



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren, where has the summer gone? We hope that you have been able to enjoy a healthy and happy few months and that you are ready for the longer days of fall.

For many of us it was a busy time as we attended parades with the Khartum Shriners in Selkirk, Dauphin, Gimli and Morden. My sincere thank you to VW Bro. Walter Fast, W Bro. Al Pommer and W Bro. Randy Ashcroft who so willingly provided us with such impressive transportation to lead the parades.

These parades are an excellent way for the public to see the Freemasons and Shriners participating together in an event and should help to promote a better understanding of this relationship.

A number of brethren and their ladies attended the luncheon and meeting of the Peace Garden Lodge. It was a wonderful afternoon and gave us an opportunity to meet many members of the Order of Eastern Star attending the International Tri-Annual Meeting.

The Grand Lodge Officers just recently returned from the Mid-West Conference of Grand Masters held in Bismarck, North Dakota. During the weekend the 12 Jurisdictions represented at the Mid-West Conference made presentations outlining their activities, many of which were interesting and challenging and could be considered. As well there were comprehensive presentations by Masonic Chip (Child Identification Program) and North America Renewal Committees.

We were pleased recently to have dinner with the brethren and their ladies of Doric Lodge No. 36 and also to have the honour of presenting RW Bro. Elmer Reese with his 50-year medal. It was wonderful time of fellowship and gave us an opportunity to meet the Reese family who had traveled great distances to be there for this very special occasion.

We were fortunate to be invited to

spend an hour with Lorne Edwards on the CJOB Nighthawk Radio Program discussing a number of topics relative to Freemasons.

As we started the busy month of September, a group of 30 brethren and their ladies boarded the bus for the Grand Master's Northern Trip 2008. Thursday, enjoyed lunch with brethren and ladies of Prince Arthur Lodge in Swan River and then a lovely dinner with the brethren and ladies of The Pas Lodge. In the evening the ladies were royally entertained at the home of Lady Marie Johnson while the brethren attended the lodge meeting. Friday after an easy trip to Flin Flon a boat trip aboard the Tisha Rae where we were wine and dined and shared in wonderful camaraderie. In the evening had a delicious dinner with the brethren and ladies from the Flin Flon Lodge. Once again the brethren attended Lodge. As always, Lady Bev Borgstrom organized wonderful entertainment for the ladies. Congratulations to the Flin Flon Lodge Officers on their excellent performance in the Opening and Closing of their Lodge. Saturday a longer trip to Thompson where the brethren attended lodge in the afternoon. In the evening the brethren and their ladies were treated to an absolutely sumptuous Table Lodge. Sunday on the trip home we were treated to a "Rainbow" ending to a very memorable trip.

What a wonderful weekend. Thanks to all. To those who had planned to join us but for health reasons were not able to we hope that you are on the mend and will soon be well again.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Fraternally,
Ted

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

OCTOBER 2008

2	Viking Lodge No. 175	Gimli	7:00 pm	OV
3	Capitol Lodge No. 136	Kimberly Temple	7:30 pm	OV
4	Condition of Freemasonry	Carberry	10:00 am	
5	Lodge Education Officers' Workshop	MMC	TBA	
11	Empire Lodge No. 127 Bonfire	106 Mayberry Ave.	6:00 pm	
15— 17	Western Canada Conference	Canmore AB		
18	EA Degree Workshop	MMC	TBA	
18	Potentate's Ball	Victoria Inn		
20	Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 3	MMC	7:30 pm	

THE RETREAT

Almost 250 years ago, at the conception of Speculative Freemasonry, Bro. William Preston penned these thoughts regarding Masonic education:

"Without much instruction, and more exercise no man can be skillful in any art; in like manner without an assiduous application to the various subjects treated in different lectures of Masonry no person can be sufficiently acquainted with the true value of the institution."*

(*assiduous - showing great care and thoroughness)

Today we continue to challenge the brethren to become acquainted with the true value of the institution. At the upcoming Retreat we will labour under three general headings: *Leadership, Mystery and Protocol*, with the hopes that there will be something offered to whet a wide variety of appetites.



Your lodge secretary has copies of the agenda and registration forms. Join us as we, with assiduity, make advancements in Masonic knowledge.

IN THE BEGINNING...

It is our intention to include a short educational article in every *Masonry in Manitoba*. Anyone interested in submitting an article is most heartily encouraged however if necessary some individuals may be asked to prepare an article for an upcoming issue.

I thought a good place to start would be the beginning. The term 'Freemason' was in common use as early as 1341 and referred to a craftsman who did specialized carving work such as the ornaments on pinnacles or spires. They were considered superior to the 'setters' who mortared the worked stones in position. Both these were superior to the relatively unskilled laborers or 'fillers' who supplied the rubble which filled in the center portion of the walls.

The evolution from operative to speculative masonry was completed by 1717 which saw the formation of the first Grand Lodge on June 24th of that year. This could more correctly be termed a revival than a beginning. Because of the innovations which they brought to the Craft they became known as the '*Moderns*.' Perhaps the greatest change was incorporated in the first Book of Constitution dated 1723. This was a product of the fertile mind (and imagination) of Rev. Dr. James Anderson. It abolished the purely Christian nature of Masonry and placed it on a Diestic basis. Although this was strongly opposed at the time it is now recognized that this change enabled Freemasonry to become the universal institution which it subsequently became. An early Grand Master, Rev. Bro Desaguliers, also made major contributions in revising the early ritual. By 1725 the portion formerly known as 'acceptance' was divided to form the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees and by 1730 the Master Mason Degree was added. The fact that the Hiram legend was not objected to by the Antients lends credibility to the presumption that it had been previously known and practiced. It was first published by Samuel Prichard in his '*Masonry Dissected*.' This was followed by a series of publications: '*Jachin and Boaz*' in 1762, '*Hiram*' in 1764, '*Shibboleth*' in 1765 and '*Tubal Kain*' in 1777 which, except for a few changes in the third degree is purported to be the workings of the Grand Lodge of the Moderns.

Dissatisfied with what they deemed a deviation from the established landmarks of the Craft a group of largely Scottish and Irish Lodges, in 1751 formed a second Grand Lodge which, because it adhered more strictly to the old traditions, became known as the '*Antients*' even though they were several years younger. Bro Laurence Dermott, who was appointed as their secretary, went on to develop their ritual which was published under the title '*Ahiman Rezon*.'

Another contemporary Freemason who was to make a tremendous impact upon the developing Craft was Bro William Preston who was initiated in 1763 in an Antient Lodge however within a year that Lodge transferred to the

(Continued on page 4)

older 'Modern' Grand Lodge. He was a gifted student of the mystic art and within a few years developed correspondences with the most experienced masons, at home and abroad. He developed a series of lectures based on the first degree which he presented to the Grand Lodge Offices and leaders of the Craft in 1772. It was so well received that it was published as his '*Illustrations of Masonry.*' The second edition, covering all three degrees was published in 1775. Some of the phrases which are familiar today were included in these publications: "*No Society ever subsisted which was raised on a better principle or more solid foundation than Free-masonry...by giving sanction to the Society, and employing their genius in the elucidation of mysteries, the greatest monarchs have not been ashamed to countenance.*" Bro. Preston did not invent lectures but carried on old traditions, endeavoring to correct, refine and amplify the old workings, combining lectures and addresses in a completely new system.

The difficulties that Freemasonry is experiencing today probably pale in comparison to the situation back then and it became apparent that two Grand Lodges could not survive. Accordingly they combined into a single body which was called the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) on December 27th 1813. The two rituals which we employ today came about following a series of 'Lodges of Reconciliation' which followed the formal amalgamation.

One cannot study our ritual without being in awe of those gifted brothers whose understanding of the written word enabled them to convey both the obvious and the allegorical messages simultaneously. But they did permit certain errors to be perpetuated and we will look at one of those in the next issue.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wanted you to add a thank you to the Brethren of Kilcona Lodge No. 183 for their kind donation of \$500.00 to the Canadian Cancer Society and The Heart & Stroke Assoc, this was made in my name in appreciation as my year as Grand Master. I thought this a very nice gesture on their part.

- MW Bro. Ken Butchart, IPGM



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