



# ON THE LEVEL



VOLUME 6 – No. 4 CORNERSTONE LODGE NO. 19 NEWSLETTER Editor J.B. York DEC. 2007

## Minutes of the Regular Communication of Cornerstone No. 19 November 15, 2007

- 21 Members and 2 Visitor signed the Register.
- Meeting called to order at 7:30 by W. M. Mike Douglas.
- Notice calling the meeting was read.
- Lodge was lowered to the EA Degree to admit FC & EA.
- Visiting Worshipful Master Roger Higham, Nanton #17 was also invited to the East.
- Visitors were welcomed from Nanton No. 19 and Corinthian No. 22.0
- S.W. Word** – The Modern Cowan. An Operative impostor or one who is in the officers line to obtain the jewels without knowing or following the meanings of the rituals.
- Sickness and Distress** – A memorial was held for WBro. Alfred (Swede) Nelson who passed away in High River on October 17, 2007.
- Minutes** – Approved and signed by the three principle officers, and a copy on the secretary's desk for member review.
- Correspondence** – Letters from Grand Lodge re: Do not admit Fredrick Scott – Cowan, who has been visiting Lodges, to our meeting. Notice of Camrose's Centennial Nov. 24. Letter advising the proper way to wear a Poppy and a request it be worn in the manner to honour the men who have fought in wars.
- Other Letters** - Email from Jordan York saying, due to health reasons, he will not be able to continue editing "On The Level". Chinook Arch District announcing their first District Trap Shoot on November 23. All other correspondence was looked after at the G.P. meeting.
- Bills and Accounts** – Bills are all within budget and were reviewed at the G.P. Meeting. Lodge Financial Statements are on the Secretaries desk for review.
- No Petitions, Reports on Petitions or Balloting.**
- Committees** – S. Warden summarized G. P. minutes.
- Entertainment** – Widows and Ladies Night is coming together for Dec 3. There will be flowers for the Ladies, a catered diner, presents distributed by Santa and music for their enjoyment.

### Upcoming Events

- GP meeting - 9:00 am Sat. Dec. 15/07
- Regular Meeting Thurs. Dec. 20/07

Minutes Cont.

**Temple Board** – A work bee will be held December 8, starting a 9:00 am to replace stained ceiling tiles in the Temple.

**Unfinished Business** – Glen Springsteel, Cyril Abbott, and Mark Toon will be the committee to set up the Paul Fraser Bursary Fund.

**New Business** – Donations. Moved by Brother Bill Quinn, Seconded by Brother Jim Carswell "Cornerstone Lodge donate to the Legion Poppy fund \$100.00, to the Salvation Army Christmas Fund \$100.00, and to Meals on Wheels \$50.00. Carried.

**Proceeds of Junior Wardens Fund.** Moved by Brother Bill Quinn "Proceeds from the Junior Wardens funds go into a Charity Fund and not entered as general revenue. Seconded by Cyril Abbott. Carried

**Worshipful Master Mike Douglas** has spoken to Brother Neil Jowett who has volunteered to take over the editor position of "On the Level" commencing in the New Year.

**Elections** – The following nominations for officers for the year 2008 are on the Secretaries desk

Brother James Carswell nominated as Worshipful Master by WBro. Mike Douglas.

Brother Jason Caumartin nominated as Senior Warden by Bro. James Carswell.

Brother Robert Neish nominated as Junior Warden by Bro. Jason Carswell

Brother Bill Quinn nominated as Sec/Treas. by Bro James Carswell

Acceptances of the nominations were acknowledged by the member's signature on the nomination, and all were declared elected by acclamation.

**Nominations for Tyler** were taken from the floor and WBro. Cyril Abbott was nominated by WBro. Mark Toon. With no other nominations WBro. Cyril Abbott was declared elected by acclamation. **Brother Jim Carswell** nominated Bro.'s Jim Humble and Stephen Patrick Auditors, seconded by WBro. Glen Springsteel. Bro.'s declared elected by acclamation.

**Education** – Bro. Bill Stark presented a biography on the life of Arthur E. Waite. Although he was infamous in his day, Bro. Waite had a very significant impact on Free Masonry. He was a very varied person becoming very knowledgeable on many subjects and a prolific author.

**Good of Masonry** – District meeting will be held on November 28 at Freemasons Hall, registration starting at 5:30. Next regular meeting December 20 will be step up night, and January 9 will be our Installation. Lodge closed in harmony at 10:20.

**SECRET SOCIETIES** (*final inst.*)

By John Zryd

Later in the ninth century, the Bogomiles, whose name in Slavonic translates as "Friends of God", migrated from Northern Syria and Mesopotamia to the Balkan Peninsula - particularly Thrace, appearing as a further development of Manichean dualism. They believed that God, the Supreme Father, has two sons; the elder Satanael, the younger Jesus. To Satanael, who sat on the right hand of God, belonged the right of government of the celestial world but filled with pride, he rebelled against his Father and fell from Heaven. Then, aided by the companions of his fall, he created the visible world as an 'image' of the celestial world - both having the sun, moon and stars. Last, he created man and the serpent which became his minister. Later, Christ came to earth in order to show man the way to Heaven, but his death was ineffectual, for even by descending into Hell, He could not wrestle the power from Satanael. This belief in the impotence of Christ and the necessity therefore, for placating Satan, not only the prince of this world but its creator, led to the further doctrine that Satan, being all-powerful, should be adored.

Nicetas Choniates, a Byzantine historian of the twelfth century, described the followers of this cult as "Satanists". They considered Satan 'all powerful' so they worshipped him "lest he do them harm" and subsequently, they were known as Luciferians. The doctrine, as stated by Neuss and Vitoduranus, was, "Being that Lucifer was unjustly driven out of Heaven, one day he will ascend there again and be restored to his former glory and power in the celestial world". (cont. next column)

**From The Historical Register****100 Years Ago December 1907**

Throughout the year the Lodge has been very active continuing with emergent meetings invariably every other Thursday evening. That is to say outside the regular meeting nights.

**50 Years Ago December 1957**

Notice of motion to change regular meeting date to Third Tuesday was withdrawn. Bro. M.L. Wallace showed pictures of his trip to Australia. Attendance: 22.

**25 Years Ago December 1982**

95 Masons, their wives and Masonic widows attended the annual Ladies' Night Christmas Party. Regular Communication saw newly-elected and appointed officers taking the chairs for step-up night.

**SECRET SOCIETIES** (*cont.*)

The idea that the Templars were Johannites is apparently founded on a legend which was first published in the nineteenth century, when an association calling itself 'Order du Temple' and claiming direct descent from the original Templar Order, published two works; the 'Manuel des Chevaliers de l'Ordre du Temple' in 1811 and the 'Levitikon' in 1831, together with a version of the gospel of St. John differing from the vulgate.

These books appear to have been printed for private circulation amongst the members and are extremely rare. They relate that the Order of the Temple had not existed since the days of Jacques de Molay. From the time of the resurrection of the Order, a line of Grand Masters had succeeded each other without a break until the eighteenth century when it ceased for a brief period but it was reinstated under a new Grand Master Fabre Palabrat, in 1804.

In a novel by Raymond Khoury, the author proposes a theory that the Templars tried to organize the ancient belief systems into one religion. It is true that many warriors with different belief systems were included under the Templar military umbrella. For example, Bogomiles and Manicheans combined into an army that fought in the Battle of Bannockburn where the Scottish army defeated the British. Henry St Clair, a Scot, a Christian, a Templar and Illuminati also participated in the battle.

Some of the details from that period have gotten blurred. For example the Pollocks, my grandmother's clan, had joined the Stuarts in clan warfare at which point, their history is blurred with the Stuarts. My grandfather's last name was Shiels, but I could find no information about his clan or his tartan. I did find out that the name is Norse in origin and probably arrived in Scotland when the Norse invaded the Outer Hebrides and stayed for 300 years adopting the local language and dress.

If one considers the links between the Bogomiles and Manicheans with both the Norse and the ancient Templars, it is easy to understand why there has been such a positive Scottish influence on the Masonic Movement.