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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE FORMATION AND PROGRESS OF

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M. No. 1. G. R. B. C.



READ AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE BI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, HELD IN MASONIC TEMPLE, VICTORIA, B. C. - - - - - - JUNE 8TH, 1917

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE FORMATION AND PROGRESS OF

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M. No. 1. G. R. B. C.

The history of Freemasonry in the Province of British Columbia is inseparable from the Records of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1.

Long before the present Grand Jurisdiction was established, Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was constituted under the authority of a Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of England, this memorable and auspicious event occurring on the 19th day of March, 1859.

It was the first Masonic Lodge to be constituted in these vast Western Domains, then known as New Caledonia and the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island, and which now form the present Province of British Columbia.

The Dominion of Canada was not yet formed, and the government of this country was in the hands of James Douglas, who was appointed by the British authorities.

Victoria was in a transition period of her history. Almost over night, the sleepy little back-woods trading post had been transformed into a city of tents and miners and adventurers from every part of the Western Hemisphere made their rendezvous on the flats at James Bay, and on either side of the Johnson Street ravine. Gold—that "Magic Talisman," had drawn them to Victoria, and it was among such surroundings, and in such exciting times, that Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was started on its Masonic journey.

The place of meeting was in a hall over Hibben & Carswell's stationery store on the south-east corner of Yates and

Langley Streets. The first W. Master of the Lodge was Joseph Johnston Southgate, who occupied that position for three years, and the following Charter Members were present at the first meeting of the Lodge:

J. J. Southgate, Geo. Perkes, W. Jeffreys, J. N. Thain, Kady Gambitz, Thomas Harris, L. Franklin, John T. Howard and Amor De Cosmos.

For nearly three years Victoria Lodge was the only Masonic Lodge in the country, but on December 16th, 1861, Union Lodge No. 1201, meeting in New Westminster, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of England.

Three years after the Constitution of Victoria Lodge some of its members and some un-affiliates of the Craft, were desirous of forming a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and accordingly an application dated April 1st, 1862, was received by Victoria Lodge No. 1085, from certain of its members and other Brethren, asking for a recommendation to the Grand Lodge of Scotland to entertain favorably their petition to form a Lodge to be called Vancouver Lodge No.....under that Grand Jurisdiction. At the regular monthly meeting of Victoria Lodge held on May 15th, 1862, the petition was read, and after some discussion, the following resolution was duly adopted:

"That the Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, cordially responds to the petition of the Brethren desirous of establishing a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but in doing so, they reserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the Colony, and they communicate this resolution to the Grand Lodge of England as a matter of record."

In due course Vancouver Lodge received its Charter, and was numbered 421 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and held its first meeting on October 20th, 1862.

Other Lodges were chartered in the following order: Nanaimo Lodge, British Columbia Lodge at Victoria, Bar-

kerville Lodge, Caledonia Lodge, Mt. Hermon Lodge, and Quadra Lodge at Victoria.

On September 29th, 1863, Victoria Lodge No. 1085, was renumbered as No. 783 on the Roll of Lodges on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, that Grand Body being desirous of filling in the vacant numbers on their Roll of Lodges.

In 1871 the present Grand Lodge of British Columbia was formed, and on March 7th, 1872, Victoria Lodge was formally placed on the Roll of the Grand Lodge as Victoria No. 1.

In 1874 was commenced a custom highly appreciated and esteemed as an honor by every member of No. 1 Lodge, that of having their officers installed by the Grand Master of the Province. This custom has been rarely broken and Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, as the Senior Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, now feels that it is an established privilege to have their officers so installed.

As already intimated British Columbia Lodge was constituted at Victoria July 26th, 1867, by authority of a Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of England and numbered 1187, and the first meeting was held October 24th, 1867.

It was the fifth Masonic Lodge to be formed in the Province.

The first Master of the Lodge was W. Bro. Thos. Harris, and the following ruled as W. Masters in the succeeding years.

1868.....Thos. Harris
1869.....N. Nathan, Jr.
1870.....Eli Harrison, Sr.
1871.....T. Shotbolt
1872.....John Winger
1873.....H. Brown
1874 .....Wm. Harrison
1875.....Thos. Trounce
1876..... Geo. Thomson
1877.....T. R. Mitchell

On the formation of the Grand Lodge of B. C., British Columbia Lodge was registered as No. 5 on the Roll of that Grand Jurisdiction and continued to work as such until its amalgamation with Victoria Lodge in 1877.

April 3rd, 1877, was a "Red Letter Day" in the annals of Victoria and British Columbia Lodges, for at an Emer-

gency Meeting held by Victoria Lodge on the evening of that day, presided over by W. Bro. Mat. Coates, the following transaction is recorded in the minutes:

"The British Columbia Lodge No. 5, having previously opened their Regular Monthly Meeting, was now admitted and the two Lodges were merged into one, called Victoria-Columbia No. 1, and the minutes were taken by the Secretary of the New Lodge."

Immediately afterwards the officers of the newly amalgamated Lodges were installed by the Most W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of B. C., Most W. Bro. F. Williams, W. Bro. Mat. Coates being installed as W. Master, Bro. J. C. Bales as S. W., Bro. W. Harrison as J.W., and Bro. C. C. McKenzie as Secretary. Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, consequently passed the 40th milestone on its Masonic journey, under its present constitution, on April 3rd last.

Many distinguished Brethren have filled the office of W. Master in No. 1 Lodge since its inception. Time does not suffice to make an extended reference to each Brother, but the following mentioned Brethren have occupied the W. Master's Chair from 1859 to the present year:

1859 Joseph Johnston Southgate
1860 Joseph Johnston Southgate
1861 Joseph Johnston Southgate
1862.....George Pearkes
1863.....Robert Burnaby
1864.....Thomas Harris
1865.....Robert Burnaby
1866.....Lumley Franklin
1867.....Richard Lewis
1868.....J. F. McCreight
1869.....S. W. Blackbourne
1870.....Henry Nathan
1871.....Cornelius Thorne
1872.....Vincent Ragazzeni
1873.....Fred Williams
1874.....Fred Williams
1875.....John Weiler
1876.....W. T. Livock
1877.....Matthew Coates
1878.....T. R. Mitchell
1879.....E. Crow Baker
1880.....John Teague
1881.....John Teague
1882.....John Teague
1883.....James Miller
1884.....C. C. McKenzie
1885.....E. J. Salmon
1886.....D. Cartmel
1887.....John Piercy
1888.....W. W. Northcott
1889.....Geo. S. Russell
1890.....Thos. B. Pearson
1891.....W. J. Quinlan
1892.....Benjamin Williams
1893.....Arthur St. G. Flint
1894.....Benjamin S. Oddy
1895.....Arthur L. Belyea
1896.....Harry L. Salmon
1897.....Dr. W. A. Richardson
1898.....Alex. Stewart
1899.....Robert E. Brett
1900.....C. Dubois Mason
1901.....John W. Crocker
1902.....Peter J. Riddell
1903.....Samuel W. Edwards
1904.....W. K. Houston
1905.....Gilbert D. Christie
1906.....James H. Greer
1907.....W. H. F. Richdale
1908.....Dr. G. L. Milne
1909.....J. F. Sallaway
1910.....Andrew F. Forbes
1911.....Stephen Jones
1912.....John R. Saunders
1913.....R. Ford Verrinder
1914.....Ailan S. Ashwell
1915.....Duncan B. McLearn
1916.....John Minto
1917.....Albert A. Belbeck

Some reached distinguished positions in the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and Victoria-Columbia No. 1 has been honored in the selection of the following mentioned members of the Lodge to fill the office of Grand Master of Masons in British Columbia:

1876-77.....Fred Williams
1878-79-80.....Eli Harrison, Sr.
1882.....H. Brown
1883-84.....E. Crow Baker
1885.....Thos. Trounce
1890.....Angus McKeown
1908.....W. K. Houston
1913.....William Henderson

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, through its intimate connection with the old Victoria Lodge, may justly be deemed to be the cradle of organized Freemasonry in British Columbia.

Oldest in point of seniority, it still endeavors to maintain the traditions of the past and combine them with the needs of the present day, and so long as the light of Freemasonry shines in this far-flung outpost of the British Empire, Victoria-Columbia No. 1, will ever be found maintaining the principles of Freemasonry, pure and unsullied, and, by precept and example, its members will ever endeavor to uphold the honor and dignity of our ancient Craft.

NOTES ON THE
BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
HELD IN VICTORIA, B. C.
JUNE 8TH, - - - 1917

The Bi-centennial anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of England, A.F. and A.M. was celebrated in Victoria, B.C., on June 8th, 1917, at the Masonic Temple, under the auspices of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 49.

It was the only function of the kind held in the Province, and was participated in by the following lodges: Victoria-Columbia No. 1, A. A. Belbeck, W.M.; Vancouver-Quadra No. 2, W. P. Marchant, W.M.; United Service No. 24, W. E. McIntyre, W.M.; Temple No. 33, James Greig, W.M.; St. Andrew's No. 49, E. J. Hearn, W.M.; Camosun No. 60, Ernest Fairey, W.M.; Britannia No. 73, J. W. Edwards, W.M.

The introductory address and welcome was given by Right Worshipful Brother Stephen Jones, D.D.G.M., District No. 1, G.R.B.C. A historical sketch of Masonry from its earliest records to the revival in 1717 was delivered by Most Worshipful Bro. E. B. Paul, Past Grand Master of British Columbia, an address on the revival of 1717, and the history and progress of Freemasonry to the present time was given by Most Worshipful Brother William Astley, Grand Master of British Columbia, and other short addresses dealt with the history and formation and institution of the lodges of No. 1 District.

On behalf of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, the Historical Sketch printed in this Brochure, was read by Most Worshipful Bro. Angus McKeown, P.G.M.

The following details of the attendance on this occasion may prove interesting to the Brethren:

There were 467 seats available, in addition to which a number found accommodation on the steps, etc., so a conservative estimate of the attendance would be 480.

Owing to the unprecedented attendance, the facilities for signing the porch book proved inadequate, and only 348 members signed. In this number, it is found that 65 different Lodges scattered over the four quarters of the globe were represented, including 24 Lodges under B.C. Registry, viz., Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 27, 33, 34, 41, 45, 48, 49, 56, 57, 60, 62, 68, and 73.

With the exception of No. 79, every Lodge in Districts No. 1 and No. 5 was represented. Seventy-three Masters and Past Masters were in attendance, including the M.W.G.M., four P.G.M.'s, S.G.W., J.G.W., S.G.D., G. Organist, and one G.S.

The attendance from the constituent Lodges of District No. 1 was as follows:

No. 1.	80	No. 33	9
No. 2	77	No. 49	26
No. 24	21	No. 60	29
No. 73	38		

Had the record of the whole attendance been available, the showing would have been more remarkable.

The above statistics of attendance at the meeting were prepared by W. Bro. E. C. Hayward, Secretary of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 49.

ROLL OF MEMBERS

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M. No. 1. G. R. B. C.

JUNE 1917

Ager, G. S.
Allen, E. P.
Angus, J. K.
Armstrong, W. H.
Ashwell, A.S., P.M.
Austin, H. M.
Anderson, J. S.
Alexander, W. C.
Atwell, F. T.
Amphlett, H.
Brett, R. E., P.G.S.
Belbeck, A. A., W.M.
Blackwood, E. E.
Barnes, Chas.
Brown, Thos. H.
Brown, Douglas
Bradley, E. W.
Bruce, C. T.
Bishop, H. F.
Battersby, J. G.
Burns, K. J.
Bassett, W. P.
Battersby, W. H.
Bird, A. H.
Brown, Walter G.
Bugslag, Peter
Baker, E. Crow, P.C.M.
Baxter, C. S.
Barlow, W. G.
Bowden, John L.
Burnett, Archibald
Brown, Geo. Wm.
Brown, Walter Graham
Berrett, G. W.
Barlow, J. M. R.
Black, Robert
Boulton, John T.
Bankes, S. F.
Boulton, Thos. C.
Bailey, Henry C.
Booz, Thos.
Bryant, Frank M.
Croft, Henry
Campbell, Danl.
Courtney, Geo. L.
Crocker, John W., P.M.

Clarke, Hardress
Carse, Wm.
Christie, G. D., P.M.
Curtin, A.
Cuzner, M. W.
Crocker, S. L.
Crocker, A. H.
Cliff, Geo.
Cullin, Fred A.
Cummings, R. W.
Cowden, Thos.
Crump, Joseph
Cathcart, Wm.
Clark, Stewart G.
Collie, R. R.
Draney, Robert
Dean, John
Danby, W. H.
Davey, John
Dunn, K. G.
Duncan, A.
Dockings, W.
Dobie, W. H.
Davis, Thos.
Drake, Samuel J.
Dandridge, A. H.
Dey, Wm.
Davie, H. A., P.M.
Davidson, Daniel
Davie, Frederick
Deans, Geo.
Duckett, Louis
Denholme, John R.
Durbridge, A. J. W.
Edwards, S. W., P.M.
Esnouf, R. B.
Elliott, J. G.
Elliott, Alex. W.
Edwards, W. J.
Evans, David M.
Exham, F. R.
Flint, F. St. G., P.M.
Fraser, R. L.
Flummerfelt, A. C.
Frost, W. A.
Fowler, David, P.M.

Forster, John G.
Ferguson, Peter
Greenhalgh, Samuel
Gilchrist, W. L.
Gordon, Wm.
Gutmann, M.
Greenwood, A. E.
Going, A. S.
Gordon, Peter
Greer, Jas. H., P.M.
Gidley, Jas. W.
Griffith, H. S.
Garrett, B. C.
Gowen, F. A.
Godfrey, Alfred H.
Galt, Wm.
Grant, B. W.
Grant, Jas. Fred
Henderson, Wm., P.G.M.
Hawkins, T. W. C.
Hollins, J. M.
Hobbs, F. V.
Hannah, W. J.
Hewitt, A. N.
Howes, W.
Hanson, R. E.
Hawes, G. J.
Hunter, R. A.
Hands, Jonathan
Handley, W. H.
Hooper, Francis
Hitiiger, Fritz
Halkett, Gordon
Hall, G. A. B., P.M.
Hood, George
Hammond, John
Homer, Stephen
Hastings, Thos.
Hulke, Walter B.
Hind, E. W.
Hopper, Chas. W.
Hill, Robert
Harrison, Robert
Ironside, M. G.
Jeffcott, John Edw.
Jones, D. L.
Jones, Stephen, P.M.
Jones, Richard
Jones, A. McNab
Jones, Robert R.
Jackson, Henry B.
Jones, John
Ker, David R.
Lee, Norman T.
Langley, E.
Lindsay, J. A.
Lewis, Geo.
Lawrie, S.

Lloyd, John L.
Le Page, J. H.
Little, P. R.
Low, Vivian
Lovell, F. R.
Lynn, Varnor
Lennox, Joseph W.
Leask, Cleveland S.
Leigh, John L.
Minto, John, P.M.
Mesher, G. C.
Mason, C. Dubois, P.M.
MacDonald, John Hugh
Milne, G. L., P.M.
Munn, H. A.
Mable, W. J.
Murray, William
Moon, Frank H.
Moffat, Thos.
Merryfield, G. S.
Michell, Geo. T.
Moore, Ivan M.
Mardell, G. W. W.
Mowat, D. S.
McKeown, Angus, P.G.M
MacPherson, John D.
Mermod, Willie
Moir, Geo. B.
Mason, Robert
Menzies, Wm. R.
Middleton, Wm.
Morrison, Thos. E.
MacDonald, Geo. A.
MacKenzie, Robert B.
Marshall, James
Miller, Joseph E., P.M.
Meston, W. McKenzie
McCahill, M.
McCandless, A.
McKenzie, W. G.
McTavish, G. S.
McKilligan, J. B.
McNivin, A.
McCoskrie, Edw.
McArthur, James
McIntosh, J. McL.
McLaren, D. B., P.M.
Macabe, T. B.
McDonald, J. D.
McPherson, T. S., P.M.
McGraw, John
McOrmond, Samuel
McKenzie, Alex.
Northcott Sr.,W. W., P.M
North, Fletcher
Nickerson, Chas.
Northcott, Jr., W. W.
Oddy, B. S., P.M.

Owen, F. I. M.
O'Neill, John
O'Neill, Walter
O'Neill, Wm.
Pearson, T. B., P.M.
Pennock, W. H.
Preece, Thos.
Perdue, G. M.
Payne, G. T.
Porter, R. J.
Peiser, K. K.
Palmer, R. M.
Piercy, John, P.M.
Porter, H. A.
Parkinson, Geo.
Porter, G. A.
Peden, Alex.
Peden, Robert
Poole, Walter
Pineo, Holmes D.
Phillips, Jas. W.
Prescott, Claude
Palmer, Thos. R.
Purdy, Reginald H.
Pettingell, Benj. C.
Russell, Geo. S., P.M.
Robinson, J. J.
Ridgeman, A. H.
Robson, F.
Richardson, W. A., P.M.
Richards, Oliver
Riddell, P. J., P.M.
Rostein, J.
Richdale, J. H.
Richdale, W.H.F., P.M.
Richards, E. E.
Ritchie, J. Fred.
Richardson, Fred
Robertson, H. M.
Rogers, J. W.
Roberts, Thos.
Rennie, W. J.
Ritchie, John
Rombough, Alex A.
Renouf, Joseph
Robinson, Arthur
Robertson, G. E. L.
Roff, Robert
Robertson, D. S.
Richmond, James
Robinson, James
Rainey, Samuel
Rowlands, Wm. H.
Rogers, O. H. P.
Renton, Thos. F.
Robinson, Theo. H.
Rowlands, Wm. U.
Richards, Jr., Oliver
Salmon, E. J., P.M.
Shotbolt, Thos., P.M.
Shaw, W. H.
Salmon, H. L., P.M.
Stewart, Alex., P.M.
Sinclair, Robt.
Swinerton, R. H.
Speed, J. W.
Sheret, Andrew
Sallaway, J. F., P.M.
Schaper, E.
Stewart, Wm.
Stevenson, F. W.
Schell, J. E.
Saunders, J. R., P.M.
Sallaway, H. M.
Skeene, J. L.
Sharp, Kendrick, P.M.
Stephenson, Thos.
Stanton, Herbert
Sturgess, T. M., P.M.
Scott, W. T.
Spencer, Samuel, P.M.
Smith, W. J.
Sherwood, A. R.
Smith, Robt. M., P.M.
Sewell, Edward F.
Shields, J. M.
Saunders, Geo. H.
Stamford, J. L.
Shade, Herman H.
Songhurst, John W.
Stevenson, Thos. L.
Smith, Hiram Isaac
Shields, Albert Roy
Stevenson, Geo.
Sylvester, Jesse
Todd, Eric. W.
Taylor, R. R.
Trickey, Wm.
Tulk, C. J.
Townsend, N. F.
Toneri, P. E.
Tubman, Thos.
Tumilty, J.
Tripp, G. M.
Taylor, F. J.
Tennant, E. J.
Turner, John A., P.M.
Thomson, Wm.
Thompson, J. W.
Thompson, F. A.
Verinder, R. Ford, P.M.
Whittaker, W.
Wenger, J.
Williams, W. T.
Wilkes, John
Wenger, C.
Wood, J. S.
Welch, H. H.
Wilders, C.
Walsh, John, P.M.
Wilson, Sr., Alex.
Ward, Albert W.
Wriglesworth, W. J.
Wilby, James
Ward, Septimus
Wilson, Jr., Alex.
Wood, J. T.
Willis, Fred. A.
Wright, Fred. D.
Williscroft, W. A.
Walsh, Arthur R.
Winslow, Roy M.
Witmer, A. M.

FELLOWCRAFTS

Davies, D. W.
Dunn, Robt.
Holden, Osbern
Robertson, D. C.
Sayers, A. E.
Unternaher, John
Williams, W. H.

ENTERED APPRENTICES

Heald, Sidney J.
Davidson, A. A.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M., No. 1, G. R. B. C.

OFFICERS FOR 1917

W. BRO. A. A. BELBECK.....W.M.
W. BRO. JOHN MINTO.....I.P.M.
Bro. E. P. Allen.....Senior Warden
Bro. T. W. C. Hawkins....Junior Warden
M.W. Bro. Wm. Henderson.....Treasurer
W. Bro. A. St. George Flint Secretary
M.W. Bro. Angus McKeown.. ..Chaplain
Bro. Eric D. Todd.....Senior Deacon
Bro. Norman T. Lee.....Junior Deacon
Bro. R. R. Taylor.....Inner Guard
W. Bro. S. W. Edwards.....Dir. of Cer.
Bro. C. W. Heaton.....Organist
Bro. C. Nickerson.....Senior Steward
Bro. D. S. Robertson.....Junior Steward
Bro. Fritz Hilliger.....Tyler
V.W. Bro. R. E. Brett.....
Bro. W. Gordon..... } Auditors

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