

# District 'C'ronicle



October 2024

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.194

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On Saturday  
September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Canadian Blood  
Services honoured  
District C and Hugh  
Murray Lodge No. 602  
with a presentation at  
the Hamilton Forge FC  
game at Tim Horton's  
Field.



## Our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren, September has been a busy month as we have been called from refreshment to labour for another masonic year. I have been able to make 7 fraternal visits thus far, all lodges appear to be on track for success. I will complete my fraternal visits by November, Westmount Lodge No. 671, being the last one.



On Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> the Fall District Meeting was held at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. I feel that it went very smoothly as I laid out my plans for my year as District Deputy Grand Master. My main focus is R.E.M. (ritual, education & mentoring) as these are the principal areas the Grand Master considers most important in helping the craft achieve success.

A short presentation was given by Melissa Horvath, the Director of T.E.A.D. (The Equestrian Association for the Disabled) this year's District charity. I hope that we can give this deserving charity our fullest support. If anyone would like to volunteer, visit their website and fill out an application (<https://tead.on.ca>). Please make all donations to the Masonic Foundation # 2498.

Over the past year \$900 has been raised by the district for their services and Hugh Murray Lodge provides volunteers for their collection services every Wednesday in Ancaster. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact our Blood Donor Chairman, Bro. James Zimmerman ([j.j.zimmerman@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.j.zimmerman@sympatico.ca)). (see photo on page 5)

Grand Lodge is providing bi-monthly Zoom meetings for Masonic Education and Fellowship, under the guidance of R.W. Bro Stephen Maizels. Everything is discussed at the EA level; thus it is open to all masons. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact W. Bro. Joe Johnson ([joej.web.guy@gmail.com](mailto:joej.web.guy@gmail.com)) and he will email you the link to the meetings.

My first official visit will take place on **Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>**, to Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602. As I have stated before, there will be no official accompanying lodges this year. I encourage all Masters to attend every one of my official visits, in order to give our fullest support to each lodge. Masters, I remind you to wear your collars, and when asked to sit in the East, I expect to find you sitting next to me.

On **Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the amalgamation of Ancient Landmarks/Doric No. 654 and Temple Lodge No. 324 will take place at the Masonic Centre of Hamilton. Details of the evening are available in the flyer that has been distributed to the lodge secretaries. The Grand Master will be in attendance, please make every effort to join him on this occasion.

Lastly, R.W. Bro. Ian Anderson ([ianderson7@cogeco.ca](mailto:ianderson7@cogeco.ca)) would like me to remind everyone that the Learning Centre is always looking for donations and volunteers.

Fraternally,  
**R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF**  
District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District

The **DISTRICT 'C'RONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website. Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

## Grand Master's September Communique

Brethren,

Again, I want to Congratulate everyone who put their names forward for election to our Grand Lodge. To those elected to a higher office and to those that didn't get elected, thank you everyone, for your dedication and commitments to our Grand Lodge. Your goal to lead is admirable and your desire to be better is what we require. Together, we can have a most successful year ahead.



September is upon us, and most of the Lodges in this jurisdiction are called back from refreshment to labour. The new Masonic year is upon us, and it is now up to us to make a difference in our Lodge. Let's move our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M. forward. Let us conduct excellent Ritual by holding practices before every Degree, let our Lectures be done with meaning and emotion and let there be but one open book for prompting. Yes, only one official prompter is required. If you have been asked to do a part of the Ritual, please practice it, memorize it and do the correct floor work. If you have been asked to be the Installing Master, take the time needed to learn the

Ceremony. An Installing Master should be asked to conduct this important Ceremony at least a year ahead, there should be plenty of time to learn how to install the new Worshipful Master and the Officers. If you have been asked to do a part in a Degree, please put in the time to do it correctly. As long as you have tried your best to commit that piece to memory, there is no shame in asking the prompter for a word.

I have seen open books and tablets used and I am not a fan of that. Reading the Ritual out of an open book or from an electronic device only waters down the Lodge meeting, but it doesn't help the members connect to the lectures and ceremonies. We need to do better. In fact, I have asked the District Deputy Grand Masters to let the Lodge's know that more than one open book for prompting in a Lodge meeting is unacceptable. I understand if the Lodge Secretary is too busy recording the minutes of the meeting to be the official prompter, one member can still be appointed as such, to prompt. Only one prompter with only one open book of the Ritual is required.

R.E.M. is the vision of our Grand Lodge, Ritual, Education and Mentoring. Ritual is the part of that vision that we can do better on if we commit ourselves to more practices, education and mentoring. Better Ritual means being better prepared for the Lecture and/or Ceremonies ahead of time; open Ritual books in the Lodge room are not permitted other than the one for the official prompter. Thank you Brethren for helping me to spread the word about this important step forward, it takes all of us to make our Grand Lodge and this Jurisdiction better.

Brethren, let's turn our attention to a few events that are coming up. We continue to have Lodge Amalgamation Ceremonies that we need to support and attend. We also have some more solemn Ceremonies of Surrendering the Warrants of Lodges, which need our attention and support. Grand Lodge will continue to work through the list of these Ceremonies with your help.

There are two Lodge Silver to Gold Anniversaries in September that I will be attending, one being in Wilson District at Dereham Lodge No.624 and the other one is Hatherly Lodge No.625 in Algoma East District. Dereham Lodge No.624 is on September 7th, 2024 at the Mount Elgin Masonic Hall and Hatherly Lodge No.625 is on September 14th, 2024 in Sault Ste. Marie. Both of these events will be White tie and Tails for Grand Lodge Officer dress. If you are able to attend with me, please help out by showing your support.

Some other events that are coming up are a joint Gala with the Grand Lodge of Quebec that will be held on October 12th, 2024 in Gatineau, QC. It's going to be a great night of friendship and fellowship, and I'm excited and honoured to be with M.W. Bro. Robert Dupel, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Tickets are disappearing fast, so get yours without delay if you plan on attending this wonderful evening. The information on this Gala is in the Ontario Masons Magazine.

We are also putting together a joint Lodge meeting with the Grand Lodge of Michigan on February 8th, 2025. This is shaping up to be a great event at the Detroit Masonic Building, and if you haven't ever been to that building and always wanted to go, this is an incredible opportunity for you. The details are still being worked out but I'm really looking forward to attending this joint venture. Please help me to show off our Grand Lodge support to our neighboring Jurisdictions by attending Detroit and Gatineau with me.

One more celebration I am truly looking forward to is the Grand Master's Reception being held in my home District, Sarnia District, in Point Edward, Ontario. There is a block of hotel rooms at a reduced price, excellent meal choices for you and the hospitality in Sarnia District is incredible. The information for this reception is also in the Ontario Masons Magazine, and the contact person is R.W. Bro. James Sercombe. Please feel free to email him at [sercombe@rogers.com](mailto:sercombe@rogers.com) for tickets and further information.



Please come to Sarnia District and help me celebrate this grand occasion. It's going to be a great night in my home District.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination, and let us all inspire someone to do better !!! Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun isn't there.....let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless..

**Jamie R. Ireland**



## Deputy Grand Master's September Communique

Dear Brethren,

As I prepare to share this message, I am amazed at how quickly we have arrived at the end of August. Our summer months have come and gone, and the season will soon be behind us.

As our committees lay plans for the upcoming Masonic year, we are pleased to note that our continued focus will be to continue our mandate of Ritual, Education and Mentoring. Over the recent terms, it has been a focus of our committees to concentrate our direction and attention to these three basic yet crucial fundamentals of our Craft. The importance of this concentration has become that much more apparent as we have returned to our in-person meetings. For our newer masons who have been recently welcomed into our folds, as well as for our more veteran members, the importance of these three great fundamentals is paramount to our core and essential to our perpetuity, regardless of the tenure we hold within our organization,

For this edition, let's take a look at Ritual, the first of these great pillars. By definition, ritual is 'a ceremonial act or action regularly repeated as in a set precise manner' and 'a set of actions or words performed in a regular way, often as part of a ceremony',



In Masonic terms, our Ritual is the instrument that binds us to our convictions, our tenets and our principles. In recollection of the words of a dear friend and mentor who now holds his rightful place in the Grand Lodge above, he would stress the importance of the Ritual on so many levels. That there is only one chance to leave a compelling impression on a new candidate, not only at his initiation but also as he continues his journey.

He stressed repeatedly, how our Ritual is rooted with many lessons, and how it is up to us to explore their hidden meanings, the mysteries. It is therefore incumbent on us to embrace the learnings of our Ritual not only in its literal form, but more so for the lessons that it carries. This process of absorbing the benefits of our Ritual is a tried and true and has prevailed throughout the ages.

As our Ritual requires us to remain faithful to the protocols of our rites and ceremonies, the fundamental of learning within our fraternity is rooted in the structure in which our organization is modeled. As with our operative forefathers, the mastery of any skill, requires time, dedication, and repetition.

The skill of any trade is refined through repeated performance until that skill is perfected over time. The allotted timeline of a full apprenticeship was measured over a period of seven years, with the intention of giving the apprentice the time and ability to sharpen his physical skill, while contemplating the mental and spiritual meaning of what he was learning. This principle holds true not only in the physical and operative trades but also in our Masonic practices. Just as a craftsman hones his abilities through repetition, so too must we commit ourselves to the regular practice of our Ritual. It is through our dedication that we cultivate a deeper understanding of its meanings, and the lessons found within.

Moving forward into the new Masonic year, let us recommit ourselves to the study and practice of Ritual. Our Custodian has a full schedule of Lodges of Instruction coming to a District near you. Please take the time to register and attend our Lodges of Instruction, the experience is a benefit for all Masons.

Together, we can ensure that both new and seasoned members benefit from these lessons revisited. Let us continue to encourage open discussions and mentorship, allowing the wisdom of our veterans to guide our newer members.

In closing, let us bear in mind that our Ritual is more than a set routine; it is a living testament to our beliefs and a powerful tool for personal growth and fraternal strength. As we prepare for the months ahead, let us carry this understanding with us, enriching our gatherings and reinforcing our ties to one another.

With my best fraternal regards,

**R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master**

## Dates to Remember

October 2024

### Poseidon Lodge No. 232 from Romania Visits Temple Lodge No. 324

Poseidon Lodge members are extending their international hand of Friendship to Temple Lodge No.324

Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Cash Bar 5:30

Dinner 6:00 pm. Tyle 7:30

Dinner Tickets \$35

RSVP via [temple.lodge@outlook.com](mailto:temple.lodge@outlook.com) or 905-512-1159  
MCH

### Lodge of Instruction

M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell  
Custodian of the Work

Saturday Oct. 19 9:00 am Caistorville

9550 York St. Canfield

Hosted by: The Harmony No. 57  
Hamilton A Hamilton B Hamilton C

### Official Vist / Homecoming

## Amalgamation Ceremony

Temple Lodge No. 324 &  
Ancient Landmarks / Doric No. 654  
Tuesday October 22, 2024

Lodge Opens at 5:00 pm for business

**Banquet at 6:00 pm sharp**

Call On at 7:30 pm sharp to commence the  
Ceremony of Amalgamation  
followed by the

Installation and Investiture of Officers of a Lodge

Reservations required for the banquet

**RSVP Deadline October 8, 2024**

RSVP via [sec.ld654@hotmail.com](mailto:sec.ld654@hotmail.com) or 519-732-9517

Dinner Cost \$20 per person

Masonic Center Hamilton (Scottish Rite)

## Masonic Past Masters' Assoc.

Breakfast Meeting (RSVP Required)

**Saturday Oct. 26**

9 am Breakfast, 10 am Meeting

Shrine Club Hamilton

## Hamilton Districts' Board of Relief Fall Divine Service

Sunday Oct 27

Masonic Centre,

Hosted: Buchanan Lodge No. 550

November 2024

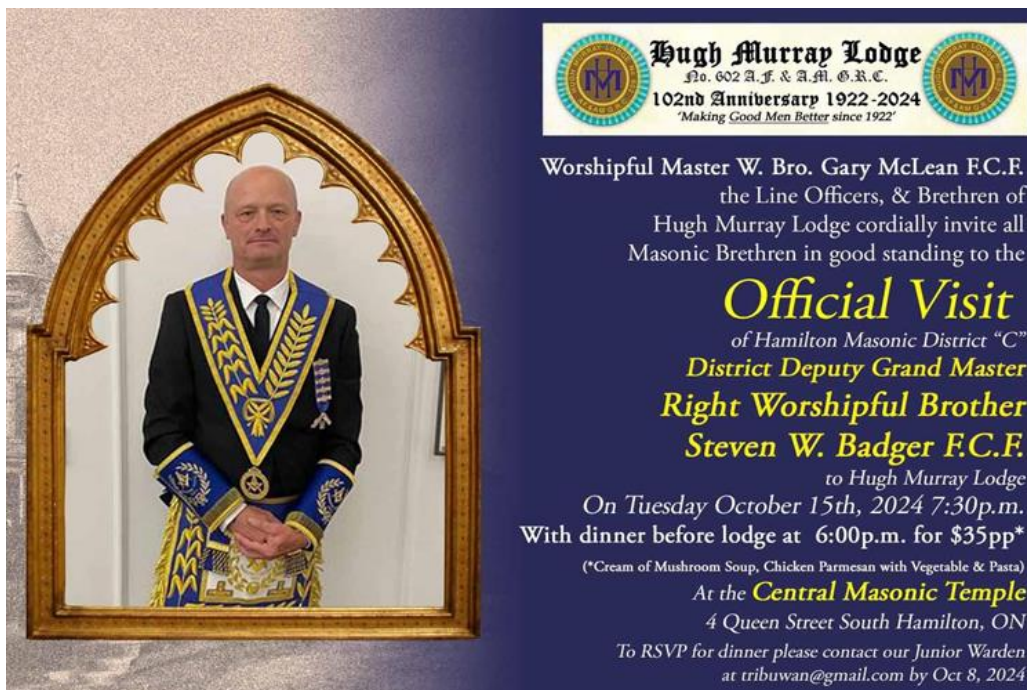
## Amalgamation Ceremony

Dufferin Lodge No. 291 &  
Waterdown Lodge No. 357  
Tuesday November 12, 2024  
7:30 pm

Waterdown Temple  
929 Hwy 6, Hamilton, On

## Installation

**Westmount Lodge No.671**  
Tuesday November 26, 2024  
Hillcrest Temple



**Hugh Murray Lodge**  
#10. 002 A.F. & A.M. O.S.C.  
**102nd Anniversary 1922-2024**  
'Making Good Men Better since 1922'

Worshipful Master W. Bro. Gary McLean F.C.F.  
the Line Officers, & Brethren of  
Hugh Murray Lodge cordially invite all  
Masonic Brethren in good standing to the

**Official Visit**  
of Hamilton Masonic District "C"  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Right Worshipful Brother  
Steven W. Badger F.C.F.  
to Hugh Murray Lodge  
On Tuesday October 15th, 2024 7:30p.m.  
With dinner before lodge at 6:00p.m. for \$35pp\*  
(\*Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Parmesan with Vegetable & Pasta)  
At the **Central Masonic Temple**  
4 Queen Street South Hamilton, ON  
To RSVP for dinner please contact our Junior Warden  
at [tribuwan@gmail.com](mailto:tribuwan@gmail.com) by Oct 8, 2024



## Around the District

T.E.A.D

### Horses and Harvest Fall Family Fun Fair



- **October 20th 11:00 am- 4:00 pm**  
Register [here](#) for this **FREE** event!

Date: Sunday, October 20th, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre - 8360 Leeming Road E, Mount Hope, ON

We're excited to celebrate the beauty of fall with a **FREE** day of fun for the whole family! Join us on our 92-acres to learn about the workings of the farm while understanding the importance of horses and their relationship to agriculture.

#### Details

Activities for adults and children include:  
Wagon Rides, Tractor Displays, Meet the Horses, Facility Tours to learn about TEAD's programs, Live Demonstrations, Arts & Crafts and Games, Snacks & Refreshments



## Fraternal Visits

*Come join our D.D.G.M. in his travels!*

Dufferin Lodge No. 292



Ancient Landmarks Doric Lodge No. 654



**Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602** presented Canada Blood Services with a \$900.00 cheque on behalf of Hamilton District C at a special ceremony at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton.

Hugh Murray Lodge No. 602 has been volunteering at the Ancaster Canada Blood Services building *for the past 2 years with 6 members attending every week.*

Pictured left to right are:

Bro. Adrian Haigh District Secretary, Marianne MacCarl, representing Canada Blood Services, RW. Bro. Steven Badger, FCF, DDGM Hamilton District C and W. Bro. Gary McLean, FCF, Worshipful Master

# Masonic Educations

## The Shriners,

*Submitted by R.W. Bro. Raymond Corrin*

Presented to the R.W. Association of Hamilton Districts  
Saturday September 14 , 2024



Mr. President, R.W. Sirs, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Shriners.

Back in 1994 when I first joined the Hamilton Shrine Club, I had no idea what I was getting myself into other than it was another "Masonic" body created to help kids. Ken Cole (St. Andrew's Lodge No. 62) and John Hay Sr. (Hugh Murry Lodge No.) were my sponsors and told me simply, I would have a lot of fun.

I attended the Spring Ceremonial in Kingston which turned out to be quite the weekend. Basically, a huge party that lasted the whole entire time. From the scheduled meetings, to the actual "Ceremony", the dinners and parade, we were all kept well entertained.

The Ceremony itself consisted of a Ritual, the initiating of all the candidates and the "fezzing" (similar to that of an initiate receiving an apron) of the new members. Dinner celebration followed along with each club stepping forward and announcing the amount of donations their particular club raised from the year of fund-raising activities. And there were many.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars were presented to the Potentate that evening. All proceeds being donated to the "special" hospitals.

I hadn't the foggiest idea what all this was about other than wondering why so many were dressed up in weird costumes and for some unlikely reason, everyone always seemed to be so happy all of the time. You couldn't be miserable even if you tried, as someone, somewhere would make you either laugh or smile. I found it rather annoying really.

New to the Craft, the Lodge, the Chapter and the Preceptory, I was accustomed to a more serious masonic environment. Who were these strange people!

This would be a great place to start. Who are the Shriners?

## SHRINERS

The story of the Shrine is the story of men with reverent minds and merry hearts, men from every walk of life--from business, the professions, the arts, the sciences, sports, government, politics, labor, including some of the most prominent and distinguished world leaders. The story is replete with indisputable fact, coupled with legend and partial fiction, as one might assert of any organization over a century and a half, but out of the jumble of fact, fiction, fancy and legend has sprung the most colorful of all fraternal entities.

To answer the when and where: In 1870 our story begins in New York City where two masons, Dr. Walter Millard Fleming and William S. Florence (Actor), created and established, for the Order, the Ritual we know as the "Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" along with a few other contributing members in the names of Charles T. McClenachan, lawyer, William S. Peterson, paper merchant; George Millar, printer, and Willian Fowler, restaurateur and wine merchant.



Figure 1 <https://jerrykuntz.org/harryhill/the-varied-history-of-the-knickerbocker-cottage-published-mar-29-1885/>

In a large white house in the Dutch style, commonly known as the Knickerbocker Cottage, many masons, from all round joined in the warm charm of the large rooms, the good food and the quality of its' cellars. The most popular table was that on the second floor overlooking 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., prepared for one reason and for one reason only, fun. There, at the table set for 13, sat Dr. Flemming, accepted by all for his wit and charming personality, as this particular table, of all the tables elsewhere, sat the gayest of all the gay company.

The table set for 13 because at that time there was a mania craze for things 13, probably attributed to the aftermath of the War between States, a flouting of all omens of ill-luck in an effort to forget.

New York, at this time boasted 1 million people, most living on Manhattan Island and was growing rapidly. Factories sprang up overnight and so did the splendid but architecturally grotesque mansions of the city's growing number of millionaires. Labor was scarce, but money was free and easy.



There was poverty, of course and plenty of it, but even the poor and their beer, delivered by lumbering after wagons. It was indeed a time to be alive. The past was gone and best forgotten (five years after Appomattox- was still celebrating the end of the bloodiest war in history). Parts of the confederacy were still prostrate and sometimes starving but in New York, the only problem was to have new worlds to conquer.

There were many lodges of the first three degrees, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and the Knights Templars were growing rapidly. Perhaps the best description what our organization is comes from the late Dr. Hubert M. Poteat, university professor and Past Imperial Potentate (60 yrs ago) He wrote: "The Shrine appeals to the strong manhood of North America for a variety of reasons. In the first place the oriental pageantry, and the magnificence of costumes and regalia appeal to men who may be old in years but who are still young in spirit. In the second place, the Shrine provides opportunity for fun and play and mirth on a truly magnificent scale."

Shriners are apostles of good cheer and happiness and as such are performing a very vital function in this tragic modern world of ours. If there is one thing our harassed world needs more than another today, it is brotherly love. Such as the weak and fallible nature of man that he needs all the spiritual strengthening he can get; and the Shrine teaches its initiates as all Masonic bodies do, that God IS and that it is our duty is to worship and to obey HIM, to esteem HIM as the chief good.

**Shriners are more than little boys grown tall. With all their fun, they have not forgotten charity.** With all the splendor of their parades, they do not and cannot forget that first of all we are Master Masons with all the humility they are taught by the Craft.



The jewel of membership, or insignia of the order is the Crescent, formed by the claws of a tiger, united at its bases bound with gold, bearing the additional emblems of the head of a female Sphinx on one side and star upon the other with scepter on the top. The Crescent is a symbol of power and authority.

The fez, derived from the city of Fez, Morocco, was chosen as the official headwear of the fraternity

to compliment the pomp and pageantry them.

The Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine was instituted by the Mohammedan Kalif Alee at Mecca in Arabia-a Vigilance Committee. This Ritual was brought to America given only to prominent high-grade Masons for establishment and exemplification.

The Ritual combines the Islam dogma and the consistencies of Christian institutions and American laws (Bro. William Florence and Dr. Fleming used this ritual to form the ritual we use today-with some modification).

Fact; fancy, legend, myth. Perhaps all of these. But principally, the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of Mystic Shrine is a fraternal romance. It is composed of boys grown tall, who maintain reverent minds and merry hearts; who contribute generously of their time and purse for the betterment of mankind.

**The first real Shrine parade, recorded, was held in Baltimore on June 7, 1884.** Mecca Temple had a band, it wasn't called a Shrine band and it was conducted by the famous soloist Liberati, who was a member of the Mecca Temple,

On June 25, 1988, the first imperial session outside of the United States was held in Toronto. At this session, the Morocco Temple of Jacksonville, Florida was chartered. Six months later the yellow fever epidemic laid Jacksonville to waste. Of the 20,000 inhabitants, 5000 were affected and 427 people died.

The Morocco temple along with the Knights Templar were leaders in the fight against the plague. The officers and members of the Morocco temple, aided by associate knights templar, organized themselves into a relief corps, and full knightly with their armor on, displayed the beauties of fraternal love and affection to all the suffering irrespective of race, creed or affiliation.

This was the first major charity ever undertaken by the Shrine. Only a few months later temples from all over the United States contributed thousands of dollars for the relief of victims of the Johnstown flood in May. In the years that followed Shriners were urged to carry on works of charity; and the record is replete with the results of these pleas, culminating in the glory of the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

There are 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children, in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Montreal being the newest hospital. The first Shriners hospital was built in 1922 in Shreveport, Louisiana. The annual budget for these hospitals is well over \$900,000,000 dollars.

The Shrine hospitals provide care for children with muscular and neuromuscular conditions, orthopedics, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation. In the 1960s, the Shriners hospital entered the burns care and has made a firm commitment to burn research. They have been instrumental developing the advance techniques used today to treat burn injuries, and new ways of preventing and fighting infection, cultured skin and improved wound healing.

The Shriners' Club of Hamilton are engaged in fundraising activities for the RED SHOE Sneaker Fund, created in 1973 to support research specializing in burns care and osteogenesis (brittle bone disease). V.W. Bob Gordon, Past Hamilton C District Secretary, is the Assistant Sneaker Fund Chairman for Canada..we call him Buzzb. The Shrine Clown Unit itself was started back in 1967 and is often considered the most visible ambassadors of the Shrine organization.

**Remember, not all Masons are Shriners but all Shriners are Masons.**





# Masonic Passport, Florida Journeys

Submitted by V.W. Barry D. Thom,

While vacationing in Florida, I visited two lodges in District No. 13. This district consists of 8 lodges. The designation F. & A.M. means that the Warrant or Charter traces its origin to the First Grand Lodge of England that existed between 1717 and 1813. As Grand Lodges have strayed in their ways, this way of tracing the roots is not necessarily correct. The appellation F.& A.M (Free and Accepted Masons) traces its roots to the first G.L of England, the 'Moderns'. This term was applied to them by the second GL of England, the 'Antients'. The latter stated that the first GL had strayed from their ways and that the 'Antients had not. This was of course true. Today, these terms have stuck. The appellation for the second GL is A.F. & A.M. (Antient free and Accepted. The Moderns were of the nobility and wealthy classes, while the Antients were more for the common man. As a side note, the GLs of New York and Pennsylvania were under the Moderns but around the time of the American Revolution of War of Independence they switched their allegiance to the Antients ... but did not change the appellation. The GL of Massachusetts was under the Moderns but in 1881 the grand Sec. took it upon himself to change it to A.F. & A.M. When I queried this, a few years ago, the last words of a GL Officer were, "Beware the power of a Grand Secretary"!

The age at which you can become a mason in Florida is 18, and that is not a Lewis Mason. Their Constitution forbids alcoholic beverages in lodge buildings no matter what the event or occasion. This also includes the Shrine Temple and any other Concordant body.

In St. Augustine I visited Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Instituted in 1888. They presently have 350 members and last year they initiated 20 candidates. They own their present building.



The building was formerly a super market. The lodge room, kitchen and banquet hall are on the second floor. They have rented the ground floor and parking lot to the US Postal Service. This provides an excellent income and allows for

a low Dues and Fees structure. Initiation Fee \$50 Annual Dues \$22. They meet twice a month with a 'no cost dinner' being served at 6:30 pm. Their meetings start at 7:30. When they have a degree they table all business and schedule another meeting within the same month. In the month of Jan. they had three scheduled meetings

and two separate practices. They meet every month with no recess in the summer months.

I have always said, "Don't sell Masonry cheap, as you will attract the wrong caliber of people". Well this lodge is an exception to the rule. Their dedication to Masonry showed when I witnessed an E.A. degree. There was a prompter, otherwise there were no cheat sheets or open ritual books. The ritual was perfect with no prompts other than during a 22 minute lecture that was given by a Brother, for his first time! It was truly one of the finest degrees that I have ever seen. On that evening three candidates received the E.A. degree. The Sen. Deacon conducts candidates in all three degrees. Once inside the lodge room, the Sen. Deacon guides the first candidate and, two Brothers slipped along side of the other two candidates. When they needed to stop, or be turned, it was done in unison and with military precision. Normally I am against more than one Candidate at a time for the following reasons. It should be a night for the Candidate to remember, it is his night. Secondly, the only other way that I have seen it handled, reminds me of a 'cattle drive'.

In Dec. they held their Installation. There is no Board of Installed Masters or corresponding ceremony. They first invest and Install the Master Elect into the chair of King Solomon, followed by the Investitures of officers. There is no word or grip, or any procedure for use of the gavel, in fact any Master Mason can sit in the chair of King Solomon conduct the degree and give the Obligation, if he is capable. Remember, no reading from the ritual. They never say, "V.O.S.L. it is only referred to as the "Holy Bible".

The Master sits alone in the East and under a canopy and wears a hat of his choice, i.e.a Stetson /fedora etc. There is no office of IPM and no PM's jewel. The outgoing Master sits anywhere in the



columns. Only reigning GL Officers sit in the East. The Dir. Of Ceremonies is called 'Marshal'.

Lodges in mainland Canada using Emulation Cdn. Working, have a D. of C. in each lodge so when GL visits there is no need to bring the GL D. of C.

Jan. was the first time that the new officers conducted a degree. The Jr. Warden occupied the Master's chair, wearing the Master's apron and collar. He carried out all of the Master's ritual including the Obligation of Candidates. The Master sat in the Jr. Warden's chair also wearing the apparel of that office ...and so on. The Treasurer served as Sen. Deacon and the official Sen. Deacon gave a 22 minute lecture that consisted of parts of (Emulation's) floor work, the charity lecture and explanation of the Tracing Board. He did need a few prompts but considering it was his fist time he was



amazing. All the rest of the degree was prompt free! Incredible. I was told that they are always switching officers around so that they will be proficient in the different chairs.

The main entrance to the lodge room is in the SW corner. There is no Inner Guard. The Jr. Deacon looks after that door while the Sen. Deacon takes care of the Anteroom door in the NW corner. No knocks on the door are given, the Master tells the Jr. Deacon to inform the Tyler of what will or what has happened. The door is partially opened and the message given. There are no separate or distinct knocks for the different degrees.

I was told that there are seven States that add the following twist to the E.A. degree. When the Candidate returns to the lodge room in his regular clothes, the Master talks to him and entices him to write something about the degree so that the Brethren will know if he has remembered what has been conferred upon him. He then sends the Candidate to the secretary's desk where there is paper and pen. The candidate is not rushed but told to take his time. If he attempts to write anything, and apparently most do, then the Sen. Deacon, who is right beside him immediately prevents him from making any legible marks.

The Master then tells him that it was not done to trifle with his feelings but to impress upon him the need to remember his Obligation. The Master then asked if any of the Brethren present, when they were in that situation, had attempted to write something. A godly number stood up.

I returned to Ashlar Lodge to see a F.C degree. This time the Sen. Warden was in the Master's chair, the Master was in the Sen. Wardens chair, the Sen. Deacon was sick so the Jun. Warden filled that chair and the Secretary occupied the Jun. Warden's chair. Candidates are kept in darkness (hoodwinked) until after the Obligation. The cable tow is also used but this time it is wrapped twice around the Brother's right arm. It is removed after the candidate(s) are restored to light.



On returning to the lodge via the anteroom door, the two pillars in the west are moved across and in front of the anteroom door. A floor mat of

ascending stairs is laid in front of the pillars. The Candidate(s) slowly pass through and enters the "Temple", walking on the steps. Each step is explained as they advance to the M.C. Once again one very long lecture replaces the two given in Emulation.

To see a M.M. degree, I traveled to Patakla Lodge No. 34, Instituted 1854 and located in Patakla, FL. This lodge existed before the formation of Grand Lodge of Florida and today still operates under their original Warrant. They explained to me that it was not a Charter. It is my belief that they are the same thing under different names. They had three Candidates and the meeting was

held on a Sat. morning proceeded by a breakfast. This is a very old lodge and they showed me their first Minute Book. On the left hand side of a page, it showed minutes from 1861. Then the American Civil War broke out and meetings ceased. On the right hand side of the page were the continuing minutes starting from 1865 when the Civil War was over and, they resumed meeting. It has been about 25 years since I viewed an American 3<sup>rd</sup> so I paid particular attention to detail.

To prove his proficiency prior to receiving his third degree, the Candidate answered catechism questions for a total of 15 minutes, without a prompt, and without a pause. In this degree, the cabletow is wrapped three times around the waist. After the obligation and the Candidate is returned to lodge the he is Blin-----d and taken to the Jun. Warden's station, given the Wardens collar with the jewel of office. A gavel is placed in his hand and he is told to give the knocks causing the Brethren to stand. He then calls the Brethren from labour to refreshment. He now represents H.A.B., and goes into the Temple to give his thanks and adoration. The rest of the degree is totally acted out, step by step.

The Obligation in all three degrees contains the tradition penalty clause beginning with, "My thr--- c-- etc. The sign of fidelity does not exist in true pre-1813 Masonry. Although I did not have my Duncan Ritual with me, I am sure that it was identical.

In many States the Master wears a Top Hat, here in Florida they wear a Western (Stetson) hat. He takes it off for prayers and the administration of the obligation. Only when you enter or leave the lodge room do you salute the W.M. otherwise you just stand and talk to him. The Master remains seated throughout any dialogue.

All business is carried out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. The Master opens the lodge in the first degree, informs the Brethren that he is going to open in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. We all then give the signs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and that is it. There are no specific knocks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees..

When knocks are given by the Sen. Deacon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree (while at the Warden's stations) they are the same as those of our 1<sup>st</sup> degree.

I had a most enjoyable time with my Brethren here in Florida.



*Submitted by V.W. Barry D. Thom*

## Editor's Page Humour, In Memoriam and Note

An extract from the Farmers' Almanac. Apples, pumpkins, colorful leaves, crisp temperatures and, of course, Halloween. Here are some very punny puns from well-known verbalist Richard Lederer to help scare you into the Halloween spirit!  
<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/halloween-puns>

What do ghosts serve for dessert?  
*I scream.*

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?  
*Squash.*

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?  
*He didn't have the guts.*

How did the ghost repair the rip in his sheet?  
*With a pumpkin patch.*

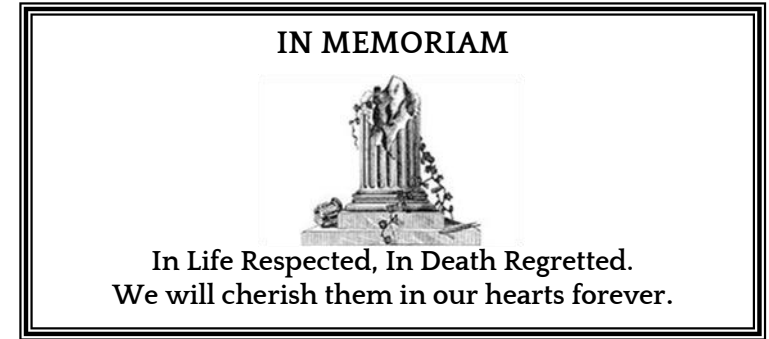
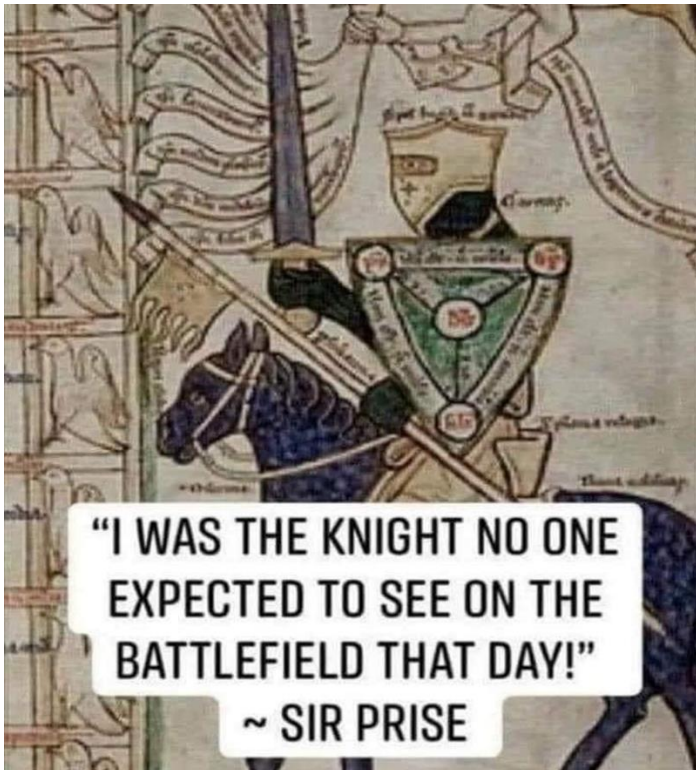
What do you call a chicken that haunts your house?  
*The poultrygeist.*

What happens when you fail to pay your exorcist?  
*You get repossessed.*

Why don't mummies take vacations?  
*They're afraid they'll relax and unwind.*

Why did the game warden arrest the ghost?  
*He didn't have a haunting license.*

What do you call a ghost that sits in the picture window of a haunted house?  
*A window shade.*

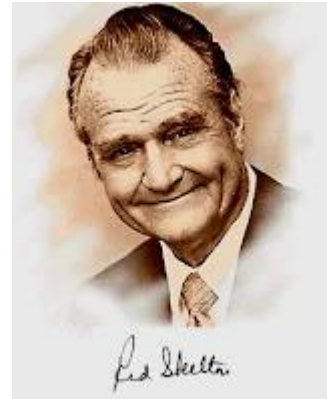


### Editor's Note

October begins. Thanksgiving, Amalgamations, our DDGM homecoming, a Lodge of Instruction and the Fall Divine Assembly. Whew, we are starting the last year of our District off with a bang! Would love to see people's pictures of any events they attend.

We received another submission for the Masonic Passport series from V.W. Bro. Barry Thom. It provides a really interesting view of the degree work in Florida.

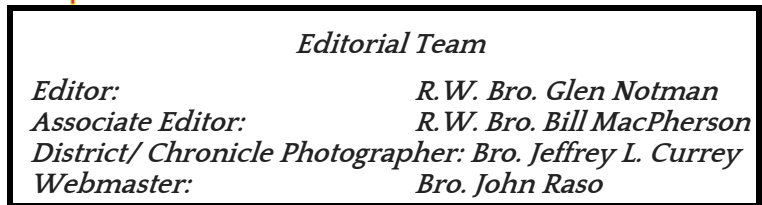
Also recognition to R.W. Bro. Raymond Corrin for his lecture and submission about the Shriners. Ray presented at the R.W. Association and provided a lot of great anecdotes alongside the speech reproduced here today. Chief among them the prominence of Red Skelton in the Shrine.



We are still looking for your submissions, Your additions make for a more interesting read.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Halloween to all!

Glen, [gnotman@hotmail.com](mailto:gnotman@hotmail.com)



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