



THE LODESTAR



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

FOR THE INQUIRING MIND

196 TH YEAR
OCTOBER 2019

OUR OPEN HOUSE TO OUR CITY, RICHMOND HILL

Although Richmond Lodge № 23 was formed in 1824, Freemasons in Richmond Hill met long before that date. Like breadcrumbs, there are clues in our temple showing our early beginnings. The banner displayed over the Tyler's Registry clearly shows our earlier lodge numbers. Under the Grand Lodge of England, our lodge was registered under number 709 and our Upper Canada or P.N. Number was 14. This reference strongly indicates that our Lodge Banner was created before 1824 and likely the oldest artifact in our Temple. Further, our Banner bears the family crest of the Fourth Duke of Richmond, indicating that, in name, Richmond Lodge existed before the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed. In body and in spirit, our lodge is much older than 200 years. So, a celebration to mark our history and our tradition is overdue.

On the 18th of June 2019, the city council of the Richmond Hill proclaimed Saturday, the 21st of September as a day for the *Bi-Centennial Commemoration of the Duke of Richmond Visit to Richmond Hill*. Since His Grace, the 4th Duke of Richmond was a Freemason and is our namesake, it is appropriate to recognize a great brother in our craft, R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox.



PROCLAMATION

*Mayor Dave Barrow & Members of Council
of the City of Richmond Hill
proclaimed September 21st as
Bi-Centennial Commemoration of
the Duke of Richmond visit to Richmond Hill
in the City of Richmond Hill*



September 21, 2019

Dave Barrow
Mayor

Our ceremony began with the presentation of the Canadian and Royal Union flags, followed by the singing of our National and our Royal Anthems. Our Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Ulysses Toledo, called on W. Bro. George Brown for the Invocation. Following the Blessing, our Worshipful Master introduced R.W. Bro. Alan Dresser who spoke about the 4th Duke of Richmond. Our DDGM talked about the good conduct of R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox and the reason for our celebration. His Worship, Mayor Dave Barrow, presented our lodge with the official Proclamation of the city. The pinnacle of our ceremony was reached when our DDGM and our mayor unveiled the bi-centennial commemorative plaque to remember R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox, the 4th Duke of Richmond.



Mayor Dave Barrow presents the City Proclamation to W.M. Bro. Ulysses Toledo.



Mayor Dave Barrow and R.W. Bro. Alan Dresser unveil the Commemorative Plaque.



(L to R) V.W. Bro. Brian Stapley, R.W. Bro. Isaac Lazar, W. Bro. Ross Trumphour, W. Bro. George Brown, W.M. Bro. Ulysses Toledo, Mayor Dave Barrow, M.W. Bro. Ronald E. Groshaw, R.W. Bro. Alan Dresser, W. Bro. A. Lloyd Murphy (our eldest past master)



Our Brothers

To mark this special day, Richmond Lodge struck 200 bi-centennial bronze medallions. This heavy coin has the portrait of the 4th Duke of Richmond on one side and the Square and Compasses on the obverse. Our commemorative medallions were given to several of our esteemed guests and were made available for sale at \$10 per coin.

Grand Lodge had given Richmond Lodge dispensation to display our Level to the public. To showcase our Temple to the public brings another opportunity – to improve our home. Over the past year, we have renovated both our lodge room and our vestibule. When you visit our Temple this Fall, our building has been painted - both inside and out. We have organized our historical pictures in the vestibule area so there is order and continuity. This organization enables our rich history to be told better. Richmond Lodge hopes that all brethren find the reorganization of our vestibule interesting as well as appealing.

We had almost 20 neighbours visit our Open House. Several brothers provided guided tours of our second floor. To make our lodge history interesting for our visitors, we conducted a contest. Our guests reviewed a complete list of street names in Richmond Hill and submitted a ballot to estimate the number of streets named after brothers. We had 3 winners. They are Timothy, Clayton Mitchell and Victoria Heath. Each winner received a bronze medallion as a token to remember their visit.

Our Historian, V.W. Bro. Brian Stapley, kindly provided us with a list of street names in Richmond Hill that are named after Freemasons or are Masonic. They are:

- Ashlar Road,
- Lawrence Avenue,
- Lennox Avenue,
- Bridgeford St. North,
- Bridgeford St. South,
- Brillinger Street,
- Neal Drive,
- Crosby Avenue,
- Dunlop Street,
- Frank Edean Road,
- Scott Drive,
- Taylor Mills Drive North,
- Taylor Mills Drive South,
- Tomlin Crescent,
- Trench Street, and
- Wainwright Avenue.

Many of these streets are named after past masters of Richmond Lodge. Their pictures hang on our wall. The burning question is what did these brothers do to deserve such an honour in our city? Perhaps that is the subject for another issue of The Lodestar.

To round-out the afternoon, Richmond lodge served refreshments and food in our banquet hall.

Joanne Witt, who is the publisher of snapd-Richmond Hill, provided some excellent pictures of our event. These pictures can be seen on the snapd website:

<https://richmondhill.snapd.com/events/view/1279665>

This event would not have been a success without the support from many brothers. Our brothers worked together to make this event possible. As Chairman of our organizing committee, I need to sincerely thank the many brothers who sacrificed their time to support our Open House. Thank you.

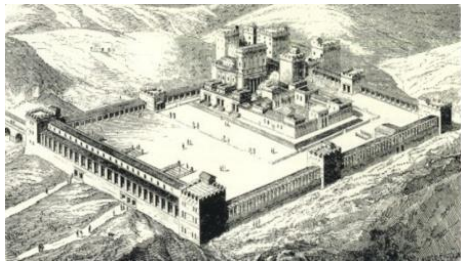
Our Open House was not just about remembering a great brother. This day was to help us to understand why we chose to name our lodge after R.W. Bro. Charles Lennox. The 4th Duke of Richmond is a touchstone for our lodge. His daily living exemplified those Masonic qualities which we cherish and hold dear. As we remember His example, we aspire to those same qualities in our conduct with our brothers, our family and our community.

W. Bro. Geo. Brown, IPM

Masonic Education

Who was Hiram Abiff?

The Masonic legend behind Hiram Abiff has been passed down in Masonic Lodges; the legend begins with his arrival in Jerusalem and is appointed as a chief architect by King



Solomon for the construction of his temple. The Temple

nearing completion some of the workmen or “fellowcraft” became dissatisfied with their wages and demanded a promotion, they sought the higher wages and benefits of being a Master Workmen by extorting them from Hiram Abiff. Three Fellowcraft Masons, from the dissatisfied workers decided to ambush him as he leaves the building demanding the secrets of a Master Mason. Hiram Abiff being challenged by the Fellowcraft refuses to divulge the secrets of a Master Mason to them which ultimately lead to his demise. This tragic legend of Hiram Abiff is not to be found in the Bible either is the story of his assassination, but it can be found in the third degree or the sublime degree of a Master Mason (Also it can be found online).



Hiram Abiff is also mentioned in the Bible, but the story in the Bible differing from the legend referred to in Masonry. Hiram being described as the son of a widow from

the tribe of Naphtali, In the Bible Hiram Abiff was tasked with casting bronze furnishing and ornate decorations for the new temple. Hiram cast these bronzes in clay ground in the plain of Jordan between Succoth and Zaredathah (1 Kings 7:46-47)

Hiram Abiff being such a significant figure in Masonry it is important that we not only learn about Hiram Abiff and who he was but to also learn the moral behind this legend. Personally as two Fellowcraft’s writing this and not knowing of the third degree we believe that the moral of this story is to stay true to your own beliefs and teachings in Masonry and life even in the face of despair.



(Bronze Statue "Hiram", builder of the Temple of Solomon by Nikolaus Otto Kruch)

Contributed by: Bro. Nathaniel R. Guerrero and Bro. Kory A. Anderson

FROM THE EDITOR

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, THIS IS HOW THE INTERNET STARTED.

(PLEASE DO NOT GOOGLE THIS ONE OR CHECK WITH SNOPE, THEY WILL LIE TO YOU).

TRUST ME!

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy (Dot for short). **Dot Com** was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called **Amazon Dot Com**.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (**UPS**)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (**MSDOS**), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (**HTTP**).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or **NERDS**. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or **eBay** as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"**YAHOO**," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it **YAHOO Dot Com**.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (**GEEK**) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything! (**GOOGLE**).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth. I would not make up this stuff !! -Contributed by V. W. Paul Natale

BIRTHDAYS

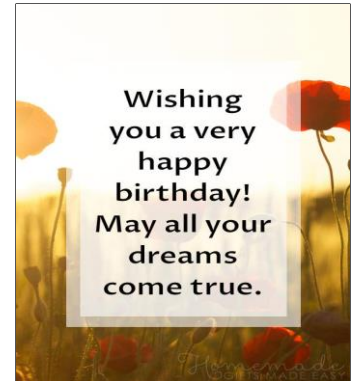
October

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