



## Freemasonry and the Armed Forces

WBro Iain Taylor, MPS, from the Victorian Lodge of Research No. 218 (United Grand Lodge of Victoria) finds a link between men in the military and Freemasons. *Freemasonry Victoria* Autumn 2012

It may be the uniform, or the sense of brotherhood and belonging, but there's a link between military men who also happen to be Freemasons. We don't know the exact reason for this and, of course, probably never will, since the reasons for joining both organisations would vary between men. Victorian Freemasons with a military background include a large number of Past Grand Masters, most recently Major General Frank Poke AO, RFD, ED and Major John Connell, AM. Other prominent Freemasons with a military background include Sir Weary Dunlop and, of course, colourful character and former Victorian RSL President, Bruce Ruxton.

There is evidence to suggest that the first senior military figures to become Masons were General Sir Alexander Hamilton and the Quarter Master General — General Sir Robert Moray. They were received into the Edinburgh Lodge No. 1, Scottish Constitution, in 1641 and, although they were Scottish soldiers, this took place on English soil at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This was some five years before Elias Ashmole was initiated in Warrington.

There is little information on developments in Masonry in England between this time and the formation of Premier Grand Lodge. Equally, regarding military Masonry there is little to note until 1732. Following the formation of the English Grand Lodge, the Irish Grand Lodge was inaugurated in 1725 and the Grand Lodge of Scotland came into existence in 1736. Given the turmoil that existed in England, and that it was relatively easy to get a warrant under the Irish constitution, it is hardly surprising that Dublin was the first port of call for army regiments that were on the move and wished to open a Lodge. Most military Lodges were ones holding 'travelling'

or 'ambulatory' warrants that permitted meetings to be held (under proper conditions) wherever the regiment or unit happened to be stationed, whether temporary or not. The 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot (Royal Scots) petitioned the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1732 and became the first regiment to gain warrant No. 11 which was dated 7 November of that year. This opened the floodgates and, over the next ten years, 11 Irish warrants were granted.

In 1743 the Grand Lodge of Scotland issued warrants with the first English (Antients) warrant issued in 1755. From



*A modern travelling military Lodge — Canada Lodge UD, GRC — was formed by Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Lodge dress is combat fatigues or golf shirt.*

then on, all three Grand Lodges issued hundreds of warrants to the infantry, cavalry, artillery and militia, although it is interesting to note that the artillery was almost exclusively Antient. In all some 581 warrants, at the last count, have been issued to the armed forces, the majority to the army. However some four warrants were issued to ship's companies and the Royal Marines have Lodges, but all are immovable in garrisons. It is worth mentioning that there have been about ten Royal Air Force warrants and about the same number to combined service Lodges.

The four shipboard Lodges operated under the 'Moderns' due to a strange

mandate to Thomas Dunkerly, a commissioned gunner. Dunkerly had the authority to grant Warrants from the Premier Grand Lodge and was responsible for establishing Lodges on board HMS Vanguard in 1760. In the same year, under this mandate, he installed the first Provincial Grand Master of Canada at Quebec. He also granted warrants to HMS Canceaux and HMS Guadaloupe in 1762.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, regiments came and went as their nation stood them down after war only to resurrect them when in need. Consequently, warrants also came and went, and in some cases there was more than one Lodge in regiments. Regiments that settled for a long period on garrison duty often surrendered their warrants as travelling Lodges and set up an immovable Lodge, mostly under the overseas province in which they were garrisoned.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was sent, with its Lodge (Social and Virtue No. 227), to Sydney in 1813. Under its auspices, a new Lodge was formed in 1816 and was warranted four years later by the Grand Lodge of Ireland under

the name Australian Social Lodge No. 260 (now known as Lodge of Antiquity). This became the first Lodge to be warranted in Australia and when the Grand Lodge of New South Wales was formed it became No.1 on its register. The 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Sphinx Lodge No. 263] was posted to Yokohama, Japan, in 1864 and their meetings stimulated the local community to form their own Lodge that was warranted in 1866.

Life for regimental Lodges was dictated by the fortunes of war, not least of which was Lodge members failing to return from the battles in which they were engaged. The Lodge chest or warrant could also become a casualty of

war. The Lodge box of the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (KOSB) was lost in transit to Germany in the Austrian Succession War and a new one was consecrated at Berwick in 1763. The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues (46<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (DCLD) had its Lodge box captured by the enemy in the American War of Independence and luckily it was returned by its commander — Brother General George Washington. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot (Cheshire's) lost its warrant in a skirmish with an Indian tribe in 1764. War was clearly no impediment to brotherly love. During the American War of Independence, General Parsons authorised the return of a Lodge chest belonging to the 17<sup>th</sup> British Foot Regiment and that of the Dragoon Guards also was sent back under a flag of truce with a guard of honour. At Gibraltar in the same year, the Spaniards captured the warrant of the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment Foot (East Lancs).

In the Flanders campaign in 1794 to 1795 the 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards and 38<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment (South Staffords) lost theirs to the French. Two Scottish Lodges lost their charters in action in the Seven Years War: the Scots Greys Kilwinning and Masons Lodge and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers). In 1812 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (East Lancs) were in two troopships that were wrecked in a storm after which both the Battalion and its Lodge chest ceased to exist.

As the empire expanded so did the requirement to secure the appropriated lands through establishing garrisons. This encouraged many travelling Lodges to settle and there are many temples today that can trace their history back to regiments. The artillery established Lodges in Canada, India and Gibraltar.

Many colonial regiments that had British officers and NCOs similarly established Lodges under the Irish and Scottish Constitutions. After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 military Lodges began to die out, and while most have long since disappeared, their history survives, as in the West Indies with the Bermuda Garrison Lodge No. 580 of Ireland. Examples

also exist in India, Pakistan, Zambia, Kenya and South Africa.

The first truly US military 'moveable' Lodge was warranted in 1776 in the Connecticut Line of the Continental Army. The American Union Lodge was given authority to meet anywhere within Continental America, provided no Grand Master had been appointed to that area. Unfortunately, the unit immediately moved to New York where the Grand Master would not confirm the warrant. In April of that year he gave them a new warrant as Military Union Lodge No. 1, without recalling the original warrant. Thus the Lodge held two warrants from, and yielding to, two Grand bodies in different jurisdictions, a rather unique situation though they only used the one name.

Perhaps the greatest example of this is the story of New York when three Antient Lodges were joined by several travelling Lodges — three Antient, one Irish, one Scottish and another working

under dispensation. The Antient Grand Lodge of England therefore warranted a Provincial Grand Lodge of New York No. 219 in 1781 and in 1784 it became the Grand Lodge of America about nine months after independence. No military Lodges as such are listed on the register of the Grand Lodge of England today.

As far as military Masonry is today, there are about 40 Lodges in Britain that could still be regarded as military Lodges — 30 English, two Irish and nine or so Scottish. Military means that they retain an ethos and culture of the armed forces of the Crown, which in practical terms means that around 60 per cent of the membership should be servicemen or veterans. The two Irish military Lodges today are also the last remaining travelling Lodges: Lodge Glittering Star No. 322 warranted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (Worcestershire Regiment) on 3 May 1759 travels across the land during its Masonic year.

## A review of MWBro John Cameron's 2013 Tour of the British Isles

RWBro Chris Batty, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Alberta

MWBro John Cameron and Dorothy were accompanied on tour of the British Isles from 2 to 29 August 2013 by RWBro Chris Batty, SGW, and Wendy; RWBro David Boone, PDDGM Dinosaur District, and Vivian; and WBro Brian Poltorak, WM Edson Lodge No. 68, and Edith.

The tour was organized on behalf of Bro Cameron by Murray Pay, Travel Consultant. We left Calgary and flew to London, where we boarded a coach to Southampton. The following day we boarded the *Caribbean Princess*. The ports of call were: St. Peters Port, Guernsey; Cobh (pronounced Cove), Ireland; Dublin; Greenock, Scotland; Belfast; Kirkwall, Orkney Islands; Invergordon, Scotland; Edinburgh (including trips to Rosslyn Chapel and the Grand Lodge of Scotland); Le Havre France and back to Southampton.

The tour concluded with four days in

London. We all went on either a half-day or an all-day tour of the major sites of London, including the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Whitehall, Downing Street, the Changing of the Guards at Horse Guards Parade, Royal Albert Hall, the Albert Memorial, Chelsea, Kensington, Mayfair, etc. The full-day tour included a trip on the Thames. Those on the half-day trip went on an additional trip to Kensington Palace.

The following day some went on a tour to Stonehenge and the West Country. Others went on various walks on their own. In the afternoon, those who stayed in London went on a "Jack the Ripper" walk, seeing the sights of the east end of London where the perpetrator of the murders preyed on poor women from lower classes of society. The area is still indicative of that section of society. The route took them through sections of

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Published each month except July and August by  
**The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.**

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*Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, 19 August 2013, (l to r): Varun Ramraj, Graham F. Weir, Shawn E. R. Christie, Alan M. Perry, Chris Batty, John Cameron, Colin I. Rowe, David Boone, & Brian Poltorak.*

Petticoat Lane Market and concluded in the vicinity of Dirty Dicks, a famous pub established in 1745 that takes its name from one Richard, or some say Nathaniel, Bentley, who changed from a dandy to a less than wholesome individual with the death of his fiancée. During the four days, every one managed to experience the magnificence and vistas of riding the London Eye. [A giant ferris wheel on the South Bank: ed.]

On the last day, prior to flying back home, John organized a tour of the United Grand Lodge of England's Freemasons' Hall, and arranged for us to take two taxis so that we would arrive at Great Queen Street just after 09 00 h Monday morning. We were met by Brethren from Canada Lodge No. 3527, EC:

- Shawn E. R. Christie, JW, Master elect of Canada Lodge; Kerr Lodge No. 230 GRC, Barrie, Ontario,
- Alan M. Perry, IPM, Canada Lodge; PM King George Lodge No 59, Calgary,
- Varun Ramraj, MM Apollo University Lodge, (Oxford); Prospective Joining Member of Canada Lodge (from Vancouver),
- Colin I. Rowe, D of C, PM, Canada Lodge, and
- Graham F. Weir, LGR, PM and Secretary of Canada Lodge; Ivanhoe Lodge No. 142, Edmonton.

Our party entered the building through the north entrance (not the main entrance that is shown in the MI5 television series). We met the Director of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, Diane Clements, who conducted the tour for our group. The major part of the tour comprised the Grand Lodge

Officers Preparation Room, Vestibules, Registration Hall, the Temple Hall, Lodge Room No. 10, Museum, and Library. By far the most notable areas of the tour were the ceiling of the Temple Hall, the bronze doors, the bronze casket containing the 1914–1918 Roll of Honour, and the stained glass windows.

The ceiling of the Temple Hall is very impressive, with the following emblematic decorations:

**East** Ionic Pillars, the Ark of the Covenant, Jacob's ladder, the Volume of the Sacred Law, Solomon & Hiram.

**South** Corinthian Pillars, Helios the Sun God marking the Sun at its meridian, the All-Seeing Eye, and a five-pointed star.

**West** Doric Pillars, Euclid and Pythagoras, the moon and the serpent of wisdom.

**North** Composite Pillars, the arms of the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, St. George and the Dragon, the Rough and Perfect Ashlars, and the star of David.

In addition, the four corners contain depictions of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. So awe-inspiring is this ceiling that the first thing that everyone in our group did was to sit down, look up at the spectacle above, and just take time to gaze on the splendour of colour and symbolism.

The exterior side of the bronze doors to the Temple Hall depict the building of King Solomon's Temple. The interior

side of the doors show at the top the hands of the Supreme Being weighing the Soul of Man; lower down are figures depicting Labour, Wisdom, and Beauty. These doors are spectacular, not only in appearance, but in construction as well. Each of the bronze doors is cast in one piece and weighs 1¼ (long) tons. When the door knockers speak, they command attention.

The bronze casket that displays the Roll of Honour, listing those members who died during the Great War, is very ornate. It has figures of Moses the Law Giver, Joshua the Warrior Priest, Solomon the Wise and St. George on the front. The stained glass windows in the vestibules tell the story of the Grand Geometrician's creation of the World in seven days as recorded in Genesis Chapter 1, verses 1 to 31.

The 1933 building is used by the United Grand Lodge of England and many London Lodges and is also used as a backdrop for television programs, movies and fashion shows. It houses over 20 lodge rooms, the Library, a Museum, the Gift Shop and is well maintained. The ladies in the group were particularly impressed with the ladies washroom facilities. At the conclusion of the tour, and after coffee and tea in the lounge and a stop at *Letchworth's at Freemasons' Hall* [www.letchworthshop.co.uk](http://www.letchworthshop.co.uk), we all had an excellent lunch across the road from the Hall's entrance.

The group got along very well and we all enjoyed the entire trip.



*The mosaic ceiling in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London. (Top is East.)*

# The Fourth Traditional Observance Lodge in Canada Forms in Okotoks

VWBro Dennis Milbrandt

Canada's fourth Traditional Observance Lodge is opening in Alberta. Okotoks Masonic Hall will be the home of new Lodge Pythagoras 3-4-5, UD. Following the format of Traditional Observance and using the 1910 York Rite (long) Ritual of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, this is the first Lodge of this type to open in Alberta/NWT. In early 2013 a group of Brethren met in the basement of Corinthian Lodge No. 22 and raised the idea of a Lodge of Traditional Observance. Led by WBro Mark Toon and aided by the support of Corinthian Lodge No. 22, the Charter Members applied to Grand Lodge to form Lodge Pythagoras 345. In August of this year the Grand Master, MWBro John Cameron, granted permission for the Lodge to meet under dispensation.

Lodge Pythagoras will meet in Okotoks on the fourth Thursday of November, January, March, May and September. Being Traditional Observance, the Lodge starts with a banquet before the meeting and ends with fellowship

after the meeting.

This type of Lodge is different in how the work is approached. Lodge Pythagoras uses the term *Agape* rather than Festive Board to describe the meal which is taken before the meeting. *Agape* is the ancient Greek word for "love" and in Freemasonry signifies a meal eaten in common by a congregation in token of our Brotherly love for one another.

The Brethren of this Lodge do the work of communication and conferring degrees with great solemnity. Initially the Lodge is lit in quiet, with traditional tapers. Before the Lodge is called to order it is filled with meditative music. In this atmosphere the mind is called to focus on the work at hand. The work is the Ritual and education. Less emphasis is placed on the business of the Lodge and a strong emphasis is put on perfection in the work. At the end of the meeting they form the traditional Chain of Union. Lodge attire is traditional formal attire of a tuxedo, Lodge vest and black tie.

Initiation follows the ancient tradi-

tions as well. A Chamber of Reflection is used before the start of the Initiation ceremony. Longer time is taken between degrees, and the candidate is required to present a paper before the Lodge on the lessons of each degree prior to advancement. Brethren wishing to affiliate will also be required to present a paper on their area of Masonic interest.

Visitors are welcome at the Lodge. As there is a catered dinner before the meeting, those who wish to visit will need to inform the Junior Warden a week ahead of time and be prepared to pay the cost of the fully catered dinner. Visitors are asked to follow ancient traditions and adhere to a visitor's dress code.

Traditional Observance was first started in Australia and spread to North America, with Traditional Lodges in almost every state. Canadian Traditional Observance Lodges are found in British Columbia, Ontario and now in Alberta

Details on attending Lodge Pythagoras 3-4-5 can be found on their website: <http://www.lodgepythagoras.ca>

## Miscellany From the Lodges

### Exemplar Lodge No. 175

It is hard to believe that I'm writing June's message already. The time has sure flown by quickly. As we are about to turn out the lights for the summer, I've been reflecting upon the last six months and how I've learned and changed as Master. In this message I'd like to impart some of the lessons I've learned and offer some advice to those Brethren who aspire to be Master.

The first is that nothing happens without your say-so. You learn this very quickly when you first receive the gavel. All eyes are on you and the Brethren are waiting. It is a pretty simple lesson: if you do nothing, nothing is going to happen. So if you have plans, you have to be the driving force, otherwise it won't get done.

Contrary to what you may believe, you serve the Lodge. You can't be self-serving; everything you do has to be in the best interest of the Lodge.

You can't please everyone. All you can do is what you feel is best for the Lodge. Make your decisions and stand by them.

Make your mistakes at full speed. This is something I learned playing football, but it applies to being a Master. The worst thing you can do is nothing.

Grow a thick skin. You are going to get criticism. Just remember that you are Brothers and it is not an attack on you. We all are passionate about our opinions and want to see the Lodge succeed.

Learn to adapt. This is easier said than done. Things are going to come up that you can't predict and you'll need to roll with it, otherwise they may break you and the Lodge.

You can't do everything yourself. Learn to delegate.

Most importantly, don't be invisible and don't disappear. You are the Master. You are the face of the Lodge and the Brethren are going to come to you. You have to be available, otherwise the Lodge loses its identity and its direction and in the end you'll lose the Brethren themselves.

All these things being said, remember one of my favourite quotes, "Advice is a form of nostalgia; dispensing it is a way of fishing the past out of the disposal

— wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts, and recycling it for more than it's worth."

These are just a few things that I've learned as Master this year. Take what you will from them. I'd like to say now that I am halfway through this year of being Master, it isn't as scary as I thought it would be and it has been one of the most fulfilling things I've done. Thank you for all your support and for allowing me to serve you as Master. I'm looking forward to the second half of the year.

WBro Iain Girvan  
Worshipful Master

### Waskatenau Lodge No. 154

Our Casual Meeting and Ladies BBQ, held at our last regular meeting, were very successful. Those present appeared to get some real enjoyment out of being together in a somewhat more relaxed setting. Those of us who travelled from Edmonton, either by motorcycle or by car, much appreciate the fantastic hospitality shown by Waskatenau Lodge. This annual event is a great tradition for us — one we should continue to build

on in the years to come.

This brings me to a discussion of an essential aspect of Freemasonry, visitation. We have routinely enjoyed the benefits and appreciated the value of being on the receiving end of visitation by Masons from other Lodges. The energy within the Tyled recesses of the Lodge tends to increase with the number of Brothers present; they willingly take on roles of service within the Lodge, enabling us to more effectively complete our business; they may bring ideas or perspectives that we can shamelessly adopt as we build our own Lodge; and the opportunity to extend a Masonic connection to new guests each month keeps the time spent in Lodge from becoming dull or routine.

We must give some thought to why these Brothers choose to pay us a visit, some of them quite frequently.

Yes, we are wonderful hosts; we always make our guests feel welcome and try to ensure they have a good experience. Is that enough? I doubt the prospect of a warm welcome, by itself, would persuade me to travel an hour or more, especially in the winter. We always put on a fantastic festive feast for our members and guests; a good meal with friends is always a great way to end a Lodge Meeting. Is this enough? I think it would take more to persuade me to wear a suit and take a road trip.

The reasons for visitation are numerous; each active Masonic visitor no doubt has his own story to share. For some, especially among older members, time spent in Lodge with the Brothers is a bulwark against loneliness. For others, the prospect of making the trip together with good friends is enough to persuade them out their door. I suspect most of us combine these incentives to overcome the feeling of relaxed lethargy that can accompany the end of a long day — the chance to travel with good and valued companions, combined with the opportunity to perhaps be of some small use to the Lodge you are visiting, completed with the prospect of a good meal and perhaps a pin, shared with our Brothers. Overriding all of this is the powerful desire to learn something, to polish and adorn the mind; the endless and ever incomplete journey, each of us in search of his own perfection.

The first "Working Tool" placed into the hands of the workmen is the 24-inch gauge. It is intended to as-

sist the Apprentice in calculating the extent of the work in which he is about to engage, and is divided into 24 equal parts — this to remind us of the hours of the day, and to use our time wisely. We are all busy with our work, our families and our other responsibilities. However, as Masons we must also make time to

connect with our Craft, not only in our own Lodges but by visiting others. My challenge then, to each of us, is to visit a Lodge other than our own at least once more in May than you did in April. Make the time, make the journey. I guarantee you will be glad you did

VWBro Stuart Krause

## Fun Night Turns Into Annual Event

The 14 February 2013 regular meeting of Drayton Valley Lodge No. 182 was the site of The Crazy Tie Event. The Event was well attended by local and visiting Brethren, and participation in wearing Crazy Ties was at a maximum. The Crazy Ties included homemade and purchased ties with wild design and in many colours: bowties, long ties and combinations of many ties made into one. Fun, laughs and smiles were had by all, along with a lot of promises to attend the next Event.

Our DDGM, RWBro Jack "Eagle Eye" Drebit, oversaw the judging of these crazy, weird, wacky and ugly ties, and Drayton Valley thanks Eagle Eye for a great job. The evening was such a success that it now will be an annual event every February at the regular meeting,

with an invitation for all Brethren to attend.



WBro 'Dead Eye' Hedberg and DDGM RWBro 'Eagle Eye' Drebit.

## In Search of Solomon's Secrets

*Fraternal Visit to Israel — 25 October – 4 November 2014*

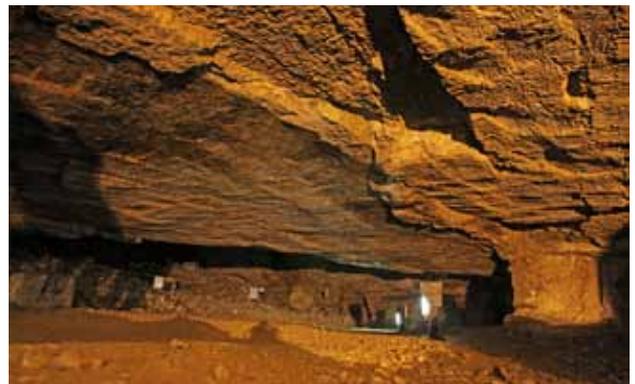
The Brethren of King George Lodge No. 59 invite Alberta Masonic Brethren, spouses and friends to join them in discovering the land of Israel. This tour is a result of a fraternal visit made by Brother Lior Schnitzer from Jerusalem, Israel, in October 2012 when he donated two limestone Ashlars to the Lodge as a gift from himself and his Lodge. The Ashlars came from the Zedekiah's Cave, also referred to as Solomon's Quarries.

The tour includes Zedekiah's Cave (Solomon's Quarries); the ancient Port of Acre to see the Crusader halls, underground tunnels and paths; Bevoir National Park, with its Crusader fortress; the Dead Sea; the Western Wall and tunnels; two fraternal visits with dinner; and the Tower of David Sound and Light show. The Inclusive package

includes eight nights in four star and five star accommodations; portage; private motorcoach; English speaking tour conductor, 2 winery tours, daily breakfast, 4 lunches, and 6 dinners.

The cost will be \$3,987 per person, double occupancy; taxes \$575

Full Itinerary and rates from Murray Pay, Travel Consultant, Crowfoot Travel Solutions, Calgary, Authorized tour operator for King George Lodge No. 59. phone 587-437-0437; or e-mail [murraypay43@gmail.com](mailto:murraypay43@gmail.com)



The main chamber of Zedekiah's Cave where Israeli Freemasons hold a communication every year.

# Your DDGMs 2013–2014

We are pleased to introduce to our readers the District Deputy Grand Masters serving the Craft in Alberta during the 2013–2014 term. This will be continued in the next two issues of The Alberta Freemason.

## Yellowhead District

**RWBro Michael W. Johnson** was born 14 June 1981 in Edmonton. With the assistance of two Masonic Higher Education Bursaries, he earned a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta. He is currently employed as a teacher at Inner City High School in Edmonton, a school for high risk and marginalized youth. He is also a Piper with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Regimental Pipes and Drums in Edmonton. Bro Johnson and his wife Melissa reside in St. Albert.



Bro Johnson was Initiated in Baseline Lodge No. 198 in 2004 and was its Worshipful Master in 2008. He is also a Shriner, a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite.

## Central District

**RWBro Ron 'Scottie' Vickers** was born 29 December 1945 in Harthill, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

He served with the British Army Scottish Division in the 1960s on peace-keeping duties in Aden, Borneo, Malaysia and Germany, and immigrated to Canada in April 1970 with his Canadian wife. He lived in Hinton until 1979, working in pulp and paper, and then moved to Rocky Mountain House to work in the oil patch. He started working with Husky Oil, where he obtained his Power Engineer Certificate and his Red Seal Journeyman



Millwright Trade Ticket working with sour gas facilities in the district. He retired in January 2006 and started his own consulting business, working for Husky as a consultant in the installation of plant facilities. He retired from work in January 2011 with 32 years' service with Husky.

Bro Vickers is married with four children and nine grandchildren.

He was initiated into Freemasonry in Hinton Lodge No. 178 on 21 January 1974, passed 18 February and raised 18 March. He demitted from Hinton Lodge in October 1985 and affiliated with Lochearn Lodge No. 51 in November 1985, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1990, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Bro Vickers is a Member of Central Valley Lodge of Perfection, Mizpah Chapter of Rose Croix, and Alberta Consistory.

## Phoenix District

**RWBro Jim Lawn** was born 27 May 1943 in Barrhead Scotland. He married his wife Rozanne in 1972, and they have a son, Ryan, and a daughter, Megan. He was self-employed and operated Jim's Barber Shop on 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW in Calgary for 41 years.



Brother Lawn has been recognized for his contribution to the Highbanks Society. Highbanks has eight housing units with subsidized rent for young mothers who are looking for support while finishing their education and creating a career path.

He was initiated, passed and raised in Lodge Union and Crown No. 307, SC, in 1961 and joined Mosaic Lodge No. 176 on immigrating to Canada. He was the Worshipful Master of Mosaic in 1976, 1977 and 1978, and was Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Alberta for 1997–98.

## Five-year Education Plan in Nebraska

*The Nebraska Mason, Fall 2012*

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska has established an impressive five-year schedule for observing important historical Masonic dates, including the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717, while educating its members.

Each year, at its Grand Lodge Annual Communication, recognition will focus on a particular set of historic events. They will trace Nebraska's Masonic lineage over 300 years as one Grand Lodge "begets" another, until the jurisdiction of Nebraska is formed. Here is a summary of the plans:

- In 2013, highlighting the unification of the Antient Grand Lodge of England and the Premier Grand Lodge of England ("Moderns") on 27 December

1813, and calling attention to the formation of the Antients in 1751 and the Moderns in 1717.

- In 2014, recognizing Masonry arriving in the United States and the formation of the Grand Lodges of Virginia in 1778 and North Carolina in 1787.
- In 2015, observing the Western expansion of Freemasonry and the formation of the Grand Lodges of Kentucky in 1800 and Tennessee in 1813.
- In 2016, focusing on the creation of the neighbouring Grand Lodges of Missouri in 1821, Illinois in 1840, and Iowa in 1844.
- In 2017, celebrating the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in 1857 on its 160<sup>th</sup> birthday and coinciding with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

creation of the current Grand Lodge system of Masonic government.

The various educational programs each year will feature local dignitaries, visiting Grand Lodge speakers, a large map of the U.S. showing the formation and migration of Masonic Grand Lodges, artifacts, genealogy and other attractions.

## November District Meetings

- 2 Battle River; Camrose; 15 00 h; GM
- 16 Lakeland; Fms Hall, Cold Lake; 13 30 h SGW
- 22 Dinosaur; Irricana Masonic Hall; 19 30 h; JGW
- 23 Beaverhills, Acacia Hall, Edm; 13 00 h; GM
- 30 Alpha; Fms Hall Cgy; 13 30 h; GSec

**Details of the District Meetings and the Grand Master's Itinerary** may be found at [www.freemasons.ab.ca](http://www.freemasons.ab.ca)