



Grand Lodge Bulletin



GEORGE RANDOLPH STERLING

George Randolph Sterling was born on the Manitoulin Island, near the post office of Perivale, Ontario, on October 1st, 1906. He took his public and high school education on the Manitoulin Island and a one year teacher training at North Bay, Normal School. He came out on a harvest excursion in 1925 to Saskatchewan where he worked in the harvest fields and came to Alberta that same year where he started in the lumber business. He continued in the lumber business until 1965 and during this period of time built up a general insurance business which he continues to operate, along with a small Hardware business.

He was initiated into Masonry in Carbon Lodge No. 107, November 22, 1927. He was raised in the same lodge March 6th, 1928. Affiliated with Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 in 1935. Worshipful Master Kenilworth No. 29 for 1939 and 1940. District Deputy Grand Master District No. 4, June 11th, 1952 to June, 1953. Appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Japan, September 22, 1959. Served for a number of years as a member of the Higher Education Bursary Committee, Grand Lodge of Alberta, Member of Canadian Masonic Research Association since 1954, Member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England, since 1966. Elected Junior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Alberta, June 1971.

He married Miss Alma Kniss, a school teacher from Calgary on January 1st, 1929, and has 2 sons, Wilson G. Sterling, who is Sr. Vice-President for Alberta Powers Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta; and Keith P. Sterling, Principal, Queen Elizabeth School, Wetaskiwin.

He is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and ordained an Elder in 1944, Clerk of Kirk Session for the Benalto Presbyterian Church since 1947 and a member since 1917 transferring as a member from his family church on the Manitoulin Island.

GRAND MASTERS MESSAGE

I welcome this privilege as your Grand Master to write to you through our Grand Lodge Bulletin. My message to you can be said to be one of asking for interchange of thoughts and opinions, with the whole membership throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. May I express it in one word, communication.

During the past several years, since I was elected your Grand Junior Warden, it has been a privilege to have received through the kindness of most of the secretaries of the lodges, the notices or summons of your meetings, and to read of the activities from month to month.

It has also been an experience to meet so many of you at the District meetings, Area meetings, Boards of General Purposes, special meetings for presentations, anniversary meetings, and our Grand Lodge Communications.

There are many brethren that I have been unable to meet. I am thinking of the non-resident, the shut-ins, those who may have become indifferent and those who have served actively but now may have other demands on their time.

The notices advise us of the meetings and the business of the lodges, but it is the Grand Lodge Bulletin that conveys the news at large and includes the major items of interest that concern us all. In our jurisdiction every brother is, or should be getting a copy of our Grand Lodge Bulletin. I stress its importance as a means of communication. I invite you not only to consider it as a means of communication for your own information, but as a means for you to send out your worthwhile information in articles and items for the craft at large.

Our past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett is carrying on a gigantic task in preparing a history for our 75th anniversary in 1980. Every item that you can contribute as members, wherever you may be living, will greatly enhance the store of material necessary to prepare the history. Your items and articles will also aid in keeping the columns of our Bulletin filled with up-to-date news and information that can be interesting and educational for the members.

The theme I have chosen this year is; "The Freemason a Pillar in Society." A pillar is a support that is individual, strong and steadfast, always giving support to the structure.

Masonry has been described as a mighty paradox of the ages. It has only a simple dogma, "The Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God."

Our history records, that our membership is not a membership of men who have achieved greatness, yet through the ages it has attracted the great. In the field of literature think of Goethe, Burns, Scott, Kipling, who have left us immortal lines inspired by their love for Masonry.

I ask for your co-operation, your help and your support. I know that we will have a happy and a successful year.

Fraternally yours,

George R. Sterling

George R. Sterling

GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION 1974

The Grand Lodge Communication in 1974 was held in Edmonton on June 21 and 22, a Friday evening and a Saturday. This is the first time that this annual event was held on a weekend. The change was brought about by a change in the Constitution voted on by the members of Grand Lodge at the meeting in 1973. Now is the time to evaluate this change and to see if the decision was a wise one.

There are some very positive things that may be said. The attendance was good. The Friday night opening was performed with the usual colour although the pressure of time made it necessary to eliminate or shorten some of the amenities. Attendance on Saturday morning was good. It fell off a little following lunch when the Grand Lodge reconvened to finish up the business and to install the Grand Master and his officers. Even with the smaller attendance in the afternoon there were a larger number of brethren present than usually have appeared for a Thursday morning installation. The Annual Banquet was the event that suffered the most as far as attendance is concerned. Some brethren left at noon on Saturday and more departed after the Installation ceremonies. The result was a smaller number at the banquet than there has been for some time.

It may be that it will be necessary to change the format of the Communication more than was done this year. Some have suggested that the Saturday luncheon should be expanded and the guest speaker heard at this time. Others think that the guest speaker, if one is necessary, should be put on the program on Friday night. It seems to be quite obvious that the brethren will not remain in large numbers for a Saturday night dinner.

The meetings proved that Grand Lodge business can be done in the period of time allotted. On some items, especially the motion concerning the raising of the Grand Lodge per capita levy, there was excellent discussion. No one seems to have felt the pressure of time.

The problem of the date of the Communication is important. There were a number of brethren who were absent because of other meetings and conferences during that week end. In addition neighboring Grand Lodges in Canada and the United States meet during the same week. One factor that was overlooked is that some school districts started their summer vacations that weekend and a number of Grand Lodge members were preparing to take off on holidays. Perhaps a change of date to a weekend earlier in June is indicated.

The majority of those who attended the Grand Lodge Communication were impressed with the accommodation provided by the Macdonald Hotel. The main dining room was very well set up in Lodge form during the sessions and served the purpose excellently.

These are a few random thoughts about the Grand Lodge Communication. Our readers may have some other opinions and suggestions. The Bulletin would be very glad to publish reactions in future issues should our readers be inclined to discuss the problem.

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

Known dates as at July 24th, 1974.

JULY -
8th - District No. 13, Grande Prairie

SEPTEMBER -
5th, 6th & 7th - Banff Conference, Banff, Alberta
12th, 13th & 14th - reserved

21st and 22nd - reserved
26th Ashlar Lodge No. 28 Masonic Temple Calgary to invest Bro. D. G. Jackson, Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. C. W. J. Bloomfield, Grand Tyler.

OCTOBER -

5th - District No. 6, Calgary
7th - District No. 14, Oyen
19th - District No. 12 and 50th Anniversary of Onoway Lodge No. 138, Onoway
22nd - G. R. Sterling night, Carbon Lodge No. 107
23rd - District No. 8, Cowley
24th - District No. 11, Nobleford
25th - District No. 7, Cardston
26th - District No. 2, Medicine Hat

NOVEMBER -

1st, 2nd & 3rd - reserved
5th - Vulcan No. 74, Vulcan
6th - District No. 4, Red Deer
8th - District No. 18, Carstairs
9th - District No. 9, Bashaw
13th - District No. 17, Provost
16th - District No. 10, Vermilion
20th - Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
23rd - District No. 20, Edmonton
30th - Reserved

DECEMBER -

10th - Crescent No. 87 - Calgary

1975

JANUARY -

4th - Innisfail No. 8, Innisfail

MARCH -

18th, 19th & 20th - Grand Lodge Minnesota

APRIL -

18th, 19th & 20th - Masonic Spring Workshop - Banff
21st to May 6th - Reserved

MAY -

28th - Board of General Purposes, Red Deer

JUNE -

18th, 19th & 20th - Grand Lodge of Manitoba
20th & 21st - Annual Communication, Calgary Inn, Calgary

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 1974 - 75

Grand Master - M.W. Bro. George R. Sterling, Box 35, Benalto, Alberta.
Deputy Grand Master - R.W. Bro. W. A. Milligan, 5518 - 110 Street, Edmonton.
Senior Grand Warden - R.W. Bro. A. O. Aspeslet, 1112 - 19 Street, S., Lethbridge.
Junior Grand Warden - R.W. Bro. K. L. Crocket, 8722 - 120 Street, Edmonton.
Grand Treasurer - R.W. Bro. R.L. Costigan, 1701 - 31 Street, S.W., Calgary.
Grand Registrar - R.W. Bro. D. Cumming, 1930 - 44 Avenue, S.W., Calgary.
Grand Secretary - R.W. Bro. M.P. Dunford, 330 - 12 Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

A list of the appointed officers and members of the Boards and Committees of Grand Lodge has been mailed to each Lodge and will appear also in the Grand Lodge Proceedings which will be published shortly.

CHARTER FLIGHT

A Masonic Tour of the British Isles is being planned for the Spring of 1975. Tentatively the flight will leave Calgary on April 21 and return on May 4, 1975. Subject to rates changes the cost is now quoted at \$355.00 per

person round trip. Any Mason, his lady, widows of Masons and friends are eligible. If you are interested write for information to - Great Britain Masonic Tour, 330 - 12 Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

GRAND LODGE BULLETIN

The Grand Lodge Bulletin is commencing a new year with the publishing of this issue. The policy of the Bulletin is that it wishes to reflect the opinions and the activities of the brethren in the jurisdiction. Your letters, news items, pictures, papers and any other material will make this policy practical. The deadline for material is the Fifteenth of any month, or six weeks before the material appears in print. In order to keep our news current your prompt co-operation is required. The address - The Grand Lodge Bulletin, c/o The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F.A.M., 330 - 12 Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

**R.W. BRO. JOHN BOOTH
- 50 YEARS A PAST MASTER**



In its sixty-fourth year, Unity has marked two notable milestones. First, the Lodge honoured one of its members who was its Worshipful Master sixty years ago.

He is W. Bro. Percy Bailey, the last surviving charter member of the Lodge. Secondly, the recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of his year as Worshipful Master, R.W. Bro. John Booth was invited to conduct a third degree with the assistance of eighteen Past Masters of the Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Booth, known throughout the jurisdiction as "Jack", was Unity's Secretary from 1936 to 1956 and was elected Secretary Emeritus in 1969. He is a charter member and Honourary Life member of Highlands No. 168 and Honourary Life member of Meridian No. 129. He is a Past Grand Registrar and P.D.D.G.M. and has served Grand Lodge in other capacities as well.

His I.P.M. was R.W. Bro. David Helman, now in his 54th year as a P.M., 17th year as Treasurer and his 16th year as Grand Lodge representative to the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel. He is a Past Senior Grand Deacon and P.D.D.G.M.

The Senior Warden was W. Bro. Richard Bibby who was W.M. in 1939. Dick has been Secretary of the Lodge since 1966 and this year was appointed Grand Steward. The Junior Warden was W. Bro. George T. McMurray who was W.M. in 1942. Past Masters from outside the Edmonton area taking part were R.W. Bro. E. H. Rivers, R.W. Bro. Hedley Parsons and V.W. Bro. Wes Van Dusen. Also from out of town was W. Bro. John A. Kask.

Among the distinguished visitors were M.W. Bro. George Sterling, then D.G.M., R.W. Bro. W. A. Milligan, then S.G.W. and R.W. Bro. K. L. Crockett, now J.G.W.

Of significance was the fact that the two candidates are sons of two members of the Lodge who were also in attendance. They are Bro. Stanley V. Phare and Bro. F. K. (Ken) Shaw and their sons names are, respectively Calvin and Curtis.

R.C.M.P. CENTENARY



R.W. Bro. Stanley Harbin D.D.G.M. District No. 20 addressed Commercial Lodge No. 81 a few days after his installation as D.D.G.M. We print the early picture of Masons in the R.C.M.P. at Fort Macleod and the complete address because of its wide interest.

Good evening Brethren. I count it a privilege and a pleasure to be here this evening for more reasons than one. Not only is this the first time that I've been asked to speak as your District Deputy Grand Master, it is also a small way to thank W. Bro. Harry FARMER and all the Brethren of Commercial for their support and hospitality during our recent Grand Lodge Annual Communication. There is no doubt that this Lodge is strong in every field and one of the leaders in District 20.

When W. Bro. FARMER asked me to come this evening we were undecided as to a topic however, what with my being a Mounted Policeman, this being the year of our Century Celebrations in Alberta and as many members of my Force belong to the Craft this seemed to be an appropriate time to tie the two together. Many Masonic activities have been associated with the R.C.M.P. down through the years in fact, the Force was so strongly Masonic in years gone by that some critics even referred to us as the Royal Canadian Masonic Police. Much has been said this year in Alberta about our arrival here 100 years ago yet how many people realize I wonder, just how many Masons were among those first gallant 300 men. Estimates have been placed all the way up to 70%.

To put things in their proper sequence perhaps we should catch a bird's eye view of the situation as it then existed in this corner of the world. Shortly after Confederation in 1867, it was in 1869 to be exact, the Hudson's Bay Company sold most of its land holdings to the Imperial Government, retaining only 1/20 of the land in the fertile belt, some trading posts and certain trading privileges. The government of the new Dominion therefore found itself responsible for the preservation of law and order in this vast new land west of Ontario. Survey parties were sent out and among their first reports was that of general lawlessness throughout the west, a brisk whiskey-trading business being carried out by renegade Americans with the Indians and there was a resultant wave of crimes of violence and plunder.

A good deal of talk took place in Ottawa but there was little or no action for 4 years until a serious Massacre took place in the Cypress Hills in southwestern Saskatchewan just over the border from where Alberta lies today. 22 Saulteaux Indians of a small Band, men, women and children were slaughtered by the aforementioned Whiskey-traders. Rightly or wrongly, we shall never know, they had been accused of stealing some horses from the Americans. On May 23, 1873, the Government under Sir John A. MacDONALD acted swiftly and brought in legislation called the "North West Mounted Rifles" Act. Word came that this name disturbed the Americans as they would have resented the establishment of military posts. So Sir John A. wisely struck out the word rifles and substituted the word "Police". Thus was born our Force, though recruiting didn't start until November of that same year when 150 men were signed on. Csts. GRIESBACH, NEALE and Sam STEELE were numbers 1, 2 and 3 - again I have to wonder how many of the 150 were Brother Masons. Some of the more senior Brethren here tonight might remember Major General W.A. GRIESBACH who was the son of the first member of our Force Arthur H. GRIESBACH. This gentleman had a long and illustrious career and for some considerable time was O.C. Fort Saskatchewan. He retired Nov. 1, 1903, having served for 30 years. His rank was Superintendent. The third man engaged, Sam STEELE who was a fabled figure, was an ardent Mason, we are told.

After being beset by innumerable problems, these men of the first 150 moved to Lower Fort Garry for the winter, and were joined by an additional 150 men in the spring in 1874. Our first Commissioner, Col. FRENCH, melded these 300 men into a well trained, cohesive unit

and by July 8, 1874 had them prepared for their epic march into the great western unknown. Let's turn our eyes backward to that memorable day nearly 100 years ago. Feature, if you will, a bugle sounding the order to march and 6 troops of 50 scarlet clad riders moving out. Each troop rode matched horses - "A" Company first on dark bays, "B" Company on blacks "C" on chestnuts and so on. Then came freight wagons driven by Metis, ox carts, guns, mortars and finally a large herd of cattle. They were a merry, eager, healthy 300 - but what a time they had, this column 2 miles long which sometimes became 6 miles long. They faced storms, starvation, deprivation, sickness and even a few desertions were recorded. At La Roche Perce the march divided with Insp. JARVIS and Troop Sgt. Major Samuel B. STEELE and 27 men heading northwestward for Fort Edmonton, and the main party continuing westward toward the trouble area at Fort Whoop-up close to where Lethbridge stands today. JARVIS, STEELE and their column arrived at Fort Edmonton October 27, 1874 and it is recorded that "Fort Edmonton, a highly important establishment of the great trading company was surrounded by a palisade 20 feet high, formed of hewn logs. At the corners were stout bastions. Three parallel rows of cottages, with a fireplace in each and bunks along the walls, lay within the enclosure and in these the men of the Force were billeted".

We move ahead ten years to one Edward Ainslie BRAITHWAITE who joined the Force and saw duty at Duck Lake and Batoche during the North West Rebellion. He was very well known in later years here in Edmonton where he went to the Grand Lodge above on Dec. 7, 1949. As a young man he was an affiliate of Edmonton No. 7 and served this Lodge as W.M. in 1898. In 1903 he became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba as we were under that Jurisdiction at that time. Dr. BRAITHWAITE was only one of two Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba from Alberta; the other was M.W. Bro. T. TWEED who hailed from Medicine Hat.

The earliest reference available having regard to Freemasonry in the Mounted Police is a letter written January 20, 1880 at Fort Walsh, N.W.T. in the Cypress Hills by a Cst. Saul MARTIN. Presumably it is written to his Lodge at home or to the Editor of the magazine, The Canadian Craftsman, as it was published in that magazine in the February 15 edition, 1880. Herewith some of his comments.

"Let me inform you, and the brethren at home, that although we are far away and scattered in the wilderness of our North-West Territories, the 27th of December did not go unnoticed by the few Masons here at Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills. The few Masons I could muster here this year showed a great zeal to celebrate that day so dear to every true and good Mason. We had, according to the opinion of our guests, the best dinner we ever got up in the Co. Capt. CROZIER, the Officer Commanding this Post, and a good Mason, occupied the Chair and I must say that no better selection could have been made, he certainly was the right man in the right place. Inspector STEELE, another good Master Mason acted as Vice-Chairman. Let us say that he is the right kind of pillar to assist in the discharge of his duties and can superintend the minutes of refreshment to the satisfaction of all.

All of the Officers of the Post, the Non-Commissioned Officers of "B" and "F" Troops, The Government Surveyor, Mr. Nelson, partook of the amusements of the evening. Everything passed off amicably and joyfully. After dinner came the different Toasts as follows:

The Queen. God Save The Queen was sung.

The Prince of Wales - Grand Master and The Royal Family - Grand Honours were given.

The Governor General. The Campbells are coming was sung.

The Grand Lodge of Canada, Quebec and the United States, which was responded to by your humble servant.

Our Mother Lodges. Responded to by Bro. MORGAN.

Our Sister Grand Lodges. Grand Honours given.

Our Absent Brothers. Grand Honours given and responded to by Bro. STEELE.

Our Guests - For They Are Jolly Good Fellows. Responded to by Inspector Francis DICKENS.

After this our guests proposed their toasts and sang and we all had a jolly good time. They were all very well impressed and everyone expressed a great sympathy for the Institution and a strong desire of joining if, of course, possible.

He then listed five Masons who were present and who, as a result of their interest and the festivities, applied for Affiliation. It is most interesting to note this meeting of Masonic Mounted Policeman on December 27th, 1879 and to see the name of Sam. STEELE, although it has never been determined which Lodge he belonged to.

1894 was a significant year for on Sept. 5th, M.W. Bro. TWEED, who, I mentioned previously, signed a Dispensation for North-West Mounted Police Lodge No. 11 in Regina. They met in a Barrack room and the fourteen who signed the Charter were all members of the Force. The Lodge was Constituted Sept. 5, 1895 and a note in the Manitoba Proceedings for the year reads:

"Thus was formed a Lodge unique in the history of Masonry in all the west. It was active and progressive and by the virtue of the coming and going of its members in the course of their duties throughout the length and breadth of the land, it radiated a Masonic influence far in excess of most Lodges".

I would also be pleased to show you, my Brethren, the earliest photograph I have been able to find of Masons in the Mounted Police. It is a picture of the Masons of the Sgts. Mess in Fort Macleod in 1894.

Many of our Members have done yeomans' service to the Craft down through the years. Witness the Degree Teams which have operated from Coast to Coast and have cemented relationships with our American Brothers by exemplifying Degrees in that great country. Over last week-end we all had the opportunity of meeting M.W. Bro. DUFF, Grand Master of Masons in Sask. and a former member of the R.C.M.P. A former G.M. of Sask., W. Bro. Sam LEACH, was also a former member of our Force. Many policemen have assumed high offices in the Craft and I must mention that members played an important part in the Institution of Redwood Lodge in 1965.

Gentlemen, the motto of the R.C.M.P. is "Uphold The Right". That is exactly what the Force has been attempting to do over the last 100 years and I would suggest that the aims of Masonry are synonymous with that Motto. Policemen are Leaders in their communities but so also should Masons be. Never before have we required Leadership so greatly. Positive leadership - sincere leadership - constructive leadership; that is what is needed to make society bloom once again. Just as you are leaders in Masonry, brethren of Commercial, I challenge you to go out into your communities and help make our city a better place in which to live. Yes, the Mounties and the Masons DO TRAVEL A SIMILAR ROAD! Let's cooperate in every way possible!

Again, thanks for having me out tonight. I'm looking forward to a close association with you on many occasions in the coming year.

DISTRICT MEETING DATES

| DATE | DISTRICT | LOCATION D.D.G.M. | GRAND LODGE OFFICER ATTENDING |
|----------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| JULY | 8th District No. 13 | Grande Prairie - R.W. Bro. D. W. Clarkson | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| OCTOBER | 5th District No. 6 | Calgary - R.W. Bro. B. E. W. Smith | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 7th District No. 14 | Oyen - R.W. Bro. C. A. Mansfield | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 9th District No. 15 | Three Hills - R.W. Bro. A. B. Young | R.W. Bro. Milligan |
| | 19th District No. 12 | Onoway - R.W. Bro. L. E. Dickson | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 23rd District No. 8 | Cowley - R.W. Bro. F. P. Webber | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 24th District No. 11 | Nobleford - R.W. Bro. August Hann | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 25th District No. 7 | Cardston - R.W. Bro. R. E. Long | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 26th District No. 2 | Medicine Hat - R.W. Bro. F. T. Powell | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 26th District No. 1 | Calgary - R.W. Bro. S. G. Poulter | R.W. Bro. Milligan |
| | 26th District No. 19 | Edmonton - R.W. Bro. D. A. Kenny | R.W. Bro. Crockett |
| | 30th District No. 16 | Gleichen - R.W. Bro. E. G. Ferguson | R.W. Bro. Milligan |
| NOVEMBER | 5th District No. 5 | Sedgewick - R.W. Bro. James Davison | R.W. Bro. Crockett |
| | 6th District No. 4 | Red Deer - R.W. Bro. Hedley Parsons | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 8th District No. 18 | Carstairs - R.W. Bro. H. J. Miller | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 9th District No. 9 | Bashaw - R.W. Bro. J. D. Murdoch | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 13th District No. 17 | Provost - R.W. Bro. K. R. Cooke | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 16th District No. 10 | Vermilion - R.W. Bro. R. L. Webb | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 23rd District No. 20 | Edmonton - R.W. Bro. Stanley Harbin | M.W. Bro. Sterling |
| | 30th District No. 3 | Edmonton - R.W. Bro. J. S. Sandercock | R.W. Bro. Aspeslet |

The Grand Secretary will be attending as many District Meetings as is possible.