

A Brother in Arms: The extraordinary story of Marshal James Keith

By Matthew Scanlan

Saturday 11 October 2008, the inhabitants of a small village, lying 20 km west of Berlin, unveiled a monument to a soldier who fell on nearby soil some two-hundred-and-fifty years ago. The soldier, one of the finest warriors of the eighteenth century and a Field Marshal of Frederick the Great of Prussia, was fatally wounded on 14 October 1758 while fighting Austrian forces in the environs of the Saxony village of Hochkirch in a major engagement of the Seven Years' War (1756–63). But the soldier in question was not a native German as one might expect; he was in fact a Scotsman, a Jacobite and a dedicated Freemason, and his life story reads as if it were lifted straight from the pages of a boy's-own annual.

James Francis Edward Keith was born on 11th June 1696 at Inverugie castle near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. He was the second son of William Keith, the 9th hereditary Earl Marischal of Scotland and Lady Mary Drummond, and he was educated privately and at Marischal College, Aberdeen. Both he and his elder brother George, the 10th and last Earl Marischal, participated in the disastrous Jacobite rising of 1715 and during that winter he helped to entertain 'the old' Stuart Pretender at the Keith family castle at Fetteieso. However, the brothers paid a heavy price for their allegiance, as the family title was attainted and they were both forced to flee to France via the Scottish Western Isles.

James Keith initially settled in Paris where he received a stipend from the Pretender and this enabled him, for a short time at least, to continue with his studies. Then in 1717, after failing to enter the service of Peter the Great of Russia, he decided to decamp to Spain where he later became embroiled in two Spanish-backed attempts to restore the Stuarts to the British throne. He also served as colonel in the Spanish army during a four-month siege of the British colony at Gibraltar together with his brother and Philip Duke of Wharton, both fellow Freemasons. But following the cessation of hostilities in the summer of 1727, he decided to chart a new career path in Russia.

Keith arrived in St. Petersburg in earlySeptember 1728 and by the autumn of 1730 he had won the trust of the Tsarina Anna Ivanova, who appointed him lieutenant-colonel of her personal bodyguard, newly formed Ismailovsky guard regiment. Then in 1732, Keith was appointed inspector-general of the military districts along the Don and Volga rivers. And it was around this time that Keith also reportedly served as the master of a Masonic lodge in St. Petersburg, although it is not known when or where he was initiated.

Keith commanded during the War of Polish Succession and in the defence of the Ukraine against Turkey and her allies, but in July 1737 he was forced to retire military service for two years after being injured at the siege of Ochakov.

During his convalescence, the Tsarina wrote to George II on his behalf and asked him "to aid' Keith in matters relating to his "inheritance in England." Although the original reply of British government is no longer extant, it would appear that it favourable to Keith as he travelled to London and on 25 January 1740 was presented to George II dressed in the uniform of the Ismailovsky guards by the Russian ambassador, Prince Scherbatov.

The meeting was duly reported in the British press and it was the subject much contemporary speculation; one report even claimed that he had sworn allegiance to the Hanoverian monarch, although Keith later stated that he would not swear allegiance to any other "Prince in Europe" while he was in the service of the Tsarina.



Field Marshal James Francis Edward Keith, 1696–1758. Soldier in Russian and Prussian service. By Antoine Pesne French, 1683–1757 (National Gallery of Scotland).

Provincial Grand Master of Russia

On Friday 28 March 1740 Keith also attended a quarterly meeting of the grand lodge held at the Devil Tavern, Temple Bar. The minutes of the meeting record that he was a "lieutenant-general in the service of the Empress of Russia" and that his cousin, John Keith, 3rd Earl of Kintore, was proposed as grand master for the ensuing year.

Once installed, Kintore formally appointed his cousin provincial grand master "for all the Russias." Indeed, Keith's elevated Masonic status at this time was even celebrated in a Russian Masonic hymn, a verse of which ran:

After him [Peter the Great] Keith, full of light came to the Russians, and exalted by zeal lit here the sacred fire. He erected the temple of wisdom, corrected our thoughts and hearts, and strengthened brotherhood. He was an image of that dawn, the clear rise of which announces to the world, the arrival of the light-shedding queen.

Upon his return to St. Petersburg Keith was presented with a sword and medal by the Tsarina, and he replaced Rumiantsev as both the civil and military governor of the Ukraine. But following the death of the Tsarina on 28 October, yet another succession crisis erupted and once again found himself embroiled in a war, this time with Sweden.

Keith was promptly recalled to Russia and appointed second in command of a 50,000 man army which he used to defeat the Swedes at Helsingfors. He also led his forces into Finland and after a brief stint governor of the country he returned triumphant to Russia.

In 1743 Russia and Sweden went to war again over the vexed question of the Swedish succession. This time Keith acted as naval commander and managed to advance his Russian forces to the Aland Islands within striking distance Stockholm. The Swedish government panicked and entered into peace negotiations, while Keith returned with Russian troops to Finland, where, in August the conflict was brought to a close with the signing of the Treaty of Abö (Turku).

The following month Keith was despatched to Stockholm at the head of a military and diplomatic mission which had been requested by the Swedish King Frederick who feared an attack from Denmark. While the 12,000 Russian troops under his command were stationed in two small coastal towns south of Stockholm, Keith spent most of his time pursuing diplomatic business in the Swedish capital.

And it was there, during the winter of 1743, that Keith established a Masonic lodge which met until June 1744 when he was recalled to Russia. He did not participate in the Jacobite rising of 1745 as he was preoccupied with his military duties.

In 1747 he left Russia and travelled to the Prussian court of Frederick the Great. Frederick was an enlightened

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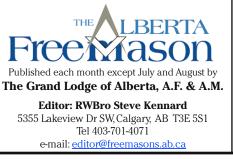
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Frederick the Great of Prussia at the battle of Zorndorf, Seven Year's War, 25 August 1758. (After Carl Röchling, 1855–1920.)

monarch and a fellow Freemason, and he welcomed Keith with open arms and elevated him to the rank of Field Marshal; he was also appointed governor of Berlin and made an honorary member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences. Keith went on to play a major role in the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and participated in several Prussian victories, before he was temporarily forced to retire from the campaign on health grounds. After a short period recuperation he returned to the front and on 14 October 1758 was shot in the abdomen at the battle of Hochkirk. Characteristically, he refused to leave the battlefield and sometime later was fatally struck in the chest by a cannonball; he was buried at the local church the following day.

Keith was widely viewed as one of the greatest military commanders of the era, and his body was, at the behest of Frederick the Great, subsequently exhumed and formally re-interred in Berlin amid the pomp and pageantry of a full military funeral. In fact, Frederick



was so devastated by his loss that he reportedly wept over Keith's coffin and later described him in glowing terms:

...he was sweet in his demeanour, a man of virtues and jane manners, clever in his métier, and showing, besides his education as a man of the world, the courage of a hero when in battle.

The French writer and philosopher Voltaire (who later became a Freemason), was among those who sent condolences to the Prussian monarch, while James's elder brother George provided a fitting epitaph for his memorial in Potsdam: Probus vixit, fortis obit ('He lived honestly, died bravely'). A copy of this monument was later gifted to the people of Peterhead by Kaiser Wilhelm I. Published by permission of Freemasonry Today. Originally published in Freemasonry Today Number 9 Winter 2009/10 page 3. The continued sharing of articles printed in the past ensures that our daily advancement in masonic knowledge continues into the future.

The Alberta Freemason

Editor: RWBro Steve Kennard Design & Production: VWBro Garth Cochran

Submissions and photos for publication from all Brethren are welcome.

Deadline for copy is the 15th day of the month prior to the month of issue.

The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement is requested.

Bios of Some Candidates for Election

Editor: The following Biographies were not included in the May edition of the Alberta Freemason as the editor had not received them in time for the publication, they are hereby published for your consideration in conjunction with those in the May edition.

Board of General Purpose

MWBro Peter Dunlop, Sherwood 183 — I am putting my name forward for a position on the Board of General Purposes because I believe I still have something to contribute for the betterment of our craft and the Grand Lodge of Alberta. My background is as follows:

Initiated, passed and raised in Sherwood No. 183 in 1997/90; WM 2003; A&ASR 1999; Al Shamal Shrine 2000; JGD 2004; DDGM Beaverhills District 2006; SGW 2009/10;DGM 2010/11 GM 2011/12. Thank you for your consideration

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund Committee

VWBro Don Stannard, Empire 63 — VWBro Stannard was born in 1970 in Edmonton. Currently, and for the past 18 years, he has been the owner of an Edmonton-based advertising agency, Absolut Multi Media. VWBro Stannard was initiated into Freemasonry by Empire Lodge No. 63 on 4 May 2009, passed 21 September 2009 and raised 16 November 2009. Currently, VWBro Stannard is the DofC of Empire Lodge No. 63 and was appointed Grand Tyler for 2013–14, since 2011, VWBro Stannard has been active on the MHEBF Committee and for the past three years the Chairman of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund Committee.

Board of Benevolence

WBro Jim Wilson, Mosaic 176 — WBro Jim Wilson was born in Calgary, Alberta in 1968, to Dale and Elaine Wilson, he received all of his schooling in Calgary, and completed his academic studies with a Graphic Arts Diploma from the Southern Alberta Instute of Technology in 1989.

James started his involvement with the Masonic family

in joining Calgary Chapter Order of DeMolay in 1981, and later installed as its Master Councilor in 1985/86. James was elected by the Canadian Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay to receive the Degree of Chevaller, the highest honor for active DeMolay members in 1991.

James was initiated into Mosaic Lodge No. 176 A.F&A.M. in 1992, and was installed as Worshipful Master in 2002/03; joined Royal Arch, Otuskwan Chapter No. 9 in 1999; installed First Principle in 2007 & 2017; became a charter member of Mountainview Chapter #42 in 2010; installed First Principle 2013/14; joined Cryptic Rite – Zardoc Council No. 3 Royal and Select Masters in 1998, Steward in 2018; Joined Cyprus Preceptory No. 33 in 2000, Preceptor in 2011/12; joined Southern Alberta Tabernacle No. 103 H.R.A K.T.P. in 2004, High Priest in 2013. James is a member of Pompillious College No. 79 York Rite College

RWBro Bill Lowrie, Balmoral 185 — RWBro Lowrie is currently the President of the Board of Benevolence, he would be prepared to stand for continued membership of the board for an additional full term.

WBro Jim Currie, Irricana 137 — WBro Jim Currie was born in Glasgow on 1948. He graduated in medicine in Glasgow and came to Canada in 1982 to complete his education in the Foothills Hospital and the University of Calgary. He became the head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Calgary General Hospital, the Peter Lougheed Centre and was the division chief of Obstetrics for the Calgary Health Region. He is happly married to Elizabeth for 48 years and has two remaining children, Alison and Bill who is also a Mason.

Prior to his initiation WBro Currie had no knowledge whatsoever of Freemasonry, only the knowledge that his grandfather and favourite uncle were Masons. he was initiated in 1995 in Canada Lodge No. 165, passed and raised in 1996 and became its Worshipful Master in 2009. He affiliated with Irricana Lodge No. 137 in 2013 and became its Worshipful Master in 2018.

WBro Currie was the Southern Superintendent for the Masonic Board of Benevolence for a number of years.

The Hillcrest Mine Disaster and Sentinal Lodge No. 26

VWBro S Garth Cochran; presented at Fiat Lux Lodge of Research 31 May 2014 and published in Vox Lucis 34: 62-68.

A pall of gloom hangs over the little mountain town of Hillcrest. The town has about 1,500 habitants, and fully a quarter of these have been directly affected by the horrible tragedy. Many women have lost their breadwinners, and dozens are bereft of sons, brothers and sweethearts. The town is numb with grief and sorrow. Everywhere one sees girls and women seeking for their dead.

The Cranbrook Herald 19 June 1914

The Hillcrest mine disaster — the worst coal mining disaster in Canadian history and, at the time, the world's third worst mine disaster — occurred 1,600 feet below ground in the Crowsnest Pass region on Friday, 19 June 1914 at 9:30 a.m. Of the 236 miners who went below, 189 were killed half the mine's workforce and almost 20 per cent of the town's population. The disaster left 130 widows and 400 children without their fathers.

So why don't we know more about it?



Damage to the hoist house at mine entrance 1. Family and friends gather at the site to await news of their men below. A second entrance is 1.5 km away.

The disaster was eclipsed nine days later by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand leading quickly to WWI.

The Hillcrest mine was one of the safest, existing as it did in the shadow of the 1903 Frank Slide when 82 million tonnes of granite fell off Turtle Mountain and buried much of the town of Frank just west of Hillcrest — the structure of the mountain probably weakened by the coal mining operation inside it.

Eleven years later, after a two-day closure to ensure safety after a large coal removal, a pocket of methane gas exploded and kicked up more coal dust to fuel two greater explosions that blew the roof off the mine entrance 1,600 feet above. Only 46 men emerged, 27 carried out by rescuers. The others died in the explosions, from afterdamp (CO₂), from the fires or by drowning.

Area Masons Form a Lodge

During the early part of 1906, Masons in Frank and vicinity desired a Lodge at Frank, Alberta. Premises for a small lodgeroom above the Somerton Jewelry Store were selected and leased for two years at \$20.00 a month.

Naming preferences included Turtle Mountain Lodge, Mountain Lodge and Black Diamond Lodge, but the Grand Lodge of Alberta suggested none of these were suitable. Lodge records indicate this decision was made:

As members were to be drawn from Frank, Blairmore, Bellevue, and Lille... and as these stand as sentinels guarding the entrance to the Pass, the name of Sentinel was suggested and adopted as an appropriate name, and thus it became known as the Sentinel Lodge No. 26.

Sentinel Lodge was first a "Moon Lodge," meeting on Wednesday on or before the full moon so the members who had to walk any distance would have the moon's light for their journey.

Sentinel Lodge was instituted on 21 December 1906 by RWBro C.E. Smythe, DDGM of District No. 2, GRA. WBro J.H. Bricker, a past master of Elk River Lodge No. 36 of Fernie, BC and a local merchant in Frank, was installed as first WM.

The roster of the earliest members of Sentinel Lodge reads like a Who's Who of those influential in the development of the Crowsnest Pass, including Dr. George Henry Malcolmson who treated survivors of the 1903 Frank Slide in his small hospital. He was also Alberta's first radiologist, brought the first X-ray unit to Alberta in 1906 and the first to use radium for cancer treatment in Western Canada in 1919.

Both C.P. Hill and his father-in-law, Thomas Alexander Maclean, a Past Grand Master of PEI, occasionally attended Sentinel Lodge in Frank. In 1909, when T.A. MacLean died, he was buried north of

Hillcrest, on a slight hill overlooking a lake and under a tree. According to Masonic records, MacLean's burial site was adjacent to the western extremity of Hillcrest Cemetery, but not then included as part of that cemetery. Since then, the area has been incorporated into the Hillcrest Cemetery, as has the old Masonic burial plot that was hurriedly prepared for the members of the Lodge who were killed in the June 1914 explosion.

In 1912, when the Federal Government declared it unsafe to reside in the town of Frank under the northern face of Turtle Mountain, the Brethren decided to move their Lodge to Hillcrest where a good number of them already resided. By 24 July 1912, Sentinel Lodge No. 26 was meeting in the hall above the P. Burns Co. Ltd. butcher shop. At the same time the Lodge began to negotiate with Thomas Burnett and George Cruickshank¹ to include a large meeting hall on the second story of their proposed new general store to be constructed on the northeast corner of Hillcrest Main Street.

The new lodgerooms over Burnett and Cruickshank's store were opened on 16 April 1913 and in that year the Lodge initiated 30 new members. As well, five Brethren affiliated with the Sentinel Lodge bringing their total membership to 90.

The Disaster Affects the Lodge

In the first part of 1914, George Cruickshankwas installed as the Lodge's Worshipful Master. Then on 19 June, the explosion in the Hillcrest mine claimed the lives of 189 men, including thirteen Brethren of Sentinel Lodge. The following Sunday, 21 June 1914, a funeral service for the members of the



The Brethren of Sentinel Lodge hold a Masonic funeral for 13 of their own. Brethren came from miles around to attend.

Masonic Order was held at the Hillcrest Methodist Church. It was later that the Brethren escorted the bodies of their Brothers to the Hillcrest Cemetery where the majority of them were laid to rest in the Masonic plot, only then commissioned as a suitable place for the burial of their Brethren.

The Masonic service was especially impressive with over 200 Masons in full regalia representing the Lodges of Hillcrest, Macleod, Cowley, Coleman, Pincher Creek and Blairmore gathered at the graveside to bury their members with full Masonic ritual. Officiating at the burial service was MWBro Robert Patterson, MLA and PGM from Macleod. Bro the Rev. Muncaster of the Blairmore Presbyterian Church, acted as official Chaplain.

Also in attendance was RWBro C.L. McClatchey of Regina representing the Canadian Protective Association of the Masonic Order. He was there to look after the interests of the families of deceased members of the order. The *Lethbridge Herald* reported that:

The body of Sydney Bainbridge was never recovered from the mine and a Masonic Funeral Ceremony was later performed on the mountainside at a spot supposedly just above where the remains of the departed brother were buried in the mine. (Taken from Masonic Records)

A Masonic Distress fund was opened at once and other lodges in Alberta were invited to contribute. The money collected for the relief of the wives of their deceased brethren in total amounted to \$2115.70, a fair sum of money at that time. In 1921, when there was only one Masonic widow still to provide for, \$173.28 in cash and \$300.00 in Dominion Government bonds was passed over to the Grand Lodge of Alberta who continued to provide for the one remaining widow.

¹ George Cruikshank would be installed as Grand Master of Alberta in 1927. During his Annual Communication in June 1928, he led a procession from the Palliser Hotel to the site of the new Calgary Masonic Temple at 330 12th Avenue SW to lay the Cornerstone.



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Letter to the Editor

Editor's note: we received this email and the photo's attached via the secretary of the Grand Lodge. So brethren can you help, do you know anyone in Empress Alberta that may remember this airman and his story. Likewise his ring. If you have any information please contact me at editor@freemasons.ab.ca I will forward it and as this unfolds we may well have an article for a future edition.

Leeuwarden/The Netherlands, January 7, 2019

Dear Sirs,

In the evening of the 27th of September 1943, Lancaster LM345 of No. 405 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force took off from Gransden Lodge to bomb the German town of Braunschweig. In the early morning hours of the 28th, the bomber was intercepted by a German night fighter, flown by August Geiger. After a short air battle the Lancaster was shot down and eventually crashed near the town of Groningen / The Netherlands.

The complete crew succeeded in bailing out and a number of them were taken prisoner by the Germans. Frederick Charles Boulter from Empress, Alberta was helped by Mr. Wilco Kronemeijer and escaped. The Canadian airman was very grateful and gave his helper a silver ring.

Attached you will find two pictures of this gem. We were told that there is a connection with a Mason Lodge. We would be very pleased if you can confirm this and give us more information about the symbol.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation and look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Stichting Missing Airmen Memorial Foundation, Douwe S. Drijver, Treasurer and Researcher..

students who have been

identified with a learning

disability, but there is

substantial evidence that

it is more effective for all

Who will benefit from

this workshop? Teachers,

parents looking for ways

to support their children

readers.

at home, speech language pathologists,

educational assistants, and university

students pursuing studies in education.

When? Thursday and Friday, August

22 - 23 from 9:00am to 3:00pm



The ring of Frederick Charles Boulter from Empress, Alberta.

Where? Learning Centre for Children unit 103, 2915 - 21st Street N.E., Calgary What is the cost? Early bird before

- June 30, \$175.00; after June, \$195.00. Includes coffee breaks, lunches, and materials. Registration fee is 100% refundable ONLY if the workshop is cancelled.
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- **Register:** "The Nuts and Bolts of Reading" go to: http://www.srcflcc.org/ nutsandbolts.html
- You have the option to register online, or download the form to mail in.

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register early to avoid disappointment.

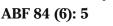
The Nuts and Bolts of Reading

Practical Strategies and Activities to fill your Toolbox No one is born know- charitable For, approach not only helps

No one is born knowing how to read - we all had to learn. For some, that process seems effortless; for others, it's a genuine struggle that can impact self-esteem and baffle both parents and educators. Rooted in the evidence based, Orton Gillingham approach, this



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Around the Province

Chinese Dinner for The Learning Centre



On 11 May 2019 the Calgary Learning Centre (Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada Learning Centres for Children — Calgary) held their annual Chinese Dinner fundraiser at Bill's Peking House restaurant in southeast Calgary. Some 90 tickets were sold for the event. Thanks to the generosity of those attending as well as those donating to, and purchasing from, the silent



auction, over \$4,000 was raised for the children in the Calgary Learning Centre.



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Abe Santos has been a friend and student of Sigung Taky Kimura since 1983. He previously taught the Wednesday night class of the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute of Seattle from 2002 to 2017 and is one of only five Full Instructors directly-certified by Taky Kimura.

The Jun Fan Gung Fu Academy is a private, non-commercial school in Seattle with a mission to perpetuate and advance the legacy, teachings and art of Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do from the Seattle-era, as well as the Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do Sijo Bruce Lee taught directly to Sigung Taky Kimura. The Academy is honoured to be the only JKD school ever endorsed by Linda Lee Cadwell.

Contact Andrew Carine at acarine@shaw.ca to register now!







Bro Andrew Carine is a member of Mosaic Lodge No. 176. Andrew has over 45 years of martial arts training, 27 of which was under Professor Dill where he has earned his 6th degree black belt. He has also trained with two other instructors, both certified by Bruce Lee himself, Guro Dan Inosanto and Sigung Taky Kimura. Andrew is featured in the Martial Arts Hall of Fame in Orlando, Florida and has won an award for Instructor of the Year. The below Martial Arts seminar to everyone with all levels of experience. As it states all the profits from the seminar will be donated to the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation.

Book early Brethren.