



THE LODESTAR



Richmond Lodge A.F. & A.M. № 23 G.R.C.

194th Year

October 2018

From the Editor

\$86,400

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400.

It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.

What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!! Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning it credits you 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against the tomorrow. You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success! The clock is running.

Make the most of the day.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time.

And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift.

That's why it's called the present!!

-Mark Levy, Author

October Birthdays

Bro. Lawrence James

Bro. Art Wilcock

Brethren, wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with joy.

Masonry's Grand Master William Mercer Wilson

Written By: Daniel R. Pearce



William Mercer Wilson is a little known figure in Ontario history who helped build the province – and the country – in a subtle way. Wilson is the originator of the Masons in Ontario. That is significant because back in the mid – 1800's most of the movers and shakers in government and business belonged to the organization, known at the time for its secret meetings and hand signals.

Sir John A. Macdonald, the Father of Confederation, was a Mason. So was the Mohawk military and political leader Joseph Brant as well as many mayors, bank managers, newspaper publishers, premiers, and lieutenant-governors. "If you look at the history of both the U.S. and Canada, Freemasons are involved in all formations of politics and business," said Dale Smout, historian of the lodge Wilson headed up in Simcoe, Ontario.

(Cont'd on P2)



RICHMOND LODGE – 175 th ANNIVERSARY PINS

Although the 175 th Anniversary of Richmond Lodge has long come and gone (we are now in our 194 th year), a trove of pins that were made to celebrate that milestone have been discovered by V. W. Bro. Paul Natale and he was kind enough to turn them over to our Lodge. If you are interested in receiving one of these mementos, please contact me and I will send one out to you. My contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter.

-Bro. Joe Galati

(Cont'd from P1)

In the 1800's Mason lodges existed in Upper and Lower Canada, but they were ruled by the Grand Lodge of England. Communication was a problem. It took a letter eight months to get from England to, say, Norfolk County where Wilson lived, and another eight months for a reply to go back. Decision-making was difficult. Wilson decided Ontario Masons should govern themselves. He traveled across the province and convinced others to join a new grand lodge just for Ontario. They agreed and in 1855 Ontario's Masons had their governing body and Wilson, appropriately enough, was their first grand master.

Wilson was well-connected with those in power. The lodge in Simcoe still has a hand-written letter to Wilson from Sir John A. Macdonald discussing Masons' business. Wilson was also something of a dashing figure. In the Rebellion of 1837, he led the Norfolk Calvary Troop and helped capture the enemy ship, the Caroline, in Niagara. Back in Simcoe, Wilson was immensely popular. He was a lawyer, newspaper publisher, Crown Attorney, and a reeve (top-ranked local politician) of the community, which at the time was a village of 2,000 inhabitants. When he decided to pull out of politics, he was presented with a petition, with hundreds of signatures from village residents demanding he run for office again. When Wilson died in 1875, more than 1,000 Masons from across the province came to Simcoe for the funeral. Special trains had to be arranged to get everybody to the village. He is buried in the St. John's Anglican courtyard south of town but is not forgotten. Every year, Masons make a pilgrimage to the site with a heritage plaque, to pay homage to the father of their organization.

Contributed by V. W. Bro. Paul Natale



William Mercer Wilson Award

Our Grand Lodge recognizes brethren who have rendered outstanding service to their lodge, to the Craft in general, to their place of worship, their community and their country. After a Grand Lodge Committee has conducted an extensive evaluation of their contributions, successful candidates are awarded the William Mercer Wilson Medal. Named after our first Grand Master, this Medal – the highest honour which can be bestowed on a brother in our jurisdiction – is given to a Mason who represents the craft well. The individual is one who looks for no reward or publicity for the work that he performs on behalf of Freemasonry. He is often a modest man, who for reasons of his own, has not gone on to become a a Worshipful Master of his Lodge but has typically unselfishly given that opportunity to many others in his Masonic career. Generally, he is a mild mannered, soft spoken individual who labours quietly and patiently in the pursuit of brotherly love and in making life better for all with whom he comes into contact. His presence makes a difference in his lodge. These qualities are what distinguishes a William Mercer Wilson Medal recipient from the rest of us. You can recognize a William Mercer Wilson Medal (“W.M.W.M.”) recipient by the distinctive medal hanging from his breast pocket. He also wears a white collar, without a jewel attached. (The collar comes with braided silver ornamentation at its end.) Only 234 Masons in Ontario have received this distinction during the 70 years in which the medal has been awarded.

-Protocol & Etiquette Essentials, Issue No. 9 – December 2010

Editor's Note:

In the long history of Richmond Lodge, only three Brethren have been the recipients of this extraordinary medal. They are:
Bro. Joseph Egerton
Bro. William Dodds
Bro. Gordon Fenn

Secretary's Note

*Forget the hasty, unkind word:
Forget the slander you have heard
Forget the quarrel and the cause
Forget the whole affair, because,
Forgetting is the only way.
Forget the storm of yesterday
Forget the knocker, and the squeak
Forget the bad day of the week.
Forget you're not a millionaire
Forget the grey streaks in your hair
Forget to even get the blues –
But don't forget To Pay Your Dues!*

-Author Unknown

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