



# The Beacon

## Central District Masonic Newsletter

November 2008

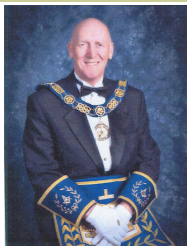


November 11, 2008: Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Red Deer, AB, Canada. The ceremony hit a little closer to home this year as the name of Gordon Young was added to the list of the departed. Bro. Young passed away Oct 27th. He was the senior member of Beacon #190 at 91 and was an active attendee and participant in Lodge activities - and a friend. He will be missed.

If you look closely at the above photo you will see a Masonic apron in the last row of marchers on the right hand side of the rink. Brethren from Red Deer #12 and Beacon #190 took part and laid a wreath, along with the O.E.S. and the Shrine.

The wreath for Bro. Young was laid by his son.





**D.D.G.M.'s Theme**  
**YOUR MASONIC HEART,**  
**BRING YOUR MASONRY HOME**

### District Deputy Grand Master Official Visits—Central District

November 20th, 2008	<a href="#">Apollo #27</a>	Stettler
January 5th, 2009	<a href="#">Mountain View #16</a>	Olds
January 15th, 2009	<a href="#">Innisfail #8</a>	Innisfail
February 10th, 2009	<a href="#">Red Deer #12</a>	Red Deer
February 12th, 2009	<a href="#">Lochearn #151</a>	Rocky Mountain House

### Central District Challenge

<i>Presenting Lodge</i>	<i>Host Lodge</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Innisfail #8	Mountain View #16	?	?
Eureka #10	Lochearn #151	?	?
Red Deer #12	Apollo #27	?	?
Mountain View #16	Beacon #190	?	?
Britannia #18	Kenilworth #29	?	?
Apollo #27	Innisfail #8	?	?
Kenilworth #29	Red Deer #12	?	?
Kitchener #95	Eureka #10	?	?
Lochearn #151	Kitchener #95	?	?
Beacon #190	Britannia #18	?	?

#### Purpose:

1. Promote research & education within the District
2. Encourage Inter-Lodge visitation
3. Get New members involved in the District
4. Show that Masonry can be fun

### Central District Officers 2008 - 2009

District Secretary	<a href="#">VW Bro. Brent Chalmers</a>	403-782-9353	prairesand@shaw.ca
Masonic Higher Education & Bursary	<a href="#">W Bro. Wayne Armishaw</a>	403-782-2895	waycat@telusplanet.net
Masonic Foundation	<a href="#">W Bro. Bob Cantwell</a>	403-314-4850	rrc1@telus.net
Research & Education	W Bro. Clark Johnston	403-347-7099	cjohnst@telusplanet.net

### Central District Web Page

<http://mastermason.com/Beacon190/ddgm.htm>

Central District  
Annual Meeting Summary

Red Deer, Alberta  
October 18 2008

Meeting was called to order after the singing of the national Anthem. All brethren present vouched for by their respective WM's. There was 1 visitor and 2 representatives from Grand lodge.

A Memorial Service was held to remember all Brethren P.T.T.G.L.A. in the past year. Roses were placed on the alter for all remembered Brethren

Registration was closed and credentials committee was sequestered to complete Ballot allocation based on Lodge attendance.

Lodge Reports were received from the WM's. Every Lodge in the district reports good status and greta brotherhood within their respective walls and without.

Candidates for the position of D.D.G.M. were introduced and their Biographies read. Election was completed on the first ballot. Worshipful Brother Randall Robinson was elected on the first Ballot. Brother Robinson received congratulations from the Brethren assembled. The other candidates were encouraged to let their names stand again in subsequent years.

Financial Report was received, the per capita was deemed to adequate to support District Activities for the ensuing year.

Various Old Business was dealt with for a detailed analysis of this business refer to the meeting minutes. Lodges in Central District are to begin hosting inter- Lodge sports activities on a rotating basis.

Kitchener # 95 was declared winner of the Bursary Donation Challenge.

Presentations were received regarding Masonic Higher Education Bursary, Masonic Spring Workshop and Masonic Foundation.

Past District Deputy's Report was received. The P.D.D.G.M. expressed his thanks to all who supported d him during his year in office. He was presented with a medal of service in recognition for the diligent services he preformed.

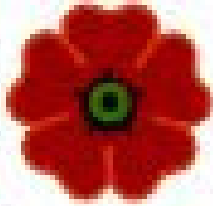
13:00 Remarks were given by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master on behalf of Grand Lodge.

14:00 Lodge was closed in Concord and harmony.

Festive Board and Banquet followed.

-Submitted by VW Bro. Brent Chalmers - District Secretary

Why The Poppy: Poppy seed will lie in the ground for years if the soil is undisturbed. That churned up cemetery known as the Western Front provided the ideal medium for masses of poppies to blanket the graves. By the 1920s, Legion Branches were selling the paper flowers to: provide assistance to needy ex-servicemen and their families, to build housing for seniors, and support programs like meals-on-wheels, drop-in centres, etc. Buy and wear a poppy. It is simple, painless way to recognize contributions and sacrifices barely imaginable to us.



**Lest We Forget**

## THE VETERAN ON OUR TEN DOLLAR BILL

If you look at the back right-hand side of a Canadian \$10 bill, you will see an old veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa war memorial. His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died last month at the age of 90.



That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War. Born in England, he was one of the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force sent to the mainland where they found themselves facing the new German warfare technique - the Blitzkrieg.

He was treating a wounded comrade when he was hit in the legs by shrapnel.

En route to hospital, his ambulance came under fire from a German tank, which then miraculously ceased fire. Evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Grenade, two of the sister ships with them were sunk.

Recovered, he was sent to allied campaigns in North Africa and Italy. En route his ship was chased by the German battleship Bismarck.

In North Africa he served under General Montgomery against the Desert Fox, Rommel.

Sent into the Italian campaign, he met his future wife, a lieutenant and physiotherapist in a Canadian hospital. They were married in the morning by the mayor of the Italian town, and again in the afternoon by a British padre.

After the war they settled in Chatham where he went into politics and became the warden (chairman) of the county and on his retirement he and his wife moved to Ottawa. At the age of 80 he wrote a book about his experiences.

One day out of the blue he received a call from a government official asking him to go downtown for a photo op. He wasn't told what the photo was for or why they chose him. 'He had no idea he would be on the bill,' his daughter said.

***And now you know the story of the veteran on the \$10 bill.***

## In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)  
Canadian Army



IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John was born in 1872 and raised in Guelph, Ontario and is remembered as one of Guelph's most famous sons.

McCrae was more than a poet, and was in fact a doctor, soldier, author and artist. The paternal grandparents of John McCrae, Thomas and Jean (nee Campbell) emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1849 and settled in Guelph. Their son David married Janet Eckford and they had three children; Thomas (1870), John (1872) and Geills (1878). John's early education was received in Guelph, first at Central Public School and subsequently at Guelph Collegiate Institute.

While at Guelph Collegiate, John joined the Highland Cadet Corps which was affiliated with the school. One year later, at the age of 15, McCrae became a bugler in the local militia regiment of artillery commanded by his father. He later joined this same regiment as a gunner.

At the age of 16, John was awarded a scholarship to the University of Toronto due to his academic achievement at Guelph Collegiate. McCrae attended classes at the University of Toronto until 1892-3, when he took a year off his studies due to recurring problems with asthma. During this break from university, John was a resident master in English and Mathematics at the Ontario Agricultural College (O.A.C.) in Guelph. After returning to Toronto and completing his B.A., John commenced studies in medicine at the University of Toronto and did a medical residency at the Garrett Hospital, a Maryland children's convalescent home.

While at university, John maintained his military ties with the No. 2 Battery in Guelph. He remained a member of the Guelph militia regiment and was promoted several times, finally making the rank of Lieutenant. At the same time he was also involved with a Toronto militia, the Queen's Own Rifles, in which he rose to the rank of Captain and commanded the company.

It was also while John was still at University that some of his early poems were first published. Although McCrae is widely known as a poet, his literary efforts were not confined to

one genre. While at university he also had some of his short stories published and he later went on to write scientific articles and medical textbooks. As well as his literary efforts, John dabbled in the visual arts, making numerous sketches throughout his life.

John McCrae graduated at the top of his class in medicine at the University of Toronto, and in 1899 was awarded a fellowship in pathology at McGill University in Montreal. This award coincided with the start of the Boer War (1899-1902) and John put off accepting the fellowship in order to go to South Africa with the artillery. McCrae left for South Africa in 1900 in command of the left section of D Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery attached to the Second Canadian Contingent. This contingent returned to Canada in 1901 after participating in several major campaigns. With his return, McCrae accepted the fellowship at McGill, which he completed in 1905.

While still working on this fellowship, McCrae was appointed special professor in pathology at the University of Vermont, a position he held until 1911. During this time he was also appointed an associate of medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and was a lecturer in pathology and medicine at McGill University. After completing the fellowship McCrae was employed as a pathologist at Montreal General Hospital and as a physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Infection Diseases, also in Montreal. In 1910, Lord Grey, then Governor General of Canada, undertook an expedition by canoe from Lake Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay. John McCrae accompanied this voyage as expedition doctor.

When the first World War began in 1914, McCrae again offered his services to the military. He was conditionally offered the position of Brigade Surgeon in the First Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery by E.W.B. Morrison, the brigade commander and a friend of McCrae. McCrae was formally confirmed in this position in the fall of 1914. While Brigadier Surgeon, John was responsible for a field dressing station at the front and treated those wounded during the Second Battle of Ypres (Ieper) in the spring of 1915. As well as performing his duties as a surgeon, he also served on the guns when needed and occasionally performed burial services. It was after performing the service for a friend, Alexis Helmer, that McCrae was inspired to write *In Flanders Fields*. The poem was written May 3, 1915 and first published in *Punch* that same year.

In the summer of 1915, McCrae was transferred from the artillery Brigade to the Number 3 Canadian General Hospital in France, where he was second in command of medical services. During McCrae's time there, the Number 3 Hospital received a visit from Queen Mary, who toured the hospital, McCrae disliked these official visits as he felt they detracted from the real work of the hospital.

While still at this hospital in January 1918, McCrae became ill with pneumonia, which was soon complicated by meningitis. Four days before he died, he was honoured by being the first Canadian appointed as consulting physician to the First British Army. John McCrae died on 28 January 1918, and was buried with military honours at Wimereaux Cemetery in France. At McCrae's funeral procession, 75 nursing sisters stood by to watch and McCrae's horse, Bon-fire, wore his master's boots backwards in military tradition.

By John Peddie

[http://guelph.ca/museum/mccrae/story\\_of\\_john\\_mccrae.htm](http://guelph.ca/museum/mccrae/story_of_john_mccrae.htm)



The following submission is from W. Bro. Wayne Armishaw, District Chairman, Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund

The months of October or November have been, variously, declared "Bursary Month" in the Grand Lodge Bulletin. Be it as it may, whether in October or November, or at any time, members of the Fraternity are well advised to continue donating, ever remembering the lesson of the North-East Corner lecture which impressed us when we were made Masons. Our generosity cannot be better directed than towards the education of our youth, particularly those among them who without such bursaries would be unable to advance in knowledge and skills.

So, how have we done this past year? In 2008 we received 209 applications and were able to award 100 bursaries of \$2,000 each. This was made possible by the generosity of the entire Fraternity. The Bursary Fund received \$151,714 in donations. Institutional and Concor-dant Bodies donated \$69,438, and \$82,276 (\$10.79 per capita) came from individuals donating through their Lodges

Since the inception of the Masonic Higher Education Fund has awarded over 2,600 bursaries at a cost of more than 2.5 million dollars, making it one of the larger privately funded bursary programs in Alberta. They should be a source of great pride for all Alberta Masons The Bursary fund certainly helps to answer the question "What do Masons do for the good of Society?"

The Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund is a Registered Charity and tax receipts are issued for all donations or bequests. Grand Lodge has always supplied the staff to run the Bursary Fund; this makes it possible to pass all donations through for Bursaries. Grand Lodge is pleased to accept Bequests, Money gifts, stocks and bonds, and insurance policies as part of estate plans naming the Bursary Fund as the Beneficiary (Estate gifts generally have significant tax benefits for the estate as well as being of great assistance for the Bursary Fund) The Bursary Fund **Generous Donor Plaque** is given to any individual or company for a donation of \$1000.00 or more.

2009 will be the 50th year that the Grand Lodge of Alberta will be providing Higher Education Bursaries for the youth of this Jurisdiction. Let us all celebrate this 50th anniversary year by making a special effort to give to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund and help our youth achieve their aspirations for a better education.

source Grand Lodge of Alberta Bulletins

For more information and applications to obtain a Bursary go to the Grand Lodge Web Page and follow the link located part way down on the left side of the page:

**<http://www.freemasons.ab.ca/primary/>**

Donations can be sent to the following address indicating your name, address, and Lodge name & number:

**Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund  
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, AF&AM  
330 - 12 Avenue, SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 0H2**



Northern Alberta  
Veterans Degree Team

On Monday October 27, 2008, the Northern Alberta Veteran's Degree team raised three new Beacon #190 Brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Pictured above are Bros. Robert Clarke, Scott Wambolt, and Alex Naumescu, our new Master Masons, along with the Degree team and RW Bro. Len Clarke, DDGM (on his official visit) and RW Bro. Joe Stalter, acting WM.

The Northern Alberta Veteran's Degree Team was formed by MW Bm. Norman Oslund in 1982. Permission to wear the current team jackets was granted by Royal charter.

The team (25 members) must be Master Masons of at least 5 years, have been a member of the Allied Armed Forces, or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Ritual work is done in the Canadian Rite for the Master Mason Degree, the York Rite for the Fellowcraft Degree, and must comply in all respects with the Grand Lodge Committee of the work.

Members are addressed as "Brother". Rank is not used except when a member is an elected Lodge member or serving as a Grand Lodge Officer.

All candidates receive a "Team Pin" at the completion of their degree. Only team members and candidates are permitted to wear the pin.

The Team has traveled throughout Alberta and recently went to Scotland to demonstrate the Alberta way of conferring the Master Mason Degree.

The Team has conferred over 200 Master Mason Degrees in over 50 Lodges in Alberta. The Team Color Party has presented the flags for numerous Masonic and Concordant Body gatherings.





Newly Raised Bro. Scott Wambolt (on the left), not only had the privilege of being raised by the Northern Alberta Veterans Degree Team - his friend and associate Bro. Lee Adkins (on the right) made the trip from Texas to be present at the raising. Bro. Adkins is currently sitting as Jr. Warden of Pasadena Masonic Lodge # 1155, in Pasadena Texas. As a memento of being raised and welcoming him to the craft, Bro. Adkins presented Bro. Wambolt with a Masonic belt buckle displaying the working tools.

Check out Pasadena #1155 at the Lodge locator - Grand Lodge of Texas

[http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/l\\_locate.php](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/l_locate.php)

Speaking of Texas - the following arrived in my email box this week from the Grand Lodge of Texas

#### A Few Points on Masonic Protocol 11/2/08

Protocols generally are defined as a "strict adherence to correct etiquette and precedence", the "Rules of Etiquette of the Diplomatic Corps", or simply rules of conduct to be observed in social or official situations. Masonic protocol is therefore the rules or guidelines for conduct becoming a good Mason in both social and official circumstances. Breaches of Masonic protocol generally are a reflection of lack of common sense, courtesy, or understanding of the traditions of the Craft.

Most members of Lodges know and understand the "Last" speaker tradition. It is a matter of respect given the principal speaker, whether at an open or tiled meeting. Such recognition is especially important if the speaker is the Grand Master, a District Deputy Grand Master, or other officers of Grand Lodge. Good manners and polite consideration of the leaders of our Fraternity reflect upon our Lodge and our Craft.

Ritualistic titles, such as "Most Worshipful", "Right Worshipful", or "Brother" should never be used in public non-Masonic events for the general public does not understand their ritualistic meanings or the tradition associated with them. Coming from earlier times in England and France, these titles often create misunderstanding and confusion among the current public. Within the Lodge they are rightfully understood and show respect and Brotherly affection. A similar situation exists when using the written or spoken word in the public arena. In the public non-Masonic functions, one should simplify ritualistic titles to show both politeness and courtesy, but at Masonic events we always use appropriate titles. Respect for the office is both a tradition and an obligation of a Brother to our fraternal leaders.

All Lodge members should occasionally review the "Monitor of the Lodge", or the DDGM's "Handbook" for the proper guidelines of conduct. Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers and the Grand Master, along with introduction of others are important examples of our protocol and its traditions.

Within the Lodge a Mason always rises to his feet when addressed by the presiding officer or is addressing the Lodge. This includes discussion, motions, seconds, or reports. Even the Grand Master rises to his feet when addressed by the presiding officer of a Lodge. Signs are not a part of these actions, but are reserved for other Lodge activities. Protocol requires addressing the presiding officer first, and then others, when wishing to speak in the Lodge.

Courtesy and respect are a vital part of Masonic decorum and civility. The Worshipful Master is considered the resource on all Masonic matters and is the example of Masonic protocol for the Lodge. His model should be the model for his Lodge, but likewise the Brothers should understand that good manners, politeness, courtesy, and respect are for all the Craft.

Freemasonry is built upon two watchwords: "Do unto others as you wish they would do unto you" and "You are someone's image of Masonry". Each Mason should be Masonic in his actions at all times and guard both himself and his Brothers from breaches of conduct and protocol. Tradition and our Fraternity expect no less.



## MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN

Question - How do you demonstrate to others the proof of your being a mason?

Answer - By signs, a token and the P.P. of E.

Well, that's all right if you're visiting a lodge and being questioned before being admitted. But what about out in the real world when you're in the company of strangers and are looking for a kindred spirit, a brother mason. And would you recognize a brother mason from his conversation.

The grip of course is always the first clue, assuming that the opportunity is there to shake hands. But if it's not then there's always the Masonic ring, if you have one and you flash it around, and it gets noticed.

In any event, it's not necessary to have the square and compasses tattooed on your forehead to make yourself known to other masons. There are other ways.

You can make yourself known to other masons by using well known or easily recognized words and phrases from the ritual and fitting them into the conversation. Of course it does help if you know your ritual.

There are certain words and phrases that every mason should immediately recognize, phrases like working tools, I was always taught to be cautious, who comes here, whence come you, the first regular step, so mote it be, and so on, and words like square, Tyler, cable tow to name a few, which can be easily slipped into any conversation.

It does take some practice however, but if you have some of these words and phrases stored in your memory and try to include them at every opportunity, it soon becomes quite natural for them to become part of your every day dialogue. In this way not only will you make the acquaintance of other masons but you'll pick up other words and phrases and different ways of using them, thereby adding to your vocabulary.

You can't tell that a man is a mason just by his appearance, but you can offer him the opportunity to make himself known to you by making yourself known to him unobtrusively, and using the ritual is a great way of doing it.

Bill Douglas PM, Kenilworth Lodge #29 GRA, 2001

Ed. Comment: This paper was prepared and presented in Lodge by WR Bro. Bill Douglas of Kenilworth #29 - a Canadian Rite Lodge. He has indicated that, in the interest of Masonic Education, feel free to use or adapt the paper for use in your Lodge. However, Bro. Douglas would appreciate if you would acknowledge the source and let him know how it was used and received. He can be contacted at: [alazar2@telus.net](mailto:alazar2@telus.net)

**Tuesday  
December 2nd**

**Kenilworth #29 - 70th Annual Moose Supper  
Freemason Hall - 4811 - 52 Street, Red Deer  
5:30 Social - cash Bar  
6:30 Supper - tickets \$15.00**



- MW Bro. Bro. John Hart Grand Master will be in attendance
- 50 year jewel to be presented to Bros. Earl Berry and David Lofstrand
- 60 year bar to be presented to Bro. Dave Matheson
- Masonic Education - "The Working Tools"

For information and tickets contact:  
W. Bro. Bill Douglas  
403-343-6068

or

W. Bro. Douglas Tubb  
403-342-5351  
dwtubb@telusplanet.net



**Annual Family Christmas Tea  
Sunday November 30th  
2 - 4 pm**



**Freemason Hall, 4811 - 52 Street, Red Deer**

**welcome to all Masonic Concordant Body members, guests and families**



Venus Chapter 2, OES, Red Deer will be holding an '**Open Installation of Officers**' on Sun Dec 14th at 2:00PM at the Freemason's Hall. Open to Masons, their spouses, family members or anyone else who may be interested. As a light lunch will follow please let Jim Innes know numbers to allow for sufficient fare: 403-343-3086 or [jidi2@telus.net](mailto:jidi2@telus.net).

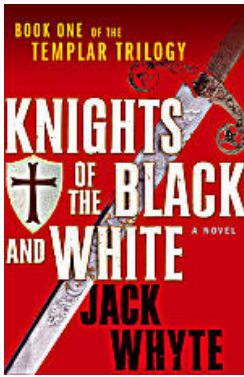


**Beacon #190 - 45th Annual Burns Evening  
Monday January 26th 2008**

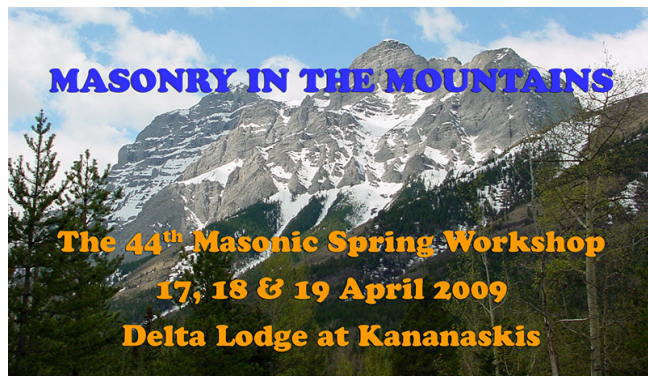
Red Deer Freemason Hall  
4811 - 52 Street

Immortal Memory - RW Bro. Robert E Juthner  
Cocktails 5 pm (\$?), Dinner 6 pm \$20  
Lodge Tyles at 7:30 pm

Contact: Bro. Sinclair 403-505-5442 or Bro. Cantwell 403-314-4850



An interesting fictional read on the origin of the Knights Templar. The first book of a Templar Trilogy written by Jack Whyte (Kelowna B.C.). Check out the URL below or do a Google Search for the author's name to get to Jack Whyte's home page - where you can read a few chapters of the book to try it out before you buy. This book and some of his other writings are available at the Red Deer Public Library - downtown branch.



Keynote Speaker  
Dr Earl Saharam  
Dean  
St Stephens College  
DDGM  
Athabasca District  
Grand Chaplin  
1999/2000 & 2001 / 2002



**Register early and Save...**

**<http://www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca/>**



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Lodge of Perfection, Central Valley  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 8:00 pm  
Freemason Hall, 4722 - 49B Ave, Lacombe, AB  
Contact Vern Otto, 403-782-3988



Royal Arch, Lebanon #38  
Meetings: Third Thursday  
Apollo Lodge Hall, 5114-50 Ave Stettler, AB  
Contact: ABAlix Milne, Stettler AB, 403-742-3664



Al Azhar Shriners - A.A.O.N.M.S. Red Deer Unit  
Meetings - 3rd Wednesday  
Freemason Hall, 4811-52nd Street, Red Deer, AB  
Contact: Box 42, Red deer, AB, T4N 5E7



**Mountain View #1** (Olds) 1st Tuesday  
**Venus #2** (Red Deer) 2nd Monday  
**Alexandra #4** (Lacombe) 2nd Tuesday  
**Victoria #14** (Stettler) 3rd Monday  
**Innisfail #37** (Innisfail) 1st Thursday  
**Battle River #47** (Ponoka) 3rd Thursday  
**Lochearn #129** (RMH) 1st Thursday

**MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER - JOHN A. JACKSON**

J. A. Jackson  
1914

Born in Seaforth Ontario in 1875, John Ainslie Jackson was educated at Seaforth Collegiate Institute, and at Toronto University, where he obtained, in 1897, his Bachelor of Arts degree. Upon graduating in Law from Osgood Hall, Toronto, in 1901 he moved to Blyth Ontario where he went into private practice for a year, before coming to Alberta in 1903. It was at Blyth, Ontario that he met his future wife, Miss Emigh.

John Jackson practiced law, in sole practice, at Ponoka, Alberta, for a period of ten years (from April 1903 until his appointment in 1913 as a District Court Judge). During this time, it was obvious from his legal, Masonic, sports, and community activities as recorded in the Ponoka Herald, that he was a most active, and exceedingly busy, lawyer, sportsman, and community-minded citizen.

John Jackson had joined the Masonic Lodge in Blyth, Ontario, during his one year stint in that city, but had moved out west before having advanced beyond the first, or Entered Apprentice, degree. With the population of Ponoka exploding to the grand total of 517 residents in December 1904, it didn't take long for the few Masons in this metropolis to meet and decide to form their own Masonic Lodge. Jackson, in his own words, recorded by him in the original Britannia Lodge historical register, tells the story as follows:

**"Brother Jackson was only an E.A. having obtained that degree in Blyth Ontario before coming West. He had some trouble in getting his mother lodge into communication with Eureka Lodge at Lacombe, but finally succeeded and became a M.M. in the winter of 1904. There were other masons here and at times prospects were good but one or two would find it necessary to leave for other parts and the perfect number (seven) would again be lacking."**

**"However Bro. Charles K. Campbell appeared on the scene in 1903, towards the end of it and it was seen that the wishes of the brothers would eventually be fulfilled. With the advent of Bro. Brodie in 1904, we found we had the required number and one over."**

**"The Brethren with a whole eye to the good of the lodge, chose Bro. C.K. Campbell for the first master, Bro. Rowley S.W., and Bro. Courtright J.W. As there were only eight of us, we all got positions."**

**Britannia Lodge (U.D.) was instituted on the evening of January 31st 1905 by D.D.G.K. Bro. J.J. Dunlop of Edmonton."**

From this inauspicious beginning, Brother Jackson proceeded rapidly through the Lodge offices, culminating with his being elected, in December 1906 as Worshipful Master of Britannia Lodge No. 18. His rapid rise in Grand Lodge offices can be further seen by the following ad-

vancements:

1909 ---- District Deputy Grand Master  
1910 ---- Junior Grand Deacon  
1911 ---- Grand Junior Warden  
1912 ---- Grand Senior Warden  
1913 ---- Deputy Grand Master  
1914 ---- Grand Master  
1915-1951 Past Grand Master

During Jackson's tenure at Ponoka, he took an active role in both Provincial and Federal politics. He was an active supporter of the Conservative party, and in 1904 he organized and became the first president of the Ponoka Conservative Association. He contested this riding in the Conservative interests, both in 1905, and in 1909. In the Provincial election of 1913, his friend *F* and brother Mason, George Gordon, was chosen as the candidate to contest the forthcoming Provincial election. J.A. Jackson was chairman of that Conservative nomination meeting, as well as being elected, at the same meeting, a director of the Ponoka Conservative Association.

In addition to being the only lawyer in Ponoka, we observe from the **Local News** section of the Ponoka Herald during those years, that' J.A. Jackson, in March, 1905, was appointed Village solicitor, (at \$100.00 per year retainer), was elected as the Town secretary-treasurer in 1905, which position he held until he resigned in April, 1912, "as there was too much work for the salary the town could afford to give." It is to be further noted that,, in July 1912,,\*J.A. Jackson was reappointed as secretary treasurer at the increased salary of \$600.00 per annum, when his replacement did not prove satisfactory. As secretary of the Town,, "he steered the council through many knotty problems".

Jackson's contributions to the Ponoka community extend6d into the field of education. He ran, and was first elected as a School Trustee in 1905. He continued as a trustee until his resignation in 1913 on his appointment as a District Court Judge.

Again it is to be noted that he was returned as school trustee in December 1912 elections, without opposition. J.A. Jackson was conscientious in attending School Trustee conventions through the years, including his last one in January, 1913.

Jackson was a well known athlete throughout the Dominion. He earned the nickname of 'Stonewall Jackson' as a star halfback on the "Varsity" soccer team,, and was something to conjure with in football, lacrosse, hockey, boxing, and other sports. Foremost in the field of sport, he was a favourite with the young men. He was one of the founders, and in 1907, the president of the Alberta Football Association. In later years, while a Judge in Lethbridge, his keen sports interest was again recognized by being elected the leader of the Canadian Contingent of Athletes at the Olympic Games held in Berlin, Germany in 1936. He attended, during his lifetime, three Olympic Games; Paris in 1924, Los Angeles in 1932, and Berlin, Germany in 1936.

As a barrister, J.A. Jackson was no slouch. In March 1905 a Supreme Court case heard in the Wetaskiwin Court House, and handled by Jackson, Ponoka's "local advocate" in a dispute concerning the ownership of a pair of oxen, was successful in obtaining, for his client, a judgment which included the full claim and costs. "Mr. Jackson is to be congratulated on his success and his able handling of the case", reported the Ponoka Herald's next edition.

It was as a direct result of the efforts of J.A. Jackson that Ponoka was chosen to be the site-of Alberta's first Provincial Asylum. In the February 22, 1907 edition of the Ponoka Herald he suggested that town council and the business community put forth their united efforts to secure this institution. With his behind the scenes efforts, the local Board of Trade was revitalized, and local delegations made successful representations ' to the Provincial legislators., In short order Ponoka was chosen as the future home of the 'Provincial Lunatic Asylum'. Land two miles from town was purchased, and construction commenced, in the summer of 1908.

Whether it was his legal training, or his involvement in Masonic offices, he was always in demand as a speaker, and as chairman of whatever meetings he was drawn to. As a school trustee, he quickly became the Board chairman; at Conservative political and nomination meetings, he became the chairman by popular demand. The New Years Eve highlight function of 1912, was "The Scotch Social", attended by two hundred guests, and held over the Town Hall. J.A. Jackson gave the main address of the evening. His talk is recorded as being appropriate with well chosen remarks.

Upon his appointment, in 1913, as a District Court Judge for the district of Lethbridge, His Honour Judge J.A. Jackson, and Mrs. Jackson, moved to that southern city in April, 1913, to take up their lifetime residence. This was an enormous loss to Britannia Lodge, to his Ponoka friends, and to the community as a whole.

The Ponoka Herald again records the esteem that was held for the town lawyer, town secretary, avid-sportsman and long time school trustee, by recognizing that he had a "splendid business, was always ready to-take a hand in the upbuilding of the town and district". and that "his services were much sought after."

Prior to leaving, the brethren of Britannia Lodge # 18 presented R. W. Brother Jackson with a handsome gold mounted walking stick as a mark of appreciation in which he was held by his brother Masons; and Mrs. Jackson was likewise made the recipient of a very handsome gift, provided by a number of her lady friends in town.

While in Lethbridge, in addition to his Judicial duties, Judge Jackson's extracurricular activities continued. In June 1913 he was elected to the Grand Lodge office of Deputy Grand Master, and in the following year elected to the highest of Grand Lodge offices, that of The Most Worshipful, The Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Alberta'. He held this grand position at thirty nine years of age, which, to this day, makes him the youngest to have held this position.

During his year as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, he was privileged to constitute no less than seven lodges, plus one other lodge which was constituted by his personal representative. He also granted dispensations for four new lodges, truly a remarkable record.

At a later time, in addition to various other positions held by Judge Jackson, he was appointed the Chairman of the South Alberta Irrigation District, and was a former president of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union.

His Honour Judge Jackson retired in 1945 after thirty two years on the Southern Alberta District Court bench.

Most Worshipful Brother John A. Jackson passed to the Great Architect Above on October 1st, 1951.

Written by; Harry J. Noble, Past Master Britannia Lodge # 18  
Ponoka, Alberta,  
November 21, 1992

The following is an extract from the "History of the Grand Lodge of Alberta 1905 - 1980", compiled by W.J. Collett P.G.M.:

The Masons in Ponoka had a difficult time getting their Lodge under way. They needed seven Charter members and were able to muster six, the bank manager, the Lumber merchant, a lawyer and several hunters and traders are included in their list. The problem was that the hunters and traders were itinerant and could not be relied upon to remain in the town for any length of time. It was discovered that one resident of Ponoka was an Entered Apprentice Mason. The Brethren appealed to Eureka Lodge No. 65 G.R.M. to help them pass and raise the valuable Entered Apprentice. It was then that Eureka Lodge was able to sponsor the establishment of a lodge in Ponoka which was to be called Britannia. The dispensation arrived in due course and Britannia Lodge was instituted on December 31, 1904. While the Lodge was under dispensation a disastrous fire destroyed all the possessions of the Lodge. Such was the enthusiasm that it took but four days for the Ponoka Masons to find new quarters and recommence their preparations for consecration. The Charter for Britannia Lodge No. 98 G.R.M. was issued on June 15, 1905 by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. Despite their need for new members the Brethren did not allow a desire to grow overshadow the quality required for Masonic initiation. An early record states that "the Brethren were very careful with the ballot."

Britannia Lodge occupied several locations in Ponoka until in 1949 it was decided that they needed a Lodge Room of their own. Their desire was assisted by a bequest that was made to the Lodge. They managed the accumulated funds very well and in 1974 were able to build their long desired Masonic Hall for the sum of \$20,000.00, which was paid for by the cash they had on hand.

In 1905, when the Grand Lodge of Alberta was established, Britannia became #18, G.R.A.



## MONEY AND METALLIC SUBSTANCES

[From the book "THE FREEMASON AT WORK", BY Harry Carr]

**Q. What is the origin and significance of our procedure in this part of the preparation of the Candidate?**

**A.** The polluting influence of metal is stressed several times in the Bible. Here are two examples:

*And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. (Exodus, xx, 25.)*

*And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. (I Kings, vi, 7.)*

The idea of pollution by metal seems to have been common in many countries and we find it in various mythologies, e.g., in the Baldur myth, the mistletoe may not be cut with iron.

Although we have descriptions of ritual and ceremonial procedure in a number of documents from 1696 onwards, the earliest hint of this practice appears in the Graham MS. of 1726:

*How came you into the Lodge-poor and penyles [sic] blind and ignorant of our secrets.*

Prichard's exposure, *Masonry Dissected*, dated 1730, emphasized the 'metallic' aspects of the procedure of those days, but he gave no reason for it:

*Q. How did he bring you?*

*A. Neither naked nor cloathed, barefoot nor shod, deprived of all Metal and in a right moving Posture.*

The next description-from a similar source-*Le Secret des Francs MaCons*, by the AW G. L. C. Perau, was published in France in 1742, and it is much more detailed:

*After he has satisfied these questions, he is deprived of all metal articles he may have about him, such as buckles, buttons, rings, (snuff)-boxes, etc. There are some Lodges where they carry precision so far as to deprive a man of his clothes if they are ornamented with galon [i.e., a kind of gold or silver thread].*

Another French exposure, *Le Catichisme des Francs-MaVons*, seems to have been the first document of this kind to give the reasons for the procedure:

*Q. Why were you deprived of all Metals?*

*A. Because when the Temple of Solomon was in building, the Cedars of Lebanon were sent all cut, ready for use, so that one heard no sound of hammer, nor of any other tool, when they used them.*

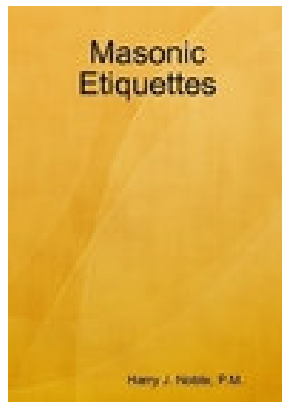
(Note the Biblical quotation referred to stone; *Le Catichisme* and later French texts speak of the Cedars of Lebanon.)

A more extended symbolism began to make its appearance towards the end of the 18th century and the following is an unusual interpretation from Preston's First Lecture, Section ii, Clause 1:

*Why deprived of metal?*

*For three reasons: first reason, that no weapon be introduced into the Lodge to disturb the harmony; second reason, that metal, though of value, could have no influence in our initiation; third reason, that after our initiation metal could make no distinction amongst Masons, the Order being founded on peace, virtue and friendship.*

There can be little doubt that the present-day procedure is a survival of the idea of pollution from metal and, since the Candidate for Initiation is symbolically erecting a Temple within himself, that is probably the reason why the 'deprivation' has remained a part of our practice throughout more than two centuries.



Visit "*The Beacon - bookstore*", where you can purchase a copy of "Masonic Etiquettes" written by Bro. Harry J Noble of Britannia #18, Ponoka, Alberta, Canada. Originally published in 1994 and republished in 2008. An excellent guide for Lodge Officers to maintain the traditions for conduct within the Lodge. The book (paperback) is available for \$13.03 or it can be downloaded as an e-book and/or printed for \$7.50. (If you click on the title you will be taken to a description page, where you can click on "Preview" and read the first eight pages of the book.)

Proceeds to Masonic Charity.

**<http://stores.lulu.com/thebeacon>**

Also Available at *The Beacon - bookstore as a free download*

- ***Freemasonry A WAY OF LIFE***; a brief overview of what Freemasonry is and what it isn't. Of interest to someone looking to find out more about the craft - with a view to joining. ***Have You Ever Considered Becoming A Mason***; a series of questions and explanations directed at someone considering Masonry and wondering if it is an organization suitable to their needs.

**Ed Comment: Call for papers.** In an effort to make the Newsletter more personal and relative to Central District, I am always on the lookout for papers, letters or general thoughts from local Masons. You may not want to stand up in Lodge to present your paper, so why not share it here - in the Newsletter - I'm only an email away.

W. Bro. Clark Johnston  
cjohnst@telusplanet.net

#### Editor's Comments:

- This newsletter is not an official Masonic publication and does not express the policies or opinions of any specific Masonic Lodge, District or Grand Lodge.

So go ahead and enjoy it as my gift to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to improve it let me know - I will always listen, I may not do anything about it, but I will listen. I would love to publish some of the stories from around the District or even Alberta. Stories about individuals, Lodge happenings or histories of Lodges.

This newsletter will not be published in paper format, but feel free to print it out and pass on to a brother.

The subscription list for this newsletter came from the CDMEL (Central District Masonic Email List). If you would rather not receive this Newsletter, let me know and I will remove your name - Your name will not be removed from the CDMEL unless you specifically request it. If you would like to be added to the subscription list send me an email.

W. Bro. Clark Johnston  
Beacon #190  
cjohnst@telusplanet.net

**A Beacon never goes anywhere  
It's just helps points the way**

**Are you your brother's keeper?** Several Masons in the District do not have access to computers &/or the Internet. If you know of such a Bro. And you think this newsletter is worth while, why not print off a copy to pass on. Another idea—if you would like a copy, but do not have a computer, ask your son or grandson to print it for you—he may get an idea of what it is you do at that secret Lodge!

### New Bar in Town

In a small mid western conservative town, a new bar/tavern started a building to open up their business. The local church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers. Work progressed, however right up till the week before opening, when a lightning strike hit the bar and it burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, till the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means.

The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the Buildings demise in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork at The hearing and commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner that believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't!"

### Remember you're a Mason

When the pressures of recession  
Make us concentrate on greed,  
Take heed, a worthy Mason  
Cares about another's needs.

Don't let pressures of the moment  
Make your obligation sway,  
Stop and help a fallen brother  
Or another by the way

What you give is like a bubble  
Whenever you assist,  
What it costs in time and trouble  
Is, soon after, never missed.

Brother, bear that obligation  
You accepted on your knee,  
It is in direct relation  
To your own security.

Never hesitate, my brother  
Square your actions now and say,  
"I'll remember I'm a Mason,"  
And behave like that today."

"With regard to human kindness  
And the 'Golden Rule', I pray,  
I'll remember I'm a Mason...  
And behave like that today."

Author unknown

### Not One Person

Not one person ever joined Masonry because Sir John A. McDonald was a Mason. Not one person ever joined Masonry because Winston Churchill was a Mason. Not one person ever joined because of any of our great Masonic heroes. Joining doesn't make you any of those people.

Not one person ever joined in order to give a million dollars a day to charity, or senior's homes, or crippled children. You don't have to be a member to give money.

Not one person ever joined because our ritual is outstanding, or our minutes are accurate, or a hundred other things we worry about. They don't know about our ritual.

They joined because someone they knew and admired was a Mason. It could have been a father, a friend, a man down the street, or someone a thousand miles away.

Who, it didn't matter. They admired him and wanted to do the things he did, and they did it by the millions.

Want to help our growth? Be the kind of man someone admires. Someone will notice.

*Copied from "The Tracing Board", the newsletter of Camosum Lodge No. 60 AF & AM B.C.R. who adapted it from an article by Brother Dan Weatherington, from the Masonic e-mail journal CINOSAM*

## Central District Contact Information

Editor's Comment: If you can complete the information for your Lodge or provide corrections - please email me at

[cjohnst@telusplanet.net](mailto:cjohnst@telusplanet.net)



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<http://mastermason.com/Beacon190/ddgm.htm>

***District Meeting - Saturday October 18th***

### **Innisfail #8 - Innisfail #8**

WM - W Bro. Frank Davis 403-348-0572

SW - Bro. Dennis Smith 403-227-6268

JW - W Bro. Tim Jackson 403-347-8501

Sec. - W Bro. John Marshall 403-227-6343

[www.mastermason.com/Innisfail\\_8](http://www.mastermason.com/Innisfail_8)

### **Eureka #10 - Lacombe**

WM - W Bro. Wayne Armishaw 403-782-2895

SW - W Bro. Clint reeves 403-782-4674

JW - VW Bro. Brent Chalmers 403-782-9353

Sec. - [W Bro. Wes Shacklton](#) 403-784-3684

[www.mastermason.com/Eureka10/](http://www.mastermason.com/Eureka10/)

### **Red Deer #12 - Red Deer**

WM - W Bro Mitch Thompson 403-357-8915

SW - W Bro. Scott Campbell 403-343-1119

JW - Bro. Camren Wallace 403-342-2726

Sec. - Bor. Brian Evanoff 403-352-1414

[.mastermason.com/Beacon190/Red%20Deer%2012/index.html](http://www.mastermason.com/Beacon190/Red%20Deer%2012/index.html)

### **Mountain View #16 - Olds**

WM - RW Bro. Russ Phillips 403-289-2039

SW - [RW Bro. Roger Kinney](#) 403-556-2631

JW - W Bro. Buck Godwin 403-556-6009

Sec. - [W Bro. Hugh Robinson](#) 403-556-6195

[www.mastermason.com/mountainview16/](http://www.mastermason.com/mountainview16/)

### **Britannia #18 - Ponoka**

WM - [W Bro. Dick Cameron](#) 403-783-5206

SW - Bro. Ainsley Shepherd 403-782-9430

JW - Bro. Jack Bowie 403-783-6262

Sec. - Bro. Henry Matejka,

[www.mastermason.com/Britannia18\\_Ponoka/](http://www.mastermason.com/Britannia18_Ponoka/)

### **Apollo #27 - Stettler**

WM - [W Bro. Don Anderson](#) 403-742-5857

SW - W Bro. James Savage 403-742-2298

JW -

Sec. - [W Bro. Andrew Jones](#)

<http://mastermason.com/apollo lodge27/>

### **Kenilworth #29 - Red Deer**

WM - [W Bro. Dave Travers](#) 403-318-1638

SW - Bro. [Cory Matrz](#) 403-347-2154

JW - Bro. John O'Brien 403-352-8562

Sec. - [W Bro. Doug Tubb](#) 403-342-5351

[www.mastermason.com/kenilworth29](http://www.mastermason.com/kenilworth29)

### **Kitchener #95 - Rimbey**

WM - [W Bro. Allan Tarleton](#) 403-843-4515

SW - RW Bro Arthur Frayn 403-843-6630

JW - [RW Bro. Earl Giebelhaus](#) 403-843-2379

Sec. - RW Bro. Herb Keith 403-843-2384

[www.mastermason.com/Kitchener95](http://www.mastermason.com/Kitchener95)

### **Lochearn #151 - Rocky Mountain House**

WM - [W Bro. Rick Williams](#) 403-896-8055

SW - [Glen English](#) 403-314-2145

JW - Bro. Dave McDonald

Sec. - [W Bro. Marc Spencer](#) 403-845-6942

[www.mastermason.com/Lochearn151](http://www.mastermason.com/Lochearn151)

### **Beacon #190 - Red Deer**

WM - [W Bro. Bob Cantwell](#) 403-314-4850

SW - [Bro Curtis Boutiellier](#) 403-302-3400

JW - [Bro. Jordan Sinclair](#) 403-505-5442

Sec. - [RW Bro. John Alexander](#) 403-783-5703

[www.mastermason.com/Beacon190](http://www.mastermason.com/Beacon190)