

THE
NEWSLETTER

OF THE COMMITTEE

ON
MASONIC
EDUCATION

SPRING 1993 (2nd Quarter) VOL. 12 NO. 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SCEPTRE AND GAVEL (PART 2).....	7
THE JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON CHAIR.....	30
WHERE IS THE CHAIR?.....	31
MORE ABOUT THE CHAIR?	32
FIG. 1	33
FIG. 2	34
FIG. 4.....	35

EDITOR

R. W. Bro. Robert A. Barnett

EDITOR EMERITUS

M.W. Bro. David C. Bradley

EDITORIAL ADVISORS

R.W. Bro. John W. Aucland

R.W. Bro. Lloyd W. Lawrence

R.W. Bro. Gerald E. MacDonald

W. Bro. Norman Pearson

RAW. Bro. Robert T. Runciman

W. Bro. William M. White

Annual Subscription Rate: \$12.00

Includes 4 quarterly issues

Hardbound Edition: \$15.00

Includes 4 issues in one volume

**SEND ORDERS/PAYMENTS
OR ARTICLES TO**

'Masonic Education—Newsletter'

c/o Robert A. Barnett—Editor

P.O. Box 4217

London, Ontario

N5W 5J1

To All Contributors

The factual accuracy an article is the contributor's responsibility. The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario, nor of the Committee on Masonic Education.

Size of Articles: Material submitted for The Newsletter should reflect consideration of both the physical size of the publication, and the readability of the piece. Our pages run 300-325 words per page, so a maximum of about 1200-1300 words is the limit. Articles can also be one-paragraph notes of interest, or any length in between. Longer articles of special merit should be printed in sections over several issues.

Credits: Where possible, please include credit for your information source or research sources. Because of the nature of The Newsletter and its sources of material (volunteer contributors), there has never been an effort made to seek permission to reprint. There has always been a credit mention for a source when it has been known and also for the contributor's name and Lodge.

If any of the material in The Newsletter is reprinted, we ask that the acknowledged credits be included as well as a mention of The Newsletter issue. Use of information from The Newsletter publications should be encouraged. We would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication in which the material from The Newsletter appears.

An Invitation: The Newsletter is published by The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education. We welcome responses from all our readers. If any of our contributors or subscribers have access to historical information about their District, or Lodge, or special individuals, please forward it to the editor. Much of our Masonic History is also linked to the history of our country through members who have been community, business, professional, religious or political leaders. Careful research of material made available should provide some interesting information for newsletter readers. It would also help to educate us all about the contributions of individual members, Lodges and Districtsto the history of our country, provinces, and our villages, towns and cities. We need to know more about each other and about the part that Canadian Masons have played in our history. Can you help?

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRY DATES

You Have Been Asking: How to tell when your subscription expires. The new computer generated mailing labels have the expiry date printed on them – showing the month and the year. You will receive the quarterly issues right up to, and including, the issue published for the quarter that contains the date of your expiry. Renewal notices are usually sent out one quarter before the expiry date.

If you miss an issue, or change your address, drop us a line as soon as possible so we can keep all our records in good order.

Masonic Education - Newsletter
c/o-Robert A. Barnett
P.O. Box 4217, London, Ont. N5W 5J1

NOTICE

Copies of the latest hardbound editions of
THE NEWSLETTER
(which contain all of four issues of each volume)
ARE AVAILABLE

Some of the earlier hardbound editions are now sold out.
ANNUAL HARDBOUND EDITIONS

There are copies of the Hardbound Volume No. 7 and No. 8 at \$12.00 each. Hardbound volumes No. 9 and 10 and the NEW VOLUME No. 11 are available at \$15.00 each. Each hardbound volume has a quality Buckram cover and contains a copy of each of the 4 quarterly issues from that volume - in a properly stitched and glued binding. These are attractive editions for your home library and they are sturdy enough to withstand the years of use we hope they will get.

SINGLE COPIES OF THE QUARTERLY BACK ISSUES ARE STILL AVAILABLE. The supply of some of the single issues is very thin and there are a few that are "Sold Out"

- All single back issues up to Vol. 4 No. 4, \$1.00;each
- Single back issues from Vol. 5 No. 1 to Vol. 6 No. 4 - \$2.00 ea.
- Vol. 7 No. 1 to Vol. 10 No. 4 - \$2.50 ea.
- Vol. 11 No. 1 to current issue - \$3.00 ea.

**SEND INQUIRIES/ORDERS/PAYMENTS/ARTICLES
TO;
'MASONIC EDUCATION NEWSLETTER'**

c/o ROBERT A. BARNETT - EDITOR
P.O. BOX 4217
LONDON, ONTARIO
NEW 5J1

Notice

The College of Freemasonry

BRETHREN: The Committee on Masonic Education is still offering its challenging Correspondence Course throughout this grand Jurisdiction. Because of the interest that continues to be shown, it now is being offered in a new format. That same twinge of excitement, that same challenge, that same desire to delve into and find out more about the Craft is there - all we have done is to separate the four programs so that **YOU** may now choose to complete only one - or all four - you may take as many, or as few, of the programs as you wish and in the order you wish.

Upon the completion of each program a certificate will be awarded, but to become a member of **THE COLLEGE OF FREEMASONRY**, you still must complete all four programs.

The cost for each program is \$20.00 payable in advance to:

Edsel Steen, In Trust
286 Lorne Avenue
Wallaceburg, Ontario N8A 3Z2

Brethren, a real opportunity - don't miss it -broaden your Masonic knowledge - **EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO YOUR ENJOYMENT OF YOUR MASONIC FUTURE!** (Note: This course requires access to reference material readily available in this jurisdiction and parts of the course pertain specifically to this jurisdiction.)

A supply of the new Application Forms has been forwarded to your District Education Chairman. Be sure to contact him. Good Luck!

SCEPTRE AND GAVEL (Part 2)

or FREEMASONRY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

Part II (cont'd from Vol. 12 #3)

A paper delivered in The Bahamas Installed Masters Lodge No. 8764 on June 24, 1978

By the W. M. R. W. Bro. Donald M. Fleming, P.G.J.W.

This paper continues where the fourth son of King George III, Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent is about to return to England from Canada, where he held the rank (1799) of General and was Commander in Chief of the office of Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada under the Antients Grand Lodge. As noted in this paper, “it was most extraordinary in that period for a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge to hold any office in the Ancients Grand Lodge, but the Duke exercised a conciliating influence between the two, seeking, in his own words ‘union of the whole Fraternity of Masons’”.

Before leaving Canada he received the following testimonial from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lower Canada of the Antients, (extracted from the Mason’s manual printed in Quebec in 1818):

“TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE EDWARD,
DUKE OF KENT and STRATHERN

Earl of Dublin, Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter; and the most illustrious Order of the Saint Patrick, a Field Marshal, and Colonel of the First of the Royal Scots Regiment of Foot, Past Provincial Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons, in Lower-Canada.

From
THE COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCIAL
GRAND LODGE OF LOWER CANADA

Most worshipful and illustrious Sir and Brother.

Our intention is not in this dedication to resort to the usual mode of complimentary address; because it is entirely unnecessary. Your Royal Highness despises such adulation, and the public do not require to be informed of your exalted character; it lives at present, in the memories of all your brethren in Lower-Canada, and prosperity will find it in the Annals of Masonry.

Our design is merely to express the grateful sense the Brethren in this Province entertain of the fostering care, and valuable patronage, which your Royal Highness was pleased to extend towards the Masonic Institution, during your residence in this part of His Majesty's dominions.

Without those exertions we should never have had occasion to compile the little work to which we prefix this sincere, and just acknowledgement to your Royal Highness; that whatever good effect the "Mason's Manual" may ultimately produce, is primarily to be attributed to your Royal Highness's zeal and active perseverance during the year 1792.

We could not therefore allow such an opportunity to pass by without assuring your Royal Highness of our strong attachment to you as our Prince and Brother, and to express in the names of all the Brethren, resident in Lower-Canada, how much we must ever remain-

Your Royal Highness's most faithful Brethren,
And most humble devoted servants,
The Committee of the Provincial
Grand Lodge of Lower Canada."

It is recorded that once in a Lodge meeting a Brother addressed the Duke as "Your Royal Highness", to which he gave the modest and exemplary reply, "Worshipful Brother, there are no Royal Highnesses here, we are all Brethren."

He returned to England in the year 1800. In 1813 he was elected their Grand Master by the Antients. This statesmanlike act paved the way for the union of the two Grand Lodges and the realization of the Duke's great hope of establishing unity with the whole Fraternity of Masons. With his younger brother, the Duke of

Sussex, he actively involved himself in the negotiations which led to the union of the premier and Ancient Grand Lodges in 1813, and it was on his unselfish proposal that his brother was elected Grand Master of the resulting United Grand Lodge of England. At the meeting of the Ancient Grand Lodge his act was described as a manifestation of his “noble generosity”. He was also Grand Principal 1792-1797, Grand Master of the Knights Templar 1804-1807, and their Grand Patron 1807-1812.

Because of his contribution to the Craft, his character, and his service in Canada and in the West Indies, his parentage of Queen Victoria and his role in achieving the monumental union in 1813, this Royal Prince deserves a special historical note. He was the most unlucky son of King George III. He was born at Buckingham palace at noon on November 2nd, 1767. His military career was marked by the devotion to duty. Debts and creditors hounded him all his life, and he died in dept. Misfortunes and setbacks pursued him, but he remained ever a man of unshakable virtues and a devout Christian. Snubs from his Royal father, unkindness at the hands of his older and more influential brothers and even unpleasant treatment from the Government, did not embitter his nature. In 1818, at the age of fifty-one, he married a German Princess. To put himself beyond reach of all his creditors he was obliged to live abroad, but when it was made known that the Duchess was in what was called “an interesting condition” they determined to return to England in order that the expected heir might be, as the Duke put it, “Briton born”. A few friends of the humble birth subscribed the funds for the journey to England. On May 24, 1819, a little Princess was born at Kensington Palace. She was christened Alexandria Victoria. Destiny had marked her out to rule the most far-reaching empire in all history, to give her name to an epoch, and to establish the throne in righteousness. Her father was deeply attached to the little Princess, but he was not long to enjoy the happiness she had brought into his life. In January, 1820 he caught a cold and chill, and although physicians bled him of 120 ounces of blood he died on January 23, just eight months after the birth of the Princess. He left her no estate, but from him she inherited virtues which placed their stamp upon a nation and a world-wide empire. Freemasonry helped significantly to shape her heritage.

In leaving this good man of Royal Blood and lineage let us look at a finale picture drawn of him in the late days of 1819:

FITZGERALD –DUKES AND PRINCESSES
1882, Vol. 2

“Two or three evenings previous to his visit to Sidmouth,” thus writes one whose intercourse with the Duke was constant, “I was at Kensington Palace; and on my rising to take leave the Duke intimated his wish that I should see the infant Princess in her crib; adding, ‘ as it may be some time before we meet again, I should like you to see the child, and give her your blessing’. The Duke preceded me into the little Princess’s room, and on my closing a short prayer that as she grew in years she might grow in grace and in favor both with God and man, nothing could exceed the fervor and feeling with which he responded in an emphatic Amen. Then with no slight emotion he continues, “Don’t pray simply that hers may be a brilliant career, and exempt from those trials and struggles which have pursued her father; but pray that God’s blessing may rest on her, that it may overshadow her, and that in all coming years she may be GUIDED and GUARDED by God’.”

It is small wonder that Queen Victoria was always openly well disposed toward Freemasonry. She made no effort to hide her sympathetic approval of the Craft. It is noteworthy that a figure of Hiram Abiff adorns Albert Hall in London and that the oldest surviving Masonic Lodge in the Bahamas proudly bears her name, “ Royal Victoria”. The name of the Lodge was chosen in her honour as its inauguration exactly coincided with her accession in 1837.

The fifth son of King George III was Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. He was initiated in 1796 by the Acting Grand Master assisted by the Earl of Moria at a special meeting at the latter’s house. He was elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge on the same day. In 1813 he joined the Lodge “Frederick of the White Horse” in Hanover.

Until 1837 the thrones of Great Britain and Hanover had been for over a century held by the same king. The law of Hanover, however, denied succession to the throne to a female. As Queen Victoria was therefore unable to succeed to the Electorship of Hanover the union of Great Britain and Hanover under the same sovereign ended. Prince Ernest Augustus then became King of Hanover. In 1828 he had been elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hanover, when it became independent from the Grand Lodge of England. It had previously been the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hanover under the English Constitution. Even after he became King of Hanover he continued as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hanover until his death in 1851.

The sixth and last son of King George III was Augustus Frederick, first Duke of Sussex. He was destined to become a major figure in Masonic history. He was initiated in Berlin in 1798 in Victorious Truth Lodge, and became its Master. He joined the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 259 in 1800, and was its permanent Master from 1830 until his death in 1843. He was responsible in 1814 for the reusucitation and later amalgamation of certain Lodges to form the present Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16 as his personal Lodge, and was its Master 1820-1843. He was elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge in 1805, Deputy Grand Master in 1812, and Grand Master in 1813. In this office he worked actively with his Royal Brothers the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the Antients' Grand Lodge, for the union of the two Grand Lodges. The importance of the role played by these Royal Brothers in achieving the union can hardly be exaggerated. On the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 the Duke of Sussex was nominated by his brother, the Duke of Kent, for the office of Grand Master and was duly elected and installed in 1814. He remained Grand Master until his death in 1843.

The Duke of Sussex had been "introduced" into the Royal Arch in 1810, and became First Grand Principal of the Grand and Royal Chapter (Moderns) in the same year. On the formation of the Supreme Grand Chapter in 1817 he became its first Grand Principal and held office until his death 26 years later. He was Grand Master of the Knights Templar 1812-1843, and controlled all the other Orders extant during that period. He ranks with his uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, his brother King George IV, and successors yet to be mentioned, among the Princes who filled the office of the Grand Master.

On that generation it remains only to mention William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, son-in-law of the King George III. He was initiated in Britannic Lodge No. 33 in 1795, and was elected the next year a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge. He was exalted at a special Chapter held for that purpose by a Committee of the Grand and Royal Arch Chapter in 1797.

We leap over the generation of Queen Victoria to the generation of her eldest son, Albert Edward, who succeeded of her eldest son, Albert Edward VII. Interestingly, he was initiated not in England, but in Sweden. The initiation took place at Stockholm in December , 1868 in the St. John's Lodge "Den Nordiska Forsta", and the ceremony was conducted by the King of Sweden. Before leaving Sweden the Prince received all ten Degrees according to the Swedish Rite. A few weeks later permission was sought for an official statement to be made in the Grand Lodge of England, and the following information was supplied by the Prince:

“I was initiated by the King of Sweden (Grand Master) at Stockholm in the Grand Orient Lodge, and I received the ten degrees which are conferred in Sweden”.

Upon his return to England the Prince was examined by the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master, and proved himself a Master Mason. The following year the Grand Lodge of England resolved to confer upon the Prince the rank of Past Grand Master. An amendment to alter this rank and title to Grand Patron was defeated. On December 1, 1869, he was invested with the regalia of a Past Grand Master in a notable ceremony, which has been described as follows:

“It was said to be the largest assembly that had ever been witnessed in Grand Lodge, great numbers of Brethren standing all evening. Many were disappointed that the Prince was not present, until the Grand Master announced that he could not be admitted as a member of Grand Lodge until the minute by which he was elected had been confirmed. When it was made known that the Prince was waiting outside Grand Lodge the greatest enthusiasm was displayed. At the announcement of his entrance the Brethren rose with one accord. The hall being closely packed, the Brethren near the walls could not get a sight of the new Brother without standing on the seats and to those who beheld the concourse it had the appearance of a shelving sea of heads, the collars and jewels forming a groundwork of blue and gold. Up the centre of this mass was left a narrow avenue just sufficient for the procession to move, and as it approached the Throne the Prince was much impressed with the imposing sight. It was promptly noticed by all that he was wearing only the ordinary Master Mason’s apron as Masonic clothing, also the riband of the Garter.

The plaudits were loud and long continued, but absolute silence reigned while the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master welcomed His Royal Highness, and drew his attention to the portraits of his ancestors which adorned the walls of the Temple and betokened the great advantages the Craft had derived from Royal patronage. The Grand Master having clothed the Prince in the insignia of his rank, invited him to take his seat as a member of Grand Lodge. After the proclamation had been made his Royal Highness before taking his seat, delivered what may be considered his first Masonic speech to his English Brethren which was thus reported:

“Most Worshipful Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers of Grand Lodge, and Brethren, allow me to tender you my warmest and most sincere

thanks for the great honour that you have conferred upon me this evening. For a long time past it had been my wish to become a Freemason and a member of the ancient Craft; and although Brethren, I was initiated in a foreign country, I at that time felt, and you will all agree with me, that Freemasonry is one and the same in all countries; you are all fellow Craftsmen, and I can assure you I feel it is a great honour to be here today, and to be admitted into the Grand Lodge of England. Allow me, Most Worshipful Grand Master, to thank you once more for the kind words you have spoken, and the Brethren for the kind and cordial manner they have received me this evening”.

The next year the office of Patron of the Masonic Order in Scotland was conferred upon him by the Grand Master of Scotland, and a year later the rank of Patron of the Order in Ireland by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The Prince proved himself a most active Freemason, manifesting a very real interest in the Craft. He joined the Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16 in 1870, and was its Master for a number of years, next the Apollo University Lodge No. 357 and was its Master in 1873, next the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 295 in 1872, and was its permanent Master 1874 to 1901, next Grand Masters’ Lodge No. 1 in 1880. He was founder and First Master of The Household Royal Brigade Lodge No. 2614 and Navy Lodge No. 2612 in 1896 and was permanent Master of both until his accession in 1901, in 1907 he was a founder and first Master of Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682.

On the resignation of the Grand Master, the Earl of Ripon, in 1874, the Prince of Wales was invited to succeed him and on his acceptance he appointed the Earl of Carnarvon as Pro Grand Master.

The installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master took place on 25th April, 1875 at the Royal Albert Hall at a meeting attended by the Royal Albert Hall at a meeting attended by the nearly 8,000 Brethren. This ceremony was acclaimed as the most noteworthy which had ever taken place in the history of Freemasonry.

“Grand Lodge was opened at 3:00 p.m. by the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon. The Minutes of the last Grand Lodge were read including the election of H.R.H. to Grand Mastership, on the proposal of Bro. S.G. Brady of Tuscan Lodge, seconded by Bro. Robert Grey of the Prince of Wales Lodge. The Minutes were confirmed and the Pro Grand master then directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form a Deputation to introduce His Royal Highness. The Deputation retired and a procession was formed to precede the Prince whose entry was the signal for a fanfare of trumpets. He was received with deafening cheers from the Brethren continuing until some time after he had taken his seat on the left

of the Throne. The obligation was administered by the Pro Grand Master who afterwards invested the Prince and placed him on the Throne. Sir Alfred Woods, Grand Director of Ceremonies, then proclaimed H.R.H. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. After an address by the Pro Grand Master and a reply by the Grand Master, appointments of Grand Officers were made and Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form and with solemn prayer”.

The Prince of Wales continued as Grand Master for 26 years (1875-1901), when on ascending to the throne he resigned the office and became the Protector of the Order. He was also First Grand Principal of Royal Arch 1874-1901, Grand Master of Mark Masons 1886-1901, Grand Master of Knights Templar 1873-1901. In 1874 the 33° was conferred upon him and he accepted appointment as Grand Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

It is difficult to do justice to, let alone exaggerate, the service rendered by the royal prince to Freemasonry or the strength of the bond which united him to the Craft. His service as Grand master has been described in these words:

“ The subsequent history of the Craft in England demonstrates that the connection of His Royal Highness with Freemasonry was not an ornamental or merely sentimental one. His hand and heart were ever ready to render assistance to Masonry, and as a consequence his presence at Masonic special events soon showed his presence at Masonic special events soon showed his earnestness on behalf of all its institutions. In the laying of foundations, the opening of Masonic and public buildings, the consecration of new Lodges, the presiding over Festivals, and the noble effort on behalf of Masonic charity – all testify to Masonic principles which were deeply rooted in his nature. The weight of his influence was soon brought to bear in favour of the charity work of the Craft, for within eighteen months of his entry into Grand Lodge he took the chair at the annual festival of the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls.

In 1898 he attended at the Royal Albert Hall, in company with the Princess of Wales, who distributed the prizes to the successful pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, when he expressed the hope that the boys, when they grow up and became men, would never forget what they had been taught in the school, and would go out useful members of the community. In 1882 he presided at a Special Grand Lodge , his brothers, the Duke of Connaught and the late Duke of Albany, being also present , when an address was voted to Her Majesty congratulating her on her recent happy escape from the hands of an assassin: and on May 15 of that year he headed a deputation from Grand Lodge, in Masonic clothing, to present the

address to the Queen Victoria on the attainment of the Jubilee year of her reign, and on August 2 he headed the deputation which presented that address to her Majesty, while ten years later he presided over a similar meeting on the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. Several, if not all, of these addresses to Her Majesty are now in the Grand Lodge Museum, contained in the caskets in which they were presented.

The great ceremonies of the Craft did not exhaust the whole of his Masonic enthusiasm. He was a visitor to several private Lodges”.

His death in 1910 evoked the following tribute:

“The death of His Majesty King Edward VII, which smote all human hearts with such sudden sadness, brings more poignant grief to the hearts of all Freemasons. For over forty years Masonry found him a warm advocate, a wise and benevolent Ruler, and a willing Patron. Whilst a nation mourns for a King who now becomes a sweet and happy memory, a King who was such by right of birth as well as of righteous rule, Masonry mourns the loss of a King who became such by the conquest of human hearts; a King who, figuratively, set aside the Sword of State and entered the Masonic Lodge, by the only door open to those who seek that they may find; a King who, enamoured of the principles of the Craft, wove them into a life of useful words and work. In taking up Freemasonry he espoused the principle of “Brotherly Love”, and in his efforts as Ruler of the British Empire he earned the illustrious name of “The Peacemaker”. These were the Two Great Pillars which stood sentinel at the entrance of the Temple of King Edward's inner life, and became symbolic of the spirit which reigned within, in Wisdom, Love, and Power.”

Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, was the third son of Queen Victoria. Like his older brother the Prince of Wales he was destined to play a role of the highest significance in the history of the Craft. He was initiated in Prince of Wales Lodge in 1874 by his brother the Prince of Wales, and was its permanent Master from 1903 for the rest of his life. He was a member of many Lodges in various countries and permanent Master of a number. He entered Grand Lodge in 1877 as Senior Grand Warden and served as Provincial Grand Master of Sussex 1887-1901 and District Grand Master of Bombay 1887-1901. In 1891 the rank of Past Grand Master was conferred upon him by Grand Lodge. It may be observed in passing that whereas nine out of twelve royal princes were appointed to that rank soon after their initiations were made known, the Duke of Connaught waited seventeen years for his appointment.

On the accession of his older brother to the throne in 1901 as King Edward VII, the Duke of Connaught was elected Grand Master, and held that office for a record thirty-eight years, retiring because of ill health at the outbreak of World War II in 1939. He died in 1942 at the age of 92. Throughout his thirty-eight years as Grand Master he took a very active part in Freemasonry. The Duke of Connaught was first of the Royal Masons whom I saw in the flesh. He served as Governor General of Canada from 1911 to 1916. I well remember his visit to my hometown of Galt. I was a very small boy in public school at the time. We school children were gathered in Victoria Park, and were trained to sing by way of welcoming the Duke and Duchess. We were, however, so overawed by the presence of this outstanding son of Queen Victoria that we froze, and the singing was left to be performed by the schoolteachers. My older brother Robert was a member of the Boy Scout Troop, which formed part of the guard of honour. One of the great moments in the history of the Fleming family occurred when the Duke, reviewing the Troop, paused in front of my brother and addressed the following question to him:

“You are a young-looking Boy Scout, aren’t you?” Unaccustomed to conversing with Royalty, my brother replied somewhat directly as follows: “You bet, Sir.”

Little did I realize then that one day I would become a member of a Masonic Lodge of which the Duke of Connaught was already a member, and that I would have the right to address him as “My Brother”. I was initiated into Masonry in 1937 as a member of Ionic Lodge No. 25 on the register of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. I soon learned that H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught at that time was still Grand master of the United Grand Lodge of England and had been since the year 1890 an Honorary Life Member of the Ionic Lodge. The occasion of the duke’s visit and acceptance of membership in May of that year was one of the great events in the history of the Ionic Lodge. It is recorded in the Official History of the Lodge in the following words:

“It remained, however, for the year 1890 to exceed all former records, and the occasion of the largest assemblage of Craftsmen ever witnessed in Canada points to May 30th of that year as a remarkable date in the annals of the Lodge.

Learning that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught was returning to England from his Indian command, via Canada, W. Bro. G. Sterling Ryerson, then the W.M. of the Lodge, thought that some recognition of so distinguished a Mason should come

from the loyal Craft in Toronto. It was a happy thought, well conceived and as promptly acted upon. While yet on his journey from the west His Royal Highness received a personal invitation from the W.M. to meet the Brethren during his brief stay in this city. It was at once graciously acknowledged and fraternally accepted.

An emergency meeting was called for the evening of the 30th of May, and such notification given to the Craft as the brief interval permitted. Never before had the Toronto Street hall witnessed such a gathering. At nine o'clock there were seven hundred Brethren in and about the spacious lodge room. Grand Lodge officers, present and past, all W.M.s of the city lodges, and nearly 130 Past Masters. It was an imposing spectacle. At the hour R.W.Bro.F.M.Morson assumed the gavel, and having opened the Lodge announced that the meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving visiting Bro.H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

To quote the Chronicler of the period:

The W.M. of the Lodge, W.Bro.Ryerson, who had been in attendance upon the Royal Brother, here entered the Lodge and assumed the gavel. Bro. Inner Guard announced an alarm, and, having by command, ascertained the cause, announced that at the entrance of the Lodge stood R.W. Bro. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Provincial Grand Master of Sussex and District Grand Master of Bombay, vouched for. The W.M. directed that the R.W. Bro. be admitted.

The R.W. Bro. then entered the Lodge, accompanied by V.W. Bro. Col.W.F.Cavaye, P.G.Steward of the Grand Lodge of Bombay, and escorted by W.M. Bro. J.K. Kerr, P.G.M. of the G.L. of Canada; R.W. Bro.W.Roaf, D.D.G.M. Toronto District; R.W. Bro. F.M. Morson, G.R.G.L. of Canada; and R.W. Bro. Bennet, P.G.R., G.L. of Canada. As the R.W. Bro. entered the Lodge the Brethren united in singing the first verse of the National Anthem. The R.W. Bro. advanced to the altar and saluted the W.M. with the sign of salutation. M.W. Bro. J.K. Kerr then presented the R.W. Bo to the W.M.

The W.M. from the east then addressed the R.W. Bro., who remained standing at the altar, as follows:

“Your Royal Highness, on behalf of this great assembly of Freemasons, the like of which never before was seen in this country, and on behalf of the Masonic Reception Committee, of which I am the chairman, I bid you most heartily, welcome. We welcome you as a distinguished brother whose life has been a bright and shining example of the principles of Freemasonry, as one who has ever had

the interests of the Craft at heart, and who, wherever he has been called in his professional career as a soldier, whether in our northern land or the wide plains of Egypt, in the cantonments of India, or in merrie England itself, has always identified himself with the Masonic Brethren.

The honour which your Royal Highness by your visit has been pleased to confer upon those of us who are so fortunate as to be present is one which will be appreciated by the scores of thousands of Masons in our vast country.

We welcomed your Royal Highness as the brother and representative of H.R.H. the W.M. the Grand Master of England, of whom it is needless for me to say more than that we honour him as a man and as the first officer of the first Grand Lodge of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen.

And further, we welcome you as the son of our beloved Sovereign Lady the Queen, whose public and private virtues make her a model among women, a constitutional ruler, a true and faithful wife, a loving and devoted mother. She will ever reign in the hearts of her people, and generations yet unborn will tell their children's children of the golden days when there reigned in England the great and good Victoria. May God Save the Queen".

The W.M. then requested the R.W. Bro. to advance to the east. The R.W. Bro. advanced to the east and assumed the gavel, and by direction of the W.M. the assembled Brethren saluted the royal visitor with grand honours. The R.W. Bro. then directed the Brethren to be seated.

The W.M. of the Lodge addressing the R.W. Bro. asked if it was his pleasure to receive an address the Brethren. The R.W. Bro. signified his desire to have the address presented, and the W.M. then read the following address, the Brethren standing:

"To Lieut. General His Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathern, K.G., K.T., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., C.B., G.C.T., etc., Past Grand Warden of England, Provincial Grand Master of Sussex, District Grand Master of Bombay.

May it please your Royal Highness, we the District Deputy Grand Masters of the 11th Masonic District, Officers of Grand Lodge, Masters of Lodges in the City of Toronto, and Brethren under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free

and Accepted Masons of Canada, beg permission to tender our sincere congratulations on your safe return to this country.

We hold your Royal Highness in loving remembrance as a soldier serving Her Majesty in our midst, and we recall the historical fact that the only other royal personage who has so served in Canada was your grandfather, his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and that he like yourself was an enthusiastic Mason and a distinguished member of the Craft.

We deeply regret that your stay among us is to be of such short duration as not to permit your Royal Highness taking an active interest in the affairs of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Nothing has been more noteworthy than the distinguished service rendered to the Craft by the members of the Royal family, from the time of the union of the Grand Lodges of England in 1813 under His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex down to the present day.

We recognize in the distinguished person of the Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, a Mason in act as well as in word, and feel that no Grand master who preceded him has filled that great office with more dignity and shown more zeal for the welfare of the Craft. His visit to this country and city is borne in affectionate remembrance, and we would respectfully request Your Royal Highness to convey to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England our fraternal and humble greetings, and to express to him the hope that we may at no distant day have an opportunity of doing homage to His Royal Highness in person, and in this city.

Of the ties which bind us to the mother country none is stronger than the bond which united us to our Brethren in Masonry in Great Britain. Descended from the same sturdy British stock, our fathers have made of the wilderness a smiling and pleasant land. Endowed with indomitable perseverance, pluck, and patriotism, they have kept the country for British hearts and British homes. Nor shall we of the present generation waiver in our allegiances nor fail to remember that they brought with them the mystic tie, the indissoluble chain of sincere affection, lawful support, relief, fidelity, and truth.

Signed on behalf of the Craft by the Reception Committee, Toronto, May 30, 1890”.

The R.W. bro. replied to the address as follows:

“Worshipful Sir and Brethren:- I thank you for the magnificent reception you have given me, far surpassing anything I had anticipated, and which I will cherish as one of the most pleasant, recollections of my trip to Canada.

I attribute this great gathering of the Brethren to a desire on their part to manifest their feelings towards the Queen, my beloved mother, to my brother the Grand Master, and as a tribute to the interest I have always taken in the Craft. I represent, I believe, more than any other brother Mason the Imperial idea in Masonry, holding at present the offices of Provincial Grand Master of Sussex, District Master of Bombay, and Great Prior of Ireland.

It is now nineteen years since I became a member of the Craft, and I have never forgotten, the impression made on me when I was initiated. The fraternity is a noble one, whose influence is ever extending, and in whose ranks the Brethren meet on a common plane of equality and brotherly love.

In the old land the support of the Masonic charitable institutions, and the care given by the Craft to those who need, show the great principles on which the Order is founded to be relief and charity. It is pleasing to learn of the loyalty of the Brethren in Canada. I will long remember this visit and your magnificent reception, and when I reach home I will take an early opportunity of conveying your expressions of good will to the Queen and the Grand Master. I thank you most warmly, Worshipful sir, for this great demonstration”.

The R.W. Bro. then directed the Brethren to be seated.

W.M. Bro. J.K. Kerr, addressing the R.W. Bro. expressed regret at the unavoidable absence from the country of the W.M. the Grand Master and the R.W. Bro. the Deputy Grand Master.

The W.M. announced to the Brethren that his Royal Highness had expressed his desire to become a member of this Lodge.

The by-laws of the Lodge were then presented to the Royal visitor by W.M. Bro Kerr, and the R.W. Bro. affixed his signature thereto. M.W. Bro. Kerr then presented him with a printed copy of the by-laws. By command of the R.W. Bro., the W.M. of the Lodge then assumed the gavel. The R.W. Bro. saluted the W.M. and withdrew from the Lodge, amid cheers of the Brethren. At the W.M.’s request

the Grand Lodge officers and the W.M.s and P.M.s present withdrew from the Lodge in order that they might be presented to His Royal Highness.

The reception took place in the adjoining chapter room. The presentations were made by the R.W. Bro. W Roaf, D.D.G.M. , the Royal Brother acknowledging each introduction with a cordial handshake. At the close of the ceremony the Brethren formed a circle, and, with R.W. Bro.Wm. Simpson of St. John's Lodge leading, united in singing " Auld Lang Syne" , H.R.H. joining in the fraternal chain at the close, with evident pleasure. On retiring, the distinguished Brother was saluted with three loyal ringing cheers, and an occasion at once important and memorable came to an end".

At the Masonic Temple on Younge Street in the City of Toronto in which have been held most of the Masonic meetings which I have attended over the last forty-one years hangs a precious photograph of King Edward VII, the Duke of Connaught and Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, all in Masonic regalia. It made a profound and lasting impression on my mind.

It only remains to be added that the Duke also served as First Grand Principal, Royal Arch, Grand Master, Mark and Grand Master, Knights Templar, all from 1901 to 1939. In 1879 he received the 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and from 1911 until his death in 1942, he served the Rite as Grand Patron.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, was the fourth son of Queen Victoria, and was the third of her sons to join the Craft. He was initiated in Apollo University Lodge in 1874 and became its Master in 1876. He was a member of numerous Lodges. He served as Provincial Grand master for Oxfordshire 1875-1884 and received the rank of Junior Warden in 1877. He was exalted in 1876 in Apollo University Chapter, Royal Arch, and was its First Principal in 1881. He was Grand Superintendent of Oxfordshire 1881-1884, and Third Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter 1883-1884. He was appointed Past Grand Master, Mark, in 1881. He served as Knight Grand Cross and Great Constable, Knights Templar 1880-1883. In 1878 he received the 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. He died in 1884 at the age of thirty-one. Had he survived, he would undoubtedly have been appointed to the rank of Past Grand Master.

We now move forward another generation to the sons of King Edward VII. The eldest of these was Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence. He was initiated by his father, then Grand Master, in the Royal Alpha Lodge in 1885, was passed in Friendship Lodge and raised in Isaac Newton Lodge. Two years later he was

appointed Senior Grand Warden and in 1888 was Master of Friendship Lodge. He was Master of Friendship Lodge. He was Master of Royal Alpha Lodge 1887-1891. He was Provincial Grand Master of Walden, Mark, in 1887, and received the 18° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. His further career in the Craft came to an abrupt conclusion with his premature death in 1892 at the age of only twenty-eight.

The mantle of Heir Apparent fell on Prince George, second son of King Edward VII. In 1910 he succeeded to the throne as King George V, and earned for himself the accolade "King George the Beloved". He was never a member of the Craft.

The Duke of Connaught was succeeded by his son Prince Arthur of Connaught. He was initiated in the presence of his father, then Grand Master, in 1911 in Royal Alpha Lodge, and became its Master in 1919. He was also a member of Wellesley Lodge and was a Founding Member of Old Etonian Lodge No. 4500. In 1914 he was appointed Past Senior Grand Warden; he was the only Royal Mason ever to be appointed a Past Grand Warden. He served as Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire from 1924 until his in 1938. He predeceased his father, who was then still Grand Master.

Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, and still later the Duke of Windsor, was the eldest son of King George V. He was initiated in 1919 in the Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614, and became its Master in 1921. He was also a member of several other Lodges, including Royal Alpha, and was Master of two of them. He was appointed Senior Grand Warden in 1922, and served as Provincial Grand Master of Surrey from 1924 to 1936. He was exalted in United Chapter and was accorded the rank of First Principal in 1927. He served as Grand Superintendent for Surrey 1930-1936. In 1932 he received the 33° from the Ancient and Accepted Rite. He served as Deputy Grand Master and Governor of the Royal Order of Scotland. In June, 1936, five months after his accession to the Throne, he accepted the rank as Past Grand Master.

The most outstanding event in the history of Royal Victoria Lodge, Nassau, Bahamas, was the visit paid to it by H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor on February 12, 1941, when he was Governor of the Colony. He was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, and after vociferous applause by the Brethren the National Anthem was heartily sung. He witnessed the conferring of the Master Mason's Degree, following which he was addressed by the Worshipful Master who reviewed the history of the Lodge. The minutes record the closing words of the

Worshipful Master's address and the reply of the Duke, the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, and the closing as follows:

“Tonight W.M.P.G.M. you have planted for us another shining milestone. This is a grand occasion for all of us and one that will always live in our memories of happy recollections. You have conferred on us a very great honour, of which we are justly proud. Never before in our history have we been honoured by a visit from a P.G.M. or a member of the Royal family or a Governor of our Colony. You, Most Worshipful Sir, have trebly honoured us at one and the same time, and we are more than proud and happy to be able to welcome you among us. No words of mine can adequately express our appreciation of your visit.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and the Duchess during your stay among us and when you are called to another field of service, which we hope will be in the far distant future, may the Great Architect go with you and protect and guide your future life”.

The M.W.P.G.M. replied as follows:

“Worshipful Master I thank you for your interesting and charming speech and for the kind reception of it by the brethren. I was interested in many things it contained, especially to know that you celebrated your Centenary in 1937 and that Royal Victoria was founded when my revered great grandfather ascended the throne. Your preference to the fact that I am the first P.G.M. the first member of the Royal Family and the first Governor of the Colony to visit this Lodge reminds me that it might interest you to know that my connection with Masonry was almost severed when I became King in 1936, as it was a principal that a ruling monarch should not be a member of a secret society. I referred this matter to the Grand Master and the Lord Chancellor who ruled that while Masonry has its secrets, it is not a secret society. It is one of the most loyal societies that exist.

I was initiated 22 years ago, became Master of my Lodge and was afterwards appointed Provincial Grand Master of Surrey.

I congratulate you W.M. and all those who took part in the ceremony and extend hearty congratulations to Bro. Pinder on his raising.

In conclusion I wish to thank you again. May you be spared to continue your activities for the good of the Craft in general and of the Royal Victoria Lodge in particular.

The addresses of both the W.M. and the P.G.M. were received with loud and continued applause.

The regular closing of the Lodge was followed by the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory". The Director of Ceremonies formed the ceremonial procession which conducted the P.G.M. from the Lodge Room.

Thus ended a memorable evening and the brethren returned to their homes realizing more than ever that "We meet upon the Level".

Prince Albert, Duke of York, was the second son of King George V, and on the abdication of his brother King Edward VII he succeeded to the Throne in 1936 as King George VI. His is one of the leading royal names in the annals of the Craft. Himself a sailor he was initiated in Navy Lodge No. 2612 in 1919, and became its Master in 1921. In 1923 he was invested as Senior Grand Warden, and served as Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex 1924-1937. He was a member of numerous other Lodges, including Prince of Wales Lodge, Royal Alpha Lodge, and Household Brigade Lodge, and served as Master of two of them. In 1936 he was affiliated to Scottish Masonry, and was received into his father-in-law's Lodge, Glamis No.99 (S.C) with Bro. Beattie the village postman in the Chair. Five Lodge of Scotland he was installed as Grand Master in the presence of 3,000 Brethren. On his accession to the Throne in 1936 he resigned that office.

As Duke of York he was exalted in United Chapter in 1921 and served as its First Principal in 1928. In 1937 the year of his accession to the Throne, he also accepted membership in the Knights Templar. He was made Past Grand Master and Knights Grand Cross of the Temple in 1937. He was a Mark Mason, and also accepted the 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Three months after his accession to the Throne as King George VI he agreed to accept the rank of Past Grand Master from the United Grand Lodge of England. On June 30, 1937 a special meeting of Grand Lodge was held at the Royal Albert Hall for the purpose of investiture. On His Majesty's arrival a deputation was formed and the King was escorted to his seat at the right of the Pro Grand Master the Earl of Harewood, his brother-in-law. After being invested the King accepted an invitation to occupy the Masonic Throne and took the seat amidst loud cheering and applause from the 7,966 Brethren present. A procession was then formed and the Pro Grand Master retired from Grand Lodge. His Majesty was then saluted in ancient form, after which he invested 125 Brethren with Masonic honours. This

was the first occasion in the history of English Freemasonry upon which a King had conducted business in Grand Lodge and had personally invested Brethren, all appointed to Grand Rank. It was a momentous event.

King George VI also made Masonic history by personally installing Grand Master's, two of whom were members of the Royal Family. In 1939, on the resignation of the Duke of Connaught he installed his own younger brother, Prince George, Duke of Kent. The installation took place at an especial Grand Lodge at Olympia, London, on July 19, 1939, before an attendance of 12,00 Brethren. This historic event has been described in the following words:

“At 4 p.m. the Pro Grand Master's Procession entered the Hall and grand Lodge was opened. Delegates from 46 Grand Lodges entered and were severally introduced and received by the Pro Grand Master. A Procession was then formed to escort His Majesty the King. Past Grand Master, who was conducted to a seat on the right of the Pro Grand Master. His Majesty accepted the gavel then offered, and took his seat on the Masonic Throne amid prolonged applause.

The arrival of the Duke of Kent was announced and he was escorted in Procession into Grand Lodge. The King administered the Obligation and then invested and installed his Brother saying:

“ I now install you as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. May you for many years occupy your exalted position with credit to yourself and advantage to the Order”.

The Duke of Kent served as Grand Master for only three years until his lamented death while on Active Service in the Royal Air Force. The King then installed his bother-in-law, the Earl of Harewood, as Grand Master. Five years later he installed the Duke of Devonshire in that office.

Three years later it was the King's purpose to preside at the installation of the Earl of Scarborough as Grand Master. A critical illness intervened, and to the sorrow and disappointment of the Grand Lodge the King was unable to attend. He did, however, send a message which contained His Majesty's testimonial to the supreme value of Freemasonry. The occasion is thus recorded in the minutes of the special Grand Lodge holden at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on November 6, 1951:

“The M.W. The Grand Master: Brethren, before further words are spoken I wish to give you a Message from Most Worshipful Brother His Majesty The King. As you all know, His Majesty would have been here today to carry out this Installation Ceremony for the fourth time in his reign if it had not been for his illness and his grievous operation: but if His Majesty cannot be present, his thoughts are with us, for only yesterday the King sent for me and asked me to give this message to Grand Lodge today. These are the King’s words:

“As long ago as March, I promised to install you as Grand Master on November 6th, I had much looked forward to doing this, and to the opportunity of again meeting in Grand Lodge a great representative gathering of Freemasons. I am very sorry that my illness has prevented me from carrying out that intention.

I send you M.W. Grand Master, my fraternal good wishes. You will realize that you have been elected to fill an exalted but onerous position, which will call for the displaying of many qualities, the most important of which is leadership. I pray to the Great Architect of the Universe that under your guidance the Craft will maintain that beneficial influence which has characterized it in the past.

The world today does require spiritual and moral regeneration. I have no doubt, after many years as a member of our Order, that Freemasonry can play a most important part in this vital need.

I send my greetings to all assembled in Grand Lodge, and particularly to those from overseas who have made long journeys to be present.

May prosperity, happiness and peace attend to you and all my Brethren.

George R.

5th November, 1951”.

I am sure, Brethren, that your hearts will be moved by the King’s words, and by this mark of his abiding interest in our Craft. It will, I know, be the desire of you all that we should now unite in an act of prayer for the King’s full restoration to health and I ask the Very Worshipful Brother His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Past Grand Chaplain, offered Prayer in the words following:

Almighty God, Creator the Preserver of all men and Giver of life and health, we offer to Thee our hearty thanks that Thou has brought Thy servant George, our King and Governor, in safety through the dangers of severe operation to daily

increasing health and strength; and we pray that by Thy blessing upon him and upon all who minister to him, he may go forward in peace of mind and spirit to a full restoration of bodily well-being, and may continue to lead Thy people committed to his charge into the ways of Godliness and peace; to the honour and glory of Thy Holy Name. So mote it Be.”

After the Prayer, all the Brethren joined in singing the first verse of the National Anthem”.

Three months later this great Mason passed from the sight of men. He was mourned by his Brethren the world over. Never in all history has the death of a Mason been mourned by so many members of the Craft or with such a sense of personal grief.

Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, third son of King George V, was not a Mason.

Prince George, Duke of Kent, was the fourth son of King George V. He was initiated in 1928 in Navy Lodge, and was its Master in 1931. His sponsors were his brothers who were destined to sit on the Throne as Edward VII and George VI. The latter presided at the meeting. He was also a member of the Prince of Wales Lodge and Royal Alpha Lodge, and served as Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire, 1934-1939. He was installed by his brother George VI as Grand Master in 1939, as already described, and served in that office for three years until his death on Active Service with the Royal Air Force. He was the father of the present (1978) Grand Master. He was exalted in Westminster and Keystone Chapter No.10 and served as First Grand Principal from 1939 until his death. He also served as Grand Master (Mark) for the same three-year period.

King George VI was succeeded on the Throne in 1952 by the present Sovereign, Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On December 5th of that year her husband Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, like his father-in-law, was initiated in Navy Lodge No. 2612 in the presence of the Grand Master the Earl of Scarborough, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Membership in Navy Lodge is limited to those serving or who have served in the Royal Navy. It meets regularly in Freemason’s Hall. Its custom is to close its meetings with the singing of verses from the traditional hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”.

Up to the time of the delivering this paper (June 24, 1978) H.R.H. Charles, Prince of Wales, has not joined the Craft.

Prince Edward, the present Duke of Kent, was born in 1935. He is the elder son of Prince George, Duke of Kent. He was initiated in 1963 in Royal Alpha Lodge No.16, and was its Grand Master 1965-1966. He was appointed Senior Grand Warden in 1966 and was installed as Grand Master in 1967, on the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the first Grand Lodge in the presence of 6,617 Masons from all over the world. He was installed on the huge gift Throne on which Grand Masters have usually been installed ever since 1791. He continues to give distinguished service in that office today. He was exalted in Westminster and Keystone Chapter No. 10, and was elected its First Principal in 1966. He has been First Grand Principal since 1967.

The Duke has taken his duties very seriously. He has attended every investiture in Grand Lodge since he took office.

Prince Michael of Kent is the younger son of the late Prince George, Duke of Kent. Like his older brother the present Grand Master he was initiated in Royal Alpha Lodge in 1974, and was installed as its Worshipful Master on December 14, 1977. He joined the Prince of Wales Lodge in 1975.

We have reviewed the history of English Freemasonry over the last 241 years, since H.R.H. Frederick Lewis, 15th Prince of Wales, was initiated into Freemasonry in 1737 in the Palace of Kew. We have observed the connection of no fewer than 23 princes of the British Royal Family with the Craft and the signal service which they have rendered to it, of which all of us are and will continue to be grateful beneficiaries.

All twenty-three princes, except three in the premier Grand Lodge of England and one in the United Grand Lodge of England and one in the United Grand Lodge, were appointed Past Grand Masters as soon as their initiations were made known. Six in the United Grand Lodge were appointed Senior Grand Wardens, one a Junior Grand Warden, and one a Past Senior Grand Warden. For 141 of those 241 years a Prince of the British Royal Family has been Grand Master. Five of the last six Kings have been Masons.

It was in 1813 that the Prince of Wales later King George IV, on being appointed Prince regent set the precedent that on accession to the Throne a monarch, if holding the office of Grand Master, should resign therefrom, but continue to be an active member of the Craft. This precedent has been followed by all his successors with the exception of King George VI, who, although not Grand

Master, on four occasions after his accession participated, as we have already seen, in important meetings of Grand Lodge.

King George IV set another precedent when he accepted the office of Permanent Master of the Prince of Wales Lodge, now No. 259, in 1787, although it subsequently became a custom that the honour he normally reserved for the Grand Master when a Prince of the Royal Blood.

Of all the English Royal Freemasons King George VI has the record of greatest Masonic activity. He won the hearts of all Freemasons. All of us who were members of the Craft in 1952 will recall how this great Mason lived respected and died universally regretted by the Craft.

It is then no idle boast we make that “in every age monarchs themselves have been promoters of the art; have not thought it derogatory from their dignity to exchange the scepter for the gavel, have patronized our mysteries and have joined our assemblies”. The record may well fill every mason with feeling of pride inspiration and gratitude.

23rd May, 1978

THE JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON CHAIR

A TRADITION LOST – THEN FOUND

By W. Bro. David Ross Dainard P.M.

John Ross Robertson Lodge #545

April 1993

It was during my research in 1990 for the courses from The College of Freemasonry, that I happened upon the information reprinted from a pamphlet regarding “*The Chair*”. Part of this information states “ all Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Canada are installed in this chair when that body meets in Toronto.” This statement intrigued me, and I immediately asked myself the following questions:

When did the Masonic Chair come into the possession of John Ross Robertson Lodge # 545?

When did the practice of the Installation of the Grand Master in the chair cease?

It should be mentioned that I have been privileged to be a member of John Ross Robertson Lodge #545 since 1977, and the chair, to my knowledge has never left the main Lodge room, at the East Toronto Masonic Temple, situated at 15 Chisholm Avenue, Toronto.

The first question was relatively easy to answer. The minute book of the Lodge dated April 19th, 1938 revealed the following letters of documentation.

Figure #1: The letter dated April 18th, 1938, from the Estate of the late John Ross Robertson;

Figure #2: The letter of acknowledgment from R.W. Bros. W.J.S. Graham, secretary of John Ross Robertson Lodge #545, dated May 1st, 1938;

Figure #3: A photograph of “ The Masonic Chair”;

Figure #4: A photograph of the inscription, on the seat underside.

The answer to my second question was more elusive; and may not be answered fully without further extensive investigation. (more about this point later).

The Past Masters of John Ross Robertson Lodge shed some light on my second question; they are a very valuable source of information. But, ultimately I turned to the Grand Lodge offices in Hamilton, hoping to find my answer. (I must also add that one-and one-half years had elapsed, since I started my investigations; it was now mid 1992).

I am grateful to M.W. Bro. Robert Davies, Grand Secretary and R.W. Bro. Ken Whiting, Assistant to the Grand Secretary, and Superintendent of Benevolence, for their kind attention to me, and the second question. Unfortunately, they could not recall, or supply me with any information.

I next turned to Toronto District Four, asking the second question to any and every brother in the District. I was pleasantly surprised when approached by R.W. Bro. Cliff Baxter, Past Grand Junior Warden, who supplied me with the following information;

WHERE IS THE CHAIR?

(this question was asked in the Bulletin 's January , 1955 publication)

On a Saturday afternoon, November 17th, 1917, M.W. Bro. William H. Wardrope opened an Especial Communication of Grand Lodge at the corner of Young Street and Davenport Road In Toronto for the purpose of laying the Cornerstone of the new Temple which was being built on that site. After the stone was laid, the assemblage moved inside of the partially completed structure, and several speakers addressed the audience.

M.W. Bro. John Ross Robertson , a Past Grand Master said, “ The chair in which the Grand Master now sits is made from the oak beam which supported the floor of the room in which the first Grand Lodge was organized in 1717 AD” Later, in an historical pamphlet, we read that the room was “ in the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in London Yard,” In 1895 the building was demolished and “the contractor on the job saved two of the oak floor joists and presented them to M.W. Bro. John Ross Robertson.” The latter has a substantial

chair made from this wood, and it is further said that “all Grand Masters of our Grand Lodge are seated thereon whenever Grand Lodge meets in Toronto”.

Now, where is the chair today? Surely it would be something worthwhile to have this valuable piece of furniture on the dias in 1955. But who knows its present whereabouts? Your Editor has made several enquiry's without any definite result. Can any of our Bulletin readers supply the answer? If anyone would like to see a cut of this chair for the purposes of identification, just drop a line to the Editor.

MORE ABOUT THE CHAIR?

(this article was printed in The Bulletin's April,1995 issue)

“In the last issue of the Bulletin there was an article on the Grand Master's Chair. Part of its history was given, but here is some more of the story.

On Tuesday, April 19th, 1938, the John Ross Robertson Lodge #545, held their regular Meeting with W. Bro. John A. Robertson presiding. As visitors, he received the Senior Wardens of Toronto District A. the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. B.E.Ekblad, and the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W.J. Dunlop. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the John Ross Robertson Estate, Mr. A.T.Chadwick, read a letter from the Trustees to the W.M. conveying the historic chair into the possession of the Lodge, and other details of the presentation are recorded in the Minutes of that meeting. This Chair has, since that time, occupied a place in the East in the large lodge room in the Chisholm Avenue Temple. It is to the right of the Master's chair.

The Bulletin is indebted to P.M. John A. Robertson for his kindness in loaning the Editor a page from The Telegram of April 20th, 1938 giving an account of the meeting which took place on that previous eventful evening.”

I am indebted to R.W. Bro. Baxter for shedding more light on my second question. It is evident that John Ross Robertson Lodge #545, received “ *The Chair*” on the evening of Tuesday, April 19th, 1938 and that the Tradition, of the Grand Master's sitting, and being installed in “The Chair” ended with the death of our Past Grand Master M.W. Bro. John Ross Robertson, in May of 1918.

The result of the investigations have not completely answered the second question. You will recall that I stated earlier that a more extensive search would

probably reveal more extensive search would probably reveal more information. I would be grateful to the readers of the Masonic Newsletter, for any more light that they may be able to shed on this question.

You may write me at 158 Coronation Drive, West Hill, Ontario M1E 2H5; (or call) 1-416-287-3807, with any additional information.

I would like to bring to your attention that as a result of this investigation, and at the 138th communication of Grand Lodge, to be held in Toronto, on Wednesday, July 21st 1993, the Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. C. Edwin Drew, will be installed in the John Ross Robertson "Masonic Chair".

FIG. 1

THE EVENING TELEGRAM
TORONTO

April 18, 1938

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario
W.J. Dunlop, and W. Bro. John A. Robertson,
Ruling Master of John Ross Robertson Lodge
A.F.&A.M., G.R.C., #545, Toronto.

Gentlemen;

It is a pleasure on behalf of the trustees of the late John Ross Robertson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada A.F. and A.M. to send forward to you a piece of Masonic Lodge equipment, highly prized by the late Mr. Robertson, to be passed up, through you, to the John Ross Robertson Lodge A.F.&A.M., G.R.C.# 545, dedicated and consecrated to keep green the memory of this great Mason and citizen.

Our hope is that what is familiarly known as "The Masonic Chair", will be preserved, because it merges the history of early Masonic activities with the Masonic annals of the present day. This "Masonic Chair" was used in the Grand Lodge of England, and at least one of the Grand Masters of the Mother Grand Lodge of the World was installed in it. Its history is unique. It is made of the wood taken from the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in London, England, the building in which the Grand Lodge of England was organized, and the first Grand Master installed on June 24th, 1717. It has also been used in the Grand Lodge of Canada

when its annual communications have been held in Toronto, and in which Grand Masters, then elected, have been installed.

In this chair, the late John Ross Robertson, the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Canada was seated when he wrote the fifth chapter of the History of Freemasonry, and which the story is told of the organization of the Masonic Grand Lodge of England.

Herewith is forwarded photographs of the "Masonic Chair" and the inscription which the late John Ross Robertson had placed on the under side of the seat, in order that they may find a place in the minutes of John Ross Robertson Lodge.

On behalf of the Trustees, Charles O. Knowles, Managing Editor of the Evening Telegram, (Mrs.) J.E. Cameron, Douglas Robertson and C.H.J. Snider.

HP-AF
Chairman of the Board.

A.T. Chadwick

FIG. 2

May 1st, 1938

Mr. A.T. Chadwick,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Of the Estate of the late
John Ross Robertson, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Chadwick:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated April 18th and to express to you the sincere thanks of Worshipful Brother J.A. Robertson, Worshipful Master of the John Ross Robertson Lodge, A.F. &A.M. for your kindness in presenting our Lodge with a Masonic Chair which has history of its own.

I can assure you that now, as in the future, members of the Lodge, which commemorated the name of John Ross Robertson, will be very proud to include this gift which has been kindly sent along to us.

Yours very truly, W.J.S. Graham Secretary

GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET

Wednesday, July 21, 1993

6:30 p.m.

Canadian Room, Royal York Hotel

* Guest Speaker *

BRO. JOHN J. ROBINSON

Noted Masonic Author

Banquet room doors open at 6.00 p.m.

1993 GRAND LODGE SEMINARS

Tuesday, July 20th, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NOTICE

Copies of the Hardbound Edition
of Volume 11

have been received from the
Bookbinders and are available now

(Vol. 12 includes all four quarterly 1992-93 issues)

\$15.00 Each Send Orders / Payments to:

'Masonic Education Newsletter'
Attn: Robt. A. Barnett - Editor
P .0. Box 4217, London, Ontario
N5W 5J1