



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 44 NO. 9

Editor, M.W. Bro. W. J. COLLETT

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## GEORGE RANDOLPH STERLING



On Tuesday, April 3, M.W. Bro. George Randolph Sterling, had dressed to attend a meeting of Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 in Red Deer at which the Grand Master would be present. His wife Alma had gone out for the evening and before leaving for the Lodge Meeting he lay down for a rest. It was then that the Great Architect of the Universe summoned him, from this sublunary abode to ascend to Grand Lodge above where the World's Great Architect lives and reigns for ever and forever. It was thus that Masonry in Alberta lost one of its beloved Past Grand Masters who was known throughout this Jurisdiction for his devotion, his gentleness, his sincerity and his love of the basic tenets of the Craft.

M.W. Bro. Sterling served the Craft in Alberta as its Grand Master in 1974-75 after an enviable record as a Mason. In November 1927 he was initiated into Carbon Lodge No. 107 and was raised to the Sublime Degree on March 6, 1928. He later affiliated with Kenilworth Lodge No. 29 and became its Worshipful Master in 1935. In 1952-53 he served as the District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 4. The Grand Master appointed him Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Japan in 1959 and last year he was able to pay a visit to that country. For a number of years he served as a member of the Higher Education Bursary Committee. In addition he was a member of the Canadian Masonic Research Association, and of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England. He was also a member of Beacon Lodge No. 190, Red Deer. The list of his memberships in the Concordant Bodies is lengthy.

M.W. Bro. Sterling was born in Perivale, Ontario on October 1, 1906 and came west on a Harvest Excursion to Saskatchewan in 1925 and that same year came to Alberta to engage in the lumber business. He moved to Benalto and continued in the Lumber, Hardware and Insurance Business until 1965 although he engaged in business until the time of his death.

A school teacher from Calgary, Miss Alma Kniss, became his bride on January 1, 1929 and throughout the years has been a tower of strength in his varied activities. She, too, is known throughout Alberta for her friendly nature. He has two sons, Wilson of Edmonton and Keith of Wetaskiwin and several grandchildren.

M.W. Bro. Sterling believed that Masonry should inspire a man to take part in the good activities of the community in which he lived. He was a member of the Benalto Presbyterian Church, an elder and, at one time, Clerk of Session.

The funeral, very largely attended, was held in Knox Presbyterian Church in Red Deer on Friday, April 6. The M.W. the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. R. L. Costigan and all Senior Grand Lodge Officers were in attendance. Also present were thirteen Past Grand Masters, M.W. Bro. Towers and M.W. Bro. Woods acted as pall bearers. Rev. John Yoos of Sylvan Lake and Rev. Douglas Fry of Red Deer conducted the service with interment in the Red Deer Cemetery.

## WHAT DOES MASONRY MEAN?

The following are some messages published in the notices of Lodges: -

Bro. P.W. Maskell, Sr. Warden, Eastgate Lodge No. 192.

Brethren, please consider this: The man who guides his steps through life by the challenging paradox known as "Freemasonry" is likely to have a self he can live with. Freemasonry quietly reminds us that if we act by the square we will exhibit dependability, truth, humor and unshakeable integrity.

W. Bro. G. G. Gimbell, Wor. Master, Beacon Lodge No. 190.

### WHAT MASONRY MEANS TO ME

"It is a source of help and comfort and pleasure I can absolutely rely upon. When I have wearied of other labors I can turn confidently to my lodge room and find companionship and courage. There is something indefinable in Masonry I can find nowhere else in the world. Masonry has greatly enriched my life. It has given me friendship that I cherish dearly."

Edgar A. Guest

W. Bro. Stutt Pottruff, Wor. Master Crescent Lodge No. 87.

Masonry—

Masonry stands for courage of conviction, honesty of opinion and straight-forward conduct. It doesn't tell any of its members how to think, or what to believe. It places before each member the vital facts of life and expects men to think for themselves and to follow their convictions.

W. Bro. W. W. H. Hourie, W. Master, Lodge Renfrew No. 134.

### CHALLENGE OF MASONRY

Indifference on the part of its members to the great teachings of Masonry is painfully deplorable. Its moral purpose is seldom taken seriously. Hosts of Masons remain utterly insensitive to the need of translating its principles into terms of daily living. Masonry, when rightly understood, challenges its members to the highest reaches of noble living. The wealth of symbolic suggestion found in Masonry is virtually inexhaustable.

William E. Hammond

W. Bro. F. G. Wyatt, Wor. Master, Acacia Lodge No. 11.

Mahatma Gandhi once wrote that there are seven sins in the world: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; commerce without morality; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice; and politics without principle.

W. Bro. Wm. Davidson, Wor. Master, Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15.

When a man understands that he was admitted into the craft,

Not because of what he has, but of what he is;

When it is clear to him that Masonic privileges are his only so long as he is worthy of them;

When he knows that every Mason world wide is a potential friend;

When he is tolerant of every race and creed;

When he strives humbly and earnestly to embrace all things

This is Free Masonry at its best.

W. Bro. Bill Berkenkamp, Wor. Master Eureka Lodge No. 10.

The symbolism of Masonry is the soul of Masonry. Each symbol is a religious teacher, the mute teacher

also of morals and philosophy. It is in its ancient symbols and in knowledge of their true meaning that the pre-eminence of Freemasonry over all other orders is evident. In other respects, some of them may compete with it, rival it, perhaps even excell it, but by its symbols it will reign without a peer.

W. Bro. J. O. Benson, Wor. Master Evergreen Lodge No. 166.

### INDIVIDUAL MAN IS CREATION OF GOD

The working tools of a Mason are designed for the use of only one man at a time.

The seeker after Light plucks off his shoe . . . individually.

He affirms his trust in God . . . individually.

He comes face to face with destitution . . . alone.

He stands in the Northeast Corner . . . individually.

He goes forth in search of That Which is Lost . . . alone.

He retires to the Sanctum Sanctorum to pray . . . alone.

He meets the test of Fidelity . . . alone.

He is raised to the newness of life . . . individually and alone.

W. Bro. G. F. Large, Wor. Master, Connaught Lodge No. 69.

A careless word may kindle strife

A cruel word may wreck a life

A bitter word may hate instill

A brutal word may smite and kill

A gracious word may smooth the way

A joyous word may light the day

A timely word may lessen stress

A loving word may heal and bless.

W. Bro. D. Odell, Wor. Master, Carstairs Lodge No. 20.

"One door shuts, another opens,

Future beckons with a smile

What's in store round life's next corner?

Patience for a little while!

Though we cannot always see

The reason for what's waiting there,

Something taken, something given—

The scales of life will balance fair.

## THE TASSELS

W. Bro. A. C. Nielsen - Elbow River Lodge No. 180

We all know the following quote from the V.W.'s lecture:

"Pendant to the four corners of a lodge are four tassels, which represents the four cardinal virtues namely: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice."

There is no evidence to be found of the time when the four tassels were made to represent the four cardinal virtues.

According to Coils Masonic Encyclopedia, the cardinal virtues did not enter the ritual until after the middle of the eighteenth century.

It seems that the four cardinal virtues were then represented by staves or rungs in Jacob's Ladder.

The Freemasons Guide and Compendium states that the number of steps in Jacob's Ladder should apparently be seven: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice, Faith, Hope and Charity. Jacob's Ladder was a prominent symbol in the early days of speculative

masonry, and we find it on many breast jewels of the 1760 period. The number of rungs, or steps, in the various ladders was generally seven, which has been a mystic, or sacred, number for thousands of years.

It seems that the four cardinal virtues were "removed" from the ladder because the artists had difficulty in making room for all seven.

The four cardinal (most important) virtues were apparently borrowed from the church.

In a book by Durandus (a bishop who died in 1296) first printed in 1459 we find "Again in the temple of God, the foundation is Faith, which is conversant with unseen things; the roof is charity, which covered a multitude of sins. The door is obedience ---. The pavement is humility, of which the Psalmist said "My soul clingeth to the pavement". The four side walls, are the four cardinal virtues - justice, fortitude, temperance, prudence. Hence the Apocalypse saith: "The city lieth four-square".

Also from the Freemasons Guide and Compendium, we find this quotation: "The stones in the walls of the church are spiritualized in a Latin work by Piere de Roissy (twelfth - thirteenth centuries) who thought that the squared stones signify the squareness of the virtues of the saints. These are Temperance, Justice, Fortitude and Prudence. The polished stones represent the saints polished by patience in adversity."

Just as masonry adopted the four cardinal virtues from the church; the church in turn probably adopted them from Plato. In the Grand Lodge Bulletin of March 1976 we find the following quote: "Perfect wisdom had four parts, namely wisdom, the principle of doing things aright; justice, the principle of doing things equally in public and private; fortitude, the principle of not fleeing danger but meeting it; and temperance, the principle of subduing desires and living moderately."

From the Freemasons Guide and Compendium: "We are told that the cardinal - that is, the most important - virtues in masonry are prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice; the first to direct, the second to chasten and the third to support a Brother, while the fourth should be a guide to all his actions."

In summation the four cardinal virtues may be assumed to include the following:

Temperance: self-restraint and self-control in all activities, in conduct, in language, in desire, in eating, and moderation in all things.

Fortitude: courage in facing pain, danger or trouble; firmness in spirit.

Prudence: According to Preston: "Prudence is the true guide to human understanding, and consists in judging and determining with propriety what is to be said or done upon all occasions, what danger we should endeavor to avoid, and how to act in all our difficulties."

And according to Webb: "Prudence teaches us to regulate our lives and actions agreeably to the dictates of reason, and in that faculty by which we wisely judge and prudentially determine on all things relative to our present, as well as our future happiness."

Also: Wise thought before action, good judgment.

Justice: The Freemason who remembers how emphatically he has been charged to preserve an upright position in all dealings with mankind, should never fail to act justly to himself, to his brethren, and to the world. But in Freemasonry the true symbol of justice, is illustrated in the first degree, with the feet firmly planted on the ground, and the body upright.



M.W. Bro. C. L. Chamberlain will be guest speaker at the Grand Lodge Banquet this year.

He was born in Morden Manitoba on June 17, 1914 and attended schools at Morden, Manitoba.

He joined Manitoba Power Commission in 1937 as a ground man and at present he is the Great Plains Area Manager.

In his younger years he played hockey in Brandon as a juvenile and junior.

He was initiated in Neepawa Lodge No. 24 - April 1949 and affiliated with Morden Lodge No. 13 in 1965 and served as W. Master in 1968.

He served two consecutive terms as D.D.G.M. of the 4th Masonic District Grand Lodge of Manitoba for the period 1971-73.

Elected Junior Grand Warden in June 1973 and became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in 1976.

He is also Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island.

Honorary Past Grand Master of—

The Grand Lodges of - North Dakota; Minnesota; Saskatchewan and Alberta.

He has two sons and one daughter and four grandchildren. His wife, the former Anne Kenner, passed away a year and a half ago.

## ASHLAR LODGE NO. 28

In January Ashlar Lodge paid a visit to St. Mark's Lodge No. 118. The Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge, W. Bro. G. A. Grasswick had the pleasure of presenting to the Worshipful Master of St. Mark's Lodge a cheque to cover the cost of four chairs for the new St. Mark's Temple. This gift was made up entirely of individual donations from the members of Ashlar Lodge.



Left - R.W. Bro. John Wallace  
Centre - R.W. Bro. Charles Blacklee  
Right - W. Bro. Ed Maurer



### 50 YEAR JEWEL

John B. Wallace of Calgary received his 50-year jewel at a special meeting of Bassano Masonic Lodge. The presentation was made by Charles Blacklee, a member of Foothills Masonic Lodge in Calgary.

Right Worshipful Bro. Wallace moved to the Bassano district on April 1, 1926 and joined the Bassano Masonic Lodge on May 1, 1928. He was Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1946 and 1947 and during his terms of office he raised 26 candidates.

He was District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 2 in 1949 and 1950.

Mr. Wallace has resided in Calgary since 1950 and is a charter member of Foothills Lodge No. 174, AF & AM formed on April 13, 1956, and has been able to enjoy Masonic fellowship there when not able to attend Bassano Lodge.

### AUSTRALIAN VISIT

Recently some 200 Masons, their wives and families from Western Canada and several from the United States visited Sydney Australia to take part in a week long Masonic Festival which included the dedication of a new Masonic Centre. They report that the actual dedication of the building which witnessed a procession of some one thousand masons from all parts of the globe was a stirring event. During the week there were a number of events including the presentation of some outstanding papers. It is hoped that future issues of the Bulletin may be able to include some synopses of these papers. In the Alberta party were the M.W., the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. R. L. Costigan and the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. M. P. Dunford. The party spent ten days in Australia, seven days in New Zealand and three days in Fiji.



"On November 20th, 1978, R.W. Bro. T. G. Aberdeen and Wor. Bro. J. Ryder visited the home of Bro. Sam Murphy to present him with a 50 year jewel.

Brother Murphy was initiated in Empire Lodge No. 63 on October 17, 1921, and while he is totally blind he otherwise enjoys good health. He was 90 years old last October at which time he received letters of congratulations from Prime Minister Trudeau and the Mayor of Victoria. Bro. Murphy was delighted with the presentation and extremely happy to see the two brethren from the Lodge.

### AMALGAMATIONS

Recently the Grand Master presided over two amalgamations. Doric Lodge No. 31 of Taber amalgamated with Lucerne Lodge No. 159 of Vauxhall and will be continued under the number 159. Empress Lodge No. 161 amalgamated with Mizpah Lodge No. 35 of Medicine Hat and will continue under the name of Mizpah Lodge No. 35.

### ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 25

St. John's Lodge No. 25 of Vegreville honoured its most famous member on Wednesday April 4th when M.W. Bro. Samuel H. Hardin was presented with his Fifty Year Jewel. He was initiated into Alliance Lodge No. 135 on April 3, 1929 and affiliated with St. John's Lodge, Vegreville in 1940 becoming its Worshipful Master in 1948. In 1963-64 he had a disguised year as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Since his retirement from the practice of dentistry he has lived in Edmonton. In honour of the occasion a bus load of masons accompanied M.W. Bro. Hardin to Vegreville. M.W. Bro. R. L. Costigan, Grand Master, was in attendance.

### MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE NO. 16

Mountain View Lodge No. 16 in Olds celebrated its Seventy Fifth Anniversary in April. The ceremonies commenced with a Lodge meeting in the afternoon with a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication. M.W. Bro. R. L. Costigan, Grand Master, was received and spoke to the Lodge. A historical review of Mountain View Lodge was presented. In the evening a banquet for Lodge members, wives and friends was held in the Legion Hall. M.W. Bro. W. J. Collett P.G.M. was the guest speaker and he spoke of the history of Freemasonry in Alberta. The banquet was followed by a dance to conclude a very enjoyable day.