

The District Light

The information bulletin
of Niagara B District

May, 2015

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A Short History

[The following article is taken from a pamphlet printed by The Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London, England.]

When, where, and why Freemasonry began is not known. It is believed to have originated in England, descending from the craft of the medieval stonemasons. Lodges of operative masons began to accept non-practicing members who gradually took over whilst groups of men interested in promoting tolerance came together and adopted the stonemasons' tools and customs as allegorical teaching aids.

The earliest record of the making of a freemason in a non-operative lodge in England is Alias Ashmole at Warrington in 1646.



On the 24th of June, 1717, four London lodges came together to form the first Grand Lodge in the world. It became the regulatory body for Freemasonry, holding regular meetings and publishing a book of regulations.

A rival Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1751 claiming for itself the title, "Antients Grand Lodge". For 60 years the two Grand Lodges co-existed until a union between the two was completed in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England.



HRH, Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent heads both the Craft and the Royal Arch; being the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and the First Grand Principal of the Supreme

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

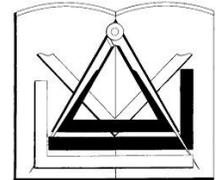
Prince William is his nephew.



Some Facts

Many theories exist tracing masonry to distant times and events. Here are a few basic facts which are accepted by all:

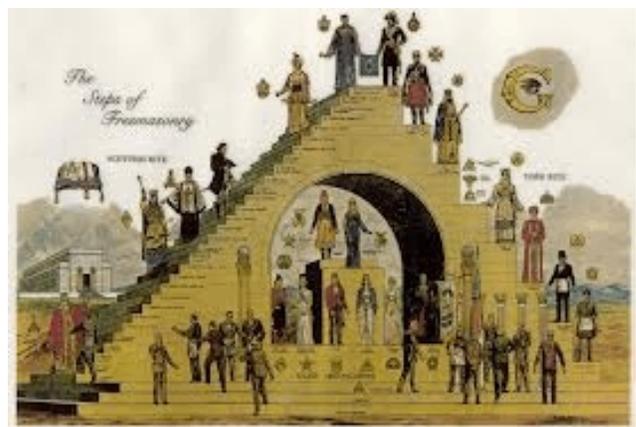
- Stone masons practised skilled trade requiring standard of literacy and communication that would enable them to execute the designs of architects.
- Castles, cathedrals and ornate structures resulted from their combined efforts.
- The working masons, or Operative masons, later accepted among themselves others who were not working masons but were known as Accepted or Speculative Masons.



Irregularities

The rapid spread of Freemasonry must have created its own form of difficulty in management for their premier Grand Lodge. Military Lodges and Colonists carried Freemasonry into other lands, and the second and third quarters of the eighteenth century became a fertile period for irregularities. New degrees, pseudo degrees, and new Orders emerged.

The independent Grand Lodges struggle to keep the work as 'correct' as possible.



The Oldest

The last operative lodge to relinquish its charter is now Edinburgh Lodge No 1. It received its charter in 1634 from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and has minutes dating back to July 1599. It is reputed to be the oldest running lodge in the world.

Interested in History?

Heritage Lodge No. 730 G.R.C. was formed to provide an intellectual environment for the pursuit of Masonic knowledge and also to provide a means for receiving and recording historical artefacts to ensure the preservation of our Masonic Heritage without encroaching on the normal functions of Constituent Lodges. Heritage Lodge accepts, by affiliation in the usual manner, all Masons of like mind.

Your secretary can provide you with an application.

Colonial Degree



Two masonic lodges in Youngstown, New York, will be hosting a picnic and staging a Colonial Degree at Old Fort Niagara on Saturday, May 30.

The picnic starts at 1:00. The degree will

begin at 5:30. Tickets might still be available: www.eventbrite.com/e/colonial-degree-mmxv-tickets-15641750898

A Canadian Version

For those who would like to experience what a Masonic Lodge meeting was like back in the good old days, there will be an 18th Century Degree at Pickering on June 6.

Contact: Stephen Hudson at 905-995-4824 or steve@stevehudson.ca or Keith Larocque at tinselmason@fanoftheweb.com or 905-721-8701.

Activity in Our District

Each lodge does its own thing, but really, we are all doing *our* thing, so we should feel welcome to share in any lodge's experiences.

The district web site lists some events which we could witness or become part of.

Find it at www.niagarabmasons.ca

Here are some other things being done which reflect and advance our purpose.

Macnab Lodge

[meets in Port Colborne on the 2nd Tuesday.]

- We just had our first annual lodge euchre night, courtesy of our Junior Warden, Ron Jordan.
- We have received dispensation to move our regular meeting (and election meeting) to April 28 to facilitate our attendance at St. Mark's official visit.
- Our installation will be held Tuesday, May 12, All are welcome.
- It has been relatively quiet in our lodge following our joint 150th meeting with Merritt. It was well worth the time and effort.

W.B. Michael M. Metzger, master

Adoniram Lodge

__ [meets 1st Monday at Van Alstyne Place]

We are having our installation of new officers on May 4 at 7:30. You can meet some visiting brothers from Western Star lodge in New York and enjoy some great fellowship.

There will be Craft food and beverages provided.

Also try out our new pool table.

W.B. Nick Andras, secretary

Visiting

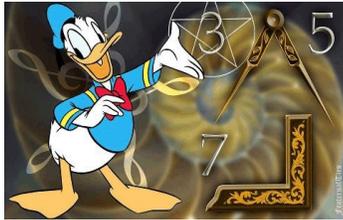
How pleasant it can be to visit another lodge and be welcomed.

At the inter-district meeting at Copestone Lodge this month, we were impressed to see eight masters and many masons from Niagara A present.

In the next two months there will be installations and social events such as golf tournaments and barbeques. Information should be distributed.

Doing the work well

In a very real sense, ‘good work’ is what the Masonic lodge is all about.



The key truths of Masonry are reduced to ceremony and symbols which are re-enacted every stated meeting, so that men will not

only marvel at the beauty of truth, but these truths will become their intimate friends.

Masonry is a progressive moral science, divided into different degrees, and as its principles and mystic ceremonies are regularly developed and illustrated, it is intended and hoped that they will make a deep and lasting impression upon the mind.

Does it Work?

Well-presented charges transmit and affect us like good theatre.

“The function of all art is to attack the nervous system of the viewer, and not merely to please the viewer.” (Richard Nieoczym)

However, the charges are sometimes given as statements of memory work without interpretation or feeling.

Sir Josiah Stamp called this process "The inculcation of the incomprehensible into the ignorant by the incompetent."

But many of us try to instill life into the work by making it sound spontaneous and meaningful. And we appreciate the men who make the lessons appealing and therefore memorable.

Two more Quotes



Carl Jung: “As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.”

Confucius say, “Who say I say all those things they say I say?”



In the Community

Usually we keep a ‘low profile’. Since masonry is not a service organization, we do not knock on doors or solicit money or attention.

Still, there are times that we are visibly active in the community. We attend the yearly Divine Service. We sponsor Child Identification clinics. We appear in groups to have meals in restaurants (and behave ourselves).

And we try to project a good image. Masons are nice people.

Belonging

You can join the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Shrine, rise high in those appendant bodies, rise high in the Blue Lodge, and maybe get one of these fancy aprons.

But remember, we’re all Brothers. There is nothing higher than the Third Degree. There is no greater title than ‘Brother.’



One Brother’s Mission

In the March issue of this newsletter, there was an article about how bother Aubrey Foley has been repairing bicycles and then giving many of them to needy people.


THE BROKEN SPOKE
“Bikes for Cuba”
 (905) 834-1250
 becca2@cogeco.ca


Perhaps we could donate some bicycles to him or collect some funds to offset his expenses.