



Freemasonry Explained The Worlds Oldest and Best Known Fraternal Organization

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Introduction and Prologue

This PDF e-book was suggested because of all the misconceptions with respect to Freemasonry within the General Public.

I feel that we are misunderstood on a number of areas and the Television programs that use Freemasonry as the "Bad Guy" at every opportunity is typical.

One hundred years ago there was not the same ability to put out misconceptions no TV, No Google, no Face book, and no Social media. If there had been a way to spread the information it would probably have been developed and run by a local freemason.

So I would like to put the picture straight a little and hope that we can at least show that we are not a threat to the local community or the world.

For example, I was once accused of holding a Masonic Ritual in a public building. It was November the 11th and was the ceremony of the "Empty Chair" where we held a symbolic funeral to one of our members who died following his injuries on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion. It was open to the public and handled with true humility for a Brother who was a member of our Lodge.

Anyone who is disturbed by this can only be someone who has a problem that maybe we cannot resolve. Maybe it is a personal thing and not in our power to do anything about it but I do feel we should try.

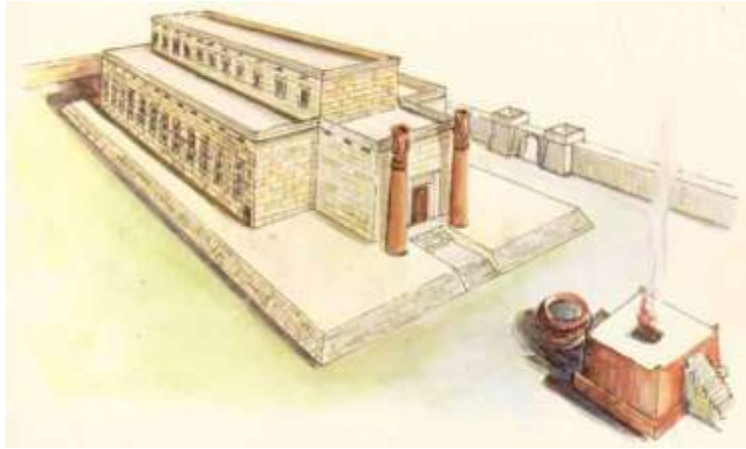
We are not a Religious Organization. We do expect you to believe in a Supreme Being be it God or whatever your name is as your supreme being.

In Lodge we do not know your religion, except if you wear a turban it is a bit of a giveaway, religion is not allowed to be discussed in our lodges.

So maybe this is a chance to learn about us, even though you do not wish to join. But at least something must be right if we can have lasted for over 300 years and the set of rules laid down, have basically not been changed.

Bill Overy

Part One the History



In the early 1700s, the people of England became interested in King Solomon's Temple. A written description of this Temple can be found in the First Book of Kings, and also in Chronicles, of the Hebrew Bible. It gives us the size and type of the building but it is very thin on the masons who built it. At that time the Jews would have been the Overseers but the workers were slaves.

The only instruction was "that all Gods ordinances, judgments and commandments must be followed and obeyed during the construction." So the modern Freemasons took that small piece of history and have based their fraternity on that statement. The next 1000 years is only in the world of Legends.

The only other known fact in this period of our story was from Ancient Greece when in 300 BC Euclid of Alexandria a Greek Mathematician and known as the "Father of Geometry" actually defined Geometry and that was a major step forward in building construction.

And over the next 1000 years, everything is just conjecture. This could be the main cause of the misunderstanding of Freemasonry.

Many people have comes up with a different story none of which has the smallest piece of evidence to substantiate it. Maybe it the word secret, that is coupled with us that causes the issue.

I do know that when Dan Brown wrote his book "The Da Vinci Code" it caused a worldwide furor. The strange thing is that nobody picked up on the fact that, there was a code and it is still there for all to see and the painter was Poussin, not Da Vinci.

But then that is the power of the media and Dan Brown's story was not based on fact, and "The Da Vinci Code" was just a great novel.

So, let us move on to the late 1300's AD.

Stonemasons, unlike other tradesmen, such as a goldsmith, were travellers. The goldsmith would have usually learnt and plied his trade near where he was born and eventually died. He would be given the freedom of the town that granted him the privilege of working within its walls. Most of his projects would have been of short duration and all business done within his shop with no other restrictions other than those laid down by the City and the Guild he belongs to.

The Stonemason was different. He would travel to his work wherever a building project required labour. Most of his jobs would cover many months or even years and in some cases, he could die without being in at the start or the completion. We must remember that during this period the average life span was only 40 years.

Because of this stonemasons divided themselves into groups, usually of friends or with a common allegiance. These groups were called lodges and they used them as a place for relaxation and comradeship and to train the lower grades of masons. A treasurer of each Lodge would keep a small sum back from every member to act just like an insurance company, in case a member of the Lodge fell on hard times usually because of the high accident rate within the trade.



The Charges



The preamble states that what follows is the worthy and godly oath of the masons and that every man that is a mason must take heed of this charge.

The first charge is that you shall be true unto God and the Holy Church, and that you use no heresy or error by your understanding or by teaching of indiscreet men.

Also you shall be true liegemen to the King without treason or falsehood and that you know no treason but that you amend it if you may or else warn the King or his Council thereof. Also you shall be true to one another, that is to say to every member and fellow of The Craft of masonry that be masons allowed and that you do to them as they would do to you.

And also that every mason keep counsel of lodge and chamber and all other counsel that ought to be kept by the way of masonry.

Also that no member be thief in Company so far forth that you shall know.

And also that you shall be true unto the lord and master that you serve and truly to see for his profit and advantage.

Also you do no villainy in that house whereby The Craft may be slandered.

These be the Charges in General which every mason should hold, both masters and fellows.

Now follow other Charges in particular for masters and fellows.

First that no master take upon him any lord's work nor other work but that he know himself unable to perform the same so that The Craft have no disworship but that the lord may be served truly.

Also that no master take any work that he take it reasonably so that the lord may be truly served with his own goods and that the master live honestly and truly pay his fellows their pay as the manner of The Craft does require.

Also that no master or fellow supplant other of their work (that is to say) if they have taken a work or stand master of a lord's work you shall not put him out unless he be unable to end the work.

Also that no master or fellow take any apprentice to be allowed his apprentice but for seven years and that the apprentice be able of birth and limbs as he ought to be.

A Translated copy of the Charges for Masons of 1390

We find this system was in use in York in 1390 when the earliest written Charge for masons, that has survived, was made. It is known as the Regus Poem. It also states it was copied from a document written about 940 AD.



The Notre Dame, Paris

As the new millennium arrived many large building programs were started. In France for example between 1050 and 1350, 80 new cathedrals were built. The program was so large that in the 300 years it took, they used up more stone than the Egyptians in their 1000 years of building pyramids. With these massive building programs, the strict Lodge system was of course very important.



Canterbury Cathedral

William the First of England started his own building program about the same time later that included 5000 new places of worship in England alone.

So as the *Masons* travelled they would need to be accepted into any company and would have to prove their credentials. This was not just to guarantee of the masons' skills, as these would be obvious when he started work but to also to satisfy his employer that he has pledged his fidelity to his craft including all its moral customs and practices. One way they could guarantee this was to continue to use a system of secret signs, symbols and passwords known only to other member *Masons*.

Then in the 15 and 16 Centuries, a number of things occurred that had a very profound effect in the world.



John Cabot

It started in 1497 when John Cabot declared Newfoundland was a possession of Henry the 7th and the British Empire, the largest Empire the world has ever known, was born. The colonization of the world had started.

150 years later, in 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed most of the civic buildings of the city plus 87 churches that included the famous St Paul's Cathedral.



The Great Fire of London

This as you can imagine caused a major rebuilding program to restore the city and the work was given to a well-known designer of the day Sir Christopher Wren



Sir Christopher Wren.

By the end of the 1600s, the program of rebuilding was well underway and many non-masons became active in the rebuild program of London. Some were even allowed to become members of the operative Masons Lodges but just on a social level. The Guilds lost control of the trades due to the Great

Fires of 1666 and around the 1700's the age of 'enlightenment' came about. Also now the English Civil war had ended; people were looking for social outlets and a club for just about anything sprang up. The wealthy/nobility showed an interest in architecture and was absorbed into lodges as 'accepted' or speculative Masons.

Lodges in London met either in one of the many coffee houses or later in the upper room in public houses.

They took similar rules and obligations as those laid down for operative masons, even though today, they may sound a little strange and archaic. They also used the working tools of the stonemasons as their symbols and they became known as Free and Accepted Masons or Freemasons.



The Inn sign of the Goose and Grid Iron Ale House," near St. Paul's Churchyard in London.

In 1717 four of these "Founding Masonic Lodges" as they became known, met at the "Goose and Grid Iron, Ale House," near St. Paul's churchyard in London, and formed the original Grand Lodge of England. This Grand Lodge of England provided a constitution and a set of rules for lodges to follow. And so the freemasons as we know them today were officially started.

Sir Christopher Wren's son, of the same name, joined Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, one of the four founding Freemasonry Lodges, and it is recorded he eventually became the Worshipful Master of that Lodge.

The year's pass and the Free and Accepted Masons thrived. Many lodges opened in Scotland, England and Ireland and across Europe. As the British Empire expanded Lodges, usually either a part of the military or the settlers were opened in many colonies including America, India, Australia and of course Canada. In each case, they were originally formed under the structure of the Grand Lodge of England.

In 1733 the Grand Lodge of England sanctioned a Provincial Grand Lodge, in Boston, to be formed. Then Boston issued deputations to open lodges in what would later become Nova Scotia.



The First Canadian Lodge
Sinclair Inn, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in June 1738

The first Canadian Masonic Lodge meeting was held at what is now the Sinclair Inn, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in June 1738, only 21 years after the Grand Lodge of England was formed.

In 1759 Major General James Wolfe, a freemason defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham and on 29 September 1759 The British Army enters the City of Quebec. Lieutenant General Louis-Joseph Montcalm, headed up the French army, He was also a Freemason.



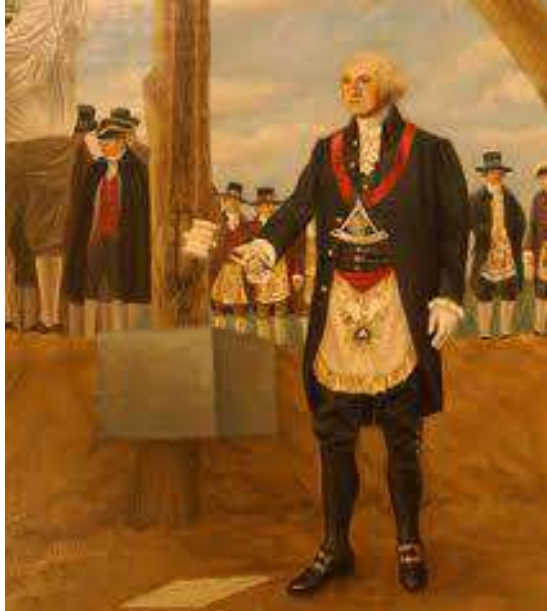
Major General James Wolfe
1727 - 1759



Lieutenant General Louis-Joseph
Montcalm
1712 - 1759

One month later on the 28 November 1759, the first Masonic meeting was held in the Citadel by the 78th Regiment of Foot today known as the Fraser's Highlanders.

In 1775 hostilities broke out between Britain and its American colonies, The American War of Independence continued till 1782 and Freemason, George Washington was their first President.



**American War of Independence
1775-1782
George Washington their First
President
Laying of the U.S. Capitol's
cornerstone in 1793**

About the same time the First Nation Mohawk Chief. Joseph Brant or to use his Indian Name Thayendanegea had travelled to England and while there, he became a Freemason and was raised to a Master Mason in London on April 26 1776.



**Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant
1742-1807
Chief of the 6 Nations**

He was a great supporter of the English during the War of American Independence and after the war, he formed a combined Indian Nation in support of the British, that today is known as the Six Nations.

Upper Canada joined in the spread of Freemasonry and the oldest Masonic document still surviving from those early days is the certificate of Bro. Joseph Clement, dated September 1780 and was issued by Lodge, No. 156, the 8th Regt. of Foot. As you can tell another Army Lodge and that there were 155 other Lodges before it.

In 1792, John Graves Simco, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and an active freemason started building towns and settlements along the Canada USA border to keep the USA at bay.



John Graves Simco, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada

These were settled by many members of the United Empire Loyalist who had left the USA following the US War of Independence as well as many ex-Army members who decided to stay in Canada rather than go back home to the UK when they were demobilised.

There started to be a lot of land speculation so John Simco encouraged the formation of Masonic Lodges in the area of these new towns. This meant a way existed where a person could be accepted without a doubt to his moral caricature if he were a Freemason.

Across the Atlantic on 25 October 1854 another Canadian, Lieutenant Alexander Dunn made history when he was awarded the Victoria Cross during the famous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. He was a freemason and the first Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.



Lieutenant Alexander Dunn VC,

Right across Canada, things were changing and in 1860 the Victoria Masonic Lodge was formally constituted in what was then the colony of Vancouver Island.



Victoria Masonic Temple in 1890

Freemason Robert Burnaby, for whom Burnaby, B.C. is named, installed the first officers and a Russian born John Malowansky who was a Victoria newsagent and tobacconist was the first person to be made a freemason in the colony.



Robert Burnaby

In 1867 Confederation created the Dominion of Canada and our First Prime Minister was a freemason, John A. MacDonald.



John A. MacDonald 1815 - 1891
1st Prime Minister of Canada

This caused a feeling among freemasons that each Province should have its own independent Masonic Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Canada had been formed in 1855 and by 1869 several Provinces had already formed their own Grand Lodge.

In 1871 the United Colony of British Columbia joined Confederation and became the Province of British Columbia. Also, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia were founded.

In 1885 the Transcontinental Railway arrived and Vancouver was incorporated a year later, as the railways terminal.

Suddenly the Province was opened up and many towns were either created or expanded.

A typical example was the small village of Abbotsford that was incorporated in 1892 as it grew with the logging and clay brick industry. In 1912 it was decided to form and build a Masonic Lodge in Abbotsford.

When the Lodge was incorporated the name of Abbotsford was taken from the Canadian Pacific Railway maps of the time and spelt Abbotsford with two T's and forever it has stayed that way when the "Abbotsford Lodge" is written.



Placing the Corner Stone of Abbotsford Masonic Hall on 18 May 1912

On the 18 May 1912, the cornerstone of Abbotsford Masonic Hall was laid and the building was finished in time for the institution of the Lodge on October 12, 1912.



The Masonic Hall Abbotsford, B. C.

Richard Peardon who donated an acre of land at the corner of Peardonville and Huntingdon roads, where Peardonville Elementary School was built in 1905. He was the first Postmaster and the first rural postman in B.C.



Robert Shortreed, who brought the telegraph and telephone to the area, which became known as Shortreed. It is also said that he organized the posse, which brought in gentleman bandit, "Billy Minor", following Canada's first and largest armed train hold-up in 1904 near Mission.

Dr Thomas Swan, MD, He was the pioneer physician and surgeon in the Abbotsford District. He built a fine house, which still stands on Pine Street and was instrumental in the establishment of the original Abbotsford, Matsqui and Sumas Hospital.

W.J. Mouat who was in Education and has a local School, the W.J. Mouat, Secondary School, named after him and closer to today the late **Spud Murphy** who owned a plumbing company in town.

Many changes have taken place during the past 100 years. We have gone from the horse and buggy era to the space age, but Free Masonry has maintained it's lasting principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Despite the media, we are not a secret society but a society with secrets. I have more trouble remembering my Bank and Credit Card passwords than my Masonic passwords and I am only too pleased that my Masonic passwords are the same in British Columbia as in Timbuktu.

Our Dogwood Lodge started in 1990 and is today less than 30 years old. It began meeting in the small town of Aldergrove and in 2007 it moved to the City of Langley. It is a small lodge with the distinction of having their meetings on a Saturday Morning and serve a grand cooked breakfast before we open the lodge.

And after breakfast, as we go upstairs, the world stands still and waits for us as we are transported back to a meeting that has been around more than 300 years.

There are many other Masons who have helped in the development in their various locations and some of them you might have heard about.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
1756 - 1791
Composer



King George the 5th



Lord Horatio Nelson
Vice-Admiral of the
White. Seaman



John Molson
1763 - 1836
Brewer



Joseph E. Seagram
1841 - 1919
Founder of Seagram's
Distillery



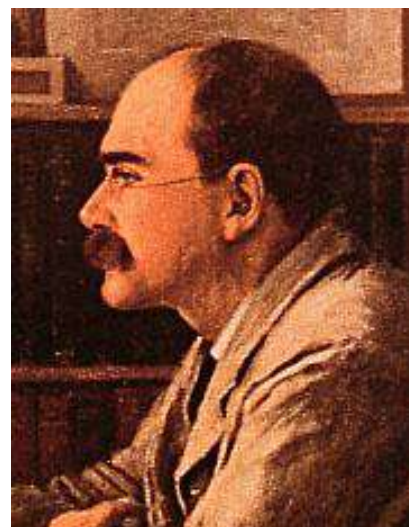
**Sir Samuel Benfield
Steele**
Early Member of the
Mounties



**Sir Frederick Arthur
Stanley
1841 - 1908
Presented Canada
with the Stanley Cup**



**Buffalo Bill Cody
1846 - 1917
Wild West Showman**



**Joseph Rudyard Kipling
1865 - 1936
Poet and Author**



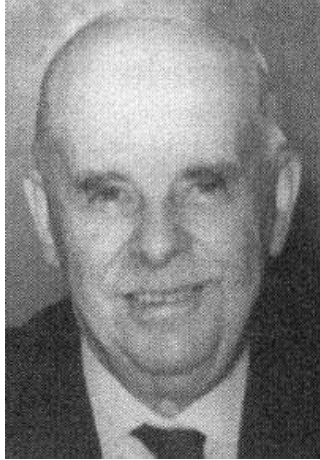
**King George VI
His Victory Stamp**



**John George
Diefenbaker 1895 - 1979
Canadian Prime Minister
1963 - 1975**



**Nat Bailey
1902-1978
Founder of White Spot**



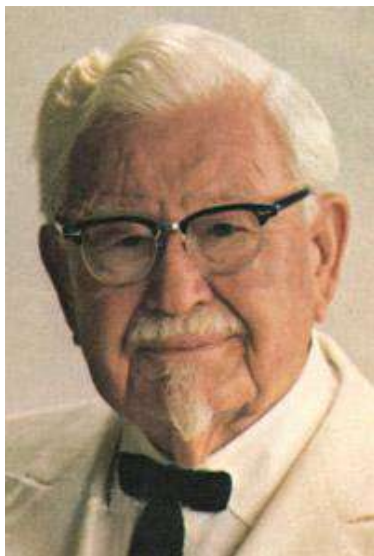
Charles Woodward
1842 - 1937
Founder of the
Woodward chain of
Stores



Glenn Ford
1916 - 2006
Canadian Actor



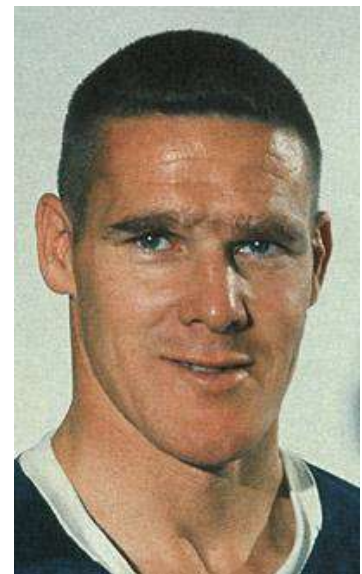
**Oscar Emmanuel
Peterson**
1925 - 2007
Musician and Composer



Colonel Harland Sanders
1890 - 1980
Founder of KFC



Gordon Sinclair
1900 - 1984
Broadcaster



Tim Horton
1930 - 1974
Hockey Player
And Founder of his
Coffee Shops

Part 2 What is Freemasonry

What is Freemasonry

Freemasonry is one of the World's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organization. There are many ways to describe Freemasonry and many can do it better than I can.

For example:

Freemasonry is a group of men who have dedicated their lives to becoming better men and making their community a better place. It embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man."

General Douglas MacArthur

What are the Secrets of Freemasonry?

When you become a member you have to make an obligation to abide by the rules of Freemasonry. And by the way, none of these rules will be in conflict with your civil, political or religious life.

Then at each degree, you will be given the signs of that degree.

These will identify you to other Masons. You will use them as you enter lodge and if you visit another lodge where you are not known you will be asked for them before you are allowed to enter the lodge.

Well, that's it. Not much is it, no earth-shattering disclosures passed down from the distant past, no religious statements and no forming of a new world order, but to the freemason, they are a very important part of our past.

Apart from those, there is no secret with regard to any of the basic principles of Freemasonry.

So who are Freemasons

Well, I am one. I am senior-aged nearly 80 and have been a member for over 40 years. I am a Master Mason, which means I have attained the highest degree in Craft Freemasonry and have decided not to move into the "Administrative Level of the Craft" for personal reasons.

In fact, my lifestyle did not lend me moving up, even to become the master of my Lodge. Still, my obligations are the same and I still try to be a better citizen of our society and the Craft even though I know I sometimes fail to do as well as I could.

I am not rich and live in a rented apartment. I was a Technical Director of an aviation company but gave up that position in 1978 to travel the World.

I am married and have one daughter and two grandsons. Just an ordinary guy trying to do his best to live up to the obligations of the Craft.

Mind you I am listed with many famous people such as Winston Churchill, John A. Mc Donald, Tim Horton, Davy Crockett, John Wayne and many more so maybe I have just got to try harder.

Worldwide, there are approximately six million of us.

Who can become a Freemason

To be eligible for membership an applicant must satisfy the following qualifications:

He must be a man, of the full age (over 21) and free-born.

He must believe in the existence of a Supreme Being.

In joining he should not be influenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives.

He should expect to commit about two to four evenings a month and to make the effort to study and understand Freemasonry.

As in any society, the member can only get out of it what he puts into it.

The Conditions of being a Freemason

The first condition of membership of Freemasonry is a belief in the Supreme Being.

This is essential and there is no compromise in this.

The Bible or its equivalent is referred to by Freemasons as "The Volume of the Sacred Law" and is always open during the lodge meeting. Every candidate is required to take his Obligation on that book, or on the book, which is held by his particular religion to impart sanctity to an oath or promise taken upon it.

Everyone who enters Freemasonry is strictly forbidden to countenance any act, which may subvert the peace and good order of society and he must pay due obedience to the law of any land in which he resides or which may afford him protection, and he must never be remiss in allegiance due to the Sovereign of his native land.

While a Freemason is expected to have the duties of loyalty and citizenship, it also allows him the right to hold his own opinion with regard to public affairs.

But he must never discuss or to advance his opinions on theological or political subjects in any lodge or in his capacity as a Freemason.

A Masonic Lodge, including Grand Lodge, will never express any opinions on foreign or domestic state policy, either at home or abroad. It will not allow its name to be associated with a question affecting the relations between one government and another, or between political parties.

Freemasonry, as a body, will never express a view on politics or state policy. The discussion of politics at Masonic meetings has always been prohibited.

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon, like the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, is convinced that by its rigid adherence to these Aims and Relationships Freemasonry has survived the constantly changing doctrines of the outside world.

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and the Yukon will disapprove of any action, which may permit the slightest departure from the basic principles of Freemasonry.

The Freemason and religion

Freemasonry admits men of all religions and believes in religious freedom. It strongly believes that the relationship between the individual and his God is personal, private and sacred.

Freemasonry supports religion. Freemasonry is far from indifferent to religion and without interfering in religious practice; it expects each member to follow his own faith.

Religious discussion is forbidden at a Masonic meeting.

The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with the modes of recognition only and not with the means of salvation.

We do not apply a theological test to a candidate except to ask if he believes in a God and that is the only religious question.

Freemasonry is a completely tolerant organization. When Freemasonry accepts a Christian, or a Jew, or a Buddhist, or a Mohammedan, it does not accept him as such but accepts him as a man, worthy to be received into the Masonic fraternity.

There was a discussion way back about a religion such as Hindu who believes in multiple gods. The Grand Lodge of England declared that a Mason's religion was his own business and the multiple gods were personifications of the One Supreme being

Freemasonry stands for the values that are supreme in the life of any church and expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his duty to God above all other duties.

We are sure that a member who is true to the principles he learns in Freemasonry will be a better church member because of it.

A poem by Rudyard Kipling, who was made a Mason in 1885 in India, clearly shows the racial and social equality shown by Masons at a time when there was very little equality between the British and the locals in the colonies.

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

Outside - " Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!
Inside - 'Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

The Lodge System

The Lodge system of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons is based on the original concept of Stonemason Lodges.

Each member will belong to a Lodge, usually where he resides. Lodges are grouped together into Districts and these Districts come under the Grand Lodge that in our case covers British Columbia and Yukon. The Grand Lodge governs and administers all the lodges in the two Provinces.

The Officers of The Grand Lodge usually serve for a period of one year. In England, the master of Grand Lodge is always a member of the royal family and can hold that position as long as he wishes. If the member of the royal family is made King then he can no longer hold that position. However, he is still a Mason and can hold any other rank that he may be elected or appointed to.

Freemasonry exists throughout the world. However, each Grand Lodge is sovereign and independent. There is no international governing body for Freemasonry.

The Lodge meeting, which like those of other groups, are open only to members, is normally in two parts.

First, there are normal administrative procedures such as:

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposing and balloting for new members

Masonic news and correspondence

News about members who are not well

Second, there are the ceremonies for:

- Admitting new members
- The annual installation of the Master of the Lodge and his officers

The Three Degrees

There are only three degrees in craft freemasonry.

Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

It considers all third-degree Master masons to be equal.

All other positions are part of the administration of Freemasonry.

It does not attach any authority in the conferring of the other degrees including the 4 thru 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite.

Each independent Grand Lodge elects its principal officers annually or bi-annually, as do the individual lodges under each Grand Lodge.

The Three Pillars of the Lodge

The three pillars that dominate the lodge are known as; Wisdom that constructs the Lodge; Beauty that Adorns the Lodge and Strength that supports it.

The Four Cardinal Virtues

Temperance Fortitude Prudence and Justice

Plus

The Three Fundamental Principles

Brotherly Love Relief and Truth

These are what a Freemason should strive to attain as these are the backbone of the Freemason's way of life.



The Masonic Apron

The operative Masons wear an apron to protect their clothes while at work and this apron was adopted by speculative Masons as the prime item of the Freemasons regalia. It is worn at all Lodge Meetings and as a Mason progresses through the craft he is entitled to wear a more elaborate designed apron which denotes his degree or the office attained.

The symbolism the apron presents to a freemason the significance of being clothed with such a badge and he must never disgrace it for it will never disgrace him and if a brother neglects such advice, he disgraces himself and not the apron.

Working Tools

The working tools of Operative Masons have a symbolic meaning for Speculative Freemasons and remind them of the principles of the Craft.

Some examples are as follows

The 24" gauge

The 24-in gauge represents the twenty-four hours of the day, part to be spent in prayer to Almighty God, part in labour and refreshment, and part in serving a friend or Brother in time of need.

The Square,

The Square reminds us to square our actions and teaches morality

The Level,

Reminds us we are all equal and that we are travelling upon that level of time toward that undiscovered country in the afterlife.

The Plumb Rule,

Reminds us to walk upright in our life and actions before God and man.

Other types of Masons

Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine or Shriners



Founded by Dr Walter M. Fleming in 1870 in New York, since 1920 the Shrine has been actively supporting what has become known as the "World's Greatest Philanthropy," Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Shriners are Masons who are distinguished by an enjoyment of life in the interest of philanthropy. The most noticeable symbol of the Shriner is the red fez that all Shriners wear at official functions. Shriners are Freemasons who enjoy parades, circuses, dances, sporting events and other social occasions together. As I have said Freemasonry stresses social responsibility and community involvement. Freemasons in North America contribute over two million dollars a day to charities such as children's hospitals, and burn units, with the beneficiaries often having no affiliation with Freemasonry. Not bad for an organization some call a boys club for grown men.

And lastly the words of two famous Freemasons you may have heard of.



King George 6th 1948

'I believe that a determination to maintain the values which have been the rock upon which the Masonic structure has stood firm against the storms of the past is the only policy which can be pursued in the future.

I think that warning needs emphasizing today, when men, sometimes swayed by sentimentality or an indiscriminate tolerance, are apt to overlook the lessons of the past. I cannot better impress this upon you than by quoting from the book on which many have all taken our Masonic obligations: "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set".



Harry S Truman, USA President

"We represent a fraternity which believes in justice and truth and honourable action in our community, men who are endeavouring to be better citizens, to make a great country greater. This is the only institution in the world where we can meet on the level all sorts of people who want to live right.

I have every degree in Masonry and if there are any secrets, I'm damned if I know them.

Although I hold the highest civil honour in the USA, I have always regarded my rank and title as a Past Grand Master of Masons the greatest honour that had ever come to me. I value it above all others because to be a Grand Master of Masons one must be more than a good public relations man—he must have a background based upon the noblest of principles, and he must bear the respect and esteem of the good men who make up the Craft."

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