

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA A.F. & A.M.

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THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

This issue of the Bulletin will reach its readers a few weeks previous to the 31st Annual Communication of Grand Lodge which meets in the City of Edmonton on June 10th. This gathering of Grand Lodge is the climax of our Masonic year and should arouse the enthusiasm of every member. All are an integral part of Grand Lodge with a vital concern in its deliberations.

We are to be honoured by the presence of M.W. Brother A.J. Anderson, K.C., M.P., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario. He will deliver an address during the sessions of Grand Lodge.

Freemasonry has been passing through a time that has tried to the utmost the measure of our devotion to our Fraternity, and our faith in its ancient principles, and in a sense it has been a test of the power of that Fraternity to command the loyalty and faith of its members. We are grateful that the Craft, because of the righteousness of its mission and the grandeur of its principles, has weathered the storm, and that we, its Craftsmen, have not wavered in our allegiance. Freemasonry is a bulwark against which storms of adversity and social unrest and upheaval, cannot prevail, and that when other institutions fail, the Craft founded upon eternal principles, will survive.

Problems remain with us to be settled. The Craft must continue to be busied with putting itself upon a surer footing against unforeseen danger. My Brethren, let us through every proper channel continue to put forth constructive effort and let it be embellished with patience and kindness for all.

To be Grand Master of a Jurisdiction carries with it a serious responsibility. It is a responsibility that no one man can discharge except he has the co-operation of an entire membership deeply concerned in all those measures that affect its destiny.

Melvin M. Downey - Grand Master.

THE LODGE TODAY

There has always been the necessity for an intimate, personal contact between the Master and each member of his lodge; to properly employ his brethren; and to make vital in his lodge the spirit of brotherhood. These have been the constant requirements of a successful Master in all time, and have demanded the gift of himself, to his lodge, if it were to be a vital influence in the lives of his brethren and through them in his community.

But today, in addition, there is the necessity for cultured spiritual leadership to combat the growing materialism of our age, and direct the methods employed, (and in many instances even to initiate them) to insure a Masonically educated lodge membership.

And so today, a Warden may well pause and consider, before he accepts the election to the Master's chair. Having accepted it, he may employ two methods of filling his office. He may work alone. He may spend his every spare hour trying to overtake the possibilities of his office, in contacting his brethren; in planning his programmes; in preparing and arranging his messages of inspiration and education. If he has an attractive personality he may, by these means, cement his lodge to himself, and be the mainspring of it. And he will have made a splendid contribution. Or, he may choose the more difficult, if less spectacular method, of cementing his brethren to each other, of discovering group leaders; of making all conscious of a spirit of unity that will permeate the every day life of every member of his lodge. He may so evoke the willing co-operation of his officers that a co-ordinated programme of education will become a delight to all, instead of a burden to one or two, and so he will demonstrate the almost forgotten truth that it is a lodge's supreme work to make MASONS instead of lodge members.

- H.R. Chauncey.

FREEMASONS IN "HALL OF FAME"

In response to a recent request for the names of Masons who have been chosen for the Hall of Fame, we give here the results of our investigations, believing that it will be of interest to members of the Fraternity in general. Of the seventy-two names up to this time chosen, the following fourteen have been members of the Fraternity:

George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Marshall, David C. Farragut, Henry Clay, Robert Fulton, Andrew Jackson, Rufus Choate, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Edwin Booth, John Paul Jones, and James Monroe.

The Hall of Fame, on University Heights, New York City, was established in 1900 by Helen Gould as a memorial to great Americans, both men and women. Space is provided for 150 panels which are to contain bronze tablets bearing the names of such Americans as shall be judged most famous in their respective fields by an electorate of eminent American citizens appointed by the senate of the New York University.

Twenty-nine names were originally chosen in 1900, and other names have been added in five-year periods since that time, making a total of seventy-two names at the present time, seven of which are women. It is possible that others than the fourteen mentioned have been members of the Fraternity, but we do not have record of their membership.

The Hall of Fame is not to be confused with the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., in which each state is entitled to erect statues of two of her sons.

- Grand Lodge of Iowa
Bulletin.

ON MASONIC WORK

"We have no work" is a common reply to inquiries made about the conditions of lodges. If Masonic work consisted only of the reception of candidates, then possibly the answer would be correct, but instead of being no work, there is more work to be done now than ever before.

On many occasions it has been pointed out to lodges that they become so obsessed with conferring degrees that they have given no time to Masonic development and instruction. In other words- Masters of lodges have held to the letter of the teachings of the Craft, but have almost entirely neglected to instruct the candidates they have introduced into the lodge, in that spirit of brotherhood which should be the inspiration of every member of the Craft.

Many brethren, although they look forward to occupying the position of Master of their lodge, do little or nothing to qualify themselves to employ and instruct the brethren. If they can memorise the ritual they seem to think they are fully competent to fill the office. As a matter of fact, they know little more than is known by every Master Mason in the lodge and are perhaps only about twenty per cent efficient in the actual Masonic work which they are called upon to perform.

- Proceedings
Western Australia 1933.

If one would admit his errors rather than seek countless reasons to justify them, how much time and self-respect would be saved!

HALF A CENTURY

Alberta Lodge No. 3 at Macleod is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month, on Wednesday the 27th of May, when it is hoped that the Grand Master and a number of the Grand Officers, past and present, will attend.

A special effort is being made to bring together the old members from the date of organization in 1886. One may expect to meet men of the original N.W.M.P. who made Alberta safe for settlers, old range men who rode the plains with them, and many who as merchants and business men built the beginnings of cities, towns and villages in Alberta. Fort Macleod, as it was then known, was headquarters for the N.W.M.P. and the big cattle interests. It was also the point of supply for the two important Indian Reserves, Bloods and Piegans. Those were the days of high enterprise, adventure and the best of good fellowship. A worthy representative of these men is our well known M.W. Bro. Robert Patterson, P.G.M. and sole surviving Charter member of the lodge, who will be the central figure in the proceedings as presiding officer.

Alberta Lodge deserves the congratulations of Grand Lodge for its uninterrupted and successful Masonic work during the half century and wishes them many happy returns of this auspicious occasion.

THE WORKING TOOLS

Go, work on mind and matter now,
A Master raised to power art thou,
Impress on each and all you can
Wise Heaven's eternal Temple-plan.
As on a trestle-board portray
The great Design, from day to day,
And build, in silence rever'ntly,
The temple of Humanity.

- A.S. Macbride.

ANOTHER PIONEER PASSES

Bro. Col. James Walker, one of the most widely known of Alberta's Old Timers, passed away in Calgary on March 31st, in his ninetieth year - the last of the Charter members of our Bow River Lodge No. 1. Brother Walker's petition for initiation to St. Andrew's Lodge No. 62, at Caledonia, Ontario, dated March 25th, 1871 - sixty-five years ago - is in the archives of our Grand Lodge office. It states that his age was 25; he resided at Carluke and his occupation was farmer.

He was the last surviving officer of the N.W.M.P. in the march of 1874 across the western prairies. When it is remembered that it was largely due to the Masons who were members of those mounted police that Masonry became established in what is now the Province of Alberta as early as 1884, it will be realized that this old pioneer had some share in that establishment, and throughout the years maintained his connections with the Order to the time of his death.

Although a man of many and varied activities, taking a prominent part in the development of the country, his greatest interest perhaps was in friendly intercourse with his fellow men. It was doubtless in this light he looked upon Masonry - an institution where men met upon the level - and so was content to remain a member on the "side lines" as long as he could have the fraternal intercourse he so much enjoyed.

His passing will be noted with regret by the many members of the Craft who regarded him with affection and esteem.

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Grand Secretary is glad to be able to announce that he has in stock two new books on Masonry. They are both by the same author, Bro. Carl H. Claudy, who has already written several popular Masonic books.

"Introduction to Freemasonry" is a book to put in the hands of the newly raised candidate. It is really three volumes in one, dealing as it does with each of the three degrees. To quote the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, "The subject matter is well chosen, interesting and sufficiently developed to make a better Mason of any reader."

"The Master's Book" is a volume that should be studied by every Warden and Master. It is a small book, but very comprehensive, treating in a pleasant manner of the powers and duties of a Master, together with many hints on the art of presiding, and of furnishing work and entertainment for the members. It also deals with lodge finances, the duties of the other officers and many matters with which it is necessary for a Master to be familiar.

These books can be supplied for \$2.25 and \$1.50 respectively.

Masonry was never founded upon numbers; its basic requirement is character, and the ability to carry out an obligation assumed. Without this no man is fitted to become a Mason, still less to remain a Mason.