

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

### Capitular Masonry in Orillia

The early history of Capitular Masonry in Orillia is an intensely interesting study, dealing as it does with events long since forgotten, and bringing into remembrance names of men once prominent in the life and progress of Orillia, but who, having well and truly served their day, have passed on.

At the outset permit me to express my sincere appreciation to the honour you have done me in asking me to prepare this sketch. I have found it difficult to keep within reasonable compass. Much more might have been written, but I have endeavoured to avoid the commonplace and give only some outstanding facts of historical interest.

This sketch deals with the institution of two Chapters, that of Signet, No. 34 and Couchiching Chapter, No. 198.

Freemasonry was organized in Orillia, July 9, 1867, when Orillia Lodge, No. 192, A., F.&A.M., G.R.C., was instituted. The brethren were zealous in their labours, and seeking further light in Masonry, within two years petitioned the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Canada, asking for a dispensation to organize a Chapter in Orillia.

#### "MOUNT HOREB" ORIGINAL NAME

Early in the year 1869, Dr. Robert Ramsay and others applied through Rt. Ex. Comp. T. D. Harris, Grand Scribe E. to Most Excellent the Grand First Principal, Thomas Douglas Harrington, for permission to open and work a Chapter in Orillia to be named Mount Horeb. Dr. Robert Ramsay was Worshipful Master of Orillia Lodge A., F.&A.M. in 1870, and was recognized throughout the jurisdiction, having also a reputation internationally, as an eminent Mason. He was skillful with his pen and was a regular contributor to the Masonic Newspaper, published at New York, and other craft periodicals of that time, some of his writings being preserved in the library of Orillia Lodge.

On March 8, 1869, the Most Excellent, the Grand Z., was pleased to grant the dispensation asked for, and the following were named as Charter members:

Robert Ramsay, Orillia	Charles Sidney Meeking, Barrie
Andrew Moffatt, Orillia	Alfred Arnall, Barrie
Charles Corbould, Orillia	Daniel Crew, Barrie
Michael Henry Spencer, Barrie	Joseph Anderson, Barrie
Robert King, Barrie	Alexander B. McPhee, Barrie

The three Principals were to be Robert Ramsay Z.; M. H. Spencer, H.; Robert King, J. These officers were installed at Manitou Chapter, No. 27, Collingwood, by Right Ex. Comp. H. Robertson, G.P.S., C. D. Macdonnell, P.G.H., and Ex. Comp. J. Nettleton, P.Z. Comps. M.H. Spencer and Robert King were at the time members of Manitou Chapter.

Mount Horeb Chapter never worked under dispensation in Orillia, owing to the fact that the First Principal, Ex. Comp. Ramsay, was in California from the time of the issuance of the

dispensation till close upon the annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in 1869. At that Convocation, the Grand Z., in his address, mentioned that he had granted the dispensation, and Right Ex. Comp. William McCabe, Superintendent of the Toronto and Ontario District, recommended that a warrant be granted and that the name be changed to SIGNET CHAPTER, all of which, after the due examination of the First Principal, Ex. Comp. Ramsay was duly granted and issued.

#### WARRANT FOR SIGNET CHAPTER

The warrant for Signet Chapter, No. 34, bears the date August 10, 1869, and this interesting parchment may be adorning the Lodge room in the Masonic Temple, Barrie. The officers named in the dispensation issued in March were confirmed and authorized to carry on the work of Signet chapter No. 34, in Orillia.

It is not generally known that Signet Chapter, which has so ably carried on work in Barrie since the year 1880, was originally instituted in Orillia and functioned here from August 1869 to January 1880. Fortunately the Minute books were to Barrie when the transfer from Orillia to Barrie was made by authority of Grand Chapter, and these have been carefully preserved.

The first regular convocation of Signet Chapter, No. 34, was held in the Masonic Hall, Orillia, at 11 a.m. August 18, 1869. The Grand Third Principal, Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry Robertson; the District Superintendent, Rt. Ex. Comp. Thomas Sargant, and Excellent Companions from Manitou Chapter were present, and assisted in the institution of Signet Chapter. Seventeen candidates were duly received and advanced to the honorary degrees of Mark Master, Past Master Mason, Most Excellent Master and the Holy Royal Arch. It will be noted that there were four parts to the exaltation at that time, instead of the three, as now.

**Note: the Degree of the Past Master Mason was continued in Signet Chapter after it was moved to Barrie, and the last record of its being conferred is dated June 12, 1894: "Past Master Lodge opened at 9:25 p.m. and Bro. Henry Harper was raised to the Degree of a Past Master, and seated in the Oriental Chair of King Solomon. The degree was conferred by Ex. Comp. W.J. Hallett."**

**In the proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Grand Chapter, held at Hamilton, July 20, 1894, it is recorded: "A very interesting debate with respect to the work resulted in the elimination of the most of the Past Master's degree, allowing only for the reception of the candidate, obligation, and the communication of the secrets and the explanation thereof." The year following the degree of Past Master Mason was dropped.**

The Chapter was closed at 10 p.m. having continued all day. At the September convocation of Signet Chapter, draft by-laws were submitted. These provided among other things for regular meetings to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, and on the festival of St. John the Evangelist, at 7 p.m. "The fees for the degrees shall be \$20.00 payable in advance, and there shall be no annual dues." Election for exaltation depended upon the ballot being found perfectly clear. In August 1875, it was found necessary to amend the by-laws, fixing annual dues at \$2.00, payable in quarterly instalments.

During the year 1870 sixteen brethren were received and exalted, and one companion was received for affiliation. On St. John's Day V. Ex. Comp. Robert Ramsay was presented with a beautiful gold Past Z's jewel.

Nine members were given the Degrees in 1871. \$25.00 was voted to Seymour Chapter, at Bradford, which lost all its furniture by fire. Seven brethren were given Degrees in 1872.

Dr. Johnson Ardagh was elected First Principal for the year 1873, but the Grand Z., vetoed the appointment, as he had never sat in the East in a Blue Lodge, which apparently was a requirement of Grand Chapter Constitution at that time. The Grand Z. sets forth his reasons in a lengthy and sympathetic letter, which still remains.

**(Note: The requirement that the First Principal should be Installed Master of a Regular Lodge, was removed by Grand Chapter at its Convocation at Windsor, July, 1886.)**

The first break in ranks of Signet Chapter occurred in August 1874, and was caused by the death of Ex. Comp. T.S. Atkinson, a Past First Principal, The Companions attended the funeral on September 1, in full Royal Arch regalia.

The recorded minutes show that Signet Chapter, Orillia, continued to meet with more or less regularity until February 4, 1879. At this meeting Thomas Beadon Newton was installed as First Principal, a dispensation having been received from the Grand Z. granting permission, notwithstanding the fact that Ex. Comp. Newton had never filled the office of Worshipful Master in a Blue Lodge.

During 1879 three Councils of Past First Principals were held, the last being dated October 21, 1879, but no regular Chapter meetings were recorded in that year. Business was transacted at all these Council meetings, but nothing was said concerning the transfer of Signet Chapter to Barrie.

The Grand Chapter met at Guelph, August 13, 1879, and the Proceedings show that James Wilson, Grand Superintendent for Toronto District, reported as follows: "I had made arrangement to visit Signet Chapter No. 34, Orillia, but was informed by the Excellent Z. that owing to differences existing between some of the brethren they could not get a meeting." This communication contained no admission as to the nature of the differences, and I have received no information as to them. I trust, however, that they have succeeded in getting a "meeting" and smoothing over their differences.

The following extract is from the proceedings of Grand Chapter, held at Guelph, July 16, 1880.

Report of the Grand Superintendent of Toronto District, James B. Nixon:

"On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January I received an application from the Officers and Companions of Signet Chapter, No. 34, formerly of Orillia, for permission to remove to the town of Barrie. Believing it would further the interests of the Chapter, I readily consented to grant permission, the more willingly from the fact that the Grand Z. (Most Ex. Comp. D.F. MacWatt) being a resident of Barrie, I felt assured he would do all in his power to further its interest. My expectations have been fully realized, as the chapter is now in first-class condition and doing good work under the able management of Ex. Comp. J. McL. Stephenson, Z., M.H. Spencer, H. and Robert King, J."

The members in good standing at the time of the transfer were as follows:

Bolster, George Ives	Thomson, Augustus Clifford	World, John
Ramsay, William	Dulmage, Augustus F.	Mainer, Robert
Jupp, James Richard	Bingham, Wesley	Newton, Thomas Beadon

McInnes, Charles	Madden, Christopher H.	Francis, W.
Empey, Archibald Middleton	Rutherford, John	Ramsay, Robert
Stein, Robert	Currie, William Mark	Anderson, Joseph
Alport, Edward Bishop	Smith, Theodore A.	McPhee, Alexander B.
Berry, George	Humme, Julius	Kelsey, William
Todd, James H.	Alport, Augustus J.	Ardagh, Johnson A.
Thompson, John Boyd	Cozzens, Robert H.	

The First Principals of Signet Chapter during the years it functioned in Orillia were:

1869 - Robert Ramsay	1873 - Robert Ramsay	1877 - A. J. Alport
1870 - C. S. Elliot	1874 - Robert Ramsay	1878 - E. B. Alport
1871 - Thos. S. Atkinson	1875 - C. S. Elliot	1879 - T. B. Newton
1872 - G. H. Corbett	1876 - G. H. Corbett	

#### COUCHICHING CHAPTER INSTITUTED

One of the earliest and most profound facts to the initiate in Masonry is the universality of the science. Wherever men have gone into the four quarters of the habitable globe, there now will be found Masonry in principle and practice. The sun is always at its meridian as far as Masonry is concerned. While Capitular Masonry lay dormant in Orillia for a number of years after the transfer of Signet Chapter, it only required the determination of a few kindred spirits to rekindle the torch and hold it high for the guidance of all lovers of truth, order and beauty.

In the year 1913 there were two score or more zealous Companions living in Orillia, and these, largely on the initiative of a few others who came from active Chapters about this time to make Orillia their home, met, and decided to apply to Grand Chapter for a dispensation to organize and institute a new Chapter in Orillia.

It may not be out of place to mention here some of those who were primarily interested in the work of the organization, all of whom in due course served as Officers in the new Chapter:

W. H. Bennett, Lorne Chapter No. 164, West Lorne

P. S. Rombough, St. Francis Chapter No. 133, Smith Falls

W. A. Baldwin, St. Francis Chapter No. 133, Smith Falls

F. S. Lewis, King Edward Chapter No. 136, Neepawa

A preliminary meeting was held in the Masonic Hall (corner of Mississauga and Peter Streets) Monday evening, December 8, 1913 with the following present; Ex. Comps. P. S. Rombough, W. A. Baldwin, J. T. Lillie; Companions W. H. Bennett, W. H. Tudhope, Geo. Rapley, E. Long, H. Parsons, F. S. Lewis, J. T. Berry, C. R. McIntosh, W. J. O'Brien, A. H. McLean, E. R. Eaton, H. M. Jupp, D. C. Thompson, N. B. McAulay, C. Holding, J. Preece, E. A. Wood, A. F. Cooper, H. M. Black, T.C. Doidge, R. Mainer.

W. H. Bennett, was asked to preside, and T.C. Doidge to act as Secretary. It was resolved that application should be made to Grand Chapter for dispensation to institute a Chapter, and the following Officers were duly elected as Principals.

W. H. Bennett, Z.

W. H. Tudhope, H.

H. Parsons, J.

It was agreed that the Chapter should be designated Couchiching Chapter, and that the regular meetings should be held on the third Friday of each month. The offer of Orillia Lodge, A., F & A. M., for use of Lodge rooms, included light and heat for one year, \$50.00, was accepted.

Superstition has no place in the science of Masonry, nor are Masons given to old wives' fables. The organization meeting was held in the closing month of the year 1913, and the meeting for institution and installation was held on a Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, two months later.

Friday, February 13, 1914, Couchiching Chapter, No. 198 met and was opened at 2 p.m. in the Royal Arch Degree, by Excellent Companions of Signet Chapter, No. 34, Barrie. The District Grand Superintendent, Rt. Ex. Comp. Fred Otton, assisted by Rt. Ex. Comp. Alex. Cowan, and other distinguished Companions, members of Signet Chapter, proceeded with the institution of the new Chapter.

The Dispensation granted by the Grand Z., Most Excellent Companion Fred W. Harcourt, K. C., was read. It authorized Couchiching Chapter, No. 198, to work the Degrees of Mark Master Mason, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch, "and to transact such other business as is provided in the constitution."

The following were installed as Officers of the Chapter:

Ex. Comp. P. S. Rombough, I. P. Z.

Ex. Comp. W. H. Bennett, Z.

Ex. Comp. W. H. Tudhope, H.

Ex. Comp. H. Parsons, J.

Companion W. J. O'Brien, Scribe E.

Companion G. Rapley, Scribe N.

Companion H. M. Black, Prin. Soj.

Companion F. S. Lewis, Sr. Soj.

Companion M. D. Tudhope, Jr. Soj.

Ex. Comp. W. A. Baldwin, M. of Cer.

Companion E. A. Wood, Treas.

Companion J. McBeth, Janitor

The Excellent First Principal appointed the following Officers:

Master of the 4<sup>th</sup> Veil. Comp. G. Rapley

Master of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Veil Comp. D. C. Thomson

Master of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Veil, Comp. C. S. Wainwright

Master of the 1<sup>st</sup> Veil Comp. H. M. Jupp

The application for a Charter was signed by the following; Ex. Comp. P. S. Rombough, Ex. Comp. W. H. Bennett, Ex. Comp. W. H. Tudhope, Ex. Comp. H. Parsons, Ex. Comp. W. A. Baldwin, Ex. Comp. J. T. Lillie, Ex. Comp. A. McClellan, and by Companions W. J. O'Brien, G. Rapley, H. M. Black, F. S. Lewis, M. B. Tudhope, E. A. Wood, D. C. Thomson, C. S. Wainwright, H. M. Jupp, A. H. McLean, T. C. Doidge, N. B. McAuley, C. R. McIntosh, J. T. Berry, D. A. MacNab, E. R. Eaton, J. B. Tudhope, W. O. Tudhope, A. E. Ardagh, W. C. Gilchrist, H. R. Tudhope, Samuel Hill, E. Long, H. J. Thompson, W. A. Fisher, A. F. Cooper, F. W. McIntosh, D. McDonald, J. Preece, J. T. Heath, J. C. Miller, T. Phillips, J. D. white, R. Mainer.

Since its institution in 1914 Couchiching Chapter has made steady progress, and today is one of the most flourishing Chapters in Georgian District. There has been steady growth in membership year by year, the largest number exalted in any one year being 21 in 1920. The Chapter has weathered the economic depression of the past four or five years, and the last report to Grand Chapter, dated November 30, 1934, shows the number on the roll to be 138, six of whom are life members.

Better than numerical growth is the fact the Degree work is exceptionally well exemplified, largely due to the fact the Chapter has consistently elected responsible men to Office, and these have been diligent in the discharge of the duties entrusted to them.

#### INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

Article 23 of the By-laws provides for the permanent investment of all monies received from the Life Membership and certain other funds. It is gratifying to note that at this date (1936) the Chapter has invested the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900.00), in Dominion of Canada bonds bearing 5 per cent interest. By 1957 this had grown to \$4,000.00.

#### SOME HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Four Grand First Principals have honoured Couchiching Chapter with official or fraternal visits. The first of these was the Most Ex. Comp. W. R. Murch, in 1916. Most Ex. Comp. K. J. C. Dunstan was here on two occasions. A brief fraternal visit, March 11, 1927, and again at the dedication of the Chapter rooms, September 9, in the same year. Most ex. Comp. C. W. Haentschel was here in 1933, and Most Ex. Comp. Alex Cowan Grand Z. 1934, has visited and assisted our Chapter on many occasions.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry T. Smith, for many years Grand Scribe E., was elected a honorary member of Couchiching Chapter, March 15, 1920. He installed the Officers and assisted the Chapter on occasion in many other ways. When he passed to the Grand Chapter Above, in May 1929, an appropriate minute of appreciation of his noble character was ordered spread on the minutes of this Chapter.

During the remodeling of the Masonic Temple building, the old Roger's Block, in 1926-27, the Chapter held it's Convocations in the Oddfellows' Lodge rooms, Hatley's Block. The new quarters in the Temple building are beautiful in design, commodious and comfortable. Dedication of the new Chapter rooms took place September 9, 1927, the Chapter convening at 4:45 p.m. The following Grand chapter Officers were present and conducted the impressive ceremonies of Dedication, several of the visiting Past Z's also assisting:

Most Ex. Comp. K. J. C. Dunstan, Grand Z.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Walter J. Price, Grand T.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry T. Smith, Grand Scribe E.

Rt. Ex. Comp. R. E. Robertson, District Grand Supt.

Rt. Ex. Comp. J. T. Andrews, Past D. G. S.

Rt. Ex. Comp. W. H. Whipps, Past D. G. S.

The Chapter was closed at 5:50 p.m., and a banquet was served at St. Paul's church banquet room at 6:30. The ladies were privileged to attend, and a good toast line and entertainment followed the dinner. The principal speakers were the Grand Chapter officers.

From time to time other notable social functions have been held. Among them might be mentioned one at Orchard Point Inn, September 8, 1922. A large delegation from Kichikewana Chapter, Midland, was present, and the visiting Companions conferred the Royal Arch degree at the Convocation held in the Chapter rooms later in the evening. A picnic was held at Delmonte-in-the-Pines, Sparrow Lake, July 10, 1929, with tea served in the Pavilion after an afternoon programme of sport.

Every year there have been fraternal visits between Chapters in the District, but it is noteworthy that the Companions of St. Andrew and St. John Chapter, Toronto, visited our Chapter, October 14, 1921. After work in the Royal Arch degree, banquet was held at the Orillia House. The Officers and members of Pentalpha Chapter, Oshawa, visited Couchiching Chapter, October 22, 1924. Later on a return visit was made to Oshawa.

An Emergent Convocation was held in the Chapter rooms, on Sunday afternoon, Oct 20, 1929, when Comp. Rev. J. A. MacInnis delivered an address from the text, "The Lord is in holy temple, let all earth keep silence before Him." There was also special music, suitable for the occasion.

During the years of the Great War the Chapter contributed to the Red Cross work and other Patriotic funds, and at each Christmas season since Couchiching Chapter was instituted donations have been made to Hospital and other community services.

The excellent practice of presenting a Past Z's Jewel to the retiring First Principal has been consistently carried out each year since the inception of the Chapter, and in every case the honour has been worthily bestowed.

One of the red-letter days in the history of Couchiching Chapter, was March, 8, 1920. Rt. Ex. Comp. Henry T. Smith, of Toronto, Grand Scribe E., Installed the Officers, and an address was given on "Our Empire,- India" by Comp. the Rev. F. E. Malott, B.A, B. D. An illustrated souvenir booklet was issued, containing the portraits of the speaker and Installing Officer of the evening; also portrait of Rt. Ex. Comp. W. H. Tudhope, District Superintendent; the Installed Principal, Ex. Comp. C. R. McIntosh, Z.; Ex. Comp. W. C. Patmore, H.; Ex. Comp. H. S. Fenton, J.; and the Past Principals, Ex. Comp. D. H. McGill, I. P. Z.; Ex. Comp. C. S. Wainwright, D. C. and V. Ex. Comp. F. S. Lewis. At this convocation eight petitions for membership were balloted on; the by-laws were amended changing the night of meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month; the fee of Exaltation was fixed at \$25.00; and Rt. Ex. Comp. Smith was elected an Honourary member.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

The 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Couchiching Chapter was celebrated on Monday evening, February 11, 1935. A birthday party was held at Carter's to which 120 sat down, the Companions being accompanied by their ladies. A large birthday cake decorated with the Chapter emblem graced the head table. Ex. Comp. Frank A. Hutchinson, Z., presided as toastmaster, and the speaker of the evening was Rt. Ex. Comp. Geo. L. Gardiner, of Toronto, who a few weeks later was elected Grand Z., at the annual convocation of Grand Chapter.

The customary toasts were proposed and responded to; there was an entertaining programme of music and humorous skits, and after the banquet while the floor was being cleared for dancing, a visit to the Chapter rooms was made, where the ladies had the pleasure of seeing the beautiful appointments and furniture.

#### WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Having attained its majority, Couchiching Chapter may well look back with pride on its past. The future may be equally fruitful and brilliant if the same diligence is given to the selection of candidates for exaltation and equal care in the appointment of officers. Perhaps the most important meeting in the year is that on which the officers for the ensuing term are elected. Every Companion should exercise his prerogative, and having done so, should stand loyally behind those elected and give that support without which the Chapter cannot make the progress it should. It is every Mason's duty to seek further light, and Companions may well help their brethren in their researches to find the genuine secrets which were lost.

That great father and apostle in Masonry, Most Excellent Companion the late John Ross Robertson, speaking at Grand Chapter, once said: "The Royal Arch is the real summit of the true Mason's journey.... It follows in the van of the primal degrees, and is the living impersonation and the recognized terminus of all that is legitimate in Masonry, that has been handed down by our fathers of the Craft."

#### AFFILIATION OF GRAND RIVER CHAPTER

Since writing the above historical sketch of Couchiching Chapter, Grand River Chapter, of Bracebridge, Ontario, applied for the affiliation of its members, early in the year 1936, and therefore to make this sketch complete I am including it. For a number of years Grand River Chapter had done excellent work throughout the Muskoka District, but for reasons which it is unnecessary to mention here it was decided early in 1936 to surrender its Charter to Grand Chapter. Before doing so, however, the Chapter decided to apply to Couchiching Chapter, Orillia, towards whom there has always been the warmest feeling, for affiliation of its remaining members, some 28 in all.

The petition had the support and recommendation of Rt. Ex. Comp. D. C. Patmore and H. S. Fenton, of Couchiching Chapter, Orillia, who laid the matter fully before the Companions. The ballot was taken Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1936, and being found favourable the Companions were duly declared eligible and elected for affiliation with Couchiching Chapter, No. 198.

Of the 28 Companions thus affiliated, 20 were life members, a fact which contributed to the difficulties of Grand River Chapter.

The Companions of Bracebridge thus affiliated with Couchiching Chapter are aggressive and enterprising, and already have brought candidates into Couchiching Chapter. May their numbers and influence continue to increase, and all that is best in Capitular Masonry be theirs.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Officers of Signet Chapter, No. 34, Barrie, for access to the early records, and also to Scribe E. of Couchiching Chapter for permission to examine the Chapter books from 1914 to the present date.

For your patience, Excellent Sirs and Companions, in giving attention to this historical sketch, imperfect and incomplete I fear in many particulars, I would say most heartily, I thank you.

Thos. G. King

May 18, 1936

Historian

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1935, the Chapter unanimously voted Companion Thos. G. King a Life Member in appreciation of his many years of valued service as treasurer, and his painstaking research in compiling the History of Capitular Masonry in the District since 1869.

At the January meeting in 1939, it was decided to revise the by-laws and to print the History of Couchiching Chapter with the new by-laws, Comp. Wm. J. Boyle was appointed Historian to succeed the late Comp. T. G. King who died Dec. 10, 1938.

Eight of this Chapter's members have served the District as Grand Superintendents. Six of these were exalted in Couchiching Chapter, one, the late W. H. Tudhope, in Signet Chapter, and one, Rt. Ex. Comp. Wm. Russell, in Scotland. They are, with their year of service:

Rt. Ex. Comp. W. H. Tudhope,	1917
Rt. Ex. Comp. D. C. Patmore,	1923
Rt. Ex. Comp. H. S. Fenton,	1931
Rt. Ex. Comp. H. C. Skinner,	1935
Rt. Ex. Comp. D. C. Patmore,	1935
Rt. Ex. Comp. M. Baird,	1939
Rt. Ex. Comp. B. H. Price,	1944
Rt. Ex. Comp. H. N. Baker,	1947
Rt. Ex. Comp. Wm. Russell,	1953

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1935, Couchiching Chapter was honoured at Grand Chapter by the election of Ex. Comp. H. C. Skinner as Grand Superintendent. He fulfilled all the duties of his office with credit and had visited all the Chapters in Georgian District. It is with sincere sorrow that we have to record that Rt. Ex. Companion Skinner died November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1935. Grand Z., G. L. Gardiner appointed Rt. Ex. Comp. Patmore to complete Rt. Ex. Comp. Skinner's term of office.

It is noteworthy that Rt. Ex. Comp. Patmore has completed his eighth circuit of all Chapters in the District. He has made it a point to accompany the seven other District Superintendents on their Official Visits to all the Chapters, a record probably unique in Capitular Masonry in Ontario.

The following Companions have served as Officers of Grand Chapter:-

V. Ex. Comp. F. S. Lewis, Grand Steward,	1918
V. Ex. Comp. A. McClellan, Grand Standard Bearer,	1924
V. Ex. Comp. B. H. Price, Grand Steward,	1932

V. Ex. Comp. W. Calvert, Grand Master 4 <sup>th</sup> Veil,	1936
V. Ex. Comp. H. K. Maynard, Grand Steward,	1945
V. Ex. Comp. J. H. Page, Grand Master 2 <sup>nd</sup> Veil,	1948
V. Ex. Comp. H. W. Gill, Grand Steward,	1954

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1939 a special Service of Re-consecration was conducted in the form supplied by Grand Chapter. This service was participated in by all Chapters in the jurisdiction at the same time. At the conclusion of the ceremony Companion Rev. J. A. MacInnis gave an address in which he referred to the place which Masonry could fill in combating the destructive and subversive forces now at large in the world.

During the year 1940, the Chapter, to its great regret suffered the loss by death of its First Principal, Ex. Comp. A. T. Caldwell, and its Third Principal, Ex. Comp. J. C. Smith.

Dec. 31, 1940

Wm. J. Boyle, Historian

Corrected to Dec. 31, 1957

H. K. Maynard, Historian

Submitted by Rt. Ex. Comp. Brian Aikins, Z. Couchiching Chapter No.198 Orillia  
July 7, 2020