstanding the many defects and errors as to the dates which deface it, becomes really valuable as an authority.

The Legend of the Craft, as it has been given in this work from the example in the Dowland manuscript, appears to have been accepted for centuries by the body of the Fraternity as a truthful history. Even at present day, this Legend is exerting an influence in the formation of various parts of the ritual. This influence has even been extended to the adoption of historical views of the rise and progress of the institution, which have, in reality, no other foundation than the statements contained in the Legend.

For these reasons, the Legend of the Craft is of great importance and value to the student of Masonic history, notwithstanding the conflicting periods, and unsupported theories in which it abounds. Accepting it simply as a document which for so long a period claimed and received the fullest faith of the Fraternity whose history it professed to give – a faith not yet dead - it is worthy of our consideration whether we cannot, by a careful examination of its general spirit and meaning, beyond the bare story it contains, discover some key to the true origin and character of that old and extensive brotherhood of which it is the earliest record.

From Bro. Barry Imber, editor of the Lamp and The Book, Newsletter of Alexander Lodge No. 87, Nova Scotia.

A translation of The Regius Poem, a poem of moral duties, from the old English to a more understandable language will be found in future issues of the Chronicle.

A PROUD FATHER!!!



Rain Ronald Edward Tuinstra, presented himself to Cait and Devin Tuinstra on Thursday March 4, 2010. Such a proud moment for our very busy Webmaster. You did some good work, Cait. Congratulations to you both, on your first heir!

HAMILTON MASONIC CEMETERY PLOTS

WOODLAND CEMETERY



In 1931 the Hamilton Board of Relief purchased a burial plot in Woodland Cemetery overlooking Hamilton Bay. It currently contains 38 bodies of indigent masons and their wives. The last interment was in 1990. It could hold 148 more. It is maintained by the Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief and the officers had just completed scrubbing the Headstone, giving it such a pristine appearance.

HAMILTON CEMETERY



Shortly after the erection of the James Street Masonic Hall in 1873, the Temple Board purchased a Masonic Plot in Hamilton Cemetery for the burial of indigent masons. This plot had been carried on the books of the Central Masonic Temple Board for over 120 years, until it was determined to transfer the ownership and supervision to the Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief who oversees the Masonic Plot in Woodland Cemetery as well.

WHITE CHAPEL MEMORIAL GARDENS



Westmount Cemetery was started on Main West in the 1930s. In 1947 it was purchased by White Chapel Memorial Gardens who developed the Masonic Garden Section about 1950. This section contains the Altar and the three Principal Officers' Chairs as shown in the photos. The total number of plots, used solely for Masons and their families, is 4,480 of which only 52 remain. If interested in purchasing one of these remaining plots the telephone number is 905-528-1128.

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

United Empire Loyalists were those who opened the land in new settlement areas 225 years ago. Loyalists were Canada's first refugees. They lost everything during the American Revolution and started all over again in what became Canada. The Loyalists along with their sons and daughters fought during the War of 1812-14 to keep this area safe for future generations. They cleared the land and started first businesses right here in Hamilton, Burlington, Dundas and Ancaster.

To honour their enormous labours and contributions, on **Sunday April 18 at 2 p.m.** there will be a special unveiling of a Loyalist Burial Site plaque at the **Hamilton Cemetery on York Blvd, opposite Dundurn Castle.** This is the burial site of Loyalist Robert Land Sr. (1738-1818) one of the first settlers in the area who has been celebrated in books and plays. His is a heroic story of courage, dedication and stamina.

Robert Land Jr. was initiated into The Barton Lodge (instituted in 1795) on November 7, 1796. Other members of The Barton Lodge included Joseph Brant, Richard Beasley and Land's biological brothers Abel and Ephraim. When Land died at his residence on Barton Street, November 21 1867, he was thought to be the oldest mason in the country, having been born on April 10, 1772 in Pennsylvania. R.W. Bro. Richard Bull conducted his Masonic Memorial service in the Christ's Church on James Street.

The Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is hosting this historic event. The **unveiling will take place at 2 p.m.** at the Land vault where the story of Robert Land will unfold. Robin McKee will lead a forty-minute walk, pointing out some of the historic people who were involved in the early history of Hamilton. This will include some of the War of 1812 individuals and a look at the earthworks of the original British fort. Refreshments will be made available both during and after this remarkable tour.

*Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply.
Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.*

DAN BROWN'S INFLUENCE ON WORLD PEACE

What is hot in Masonry right now, as we all know, is Dan Brown's "The Lost Symbol". The Masonic Information Centre published a letter Dan Brown sent to the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, on his apology for not being able to speak before them. In that letter was a really important gem.



"In the past few weeks, as you might imagine, I have been repeatedly asked what attracted me to the Masons so strongly as to make it a central point of my new book. My reply is always the same. 'In a world where men do battle over whose definition of God is most accurate, I cannot adequately express the deep respect and admiration I feel toward an organization in which men of differing faiths are able to break bread together in a bond of brotherhood, friendship and camaraderie.'"

While this is something all members of the Craft realize, yet its implication for application on a much wider scale is overlooked. Come imagine with me, – what if all or at least an overwhelming number of people in the world were Freemasons? What effect do you think that would have on world peace?

Dictatorships and totalitarian regimes who do not respect the worth of the individual do not like Freemasonry. Radical Muslims and radical Christians and other radical religionists who portray themselves as the only people on earth "to be saved" and who seek to eradicate other faiths and what they see as corruptions of their own faith, do not like Freemasonry either. Closed minds with agendas cannot accept free associations of differing views. The ability to "live and let live" is lost on those who have the one and only true way which becomes their mission to impose on everybody else for the good of the whole.

Learning how to live in peace and harmony – two very coupled Masonic words – has been something I have been writing on for many years as a Mason because it was Freemasonry that taught me the concept and it was Freemasonry that made me realize how it can be done and it was Freemasonry that showed me how important this is for the world.

In 2005 I wrote a long paper which I delivered in Alberta, Canada, titled "World Peace Through Brotherhood." In that

paper I quoted Brother Joseph E.A. Salem of the Israeli Scottish Rite and his words are worth repeating.

"Too many people believe that peace is a diplomatic maneuvering, a series of talks and shuttle trips between countries, or a pile of documents signed in Paris or on the lawn of the White House, in Washington. Real Peace can only come from the hearts of men."

"The greatest ideal in the world today is fraternity, not as a mere sentiment, but as a science, a practical philosophy and a way of life. If ever there was a generation eager and willing to try out the philosophy of brotherhood with wisdom and patience, it must be this generation. We have been shown in letters of blood and fire, what hate, envy and greed can do."

"I believe Freemasonry can do a lot towards building a better world, fit to live in, unstained by blood, undefiled by hatred. This is the challenge to our craft."

"Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." This is the Commandment to which Freemasonry dedicated itself, to establish brotherhood among men so they can live in peace with each other in this world."

"The struggle of Freemasonry is the struggle of the human race against tyranny and oppression. From the beginning, Freemasonry has realized that religion, tradition, and habits of life can divide the peoples of the world into hostile camps. Freemasonry takes no part in these quarrels, rather it provides a common meeting ground where all men can meet on the level."

"Every Masonic lodge is a temple of peace. In it, men of different religions and stations in life meet together, and on its altars, the Sacred Volumes of all faiths are placed. The spirit of harmony and cooperation prevails. The Masonic teachings of equality and fraternity are the only tie that can bind the human family together, and create a world order based on brotherly love and peace." "FREEMASONRY & WORLD PEACE", by Joseph A. Salem.

After I delivered "World Peace Through Brotherhood" at one Alberta Lodge, the Worshipful Master came up to me and said. "Do you know what stood out for me in that hour long lecture you gave?" He immediately answered his own question with, "Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of peace." **EVERY MASONIC LODGE IS A TEMPLE OF PEACE.** And that is so true. Just as one might check his weapon at the door, every Mason checks his agenda at the door.

And what Salem imparts to us is that peace which starts with the heart not with actions of civil servants. And that is where Freemasonry starts right from the very start. Where is a man first made a Mason? In his heart – and he is raised, reborn into a new way of life, one of respect for others, with love for all humankind, with tolerance of different beliefs, styles and

cultures and non judgmental, leading to peace, harmony and accord. This works very well as long as what is given is also received back. And here is where our dream, our fantasy of what would the world be like if every person was a Mason, comes into play.

Lest anyone think that I am just substituting one, one and only true way with Freemasonry as the new one and only true way, let me say this. Freemasonry is not the one and only true way. It's not even the only way. But it is the best way I know right now at this moment. Religious organizations, houses of worship and secular organizations have a role to play also. But the difference is this. While they seek to impart peace through adherence to a certain dogma, creed or agenda, Freemasonry does not. Freemasonry's dogma, creed and agenda is no dogma, no creed, no agenda except generalities of righteousness and nobleness that have been recognized by every religion, every culture, every free government since time immemorial.

Now talk as I may, and talk as the great writers around me may, none of us will have so many ears listening as will those who listen to Dan Brown. The words that he tells us as he repeats them over and over again, will have a tremendous effect on those who seek to implement worldwide peace and harmony in our time.



Thank you Dan Brown. We are overjoyed that you understand!

***By R.W. Bro. Ezekiel M. Bey,
Grand Historian, MWPHGL of New York.***

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

IS THE “LOST SYMBOL” by DAN BROWN AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF FREEMASONRY?

When fiction writer Dan Brown exploded into the literary scene with the *Da Vinci Code*, its story line based on events involving the Roman Catholic Church, caused discussions and debates worldwide. Millions of copies were sold, and a movie was made.

Now his latest book, *The Lost Symbol*, is set in Washington D.C. The story line of this book is Masonry and a treasure of knowledge that was supposedly lost by Freemasons. This is a NOVEL, - a work of FICTION.

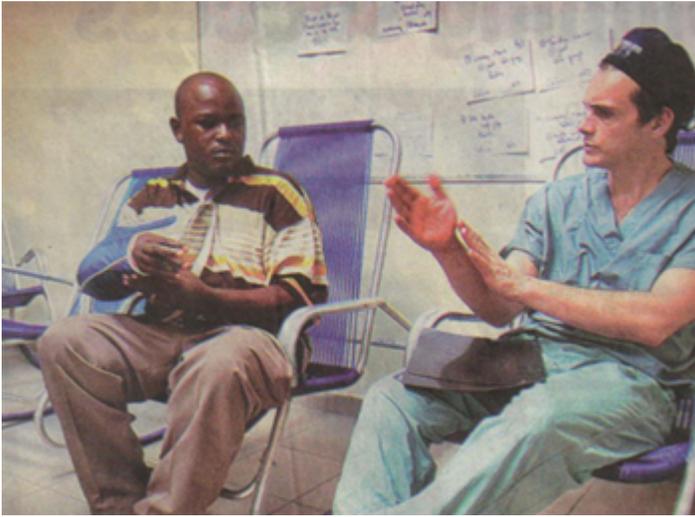
Many of its readers have been taking it literally, as it describes locations and organizations that do exist in real life. They assume that everything that is written about Freemasons is fact. And even some Freemasons are falling into this trap. This begs the question as to how readers can distinguish between the factual descriptions of Freemasonry and the fictional elements.

One writer, Keri Withington¹, read the book, did her research and then spoke with active Freemasons, and this is what she found. “If in doubt, go to the source, don’t trust Dan Brown. He is not a Freemason. Talk with a Freemason. They are encouraged to talk about their gentle craft and its organization and their participation”. One mason told her that, “Freemasonry is not a Secret Society but a fraternal society with a few distinguishing secrets”. How many times have you heard that one. For me that is a keeper.

Always remember that the Internet is full of information, some very true. To locate accurate information, from reliable sources, always turn to the Grand Lodge sites, of which some 75 are found on our Grand Lodge Website -- www.grandlodge.on.ca. If you prefer traditional printed media, I agree with Keri Withington’s recommendation: *Freemasons for Dummies*, by Chris Hodapp, and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry*, by Brent Morris (current Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research, London).

¹. *Keri Withington is a contributing writer to Arts and Entertainment.*

HAMILTON MASON HELPS IN HAITI



Bro. (Dr.) Brad Petrisor J.W. of Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654, an orthopedic surgeon, joined a team of area doctors organized by St. Joseph's Hospital Hamilton, to provide health care in Haiti after the earthquake. He is pictured consulting with a Haitian Doctor who had his right arm crushed during the quake.

MASONIC FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario has recently updated its website (www.masonicfoundation.on.ca). Please feel free to come and visit us.

We are also in the process of updating much of the material on the site and will keep you informed as this happens.

District projects are now listed on the site www.masonicfoundation.on.ca/district_projects.html.

We would also like to remind you that there are various ways of donating to the Foundation including the ability to donate on line. Information on donating to the Foundation can be found at www.masonicfoundation.on.ca/donate.html.

Fraternally,

A. Douglas Nichols, President
The Masonic Foundation of Ontario

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Does the Lodge Seal have to be used on all Dues Cards?

A. Yes. The Lodge Seal must be affixed to all lodge documents including all Dues Cards. This was passed at Grand Lodge last July (2009). See section 302 b (10) in the Book of Constitution.

Q. What is a sponsor's responsibility?

A. On every petitioner for Freemasonry rests a responsibility for the proper conditioning to our principles. The two Masons who sign the petition have a responsibility that does not end with their signature on the petition. If you invite a guest to a gathering at your home, you make sure that he meets all your guests and is made welcome and comfortable. Isn't the man whom you recommended entitled to the same courtesy? It is your duty to assist him with his Work and take an interest in his progress. It seems that you should see to it that he fully understands the fine lessons of the degrees. If you recommend a man to the Craft, satisfy yourself that he is receiving that for which you recommended him. To do so is but a Masonic courtesy and it is also your duty as a Mason.

Q. What happens to the statement from the Masonic Bureau that is sent to each lodge once every four months?

A. The statement shall be reported in open lodge by the Secretary of the lodge, Sec. 332 in the Book of Constitution.

Q. What is dogma?

A. Dogma is the established belief or doctrine held by a religion or church. It is authoritative and not to be disputed, doubted or diverged from. Masonry, not being a religion, has no dogma.

Q. Did our Grand Lodge charter a lodge in Israel?

A. Yes. The Grand Lodge of Canada issued a warrant in 1873 to Royal Solomon Mother Lodge No. 293 in Jerusalem, Palestine. Because of its location, lack of proper direction and supervision, and serious criticism of its work, the warrant was withdrawn in 1902.

Q. Why should we sing the Masonic Hymn before opening the lodge?

A. Because it contains the essential elements for every lodge, "open in order and part in harmony and peace".

Q. What does a lodge have to produce to their Insurance Company in order to get replacements for stolen property?

A. An inventory list with values is a must, pictures help as well.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

"Trust your heart in matters of the heart." Peter George

IN MEMORIAM

R.W. BRO. JOHN (JACK) KNIGHT: Past Master of the Electric Lodge No.496, DDGM of Hamilton District C in 1984, passed to the Grand Lodge Above on Saturday March 13, 2010 in his 90th year. Cremation has taken place. Private family graveside service will be held at a later date.

W. BRO. ERNEST VICTOR CASSIDY: Past Master of Doric Lodge No. 382 (1994), passed to the Grand Lodge Above at London Ontario, on Wednesday March 24th, 2010 in his 90th year. A Masonic Memorial Service will be held at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens Chapel, 1997 Dundas Street East, London, Ontario, on Monday, March 29th at 7:00 pm. Funeral Service Tuesday March 30th at 11:00 am in the Chapel, R.W. Bro. (Rev.) Aaron Orr officiating.

DISTRICT EVENTS

FIRST SANKEY LECTURE at Brock University, Saturday, April 17th, 3:00 pm. Dr. Andreas Onnerfors from Sheffield University, England. "*PERCEPTIONS OF FREEMASONRY FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TO THE INTERNET*" Tickets free, with an income tax donation to the Masonic Foundation, Project No. 2937, in lieu of a charge. Contact Brock Centre for the Arts Office, toll free 1-866-617 ext 3257 or boxoffice@brocku.ca for tickets. As the tickets sold out for the Pond Inlet Hall, we are told they now have a larger Hall that will seat 500 people.

2nd ANNUAL DUFFERIN WARPLANE GALA: Saturday, April 17th, Doors open at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm for all masons, friends and family. This year marks the second year of this event. A buffet dinner, dance, live band, and tours of the museum are included in the event that will be held at the **Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at Mount Hope.** Some lodges in the district have used this event as their ladies night. Why not make it yours as well and join in the fun? Half of the proceeds from this event will be donated to our DDGM's charity of choice, the **Ronald McDonald House.** Tickets are \$50 per person. We'll also be selling raffle tickets at the event to win one of 6 flights for 2, in a DC-3 warplane. A total of 12 guests from this event will be flying in the aircraft at a date later in the year. For more information contact: Devin Tuinstra, phone: (905) 627-3908 Email: devin@floatpoint.com

On **Sunday April 18 at 2 p.m.** the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Society will be hosting a special **unveiling of a Loyalist Burial Site plaque at the Hamilton Cemetery** on York Blvd, opposite Dundurn Castle. This is at the burial site of Robert Land Sr. His is a heroic story of courage, dedication and stamina. After the unveiling, Robin McKee will lead a forty minute walk, pointing out some of the historic people who were involved in the early history of Hamilton. This will also include some of the War of 1812 individuals and a look at the earthworks of the original British

fort. Refreshments will be made available both during and after this remarkable tour.

GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION & BANQUET: Friday April 23rd, at the Masonic Centre. Reception at **6:00 pm**; Dinner at **7:00 pm**; Tickets \$40.00 per person **before April 5, 2010** by contacting your **Lodge Secretary.**
District C Chairman, John Dove 905 945-6651
distsec654@gmail.com
General Ticket Chairman, R.W. Bro. Robert Kerr
Phone: 905-945-0132, Email: bobkerr@sympatico.ca

DUFFERIN LODGE No. 291, PANCAKE BREAKFAST. All you can eat Pancake Breakfast, at the **West Flamborough (Dufferin Lodge) Masonic Temple, 200 Hwy 8, West Flamborough, Saturday April 24, 7:30 am-11 am.** Adults \$5, Children \$4.

SPRING DIVINE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, 252 James Street North Hamilton, Sunday April 25, 2010. 7.00 pm. Service 7:30 pm. For families and friends. Aprons for Masons. Arranged for the Board of Relief by Oakville Lodge No. 400

DISTRICT 'C' SPRING MEETING: Saturday, May 15th, 10:00 am. Ancaster Masonic Temple, 419 Wilson Street Ancaster. All District Masons are welcomed, especially the Worshipful Master, Officers and the Secretary of your lodge. Hear the annual activity reports from all District Officers and Committee Chairmen. Bring your new District ideas and another member from your lodge.

PAST MASTERS' ANNUAL MEETING, Friday May 28, 2010 at the Scottish Rite Club, 4 Queen Street S. Dinner 6:00 pm (\$15.00 per person) Meeting 7:30 pm. General Business and Introduction of Candidates for Grand Lodge Offices. This is a joint meeting with the **Masters and Wardens' Association.** For dinner reservations, contact Tom Young at 905-318-0182 or tyoung@mountaincable.net

MASTER & SECRETARY SEMINAR + COMPTUER RESOURCE SEMINAR Monday May 31st, at Masonic Centre, Hamilton. Sign-in at 6:00 pm, seminars commence at 6:30 pm. Coffee and light dinner provided by the Districts C.B.A.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to the Grave Site of our First Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William Mercer Wilson. **Sunday, June 27, 2010, 2:30 p.m.** St. John's Anglican Church, Woodhouse (a few miles South of Simcoe). All Masons and Families welcome. Regalia is worn.

Editor: R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie
Webmaster: Bro. Devin Tuinstra

Share a hard copy with a member,
who does not have a computer.