

Editor: RWBro George Tapley

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Canadian Freemasonry During the First World War RWBro Michael Jenkyns, FCF, Grand Historian, Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province

of Ontario and RWBro George Tapley, PDDGM and Past Master of the Internet Lodge of Research GRA

On 4 August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany in what became known as the Great War. It would continue for almost five years. The Armistice of 11 November 1918, which we observe every year to remind us of all those who have served our Country and the many who gave their lives that our way of life could continue, was not the end. The Great War would not end until late 1919 when the last Canadian troops returned from the war in Russia. Wars have continued since then. The 1939–45 war saw "the Great War" becoming known as "the First World War" and the latter the "Second World War." And wars have continued and still exist to haunt our lives.

In 1914 all parts of the British Empire, whether Dominions or colonies were involved in support of Great Britain. So it was for Canada. This period did much to put Canada on the world stage in its

own right. Canadian forces were raised for the Canadian **Expeditionary Force** (CEF)ratherthanbeing fed piecemeal into British units. Within a short time in France the CEF, through force of character and circumstances, became a Canadian Corps of four Canadian Divisions, led and commanded bу Canadians. The attack and capture of Vimv Ridge on 9 April 1917 by Canadians showed that our forces had become the equal of all. And in 1919 Canada would attend the Peace Conference and sign the Treaty of Versailles in our own right.

And throughout this effort at home and abroad all elements of Canada's society were touched and a great many were actively involved. All aspects of society - and our Masonic Brethren —were there in full measure.

Canada's population (including Newfoundland) had reached 7.9 million on 1 July

Portrait of a British Freemason

wearing white tie, Freemasonry

medals and, at the top, his WWI

medals: 1914-15 Star with Bar,

British War Medal, and Victory

Medal.

1914. By the end of 1919, about 118,300 Freemasons belonged to Lodges spread across this area. During this period about 12,300 of those Brethren enlisted

member of Vancouver



RWBro Lt-General Arthur Currie, Commander of the Canadian Corps

and an estimated 1,000 died serving the colours. Canadian soldier-Masons occupied all ranks in the services from the most senior to the most junior. Sir Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia and responsible for the good and bad of Canada's mobilization, equipping and training, was a member of St. Andrew's 16 in Toronto. Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps (and prior to that the first commander of the 1st Canadian Division), was a

and Quadra 2, of Victoria and a Past DDGM. The first Major-Generals of the other three Canadian Divisions were also (by happenstance and not design) members of the Craft: Richard Turner, VC, of the 2^{nd} (whose VC dated from the South African War, was a member of St. Andrew's 6 of Quebec City), Malcolm Smith Mercer of the 3rd (a member of River Park 356 and Victoria 474 in Toronto. and also, regrettably, the highest ranking Canadian killed in the war) and David Watson of the 4th (a member of St. Andrew's 6 of Quebec

City). Private Thomas Ricketts of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was the youngest. He enlisted at the age of 15½ and received the VC for his actions at Ledeghem, Belgium in October 1918 (when he was 17 years old), joining Freemasonry in 1930.

Statistics show that the Grand Lodge of Alberta had 70 Lodges with 5,166 members reported as of 28 May 1913 and would grow to 112 Lodges with 9,343 members by 10 June 1920. While there are no clear statistics of Masonic enlistments in the forces, we know that 77 Alberta members of the Craft died in service

How did we as Masons act during the war?

In some jurisdictions Masons who had been born in countries that now constituted "the enemy" were excluded from Lodge activities. In Canada, where we had immigrants from countries with which we were now at war, it was generally left to the decision of the Lodge and the ballot as to whether an applicant was accepted

Charity assumed greater importance. Canadian Grand Lodges established funds for the relief of distressed Belgians following Germany's unprovoked

attack there, and continued this assistance throughout the war years. Grand Lodges found themselves financing other more specific projects such as the building and equipping of hospitals in Great Britain to treat the wounded. Grand Lodges responded quickly to the need for support following domestic disasters such as the Hillcrest Mining Disaster (Alberta) and the Halifax explosion.

Grand Lodges provided assistance, when requested, to dependents of our own serving Brethren. Funds continued to be used in the postwar period when it became obvious that Canada would, for years to come, be concerned with the welfare of the widows and children of dead soldiers as well as those under long-term hospital care. By 1925 it was estimated that there were 20,115 widows, children and destitute parents of soldiers who were receiving pensions and this number included many dependents of our soldier-Masons

Lodges provided support for their members in uniform. Lodge histories frequently refer to the remission of dues of serving Brethren, the provision of "care packages" and support for dependents in times of need

At this time in Masonic development we did not use dues cards as we do today. Grand Lodges across Canada authorized the issue of a paper certificate or card attesting to the member's good standing in his Lodge (Alberta authorized an "Active Card certificate" in 1916). This became an occasional problem in some locations: the Grand Lodge of England had constitutional conditions which precluded accepting such "informal statements." Resolution was achieved with the large number of Canadian soldier-Masons who visited Canada Lodge 3527 ER in London, in particular. On more than one occasion Canada Lodge members had to find suitable blue paper to be used for temporary aprons. En passant at the meeting of 23 April 1918, the secretary of Canada Lodge recorded the attendance of "[R] WBro Sir Arthur W. Currie, KCB, KCMG, Corps Commander, Canadian Expeditionary Force; WBro Sir Richard Turner, VC, KCB, KCMG, DSO, Commander II Division, CEF and WBro Sir David Watson, KCB, CMG, Commander IV Division, CEF. Thus, fate and fraternity brought together three of Canada's highest ranking generals in Lodge. Regardless of rank, all Brethren were



WBro Maj-Gen Malcolm Smith Mercer is the highest ranking Canadian officer ever to die in battle (Mount Sorrel, 1916). General Mercer Lodge No. 548, GRC is named in his honour.



WBro Lt-Gen Richard Turner, VC (from the South African War).



RWBro Maj-Gen David Watson, oil on canvas by William Orpen.

made equally welcome in Canada Lodge."

In France, Canadian soldier-Masons assisted in the formation of new Lodges near the front lines. Through a fortuitous set of circumstances the furnishings of one wartime Lodge formed in Havre, France by British and Commonwealth soldier-Masons has survived and now rests in Carleton 465 GRC at Carp, Ontario. This was Loge Le Havre de Grâce, No. 4 GLNIR, whose 71 founder members from around the world included 15 Canadians: six from Ontario, four from Manitoba, one each from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Alberta founder member was listed in the Lodge Register as "VERNON, F. — Bandsman Pte. #86236 — 31st Can. Bn. Central Training Camp, Harfleur — Founder 56 — member of Perfection Lodge, No. 9 GRC Canada. [The name and number actually refer to Perfection Lodge No. 9, GRA, Calgary.]

And soldier-Masons (such as Private R.J. Meekren of Golden Rule 5 of Stanstead, Quebec, who was taken at Ypres in 1916) were sometimes able to develop contact with other captives and conduct informal Lodge meetings. In other cases some of our Brethren were treated well by the enemy. Major W.H.V. Hooper (a member of St. John's 63 at Carleton Place and later mayor of the town) was one such who had been wounded, captured and given preferential treatment that probably saved his life because, in his opinion, "he was known to be a Mason."

It has long been remarked in Lodge and District histories and in social reviews of the time that many returning soldiers sought a solace with others who had encountered the same horrific wartime situations. They were also seeking an anchor in life. This is partly reflected by the immediate postwar period of growth in Alberta's Masonic membership which, by 11 June 1924, had reached 12,017. With this growth, memories of the war years are reflected in some names of new Lodges: Patricia 91 of Edmonton, instituted 30 October 1915 (originally proposed to be called "Crescent" but changed to honour the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry), Kitchener 95 of Rimbey, instituted 19 January 1917 (named in honour of Horatio Herbert Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and Broome, British Secretary of State for War in

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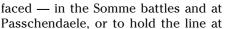
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1914, lost in the sinking of HMS Hampshire on 6 June 1916 (Bro Kitchener was District Grand Master of Egypt and also of the Punjab in his Masonic career) and Victory 112 of Jarrow, instituted 29 January 1920

In the Great War, as in other war and non-war situations, men — Canadians and others — acted as situations demanded. Masons and non-Masons behaved as they were expected so to do. We cannot imagine what conditions they





Thomas Rickets, VC — at 17 years of age, he was the youngest Canadian to win the Victoria Cross in WW1.

Ypres while poison gas shells exploded nearby. Afew were recognized for exceptional service. Of 73 Canadian recipients of the Victoria Cross during World War I, 13 were Freemasons.

What was the cost to Canada of The Great War? Our total contribution is estimated at 650,000 men and women out of our total population at the time. Of these 66,000 gave their lives. We can never forget them and we must be forever grateful to the many, today, who

continue to defend our way of life.

So mote it be

CD Available

Forthoseinterested in a CD of Canadian Freemasonry during the First World War 1914–1918, email the author, RWBro Michael Jenkyns, at jenkyns@magma.

ca and place a preliminary order. The CD is presently sold out, but if a minimum 50 orders are placed it will be reprinted and



Bro Roy Brown brought down the Red Baron, Manfred von Richthofen

mailed. The cost would be \$20.00 CDN total, including mailing. Bro Jenkyns will advise by email when the minimum quantity of 50 has been ordered.

Partnership Continues Between King George Lodge No. 59 and Local Charity

VWBro Roger Matas, PM, King George Lodge No. 59, AF&AM

The Brethren of King George Lodge No. 59 continued their support of a local charity this year, providing another significant boost to that organization.

The Alberta Wish Ride, a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, was started in Calgary in 2008 by Irene White and her husband, VWBro Roger Matas, a Past Master of King George Lodge. Members of the Lodge have contributed in one way or another to the Ride since its inception.

The event is a one-day trail ride, where participants raise funds, then

come to the ride and are treated to a special day. Members of King George have looked after cooking and serving the food for most of the Kananaskis events since 2009.

In 2013, a generous donation to the Lodge by RWBro Lior Shnitzer was turned over to the Ride and enhanced by the Alberta Masonic Foundation. That donation funded the custom made saddles which are a top prize for the riders. In 2013 the Ride gave away three saddles, emblazoned with the square and compasses and announcing the source of the funding.

There was no ride in Kananaskis in 2014, but there were two others in southern Alberta. That spurred the creation of two more saddles, but this time the support came from King George Masonic Temple. The Temple is owned, through a board of directors, by King George Lodge and also has a philanthropic mandate. The Temple sponsored the saddles, both of which, by chance, went to the Taber area this year.

The Chair of King George Masonic Temple, Bro Dave Murray, and VWBro Steve Kennard, the Treasurer, were on hand to present a saddle at the ride at the historic Reesor Ranch on 20 September.

The concept of the Ride has always been to minimize expenses and therefore increase the donation to the charity, which supports sick and terminally ill children and their families. Often the granting of even a small wish can put a smile on a child's face and bring light into what can be a very dark time. Masons know about bringing light to darkness so this partnership is ideal for both parties.

With the support of the Brethren from King George and all the others who have donated and supported the event over the past six years, the Alberta Wish Ride will top the \$200,000 mark in donations to the Children's Wish Foundation in 2014.

In the photo are (left to right):VWBro Roger Matas; Irene White, saddle winner; Sonja Waeckerlin;VWBro Steve Kennard; and Bro Dave Murray



Your DDGMs 2014–2015

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2014–2015 term. This will be continued in the next two issues of The Alberta Freemason.

Beaverhills District

RWBro Leon G. Comer was born in London, England in 1946 and immigrated to Canada in 1980. He started his career in telecommunication at the British Post Office (now BT) in 1963. After several years he decided that telecom engineering was the path to follow and attended BT's engineering college, graduating in 1969 as a Telecommunications Traffic Officer and later being promoted to a



Telecommunication Traffic Supervisor. On arriving in Canada he joined AGT in a similar position and moved throughout the company ending his career, after 22 years, as a manager in Cable Assignment. During this time, Leon was elected as chairman of an international telecom group which saw him travel throughout the US, Canada and the UK. After retirement from TELUS, Leon opened his own day care business which he has run for 10 years with a fellow Brother Mason. He spent his free time in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve as a CIC (cadet) Officer, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and was awarded the Canada 125 medal for his work with youth, and the Canadian Decoration for 12 years service, with an additional bar for a further 10 years service.

Leon has been married to Valerie for 44 years and they have two daughters, Harriet and Rachel, and four grandchildren

Leon was initiated into Empire Lodge No. 63 on 17 September 1990, passed to the Second Degree on November 19 and raised to Master Mason on 19 February 1991. He served as Worshipful Master for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

He was initiated into North Star Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons, on 16 February 2012, received as a Most Excellent Master on 15 March 2012 and exalted as a Royal Arch Mason on 21 June 2012.

Calgary Highwood District

RWBro Gregory T. Stewart was born in Edmonton, Alberta on 12 January 1959. The family moved to Calgary in 1971 and it has been home ever since. Following graduation from Lord Beaverbrook Sr. High he found work in the oil industry with Veritas Seismic Processors, assuming roles of increasing responsibility over a period of four years. Next was a four-year turn at the wheel working for Manteis Transport, delivering



fuel throughout southern Alberta and northern Montana. Beginning in July 1985 he started a long career with Calgary HandiBus as a driver for 21 years. Regular hours allowed for additional training with a thought of working in the stock brokerage industry — a dream unrealized. After 25 years of driving, ending in May of 2006, he "retired" taking on a management role with a small oil and gas firm for three

years. The investing game remains endlessly fascinating to him and the days pass quickly while observing the ebb and flow of global markets. A caring relationship of 15 years came to an unexpected end on 13 June 2009 when our Brother's companion, Helen J. Rojek, passed to the great beyond. She was instrumental in encouraging his active involvement in Freemasonry.

Our Brother was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Glenbow Lodge No 184 on 4 September 1996. He served as the Master of Glenbow for 2010–2011 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Lodge. He is a member of Alberta Chapter No. 1, taking an active interest in the Chapter. He is also a member of Zadok Council No. 3, Cryptic Rite; Cyprus Preceptory No. 33 and Pompilius York Rite College No. 79. RWBro Stewart, since 1999, has been very active in Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Valley of Calgary, where he is now Commander-in-Chief of South Alta Consistory. He served as Most Wise Sovereign of Delta Chapter of Rose Croix five years ago. He derives much pleasure visiting Lodges all around Calgary and the surrounding areas.

Yellowhead District

RWBro Reginald Karbonik was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. He graduated from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology with a diploma in Construction Engineering Technology in 1981. He later attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree in 1988. He worked as an Educator from 1988–2007 at Edmonton Public Schools, the Alberta School of Drafting and NAIT.



He joined Stantec Consulting in 2007 and took on a role of Structural Drafting Technician within the Oil & Gas Group. In 2010 he became a team lead for the group and was leading a team that supports industrial and electrical substation design work until the fall of 2014.

Bro Karbonik from an early age had a passion for flying. This passion led to flying model aircraft and later to joining 395 Squadron of the Air Cadet League of Canada where he rose to the rank of Warrant Officer. He was selected for Glider Training in the summer of 1976 and attended the Cadet Gliding Program at Rivers, Manitoba where he graduated near the top of his class. During the summer of 1975, RWBro Karbonik happened to observe a hot air balloon that had landed in the river valley in east Edmonton and it was through this encounter that he began his long career in balloon flying, one that lasted 31 years. To fill the void that was created when RWBro Karbonik retired from flying, he rekindled an interest in model railroading and has been collecting specialty brass trains, but has yet to create the layout he desires. In addition to his many hobbies, RWBro Karbonik has built a cottage at Pigeon Lake where he spends most weekends.

Bro Karbonik was initiated into Redwood Lodge No. 193 in October 1994 and served as Worshipful Master of Redwood Lodge in 2007–08. In 2009 he affiliated with Temple-Centennial

Lodge No. 167 and assumed the role of Secretary-Treasurer for the Lodge. Having completed his tenure as Secretary-Treasurer, he served as Registrar and assumed duties as required.

RWBro Karbonik was initiated into the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Edmonton in 2005. He is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, was Grand Expert in the Edmonton Lodge of Perfection, past Director of the 17th Degree, and a Participant in the 10th Degree. He is currently taking a break from these duties until work "settles down." He was initiated in 2009 into Al Shamal Shrine at the Athabasca Ceremonial. In 2007 he joined the Alberta Widow's Sons and is serving as an officer in both Badlands Chapter and Alberta Grand Chapter.

Dinosaur District

RWBro Brian Ireland was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan

on 2 May 1951. He was active in Boy Scouts, receiving his Queen Scout Certificate in 1967. On completion of high school, Bro Ireland enlisted in the Canadian Forces as a Military Policeman. During his career, he served across Canada, Europe and the Middle East, retiring in 1989. On 31 December 2012, he retired (for good) from his position as Sr. Manager, Security and Life Safety with an International Commercial Real Estate Management Firm.



He and Marjorie have been happily married for 38 years. They reside in Strathmore where Brian keeps occupied with his yard work. During the winter months Brian and Marj travel to Arizona where golf, skeet shooting and visiting American Lodges keep him occupied.

His interest in Freemasonry was sparked by his first Scout Master, who was a member of Moosomin Lodge No. 7. Bro Ireland was initiated at Black Forest Lodge No. 901 in Lahr, Germany in Nov 1976, passed at Dominion Lodge No. 848 in Baden-Söllingen and raised in March 1977 at the American Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany in Frankfurt. He served as Worshipful Master of Canada Lodge No. 165 and Gleichen Lodge No. 36. He was appointed a Grand Steward in 2011. Bro Ireland is also a Companion of Eheyeh Chapter No. 27, Royal Arch Masons, in Drumheller.

Lakeland District

RWBro Ron Bacon was born 16 December 1943 in Fairview Alberta, and grew up in Dell, Alberta. He moved to Fort St. John, British

No Picture Available

Columbia, at the age of 11 and went to school at Fort St. John Jr/Sr High Schools. Bro Bacon Joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on 6 June 1961 and graduated 3rd in a class of 28 Aero Engine Technicians in 1962. He transferred to RCAF Stn. Lancaster Park, Edmonton, in 1962, then to 4 Wing, Baden, West Germany for 1966 to 1969 and finally to CAF Stn. Cold Lake for 1969 to 1979, before being honourably released in November 1979.

Bro Bacon married Patricia L. Trudel in September 1965, and they have two sons and four grandchildren.

He is the owner-operator of R.W.B Enterprises Ltd. and has operated several businesses over the years.

He was initiated into Masonry in Astra Lodge No. 79 on 25 February 2005, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft 20 March 2005 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason 20 June 2005. He served as Worshipful Master 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 and as DDGM for Lakeland District 2013–2014.

2014 Masonic Medal of Merit Presentations (Continued)

Bro Lorne Fleischhacker was initiated into Freemasonry in Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 on 13 September 1990, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on 13 November 1990 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on 13 December 1990.

He quietly supports the Lodge in maintenance projects, installing a wheelchair ramp and, for many years, clearing snow off the parking lot. As part of the Lodge's outreach program he volunteers to assist on numerous drive-home services and helps Brethren when they need a hand.

He and Sherlyn have been married for 49 years, are the parents of two children (Darren and Tara-Lee) and have four grandsons. He was born in Saskatchewan, and after they moved to Drayton Valley in 1971 he was involved in the petroleum industry, originally as an employee and subsequently owning a service company and a manufacturing

business for oilfield and agricultural related products. He is now retired and working harder than ever.

Bro Fleischhacker is active in various non-Masonic community organizations, such as the Drayton Valley Agriculture Society (20 plus years) and the Brazeau County Agriculture Service Board (six years), as an active promoter of local agricultural events. In addition he has been involved for ten years with the Community Scholarship Trust Fundraiser, a local initiative to support numerous students in their education.

To quote his nominators, "...a true gentleman who does not seek the limelight and without reservation is a wonderful man" and "He is one of those people you can count on. If a neighbour needs a hand—no problem—he will be there." The final quote I think says it all, "...all without pay or seeking thanks—just because it is the right thing to do".

Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 held

a family BBQ for the presentation ceremony, with about 60 people in attendance, including 11 Grand Lodge Officers. MWBro Slade presented the Medal and RWBro Batty presented the accompanying certificate.



Above (I to r): RWBro Chris Batty, DGM; MWBro John Slade, GM; and Bro Lorne Fleishhacker

Social Media — Code of Conduct

Freemason, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & ACT, V46: 2, June 2014 (From RWBro Jerry W. Kopp, Grand Representative)

The presence of Freemasons on various social networking sites is growing exponentially and is drawing attention to the Fraternity. By participating on sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and others, we should strive to make that attention as positive as possible. When we represent ourselves as members of the Fraternity, we become someone's impression of Freemasonry. As such, it is important that we act accordingly and subscribe to the lessons we are all taught as Masons in terms of how we communicate and interact with Masons and non-Masons.

- A Mason should conduct his social media activities in a way that reflects a positive image to the world of his membership in Freemasonry.
- A Mason's postings are a permanent record and therefore, must reflect to the world a positive opinion about himself personally and the

- organization to which he belongs.
- A Mason's actions on the various social media outlets must reflect the same high standards of morality and virtue as he would practice and experience with a Masonic Lodge, always remembering to moderate the ebullitions of wrath.
- A Mason must advise another Brother if he feels anything he has posted is improper within the framework of our Constitution, Regulations and rules.
- A Mason should never identify any other Brother to be a member of the Craft unless he has provided his consent, or has already identified himself as such.
- Lodge Notice Papers should not be discussed publicly, especially if details of Lodge Officers or Candidates are included.
- There should never be discussion related to the application, background

- or investigation of any applicant.
- There should never be discussion regarding the ballot of an applicant.
- There should never be discussion related to the business of a Lodge and what is discussed within the Lodge.
- The posting of photographs or videos of Lodge or other Masonic events must comply with the Constitution, Regulations, rules or other directives that are in existence at any time. Prior consent must always be obtained from the subjects in a photograph or video before it is taken and/or published.
- No official communication with other Grand Lodges or their subordinate Lodges may take place online. Contact must be conducted through the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge New South Wales & ACT Website — May 2013

