

Grand Representative to Illinois appreciation of honor

An incident that occasioned agreeable surprise, having its origin in Canada, was a distinct feature of the first day's session, but perhaps it will be as well to let the authorized chronicler relate the story in his own way.

"Then followed one of the most pleasing incidents of the session. The Grand Secretary read a letter from the venerable Companion, William Forbes, of Grimsby, Ontario, who for thirty- three consecutive years has represented the Grand Chapter of Illinois near the Grand Chapter of Canada. Our venerable and highly esteemed Representative, being desirous of expressing his appreciation of the honor thus bestowed upon him, as well as of showing the goodwill which our Canadian Companions entertain for us, had caused to be made a gavel (or hiram) from black walnut wood grown in Grimsby, and this gavel, which is richly mounted with silver trimmings, and suitably engraved, the Grand Secretary, on behalf and in the name of Comp. Forbes, then presented to Grand Chapter with the best wishes of the donor.

"On motion of Comp. Geo. M. Moulton, P. G. H. P., the gift was duly received and the Grand Secretary was instructed to transmit to Comp. Forbes the thanks of Grand Chapter, with the hope of the Companions that he may live to represent us for at least thirty-three years more, and the assurance that he is duly installed as the Representative ad vitam of the Grand Chapter of Illinois near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

"The gavel will hereafter be upon the pedestal in the East at all sessions of Grand Chapter.

"The following are the inscriptions upon the gavel :

"Presented to the M. E. Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Illinois, October 30, 1913, by R. E. Comp. William Forbes, Grimsby, Ontario, Commemorating His 33 Years as Their Continuous Representative Near the Grand Chapter. R. A M., of Canada.

M. E. Comp. Silas O. Vaughn, G. H. P.

M. E. Comp. Gil W. Barnard, G. Secretary, Illinois.

M. E. Comp. Daniel Spry, G. Z., 1880.

R. E. Comp. David McLellan, G. S. E., Ontario.

M. E. Comp. Wm. B. Carlock, G. H. P., 1913.

M. E. Comp. Geo. W. Warvelle, G. Secretary, Illinois.

M. E. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, G. Z., 1913.

R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, G. S. E., Ontario."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1914 report on Foreign Correspondence – ILLINOIS