



# THE LODESTAR



RICHMOND LODGE A.F. & A.M. NO. 23 G.R.C. 112 CROSBY AVENUE RICHMOND HILL, ON L4C 9N5

APRIL 2019

195 TH YEAR

FOR THE INQUIRING MIND

## OUR FATHER'S INITIATION TO MASONRY



### *It's a Family Affair*

*From Left to right, with relationship to the candidate:  
W. Bro. Danny Vitto, Bro. Eric Aquino, Bro. Mark Sobrepena(son), Bro. Camillo Sobrepena (candidate), W. Bro. Ulysses Toledo(son-in-law), Bro. Manuel Santiago (brother in law - Cordillera Lodge No.178 - GLP), Bro. Laurence Sobrepena (son) R. W. Bro. Ross Guerrero and Bro. Alex Albrando.*

Every aspiring mason candidate must go through this ceremony. Some say it is the most special day of becoming a mason. It is the day of the initiation to become an Entered Apprentice Mason. I went through this ceremony also. I remembered some brethren were telling me to condition myself physically, mentally and to wear fresh new undies? Me and my brother Mark, did the same to my father to add up the excitement and fright to what will happen during this ceremony.

My father, Camilo Sobrepena, whose father was also a mason, the late Gregorio D. Sobrepena Sr., who has a brother that is also a mason, who I believe was a member of Nueva Vizcaya Lodge 144 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. My father, Camilo, came to Canada in 1999 and settled to work on a maintenance crew of a grocery store, but now he is retired.

On our way to the lodge, my father was asking me what will be the course of the ceremony and I responded by saying soon you will see, and silence

followed after that. I could feel his excitement and nervousness that night while waiting outside the lodge. On my part, I was having mixed emotions for my father's initiation night... sad that my grandfather did not see my father initiated to become a mason, happy that the link between generation of masons in the family will be connected.

My brother Mark was my father's guide that evening and I was an alternate for the Inner Guard. Mark delivered the apron charge and I revealed the secrets to my father. My father's brother in law, Manuel Santiago, who is also mason, visited our lodge to witness his initiation.

Funny things happened during the initiation, but the funniest of them all was when the Junior Deacon tried to dictate the "word" by syllables at the west side of the lodge. My brother Mark, said "BO" for several times but instead repeating it, I saw my father bowing his head every time he hear the first syllable of the "word". He misheard the word Bo for bow and kept on bowing his head every time my brother uttered the syllable "Bo".

After a couple of days of his initiation, we travelled to another lodge to witness another EAM initiation. He kept asking me if he also did that part he just witnessed, funny things that I myself did not remember some part of my initiation until I witnessed one myself. My father giggled when the candidate's pants fell off, so I whispered to him, "That's the reason why we keep on telling you to wear nice, clean undies.

Overall, his initiation was memorable. Our thanks to the brethren and officers of Richmond Lodge #23 for exceptional and memorable degree work that night.

***-Laurence and Mark Sobrepena***



## FROM THE EDITOR

### Develop An Attitude of Gratitude

Gratitude is an attitude that hooks us up to our source of supply, and the more grateful you are, the closer you become to your Maker, the Architect of the Universe, to the spiritual core of your being. It's a phenomenal lesson.

-Bob Proctor

Develop an attitude of gratitude, starting with YOU...you are worth it! Take a moment right now and look at yourself...your hands, your feet, your face...with the same kind of admiration you might bestow on one of the most precious sculptures in the Louvre Museum in Paris. Think about this: you are irreplaceable, which makes you priceless!

-Joyce Schwartz / The Vision Board

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bro. Ali Daneshmandi

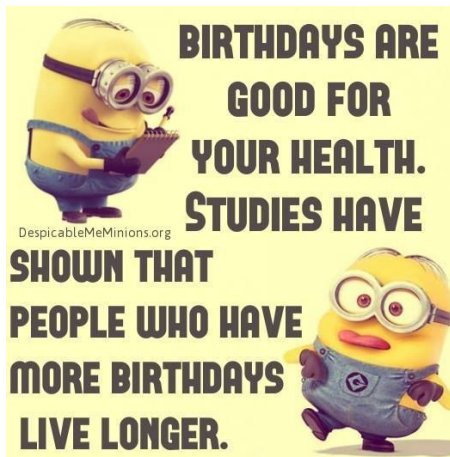
Bro. PeimanFaeghi

Bro. NazarShamoon

Bro. Ulysses Toledo

Brethren, Happy birthday! I hope all your birthday wishes and dreams come true.

Regards,



x



*"Behold, how GOOD AND PLEASANT it is when BROTHERS DWELL together in UNITY"*

Psalm 133

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**LOSERS...**assemble in small groups and complain about the coaches and other players.

**WINNERS...**as a team and find ways to win.

- Contributed by  
V. W. Bro. Paul Natale.

## A Freemason's Response

### Wearing our Ring

My best friend Burt and I were sitting downstairs after Lodge the other night, when our newest brother approached us and said:

Both of you are Past Masters and I couldn't help notice that you both wear your Masonic rings different. One of you has the points facing outward, the other inward. Which is correct?



Burt smiled and said:

Historically, Signet rings were worn by Kings, Popes, Bishops, Roman Emperors and other high ranking church officials and noblemen as a sign of their nobility, importance and power. In fact, the theft of a signet ring was, many times, punishable by death.

Within our fraternity, some wear their ring with the points outward showing to others it is a symbol of their ongoing obligation of loyalty, of their brotherhood and as a visual statement that they are a proud member of the oldest fraternity on Earth.

While others wear their ring with the points inward towards their heart to remind them of the journey they are on, to help them remember their obligation, of all their dealings and the tenets of Masonry.

I smiled at my friend and said:  
I couldn't have said it any better.

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## A Brief History of Richmond Lodge:

### Richmond Lodge #23 and The Rose

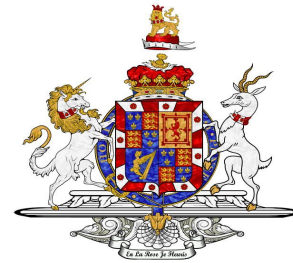
## En La Rose Je Fleuris

Freemasonry, being ancient, is influenced by history as well as being an influence on history. Freemasons use symbols to bind that history with a moral path for our brothers to follow. One such Masonic symbol is the Rose. Although the Rose is used in many cultures and religions as a symbol, the red Rose symbolizes the heart of love in Christian doctrine. More specifically, the Rose symbolizes God's love for the entire world. Medieval Christians identified the five petals of the Rose with the five wounds of Christ. The red Rose was eventually adopted as a symbol of the blood of the Christian martyrs. After the War of the Roses, the Tudor Rose was created to unify England. The national flower of England is the Rose.

Freemasons hold true to a set of timeless values. The enduring tenants of brotherly love, relief and truth help to guide men in their daily conduct. By practicing the cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, freemasons become better fathers, better professionals and better citizens. In earlier times, this code of conduct was called Chivalry. In the face of adversity, soldiers need a fraternal bond in order to work as a cohesive force. Knowing that your brothers-in-arms will do all that is possible to protect each other on the battlefield is critical. To that end, Freemasonry cements the bond between brothers-in-arms. In the absence of international law, Masonic principles were used by officers in the treatment of brothers in the opposing army.

We still see commissioned and non-commissioned officers meeting on the Level. The last military incursion for the Canadian military was Kandahar, Afghanistan. During their stay in Afghanistan, the Canadian military formed a new Masonic lodge.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 1819, Right Worshipful (R.W.) Brother Charles Lennox, the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond, visited our region, now called Richmond Hill, Ontario. As the leader of the British military, his Grace was serving as Governor General of British North America. Like his father and many of his peers, the Duke of Richmond was a Freemason. This commitment to the fundamental tenants and principles of Freemasonry is emphasized in the motto on the coat of arms of the Duke of Richmond:



The major panel of this coat of arms of the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond depicts twelve roses. In the Victorian era, a dozen roses became symbolic of love because it represents a complete cycle, such as the twelve months in the year, the twelve hours on the clock, the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve Apostles. The coat of arms for the Town of Richmond Hill bears both a dozen roses and this motto. By stating that the Lennox family blooms or flourishes in the Rose is an affirmation that blessings come from the Grace of God. This Masonic motto acts as a reminder that the measure of a man is reflected in what he does. Placing your faith in the Rose makes you a better person. For the brethren in the Lennox family, Freemasonry teaches to practice our religious beliefs in order to grow. To practice good deeds is the best way to glorify God.

R.W. Brother Charles Lennox died in the Town of Richmond which is located near Ottawa, Ontario. This Town of Richmond began as a military settlement. One of Richmond's earliest buildings was *The Masonic Arms* inn. The keeper of this hostelry was our brother-in-arms, Sergeant Major Hill, who fought with the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot during the War of 1812. In August of 1819, R.W. Brother Charles Lennox, while staying at *The Masonic Arms* died. His Grace had generated a lot of respect, even affection, while the Canadas were under his command. The General's tragic passing was deeply felt on both sides of the Atlantic. To mark this tragedy and to remember Brother Lennox's good deeds, seven townships and counties in Upper and Lower Canada are named after the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond. Lennoxville PQ, Richmond PQ, Richmond BC, Richmond ON, and Richmond Street in Toronto are name after his Grace, the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond. The citizenry of Richmond Hill chose to name their town after the two freemasons most affected in this tragedy - the Duke of Richmond and Sergeant Major Hill.

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So, why do Canadians feel the need to remain connected with R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox? He gained our respect for many reasons. The Governor-in-Chief of the Canadas was our first leader to be bilingual. Spending much of his first year in Lower Canada, the Governor's ability to converse with the French-Canadians in their mother tongue engendered a lot of good will and mutual respect. To this day, his Grace's body remains in Québec City as a reminder of his sacrifice to the Canadas and the good deeds he did to safeguard that city.

R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox was given the task to build and to improve defensive works at strategic locations across the Canadas. He achieved this goal on several accounts. Upon arrival to Québec City, the Governor General witnessed the demolition of the city gates to widen the entrances for wagons. His Grace dismounted his horse and directed the workers to stop and to only unhinge the gates. This order increased the width of the entrances without destroying the integrity of the fortification. Québec City is the last remaining fortified city in English North America and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Governor General commissioned the building of a fort on Isle aux Noix which was occupied by the Americans during the American Revolution. This fort was built to protect the Richelieu River and was named Fort Lennox upon completion.

During his Grace's tour of the Canadas, R.W. Bro. Lennox inspected the planned route of the Rideau Canal. In 1819, he started his tour, leaving Québec City, travelling to Montréal, and on to Kingston. From Kingston he headed overland, along rough tracks and trails, until he reached the new community of Perth on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

Unfortunately, the Duke had been bitten by a soldier's pet fox in Sorel (near Montréal) two months earlier.

Upon his arrival to Perth, his symptoms of rabies first appeared. He was able to continue on to the new settlement of Richmond, but died a day later. Prior to his death, his Grace had managed to release an important letter, advocating the construction of the canal. Bro. Arthur Wellesley, better known as the Duke of Wellington (aka the "Iron Duke") received that letter. Wellington was The Master-General of The Ordnance (the branch of the government in charge of fortifications and canals). Based on Charles Lennox's recommendation, the construction of the Rideau Canal was begun as part of the defense system for Canada. Today, the Rideau Canal is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

By remaining true to his orders to improve the defenses of the Canadas, R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox played a small part in creating and in preserving our heritage. In large part, Freemasonry was spread across the planet by military lodges. "Travelling Warrants" from the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and England were granted to regiments to permit lodges to travel from place to place. After the American War of 1812, many in the British militia remained in Upper and Lower Canada. To keep

our brethren-in-arms connected, freemasons built inns and other public buildings to hold lodge meetings. In the Richmond Hill area, many inns, including *The Masonic Arms* existed along Yonge Street. In the absence of a formal lodge building, local inns, private homes and other buildings were used for the meetings of freemasons. Richmond Lodge began with members of the militia. Our earliest lodge records were burned. Based on known records, our first Worshipful Master was Colonel David Bridgeport. W. Bro David Bridgeport carried on the business of Richmond Lodge from 1824 to 1831. Very Worshipful Bro. David Bridgeport served as the first Master of Richmond Lodge and did so for twelve years between 1846 and 1861. Richmond Lodge's namesake and its beginning under Colonel Bridgeport's leadership underscore our lodge's military ties.

For a significant duration of the twentieth century, Richmond Hill was the largest producer of roses in Canada. In the following aerial view, we can see these greenhouses in the 1930s:



*Looking west from the Canadian National Railway tracks towards Yonge Street, one can see the H.J. Mills greenhouses at the top centre. During the day, Mr. Harold Mills grew roses. In the evening, Worshipful Brother H.J Mills cultivated our Masonic Rose. He served as worshipful master of Richmond Lodge in 1929. In this picture, one can see Crosby Avenue running East and West on the northern border of this rose nursery.*

In 1959, Richmond Lodge purchased land on this rose nursery to construct our current Masonic temple which resides at 112 Crosby Avenue. This avenue is named after Worshipful Brother I. Crosby who served as master of our lodge during 1878-9 and 1886-7.

So, our Masonic circle in Richmond Hill is complete. The historical fabric of Richmond Hill is woven by one common thread. For 200 years, our Lodge serves as an unbroken link from Rose to Rose and from Freemason to Freemason.

This story is about one town. There are thousands of similar stories across North America. Where our military brothers-in-arms settled in a town or city, they carried their apron with their rifle. Although the principles of freemasonry are immutable and universal, brethren of the fraternity learn that freemasonry is a progressive science that is both broad and deep. This science touches many facets of our society. So, it should not be surprising that the red rose of Freemasonry still echoes today in Richmond Hill.

**-By W. Bro Geo. B.W. Brown**