



ON THE LEVEL



VOLUME 6 – No. 3 CORNERSTONE LODGE NO. 19 NEWSLETTER Editor J.B. York NOV. 2007

Out of the Minutes

Regular Communication of Cornerstone Lodge No. 19
October 18, 2007

18 Members and 7 Visitor signed the Register.

The meeting was called to Order at 7:35 by
Worshipful Master Mike Douglas.

Notice calling the meeting was read.

Lodge lowered to the EA Degree to admit FC & EA.

Grand Master Elect RWBro John Hart was welcomed
into the Lodge and accorded Grand Honours 7 times.
Worshipful Master Mike Douglas invited him to the
East, where he introduced his entourage and invited
them to the East.

Worshipful Master Roger Higham, Nanton #17 was
also invited to the East.

Visitors were welcomed from River Port Lodge,
Mississauga, ON, Perfection No. 9, Nanton No. 17,
Loyalty No. 197, and Alpha District DDGM

Minutes – Approved and signed by the three principle
officers, and a copy on the secretary's desk for
member review.

Sickness and Distress – None.

Correspondence – Letters from Gr. Lodge advising
the formation of an illegal Grand Lodge formed in
Mexico, expulsion of Bro. Michael Joseph Michelucci
for un-Masonic conduct, advice of the 100th
Anniversary Celebration of Gleichen Lodge No. 36 on
October 27, 2007.

Masonic Foundation of Alberta requested a donation
from Cornerstone of 24.50 (\$.35 per member). G.P.
Committee approved \$100.00. cont.

Upcoming Events

GP meeting - 9:00 am Sat. Nov. 10/07
Regular Meeting Thurs. Nov. 15/07

Out of the Minutes Cont.

The rest of the correspondence was taken care of 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 member review.

Petitions – None.

Report on Petitions – None.

Balloting – None.

Committee Reports – General Purposes minutes were
summarized by the Senior Warden.

Entertainment – Ladies Night being planned for late November.

Temple Board – The mould problem has been looked at and
can be taken care of by ourselves and the stove hood in the
kitchen will be examined and certified clean or cleaned. Next
Temple Board meeting November 6, 7:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business – None.

Senior Wardens Word – Cowan, doing work of masonry, but
not initiated. Putting stones together without masonry.

Education – Bro. Bill Stark presented a biography of Manly P.
Hall, a Brother who made significant contributions to Masonry,
one of the many areas of expertise he mastered during his life.

RWBro. Calvin D Shaver PGM gave a short talk on the
Masonic Medal of Merit, a medal awarded to Master Masons
who have not been Master of a Lodge for exemplary
contributions to masonry, within or without the Lodge.

RWBro. John Hart said a few words, expanding on the theme
selected by the late GM, MWBro. Robert Drury;
PACE, Positive Action Creates Enthusiasm.

Good of Masonry – Next Regular Communication November
15.

Lodge closed in harmony at 9:58.

SECRET SOCIETIES (cont.)

By John Zryd

The Templars

In the year 1118, nineteen years after the first Crusade ended with the defeat of the Muslims, the capture of Antioch and Jerusalem and the installment of Godfroi de Bouillion as King of Jerusalem, a band of nine French "gentiles homes" led by Hugh de Payen and Geoffroi de St. Omer formed themselves into an Order ostensibly for the protection of pilgrims to the Holy Sepulcher. Baldwin II, who at this moment succeeded to the throne of Jerusalem, presented them with a house near the site of the Temple of Solomon – hence the name of Knights Templar under which they were to become famous.

In 1128, the Order was sanctioned by the Pope at the Council of Troyes. The Knights Templar were bound by the vows of St. Bernard; obedience, chastity and poverty. Ironically, their protection services and the world's first banking system were very profitable and "through their proficiency in these matters – acquired very possibly from the Jews of Alexandria whom they must have met in the East – the Templars became the 'international financiers' and 'international capitalists' of their day.

By mid 1307, King Philip IV of France (1268-1314) had emptied the royal treasury by financing a number of failed crusades to the Holy Land and he needed a means to replenish his fortunes. As dawn broke on Friday October 13, 1307, sealed orders from the king, which had been delivered a month earlier, were opened by his agents.

Jacques de Molay, the Templar Grand Master and 60 knights of the inner circle were arrested and their possessions confiscated. Only 24 of the senior members of the Order residing in France, including Gerard de Villiers, the preceptor of France, managed to escape.

The Templars were tortured until confessions were obtained. Once the King could justify his theft of the Templars' assets, those who had confessed, were released but four years later, many of them had recanted and Pope Clement V., who owed his election to the King, imposed Papal decrees or 'bulls' on the Order and they were rounded up again. This time, most were burned at the stake. (cont.next issue)

Golden West Celebrates Centennial

by Bill Holmes Sr.

A large gathering of Royal Arch Masons attended at the High River Masonic Hall on Oct. 4 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Golden West Chapter #5.

The evening featured a banquet, followed by an R.A.M. degree in which six new members were exalted. All of the officers participating in the degree were members of the Grand Chapter of Alta. who performed their work with excellence.

George Tapley gave an historical summary of the chapter, and the Grand First Principal brought greetings from the other Alberta Chapters.

A dispensation was granted by the Grand Chapter of Canada on Sept. 18, 1907. On Oct. 29 the new chapter met in the Masonic lodge rooms in the Koch & Pflughaupt Block and elected its first officers. Percy Taylor, H.E. Bedingfield, and Harry Gould were its three Principals. (All three of them again served as First Principals in the 1930s when the great depression had decimated the ranks of the chapter.) Golden West Chapter #159 was instituted Jan. 22, 1908.

One recurring event over the years was the Chapter's annual wild game supper which took place from 1932 until the 1990s. The 25th annual dinner, for example, attracted more than 300 Companions and their ladies in the new Highwood Memorial Centre. The following year, 1958, Golden West hit its peak of 144 members.

Five Grand First Principals have been members of Golden West: William B. Way in 1941; George Chattaway, 1967; Fritho Erick Mulder, 1973; Robert Costigan, 1988; and David Hongisto, 2005.

From The Historical Register**100 Years Ago - September 1907**

The Lodge held an "At Home" which was very successful.

50 Years Ago - October 1957

Bro. M.L. Wallace showed color pictures and a travelogue of his trip to New Zealand. Attendance: 20.

25 Years Ago - October 1982

Regular Communication. Attendance: 24 members and 6 visitors.