

District 'C'hronicle



January 2014

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No. 65

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren,



**R.W. Bro.
Geoffrey S. Allan**

What do baking soda and our Masonic ritual have in common? Now I am sure these are two things you have never heard in the same sentence before. Allow me to explain how I made this bizarre connection.

I don't fancy myself a chef by any stretch of the imagination, but I do like to try my hand at baking. Perhaps its because baking, unlike other culinary disciplines is quite

scientific and demands accuracy in measuring out ingredients to achieve a desired result. Or maybe it's because I simply enjoy fresh baked goods.

My first experience at making a tasty treat was to bake a cake for my sister's birthday many, many years ago. It was going to be a surprise, and I can assure you it was. I thought I had covered all the bases with the right ingredients until I discovered I needed baking soda of which I had none. Not realizing the importance of this ingredient, I thought I would add a bit more flour to compensate.

I should have paid closer attention to the details. Although the end product was edible, it was the shortest cake in the world and would have been fantastic had I set out to bake brownies.

In many ways our Ritual is a recipe. Each degree requires specific ingredients in a perfect combination to produce the desired product. If just one detail is left out or ignored, we run the risk of changing the entire meaning of our message. Our product of making good men better should be in high demand and not left on the 'day-old' rack as the next best thing.

If we make a concerted effort to use the current version of Grand Lodge publications and pay proper attention to the mechanics, then the product we produce will be of substantial benefit to our candidates and a credit to ourselves.

So Brethren, let us eat cake! I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to seeing you once again in my travels.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Geoffrey S. Allan
District Deputy Grand Master

From the Grand Master



**M.W. Bro.
Donald A. Campbell**

The following paragraphs, which may be of interest to all Masons, are extracted from the most recent D.D.G.M. Communique.

“By the summons I receive, visitors and perspective candidates are visiting lodge buildings and lodge rooms in an increasing number. Most active lodges, after several years of declining membership, are experiencing younger and better educated men joining Freemasonry.

Of concern, is the lack of proper background checks conducted on new applicants. I caution all lodges and members: Just because you received information on a potential applicant from the Grand Lodge office or from the Communications Committee, it doesn't mean a background check had been completed by them. That is your responsibility.

Prior to the submission of a Form 6 petition, it is the responsibility of the two sponsors of the potential, but as yet unknown, applicant, to satisfy themselves that he is an upright citizen worthy of their sponsorship. Upon receipt of a petition, the single most important event in the life of a Masonic Lodge is the function performed by the Committee of Inquiry. It is highly unlikely for every member of a Lodge to personally know all potential petitioners. In these days of declining membership, the Brothers who sign the petition of a prospective member may be blinded by a concern for shrinking membership in their Lodge, or simply, not have sufficient concern to see beyond the

surface of the potential initiate whose petition they are signing.

The committee must seek the truth about the depth of the character of whom they investigate. Just as importantly, they must consider the financial circumstances of the petitioner, the organizations he is already involved in, the kind of company he keeps, the reputation he has in the community, in his work place, and with the general public he comes in contact with every day. Another very important factor is the support of the candidate's partner and/or family.”

Donald A. Campbell,
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

“Brethren, COMMUNICATIONS is possibly the most valuable tool available to us to provide information throughout our fraternity to benefit the craft and members by giving various venues to access items of interest about Freemasonry. There are a number of workshops and seminars such as Lodges of Instruction and Protocol and Etiquette sessions to name just a couple. There are a number of ways to access information such as Facilifacts and the Masonic Newsletter that are regularly written and distributed to those who are eager to discover ongoing aspects of Freemasonry that may be new to their Masonic learning.

The Masonic Website is becoming more popular each day as a manner in which to acquire Masonic information as we strive to become more knowledgeable about fraternity. The first on-line Ontario Magazine is now available. I have reviewed the draft copy and I must say how pleased and proud I am about our first effort. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this new effort to keep Masons in Ontario informed of various Masonic articles, happenings and celebrations.”

John C. Green,
Deputy Grand Master

To read the complete Messages from the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, go to the G.L. website at <http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/> -
LOGIN>>COMMUNICATIONS>>GRANDLODGE
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTERS >> DDGM Communique

A Masonic Minute

“So here’s a hand my trusty friend.” – Bro. Robert Burns (1759-1796)



During the latter part of January many lodges hold events celebrating the birthday of Bro. Robbie Burns (25 January 1759). The kilt will be worn, the haggis will be addressed, the pipes will play, and the Immortal Memory of Scotland’s favourite son will be toasted with a dram. Invariably the festivities will end with the singing of his great hymn to brotherhood – Auld Lang Syne. It,

like so much of his poetry, encapsulates the spirit of Freemasonry that he embraced.

Of all the mythology surrounding our Fraternity, the ‘secret handshake’ must rank in first place. Nothing fuels the fertile fantasies of the conspiracy obsessed public more than the simple handshake exchanged when two Brethren meet. It is usually the first question asked in any interview given to the media by a Mason.

Clasping right hands is an almost universal form of greeting when two people are introduced, or when they meet. It may have originated in ancient times to show that both parties had open and affable intentions and that there was no weapon in the hand. The right hand was favoured to carry a sword, axe or lance in battle.

Shaking hands is a symbol of agreement, often used to show goodwill and sincerity by statesmen, diplomats, and politicians. In simpler times, many deals were closed with a simple handshake.

The so-called ‘secret Masonic handshake’ is part of our inheritance from the stonemasons’ guilds of the middle ages from which modern Masonic lodges emerged in the early eighteenth century, and from which we derive much of our terminology and symbolism. In the age of the building of the castles, cathedrals, and abbeys of Europe, when the skilled craftsmen – Freemasons – travelled from building site to building site, it was necessary to have some form of identification. In the medieval period there were no trade school certificates, no college diplomas, or union cards to validate the bearer’s training, skill and ability.

A system of handshakes, with subtle variations, together with passwords was devised to indicate the skill, experience or proficiency level of the craftsmen. These were kept as ‘trade secrets’ in each level of

proven skill and ability. We have retained them as part of our traditional history to honour our ancient operative brethren. They are known as ‘modes of recognition’ and are considered confidential and private matters to be kept within the Fraternity. How anyone can derive a sinister meaning from such a gesture of mutual trust and fraternal affection is beyond reason.

The real significance of the ‘Masonic handshake’ is the sincere bond of friendship – the Mystic Tie – that it symbolizes. Every Freemason is an integral part of this Universal Brotherhood, bound by sincere affection to a Global Fraternity – Brothers without borders. When we form a circle, join hands, and sing Bro. Burns’ “Auld Lang Syne”, we celebrate the essence of our gentle Craft.

Raymond S. J. Daniels
P. G. M.

Past Masters' Association
of the Hamilton Districts'
Next Breakfast Meeting
Guest Speaker
Paul Henderson

Saturday, February 8, 2014
Masonic Centre Hamilton (Scottish Rite)
Meet and Greet - 8:30 a.m.

Please reserve using M.G.L. events or call 289-239-9129 for Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting to begin at 9:45 a.m.

Cost for breakfast is \$12.00
(Correct Change Appreciated)

Dress: Business casual
Open to All Past Masters

We are looking forward to a great morning
of Masonic Fellowship; your presence
would be deeply appreciated.

(1st time I.P.M.s, please take advantage of
our free one-year membership offer)

Please contact Harley Auty to reserve your
breakfast at hauty@cogeco.ca or 289-239-9129
by Monday February 3, 2014.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming District Blood Donor Clinics



Hamilton Convention Centre – 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hosted by Buchanan Lodge No. 550

January	13	2014
February	07	2014
March	17	2014

Saltfleet Secondary School – 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Meridian Lodge No. 687

January	10	2014
March	07	2014

35 Stone Church Road from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hosted by Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

April	5, 19	2014
June	7, 21	2014
August	2, 16	2014

Still available for District C Lodges to volunteer at
35 Stone Church Rd. from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

April	12, 26	2014
June	14, 28	2014
August	9, 23, 30	2014

Brethren, the community appreciates your support.

R.W. Bro. Eduardo Cordero
 Chairman

Saturday, January 11, 2014

District 'C' Mid-Term Meeting

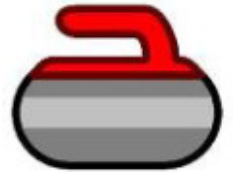
at 10:00 a.m. at the Hillcrest Temple

**Get the latest update on District Activities and
 dialogue with the DDGM.**

Saturday, February 22, 2014

HELESPIEL 2014 !!!

Please join once again for our annual
Curling Bonspiel
 at the Dundas Granite Curling Club.
 Contact **W. Bro. John Mackay** for
 tickets at 905-632-7412.



District C January Installations

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Seymour Lodge No. 272 Ancaster
 Dinner – 6:30 p.m. Lodge – 7:30 p.m.

Please reserve your Dinner Subscription (Members \$10 -
 Visitors \$5) by contacting R.W. Bro. Tom Marshall at
 (905-578-2833) or marshall50@gmail.com

District C DDGM Official Visits

Thursday, January 23, 2013

Corinthian Lodge No. 513

MCH

Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Accompanying the DDGM - Meridian Lodge No. 687
 Refreshments following the meeting.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654

MCH

Dinner 6:30 p.m. - Lodge 7:30 p.m.

Accompanying the DDGM - Dufferin Lodge No. 291

THE COLLEGE OF FREEMASONRY

The Committee on Masonic Education offers its challenging Correspondence Course of Masonic Education throughout this jurisdiction. The College of Freemasonry offers 3 courses of study available to all Master Masons in this jurisdiction:

1. **Masonic Arts & Sciences Course** – completion allows you to become a Fellow of the College of Freemasonry (F.C.F.).
2. **Past Master's Course** – completion allows you to meet the requirements of the Book of Constitution Section 50(b).
3. **Worshipful Master's Course** – completion allows you to be a better informed Mason about many aspects of our Craft on your way to the East.

A certificate of completion will be given at the completion of any of the above courses of study. You may continue to another course of study and be credited for the modules you have already completed.

To register, go to the Grand Lodge website (grandlodge.on.ca) sign in, click on “Membership”, and then click on “College of Freemasonry”. You may download the course prospectus and application form from there, or you may contact us at masonic.college@gmail.com to send you an application.

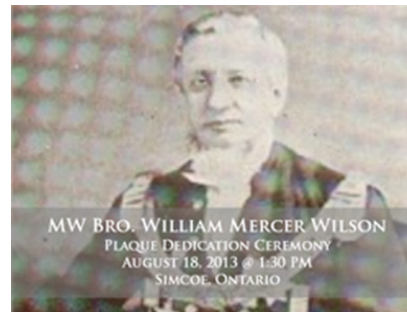
Our First Grand Master

WILSON, WILLIAM MERCER, judge and freemason; b. 12 or 24 Aug. 1813 at “Mavisbank,” the family estate in Perthshire, Scotland, son of Graeme Mercer; d. 16 Jan. 1875, at Simcoe, Ont.

William Mercer was adopted by his mother's brother, and William took his name, Wilson. He emigrated to Canada in 1832 and settled at Nanticoke in what is now Haldimand County. In 1834 he moved to Simcoe and was appointed commissioner to the Court of Requests in the Talbot

District. In the same year he married Jane Brown, by whom he had 10 children. She died about 1849. During the rebellion in Upper Canada in 1837–38 he commanded the Norfolk Cavalry troop, which he had organized, and joined Allan MacNab at Scotland (Ontario), following him to Chippawa where he participated in the capture of the Caroline. He was gazetted lieutenant-colonel of the 3rd Battalion Norfolk militia in 1848 and retired from it with that rank in 1869.

In 1838 Wilson became clerk of the peace and clerk of the court for the Talbot District and accumulated other minor posts. He began the study of law, and in 1853 was called to the bar. His law practice flourished and he became active in local political affairs. During the 1860s he was elected reeve of Simcoe for five years and warden of Norfolk County for two years. He continued as clerk of the peace until 1858 when he was appointed crown attorney for the county. On 5 May 1868 he became judge of the county court.



Wilson's career indicates a wide variety of interests. In 1840 he had imported the first printing press into the Talbot District and founded at Simcoe the Norfolk

Observer, which he conducted for about two years. He helped form the St Andrew's Society in 1842 and was president of it and of the Mechanics' Institute. In 1851 he was a delegate of the Provincial Agricultural Association to a meeting in London, England. Wilson's association with freemasonry began in 1840. He was initiated into Lodge No.14 (the Norfolk Lodge) at Simcoe and eight years later he was named Grand Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge. When the Grand Lodge of Canada West was formed, independent of the Grand Lodge of England, in October 1855, Wilson became the first Grand Master. It was largely through his encouragement that the rival Ancient Grand Lodge under Sir Allan MacNab, which was formed from the Provincial Grand Lodge when it too broke away from the English lodge, joined the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1858. Wilson was Grand Master until 1860 and was again elected to this position for 1866–68 and from 1872 until his death in 1875. He had married in London, England, Susan Grace Codner by whom he had three children. She died in 1855 and he married Mary Elizabeth Dixon; they had one daughter.

Anne E. F. Sniderman, “WILSON, WILLIAM MERCER,” in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 10, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003.

Around The District

Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654



**Members of Landmarks/Doric Lodge No. 654 recently volunteered at Ronald McDonald House.
From left to right are: W. Bro. J. B. MacLean, V.W. Bro. R. Gilbank, Bro. L. Webber,
W. Bro. E. Mallard, V.W. Bro. D. Ward, and Bro. S. Ginis.**

Grand Piper V.W. Bro. John Terrence



V.W. Bro. John Terrence, Grand Piper, recently received his regalia at Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602. He stands proudly with the DDGM, R.W. Bro. Geoffrey Allan, and distinguished brethren from Hugh Murray Lodge (from L. to R.): V. W. Bro. Martin Tees - PGS, V.W. Bro. Archie McQuilkie – PGS, the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. John Johnston - PDDGM, and V.W. Bro. Cliff Foreman - PGS. On the step is V.W. Bro. John Thombs - PGP.

Who's In Charge Here?

Buchanan Lodge No. 550
Worshipful Master
R.W. Bro. Michael Kingsley



Corinthian Lodge No. 513
Worshipful Master
W. Bro. Gary Chiarot



Next month - Westmount Lodge No. 671

Interesting Websites

Bulletproof Freemasonry: "What I learned about the Craft in Afghanistan"

Published on Dec 9, 2013

Grand Lodge of of Canada in the Province of Ontario

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM8q-SL2ogk&feature=youtu.be>

Masonic Download Library

http://www.halifax81.com/Old_Masonic_Books_on_PDF.php

In Memoriam

Valley Lodge No. 100

Bro. John William Winder

Initiated into Browne Lodge No. 24, Farnham, Quebec:
May 1, 1954

Passed: June 5, 1954

Raised: October 2, 1954

Affiliated with Valley Lodge No.100: Feb. 13. 1961
Passed to the Grand Lodge Above: November 24, 2013

Temple Lodge No. 324

Bro. Christopher Darby

Passed to the G.L.A.: December 8, 2013

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602

Bro. Delton Gerald Taggart

Initiated: January 18, 1966

Passed: March 29, 1966

Raised: April 29, 1966

Passed to the G.L.A.: December 3, 2013

**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted,
We Shall Cherish Their Memory in Our Hearts.**

Ontario Mason Magazine

<http://www.grandlodge.on.ca/> > member login
>communications >OMM

Launches!

The Ontario Mason Magazine Team and the Communications Committee are extremely pleased to announce the re-introduction of the Ontario Mason Magazine (OMM), in its new on-line format.

Ontario Mason Magazine - 2013 Fall



Happy New Year from your Editorial Team!

Editor: W. Bro. Harley Auty
Associate Editor: R. W. Bro. Bill MacPherson
Webmaster: Bro. Bill Paul
District Photographer: V.W. Bro. John Lyness

Share a copy of the newsletter with someone who does not have a computer. The Editorial Staff welcomes submissions from the brethren.