

ACACIA LODGE No 49

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

1946 - 2026

80 Years of Excellence in Masonry



Foreword

The history is largely on the minutes of the several Secretaries of Acacia Lodge #49. Further research was made in the Library of the Grand lodge of New Brunswick. Several brethren of the Order very willingly contributed as much information as they could remember, which was extremely helpful.

I would like to thank a number of people for their help - W. Bro. A.E. Horton furnished a copy of one edition of the Maritime Section of Masonic News and other useful information. The Grand Secretary and his staff were most courteous and co-operative in responding to my many requests. R.W. Bro. C.A. Pincombe made a most meticulous and painstaking review of the initial history. As a result of his helpful corrections and suggestions, I rewrote the history.

The several Secretaries, the late W. Bro. J. Carmen Wells, W. Bro. E. Hamilton Wadman, Bro George Theal, Bro. Thomas Carroll, Bro. Claude Savoy and Bro. Paul MacQuarrie kept intensive and complete records in a systematic manner.

R.W. Bro. John Lingley made additions to, as well as typed the complete, story. R.W. Bro. Swetnam desktop published the material into booklet form, and W. Bro. David Stiles attended to the printing and binding. I further wish to thank the many other brethren of the Order who provided me with information.

Ernest W.N. Bradley. P.S.G.W.

History of Acacia Lodge #49, F&AM

by

Ernest W.N. Bradley, P.S.G.W.

The following quotation from the Masonic News (Maritime section), November 1947, by Bro. Lou Davis, then living at 7 Essex St. in Moncton will serve as an appropriate introduction to the history of Acacia Lodge No- 49, Free and Accepted Masons of New Brunswick.

“During the year 1945 it became apparent to a few of the brethren of Keith and Tweedie Lodges of Moncton dial the membership of both lodges was becoming too large and cumbersome and the feasibility of a third one loomed as a vital necessity. Thus the seeds or a new lodge were first planted by a handful devoted brethren. Careful consideration and sound study had to be given the idea since Gunningsville, adjacent to Moncton, had considered the idea; but Grand Lodge did not consider it to be in the best interest of Masonry since provisions for meetings could not easily be made, involving also the difficulties of transportation to and from that section.

Due to he circumstances of a varied character, matters were left in abeyance until new life was injected into the idea again and accordingly a meeting of Past Masters of Moncton was called on May 9, 1946, when W. Bro. Russell H. Miller was elected Chairman and V.W. Bro. Robert L. Algie was appointed Secretary for the proceedings; it was at this first meeting of the Past Masters present, speaking so favorably of the formation of a third lodge, that the necessary impetus was given. A further fleeting of the Past Masters was duly called for May 30, 1946, and it was at this gathering that the Past Masters present moved,

seconded and carried that R.W Bro. Boyce A. Atkinson be recommended is the first Master of the proposed new lodge.

Keith Lodge No. 23, at a regular fleeting on June 21, 1946, voted unanimously in favor of another Blue Lodge in the City of Moncton and On July 6, 1946, Tweedie Lodge No. 41 gave its assent and promised support without a dissenting vote. On July 11, 1946, the Committee which formed the nucleus of the new lodge was as follows: R.W.Bro. Boyce A. Atkinson, R.W. Bro. Homer Matthews, W. Bro A. Willard Henry and V.W. Bro. Robert L. Algie. and it is to the credit of this committee that the historic date in the life of the new lodge, July 11, 1946, should always shine forthwith exalted brilliance, for on that date application was made to the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master for the formation of a new lodge as follows:

Moncton, N.B.

July 11, 1946

To the M.W. Grand Master of New Brunswick

We, the undersigned, being regular registered Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavors to promote and diffuse the general principles of the art; and for the general conveniency of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new lodge to be named "Acacia"; in consequence of this desire, we pray for a warrant of constitution empowering us to meet as a regular lodge at Moncton in the County of Westmorland, on the fourth Monday of every month and there to discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner according to the laws of Grand Lodge; and we have nominated and do recommend R.W Bro Boyce A. Atkinson to be the first Master, Bro. Charles Randolph Plant to be the first Senior Warden and Bro. John Henry McAfee to be the first Junior Warden of said lodge. The prayer of the petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master and the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Royce Albert Signed:
— Lebanon Lodge No. 28, Sackville, Atkinson
NB.

R.W.	Bro.	Charles	Homer	Matthews	
—	Campbellton	Lodge	No. 32,	Campbellton,	N.B.
Bro.		Charles	Randolph	Plant	
—	Keith	Lodge	No. 23,	Moncton,	N.B.
Bro,		Silas	Clarke	Wright	
—	Albert	Lodge	No. 34,	Albert,	NB.
Bro.		Frank	Arnold	Ryder	
—	Hibernia	Lodge	No. 3,	Saint John,	NB.
Bro.		Frank	William	Davis	
—	Keith	Lodge	No-23,	Moncton,	NB,
Bro.		John	Henry	McAfee	
—	Keith	Lodge	No-23,	Moncton,	NB.
Bro.		Jay	Carmen	Wells	
—	Westmorland	Lodge	No.44,	Port Elgin,	NB.
W.	Bro.	George	Curtice	Robinson	
—	Fownes	Lodge	No. 45,	Havelock,	N.B
Bro.	William	Alexander	Dewdney	Trent	
—	Keith	Lodge	No. 23,	Moncton,	NB.
W.	Bro.	Robert	Baxter	Graham	
—	Campbellton	Lodge	No. 32.	Campbellton,	N.B.
W.	Bro.	Russell	Hayes	Miller	
—	Keith Lodge No.23, Moncton, NB.				

And so the date July 11, 1946 stands out with great clarity as a landmark of Acacia Lodge for the dispensation was duly granted with:
 RW. Bro. Boyce Albert Atkinson - Worshipful Master
 Bro. Charles Randolph Plant - Senior Warden
 Bro. John Henry McAfee - Junior Warden.

But the seeds were fertilized by tile constant care, labor and expense of the faithful brethren who, skillfully applying the working tools of the Craft, soon enabled it to bear fruit. None but those experienced in organizing lodges can be aware of the perseverance and, it most be added. self-denial, required. The first meeting of Acacia lodge No.49 was held in the Moncton Masonic Temple on August 26 1946, with the following tentative officers:

R.W.	Bro.	Boyce	Albert	Atkinson.....	Worshipful	Master
Bro.		Charles	Randolph	Plant.....	Senior	Warden
Bro.		John	Henry	McAfee.....	Junior	Warden
Bro.		George	Pike	Forsey.....		Chaplain

Bro	William	Charles	Roberts.....	Treasurer
Bro.	Jay	Carmen	Wells.....	Secretary
Bro.	Frank	William	Davis.....	Senior Deacon
Bro.	Frank	Arnold	Ryder.....	Junior Deacon
Bro.	LeBaron	Holder	Stubbs.....	Senior Steward
Bro.	William	Alexander	Dewdney Trent.....	Junior Steward
Bro.	Allen	Edward	Horton.....	Director of Ceremonies
Bro.	Samual	Downey	Lennard.....	Inner Guard
Bro.	Charles James	McInnis.....	Tyler	

It is noted that before the second meeting. Bro. Lennard was transferred Cleveland, Ohio and the office Inner Guard was occupied by Bro. George Albert Blakney of Keith Lodge No. 23”.

“END OF QUOTE”

The Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, A.S. Robinson, reported in conference with Grand Lodge Officers. on February 20. 1947, as follows:

“As it has been apparent for some time that the two Moncton lodges were becoming unwieldy and a large number of unaffiliated brethren employed in that city, and as a required number of brethren have applied to organize a new lodge, and Keith and Tweedie Lodges having approval that a prayer of their petition be granted, on August 23. I issued the required dispensation. The District Deputy, V.W. Bro Robert L. Algie, has proceeded to install the officers and launch a new lodge upon the sea of time. This lodge is to be known as Acacia Lodge. It’s Master is R.W. Bro. Boyce Albert Atkinson, Senior Warden. Charles R. Plant and Junior Warden. John H. McAfee.”

The lodge has been operating under a dispensation since August 23, 1946. An emergent communication of Grand Lodge was held on March 15, 1947 in the Masonic Temple, Moncton for the purpose of dedicating and consecrating Acacia lodge No. 49 and to present the warrant. This ceremony was performed most graciously by the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, Arthur Sagar Robinson and his staff of Officers. A large number of Masons attended to see the lodge constituted.

The Grand Master was accompanied on this occasion by the following;
 James S. Hoyt Past Grand Master

R.A, Gordon
 Prince Edward Island
 A.C. Lemmon
 R.D. Baird
 R.D. Magee
 R.L. Algie
 Fred Lemmon
 A.G. Hoar
 T.A. Robinson
 Ceremonies
 F.C. Thurston
 Ceremonies
 Charles Grant
 F.W. Chenhall
 G.M. Leggett
 E.L. Jenkins
 and twenty (20) other Worshipful brethren.

Past Grand Master of
 Deputy Grand Master
 Senior Grand Warden
 Grand Secretary
 Grand Historian
 Senior Grand Deacon
 Junior Grand Deacon
 Grand Director of
 Asst. Grand Director of
 Grand Sword Bearer
 Grand Organist
 Grand Pursuivant
 Grand Tyler

The regular officers of Acacia Lodge were as follows:	
Boyce A. Atkinson	Worshipful Master
C. Homer Matthews	Immediate Past Master
Charles R. Plant	Senior Warden
John H. McAfee	Junior Warden
Rev George P. Forsey	Chaplain
Frank W. Davis	Senior Deacon
Frank A. Ryder	Junior Deacon
William C. Roberts	Treasurer
J. Cameo Wells	Secretary
LeBaron H. Stubbs	Senior Steward
William A.D. Trent	Junior Steward
A. Edward Horton	Director of Ceremonies
George A. Blakney	Inner Guard
CharlesJ. McInnis	Tyler



M.W. Bro. Arthur Sagar Robinson

*"And now that this Consecration ceremony has granted ME. Acacia Lodge No, 49, Life, let me invoke this Blessing for the Brethren.
MY*

*SONS:
Almighty and Eternal God since we have emerged out of the long night of Darkness seeking the light, let me work so that I may build a future of these My Sons. Let me lead them in paths of righteousness where evil and wrongdoing will forever be foreign to them Give me the Men that will steep themselves in Masonic traditions so they may take a view of Life that is broadening and uplifting; let them be so interested in the Craft that they will have felt the pulse of the element which tends, by associating Men with their Brothers, to bring them into better relations with one another. Let them always speak with an exalted self-denial, of altruism of a broad sympathy, of the banishment from their beings of hate and bigotry. Help me to raise them on the same great principles of Human Life and Thought which distinguishes the dwelling places of the Most High from other structures. Give them, My Son, of Thine infinite wisdom, so they may bring to Thine Altar men worthy to be Masons.*

Instill me with Thy Strength and Understanding so that I may teach them NOT to displace mans faith in things eternal but to strengthen it. Help me, O Lord together around my Masonic Altar and Thy Sacred Volume, the Greek the Mohammedan, the Jew and the Christian, so they may search

their souls and meet, professing a common reverence for the Mercy Seat of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, the God who is no respecter of persons. Help me to work upon their Minds and Hearts, to imbue them with correct principles and so engrave upon those tablets something which neither the Elements nor Time can dim; something that will act as a beacon light upon the shores of the beautiful land where there are no storms, and where the rainbow never fades. Let me teach them to scatter sunshine in the paths that all Humanity tread; and where Sunshine and Harmony is, there is Light; where Light, there is Love, Love, Duty, every noble aspiration of the Human Heart. And where all these emotions dwell, there dwells close to Thy Grace, O God, the Honour of Men, Happiness and Sweet Content-. Dear God, hold us together to do thy will as Men and Masons, so we may all rise in Beauty grow rich in Service to all Mankind.”

AMEN: So Mote It Be.



The Grand Master paid an official visit to the Lodge April 12, 1947 when he issued a dispensation to elect a new slate of officers. On this visit the Grand Master was made a Life Member of the lodge. In his annual report to Grand Lodge, he stated that the lodge “was making excellent progress, that all the officers had wide Masonic experience before taking office.”

Leland C. Dimock, D.D.G.M., District #7, in his report to Grand Lodge in 1947, reported that Acacia Lodge was “making great strides in membership and

was overburdened with degree work. It is possible that the return of men from World War II contributed to the formation and growth of Acacia Lodge.”

Members of Acacia Lodge immediately became active in Grand Lodge. In 1948 it was represented at their general meeting by Bros. J.H. McAfee and Frank Ryder, M.W. Bro. R.A. Gordon, P.G.M., R.W. Bro. C.H. Matthews, R.W. Bro. B.A. Atkinson, P.D.G.M. W. Bro. S.C. Wright and W. Bro. C.W. Gratto. The lodge has continued its interest in Grand Lodge in the following years.

The growth of Acacia Lodge was remarkable at this time. At a roll call in December, 1950, 149 members were recorded. By 1960 there were 276 members; 1970 - 289; 1980 - 276; and in 1987 - 237 members.

The Lodge seems to have met with approval from other Masonic lodges of the area. Fifty-one Masons attended the first installation, including brethren from Lowell, Massachusetts; Barrie, Ontario; Albert, NB; Hampton, NB.; Dorchester, NB.; Sackville, NB. and Saint John, NB.; with 26 from Keith Lodge, Moricton and 9 from Tweedie Lodge in Moncton.

At an emergent communication on January 7, 1949, a joint installation of the officers of Acacia and Tweedie Lodges was held. After the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. D.G. Malcolm and his Officers were received with Grand Honours, they then installed the Officers of both Lodges. Bro. W.S. Price was installed Worshipful Master of Tweedie Lodge and Bro. F.W. Davis, Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge. The Grand Director of Ceremonies was W. Bro. Charles Grant, assisted by W. Bro. Thomas Robinson, Asst. Grand Director of ceremonies. The Installing Suite assisting the Grand Master were M.W. Bros. James Hoyt and A.S. Robinson and R.W. Bros. Albert Lemmon and R.L. Algie. The installation was performed with great dignity in the traditional manner. R.W. Bro. B.A. Atkinson, on behalf of the officers and brethren of Acacia Lodge and W. Bro. James Walker, on behalf of the officers and brethren of Tweedie Lodge, presented the retiring Masters, W. Bro. J.H. McAfee of Acacia Lodge and W. Bro. J.R. Dickie of Tweedie lodge, with Past Masters Jewels. W. Bro. McAfee, in expressing his thanks, spoke of the many valued friendships he had made during the years he held offices in the Lodge. After the Grand Master and his Officers assembled at the Altar in the traditional manner, they retired. An enjoyable banquet followed.

It is interesting to note that the new Senior Wardens of both Lodges were

father and son - Bro. Frank Ryder of Acacia, father, and Bro. Everett Ryder of Tweedie Lodge, the son. There were 27 members of Acacia, 42 visitors and 25 Grand Lodge Officers, as well as the installed officers, recorded as being in attendance at the installation ceremonies.

During several convocations of the Lodge. Bro. Lou Davis delivered exceptionally interesting and informative talks, as Chairman of the Educational Committee.

The monthly rent paid to the Moncton Masonic Temple Inc. in January, 1949 was \$35.38. Beginning January 1.949, a Benevolent Fund was set up with \$1000 from each initiation fee to be deposited in same. A Blood Donors Committee reported that 82 donors had been obtained. A slide projector was in operation on March 21, 1949. An annual grant was being donated to the Moncton Masonic Library and the Annual Masonic Church Parade was hosted in 1949.

The funeral for W. Bro. Silas Wright was held on May 12, 1949. W. Bro. Wright was one of the brethren who signed the petition sent to Grand Lodge, requesting a warrant for the new lodge (Acacia). He had been very active in the Lodge, especially in degree work.

The Annual Roll Call on October 24, 1949 was rather outstanding. There were 88 members present and 29 answered by wire, letter or telephone. A notable feature of the evening was an address delivered by the Grand Chaplain. V.W. Bro. W.C. Anderson of Saint John, N.B. His subject was "My Last Will and Testament." He stressed that each of us should make two wills - one material and one spiritual. The important gift in our spiritual will should be our faith in God, he said. He developed the theme that this faith should be strengthened and handed to our heirs. M.W. Bro. A.S. Robinson thanked the speaker in his own gracious manner. A delicious lunch in the Banquet Hall followed.

The Lodge met with the Men's Christian Brotherhood of First Baptist Church, Moncton, on Sunday afternoon, December 18. 1949. The sum of \$140.00 was received by collection plate and donated to the family of a worthy Brother in need. M.W. Bro. James Hoyt was made an Honorary Life Member of the Lodge on Jan. 7, 1950 - with Grand Honours.

The joint installation of Acacia and Tweedie Lodges took place on January 7, 1950 under the direction of M.W. Bro. Hoyt, assisted by M.W. Bro. A.S.

Robinson, R.W. Bros. R.L. Algie, P.D.G.M., William Duncan, Homer Matthews, and B.A. Atkinson and V.W. Bros. A.S Coleman and Lemmon. Bro. F.A. Ryder was installed Worshipful *Master* of Acacia Lodge and his son, Everett, was installed Worshipful Master of Tweedie Lodge at the same time. The Past Master's Jewel was presented to W. Bro. Davis by W. Bro. J.H. McAfee. M.W. Bro. Hoyt presented each of the new Masters a beautiful Masonic ring. They each made a most filling reply.

The Masonic Church Parade was held on *June 11*, 1950. The service was held at the Wesley Memorial Church with V.W. Bro. J.H. Freestone as guest speaker. All Lodges in District #7 were invited.

The Lodge has been progressing very well during these years. On June 26, 1950, at a regular communication, 10 regular Officers. 29 other members, 25 visitors and 5 Past Masters were in attendance. After the present and Past Masters were invited to the East, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approval. The ballot for one candidate was favourable. A petition for membership for one man was read and laid over the usual waiting period. Bills for \$165.16 were passed and handed to the Treasurer for payment. Correspondence was read. The M.W. the Grand Master and Officers were received in ample form. The Officers of Acacia Lodge vacated their stations which were then assumed by the Officers of Grand Lodge who proceeded to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree in due form and exemplary fashion. An address by the Grand Master and remarks by distinguished visitors and brethren followed after which the Officers of Grand Lodge retired in the traditional manner and Lodge closed in due form on the Entered Apprentice Degree. A social hour followed in the Banquet Hall. Many meetings were conducted in this manner. This example is given in order to avoid repetition.

The Annual Roll Call continued to be observed at the October communication, as it is to this day.

On Nov. 4, 1950 the Officers of Hibernia Lodge #3, Saint John were received in due form. They conferred the Master Mason Degree with W. Bro. G, Campbell, Worshipful Master of Hibernia Lodge in the Chair. There were 73 brethren present. A return visit by Acacia Lodge officers will follow at a later date.

There were 11 meetings of the Lodge during 1950, making it a very busy year. In degree work the Worshipful Master was assisted by M W. Bro. A.S.

Robinson, M.W. Bro James Hoyt, R.W. Bro. C.H. Matthews, R.W. Bro. B.A. Atkinson. R.W. Bro T.A. Robinson and W. Bros. McAfee, Bent Skidmore, G.D. Allen and C.S. Allum. There were 11 candidates raised during the year, making a total membership of 146.

The original Charter was moved from the Moncton Gas and Electric Building (on Main Street at the Foot of Botsford) to the vault in the Masonic Temple.

At this time the Lodge adopted a recommendation made by Bro. Sydney Horton, Chairman of the Library Board, to buy four booklets on Masonic information to be distributed to new members. It was also decided to obtain a similar book from Grand Lodge for the same purpose.

A degree team was formed under the direction of R.W Bro. H.A. Atkinson for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason Degree. A committee was appointed with W. Bro. F.A. Ryder as Chairman, to direct a campaign to collect funds for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage. Zetland Lodge #24, Shediac Bridge, issued an invitation to Acacia Lodge to confer the Fellowcraft Degree on 3 of their Candidates. The invitation was eagerly accepted. On this visit, Acacia Lodge presented to them a cheque for their Masonic Building Fund.

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Lodge, the original Officers were sincerely thanked by the Worshipful Master. They then assembled about the Alter, where a prayer of thanksgiving and a request for continued guidance and success was offered by Rev. Bro, G.P. Forsey. The Officers of the Lodge then vacated their stations and the original officers assumed these stations amid great applause.

At this time the Worshipful Master. L.H. Stubbs, took an unusual but prominent step forward in degree ritual by having two younger brethren deliver lectures and Bros. John Lingley and Fred Forbes did this in an excellent manner. A precedent was thus established.

In April 1951, a degree team consisting of R.W. Bro. D.J. Rockwell as Worshipful Master and other brethren of Acacia Lodge #8 in Amherst, N.S., conferred the Master Mason Degree on 3 candidates in Moncton. There were 24 brethren present from Amherst making a total of 112— a grand meeting — a banquet and good fellowship following.

The year 1952 was a very active one with W. Bro. W.A.D. Trent as the Worshipful Master. Fourteen communications were held with an average attendance of 61. There were 96 brethren in attendance at the installation of Officers.

With W, Bro. A.E. Horton as Worshipful Master, 1953 was an eventful one. We joined with Keith Lodge in celebrating its one hundredth (100th) anniversary and with Zetland Lodge on the occasion of the dedication and consecration of its new Temple. The Degree Team was doing excellent work. We exchanged visits with Keith and Tweedie Lodges to confer degrees. The membership reached 200. We assisted in purchasing a new electric organ for the lodge room. The finances were very sound. Also the good attendance of the brethren at meetings continued throughout the year.

On January 7, 1956, Bro. R.U. Day and his Officers were installed by R.W. Bro. W.J. Bambury, the Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Lodge Officers. R.W. Bro. James C, Little Father-in-law of the new Master, took a prominent part in the installation. W. Bro. J.C. Wells, Secretary of Acacia Lodge, on this occasion presented personal gifts to the nine Past Masters under whom he had served. The installation was performed with great dignity and it is reported that many brethren said it was a most enjoyable occasion. The traditional banquet followed.

During 1956 the Lodge participated in another drive for funds for the Protestant Orphans Home. During the year Bro. Eddie Lloyd, Organist, was made an honorary member of Acacia Lodge. A ladies night was held following the regular meeting of the Lodge on April 22. The collection at the Annual Church Parade and Service was \$231.50, which was forwarded to the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage Home.

M.W. Bro. A.S. Robinson, assisted by Grand Lodge Officers, installed Bro. John Lingley as Worshipful Master along with his Officers, on January 2, 1957. The ceremony was performed with great precision and in a very dignified manner.

Acacia Lodge was invited to confer the Fellowcraft Degree on Candidates of Keith Lodge #23 at their regular communication in June 1957. Invitation accepted and the degree well and duly conferred. The drive for funds for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage realized \$650.00. R.W. Bro. Phillip W. Drader announced that the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick has recognized the

Order of Demolay, in New Brunswick for boys 14 to 21 years of age. W. Bro. Frank Davis was made an honorary member of the Lodge on June 24, 1957.

An emergent communication was held on July 27, 1957 to pay our final respects to our departed Brother. W. Bro. John Henry McAfee. W. Bro. McAfee was a Charter Member of Acacia Lodge, a Long Service Life Member of Keith Lodge #23, considered to be of the stalwarts of Acacia Lodge #49 who served his Lodge faithfully and with great dignity. His lectures in the several degrees were faultless. To quote W. Bro. John Lingley, the Worshipful Master, 'Worshipful Brother McAfee, always very exact in the use of proper words in the ritual, was every bit as meticulous in his dress and appearance. I was fortunate that he took a personal interest in my Masonic education and must admit that the most difficult thing I had to do during my year as Worshipful Master was to conduct his Memorial Service.' He was a Brother beloved by all who knew him.

W. Bro. Alvin L. Groundwater, Worshipful Master of Tweedie Lodge #41, and his Officers conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree in Acacia Lodge on Sept 23 1957. The work was of a very high order. A social period with lunch followed.

A banquet in connection with the installation of officers has been popular for many years. The year 1958 was to exception. M.W. Bro. A.S. Robinson conducted the installation with due solemnity. On this occasion W. Bro. John Lingley presented a beautiful Bible to the lodge. The evening was a very sociable one. The new Worshipful Master was W. Bro. Elmer Steeves. A committee appointed jointly with Keith and Tweedie Lodges met with a committee from Grand Lodge regarding the boundaries of the new Coverdale Lodge #52. Our committee reported that satisfactory boundaries had been set. On motion, the Lodge ratified the recommendation.

An exceptional meeting of the Lodge was held on April 26, 1958 when the Worshipful Master, W. Bra. Elmer Sleeves and his Officers conferred the Master Masons Degree on 8 Candidates. As the Grand Lodge Constitution allows no more than five new Brothers to be made in one day, special dispensation was required from the Grand Master. The communication was followed by a delicious supper and social evening. It is noted that the Worshipful Master notified the new brethren they would be required to pass an examination on the Master Mason Degree.

The Lodge purchased a screen to be used with the projector owned by Tweedie Lodge #41. At our Annual Roll Call in 1958, 179 brethren responded

out of membership of 253. The sum of \$187.16 was realized in the collection plate. This was deposited in the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge. This procedure has been followed each year. A separate bank account was begun by W. Bro. John McAfee. The Lodge, along with Tweedie and Keith Lodges has been meeting in a service with the Brotherhood of First Baptist Church, Moncton. This service has been broadcast on radio. There were 14 regular and emergent communications in 1953 — another very active year.

The Master-elect for 1959, Bro. E.L. Lawson and his Officers were installed by M W. Bro. J.S. Hoyt, assisted by Grand Lodge Officers and Past Masters of Acacia. The usual presentation of the Past Masters Jewel and the customary banquet followed.

The year 1959 was another interesting one. W. Bro. John Lingley formed an Entered Apprentice Degree Team. There was the usual Church Parade and Service. The sum of \$915.00 was raised by Bro. W.R.E. Wood and his committee for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage. The Masonic Library with books estimated to be valued at \$5,000.00 has not been functioning well. The Grand Master's visit was fruitful as usual, as was the Annual Roll Call.

A most interesting reading was delivered by W. Bro. A.E. Horton. The Eastern, Star ladies continued to serve at banquets. The usual donation was made to the Canadian Legion Branch #6. Bro. F.M. Hannah carried out the examination of candidates very efficiently. V.W. Bro. F.E. Archibald addressed the brethren at a regular convocation, in his customary eloquent and pleasing manner. R.W. Bro. R .L. Algie presented an address on "The Universality of Masonry". Six Candidates received the Master Mason degree on a Saturday afternoon, followed by a banquet. A Degree Team of Past Masters conferred this degree with W. Bro E.L. Steeves as Worshipful Master. Examinations on the Master Mason Degree were held during the year. Twenty Candidates were raised in 1959.

R.W. Bro. Bent Skidmore installed Bro. F.W. Davies as Worshipful Master for 1960. The other officers were installed by Past Masters of the Lodge. Two Past Masters Nights were held during 1960. Twenty brethren were raised during the year. One share of Capital Stock of the Moncton Masonic Temple Ltd. was presented to the Lodge by W. Bro. Frank Ryder on December 19, 1960.

Bro. Fred Forbes and the other officers for 1961 were installed by M.W. Bro. J.S. Hoyt assisted by W. Bro. C.F.C. Bridcot and other Past Masters. This was done in the usual impressive manner. M.W. Bro. Hoyt presented W. Bro. Forbes with the Holy Bible on which he had been obligated, a cherished, highly appreciated gift.

During the year 1961 Bro. R.D. Murray delivered an interesting address to the brethren entitled "My Personal Feelings after a Few Years as a Mason." Tweedie Lodge celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on May 12, and Zetland Lodge #24 its Centennial on May 20, 1961. The cornerstone of the Temple in Dorchester, N.B. was laid on June 10, 1961. The brethren of Acacia Lodge participated in all three of these historic Masonic events. A donation was made to Alexandra Lodge #87, Amherst, N.S., toward their Building Fund. A visit was made to Amherst to witness the Master Mason Degree. There was a very large Church Parade to St. Georges Anglican Church when Tweedie, Keith and Acacia Lodges took part. The Fellowcraft Degree was conferred at Howard Lodge #15, Hillsborough by the Officers of Acacia Lodge. Bro. Lloyd formed a quartet which has been furnishing music for some of the degrees. Many brethren of Acacia made another visit to Alexandra #87 in Amherst. Bro. Peter Davidson was presented a 50 year pin by the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. C.D. Dickison. At this time a team of Past Masters with W. Bro. E.L. Steeves as Worshipful Master, conferred the Fellowcraft Degree. On this occasion Bro. Douglas Murray gave a talk on "A Point in a Circle", followed by a Masonic play under the direction of W. Bro. A.E. Horton. The Grand Master said he was very pleased to be so well entertained on his annual visit to the Lodge. Brethren of Alexandra #87 presented a Masonic play at Acacia. One hundred and seven (107) attended the meeting. There were 108 members in attendance at the Annual Roll Call with 70 visitors from 28 lodges. The regular annual visitations by the District Deputy Grand Masters have been taking place. There were 8 brethren raised during 1961.

Over the last several years the following brethren of Acacia have assisted in the ritual; M.W. Bro. A.S. Robinson, R.W. Bros. E.E. Lewis and Phillip Drader, V.W. Bro. G.C. Robinson, W. Bros. R.H. Johnston, E.L. Lawson. J.C. Wells, A.E. Horton, Fred Forbes, F.A. Ryder, John Lingley and E.W.N. Bradley, and Bros. H,D Adamson, Frank Smith and W.H. Mackenzie as well as the regular Officers of Acacia Lodge.

W. Bro. George Moore, Worshipful Master of Alexandra Lodge #87. Amherst, N.S. and his Officers visited Acacia #49 on December 18, 1961 and

conferred the Master Mason Degree on one Candidate. They used the Nova Scotia Ritual which, being somewhat different from ours and done in a most excellent manner, was highly impressive. The meeting was followed by a luncheon in the Banquet Hall and a most enjoyable social period.

Bro. M.F.K. (Keith) Leighton and his Officers were installed on January 12, 1962 by M.W. Bro. J.S. Hoyt, P.G.M., assisted by a team of Past Masters. Bro. Dr. George Leighton, father of the new Worshipful Master, also assisted. An increased interest in the Masonic Library was now evident, due largely to the efforts of W. Bro. S.J. Horton. He made himself available in the Library when the Craft was called to refreshment, to issue and receive books. W. Bro. Horton delivered an interesting talk on the Bible. The officers of Acacia lodge conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree in Fownes Lodge #45, Havelock. N.B. W Bro. Stubbs and a team of Past Masters conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on two Candidates of Acacia Lodge. A degree team of Past Masters with W. Bro. Donald Ellison as Worshipful Master, conferred the Master Mason Degree. This was the occasion of the visit of the Grand Master. M.W. Bro. Charles Dickison.

Bro. Winston Steeves and tile Officers for 1963 were installed, with M.W. Bro. A.S. Robinson as installing Officer. W. Bro. Steeves was conducted to the Oriental Chair by his father, W. Bro. Joseph Steeves. During the year, Bro. W.R.E. Wood and his committee continued their labours for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage fund, collecting and donating \$300.00. W. Bro. A.E. Horton demonstrated a proper Board of Trial.

Our late brother W. Bro. C.R. Plant, passed to the Celestial Lodge above on March 17, 1963. His passing was deeply mourned by the brethren. He was one of the originals who signed the request to Grand Lodge for a warrant for Acacia Lodge and was the first Senior Warden of the Lodge. He became Worshipful Master in 1947 and exerted every possible effort in the interest of the Lodge. He was a prominent business man and a sterling Brother.

New lodge aprons for the use of the Officers were presented to the Lodge by W. Bro. Winston Sleeves. The service of dedication was gracefully performed by V.W. Bro. Fred Forbes, D.D.G.M.

At this time the brethren mourned the death of R.W. Bro. C.H. Matthews. He also signed the request for our warrant and became the first Immediate Past Master of our Lodge. He was a strong promoter of Masonry, knew his ritual,

presented it well and steadily helped the Lodge grow and advance Masonically. He was a great friend and Brother.

Acacia #49 made another official visit to Howard Lodge #15, Hillsborough in 1963. V.W. Bro. George C, Robinson organized a degree team for Acacia that year. A dinner in the Banquet Hall was enjoyed by the brethren on October 28, 1963 on a Saturday afternoon. V.W. Bro. Fred Forbes, D.D.G.M., delivered a most interesting address. The brethren then repaired to the lodge room where our Annual Roll Call was observed. There were 168 members and 50 visitors present. A team of Police Officers, in uniform, with W. Bro. Elmer Sleeves as Worshipful Master, then conferred the Fellowcraft Degree in a stately manner.

The Officers of Keith Lodge #23 with W. Bro. Edward Sherrard as Worshipful Master conferred the Master Mason Degree in Acacia on November 25, 1963. A delicious lunch was then served in the Banquet Hall by the ladies. Six Candidates received the Master Mason Degree in 1963. W. Bro. A.E. Horton explained the symbolism of the Past Master's apron. He was presented a copy of the Holy Bible by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Winston Steeves, as an expression of his appreciation for his cooperation and assistance.

Bro. Thomas McCaughey was installed Worshipful Master of the Lodge for 1964 by V.W. Bro. Fred Forbes, D.D.G.M. On this occasion V.W. Bro, Gregory Bridges presented to V.W. Bro, Forbes, his partner in business, a Grand Lodge apron, on behalf of W. Bro. Winston Steeves, in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of the Craft.

Annual dues were raised to \$10.00. A motion to increase the initiation fee to \$75.00 from \$50.00, however, was defeated. Rent to the Temple Board was raised to \$72.00 from \$54.50. W. Bro. Vaughn Scott, Worshipful Master of Keith #23, and his Officers conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on four of our candidates. Howard #15 and Acacia again exchanged visits. A scholarship committee was inaugurated by Grand Lodge. The amount collected at the Annual Church Parade and Service was \$228.40, which was forwarded to the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage. A Masonic poem was composed by Bro. D.H. Atkinson.

V.W. Bro. E.E. Lewis passed on to the Celestial Lodge above on October 7, 1964. He had been District Deputy Grand Master and took a great interest in Masonic undertakings.

The Grand Master M.W. Bro. H.D. Hopkins, was received with the usual ceremony, followed by a banquet. The Fellowcraft degree was conferred on this occasion. Later in the year, a team of Past Masters exemplified the Master Mason degree on 4 Candidates with W. Bro. R.H. Johnston as Worshipful Master.

Bro. R.H. Hopper was installed Worshipful Master for 1965 by W. Bro. Lloyd Vincent, P.D.G.M., of Tweedie Lodge #41, with the usual ceremony, followed by the traditional banquet.

The Master Mason Degree was conferred by W. Bro. G.A. Blakney and a team of Past Masters. During 1965, nine Candidates were raised.

For the past several years the examinations of Candidates have been done in a very capable manner by Bros. Leslie Caddell, John Ramsay, Harris Tait and Irwin Wood, all of whom would subsequently serve as Master of Acacia Lodge.

Bro. John Duncan and his Officers for 1966 were installed by R.W. Bro. John Lingley and his team of Past Masters. This was performed according to tradition and in a very impressive manner. The Police Officer's Degree Team exemplified the Fellowcraft Degree on 2 Candidates in 1966. There were 7 Candidates raised throughout the year, 2 were affiliated, 10 were lost by death or demit and 5 were suspended for non-payment of dues.

Bro. L.R. Wadlyn and Officers were installed for 1967 by V.W. Bro. Fred Forbes and his team of Past Masters. The Secretary reported that, at the close of 1966, there were 274 members. Over 600 brethren of the area attended the Annual Church Parade and Service in 1967. That year, a Past Master's Degree Team with V.W. Bro. Fred Forbes as Worshipful Master, conferred the Master Mason degree on 3 Candidates the lodge raised a total of 10 brethren throughout the year. Regarding finances, there was \$1,272.00 in the General Account, \$8,489.00 in the Benevolent Fund and \$1,500.00 in Canada Bonds, making a total of \$11,261.00.

Bro. W.L. Caddell, file Worshipful Master-elect for 1968 and his Officers were installed by R.W. Bro. John Lingley in his usual very capable fashion. The banquet of course, proceeded with the accustomed decorum. A decrease in

attendance at lodge meetings is noted about this time. The matter of open installations was discussed, raising considerable objections, and the membership subsequently voted against open installations at this time. It is noted however that the Lodge must have had a later change of heart, as Bro. William Perks would be invested with the Master's Jewel of Office at an open installation in 1977. Acacia conferred the Fellowcraft Degree at Fownes Lodge #45 in Havelock and gave the lectures for the Master Mason degree at Albert Lodge #34 in Albert, N.B. The Lodge held a Ladies Night which was thoroughly enjoyed and proved to be beneficial as regards the number in attendance. The Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred by a degree team of the Lodge with W. Bro. R.H. Johnston as Worshipful Master, after which the ladies served a delicious dinner. Sussex Lodge #4 in Dorchester conferred the Fellowcraft Degree in Moncton on three of our Candidates. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William J. Summerville, was received with Grand Honours. After he and other distinguished guests had addressed the brethren, they adjourned to the Banquet Hall where a lunch and a social hour were enjoyed. The presiding Masters of Districts #2 & #7 conferred the Fellowcraft Degree. At the Annual Church Parade the collection was \$287.69. There were about 400 Masons in attendance, with band and regalia. The service was held in the First Baptist Church, Moncton. The expenses of the Parade were shared on a pro-rata basis with Tweedie and Keith Lodges. There were 134 members who answered the Annual Roll Call.

Fellowship Lodge #112 of Truro, N.S., presented a Masonic play entitled "A Rose Upon the Altar." This was presented in an exceptionally efficient manner and was well received. Two Candidates of Acacia #49 were raised in Coverdale Lodge #52 and 3 were raised in Albert #34. A total of 8 brethren received their Master Mason's Degree during the year. District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Charles Webber, presented Bro. Frank Page his 50 year pin. W. Bro. Caddell will be remembered for the ambitious manner in which he promoted sociability between his and other Lodges.

Bro. H.C. Tait and his Officers for 1969 were installed by R.W. Bro. John Lingley, assisted by Past Masters, with the usual excellent ceremony and annual banquet. W. Bro. J.C. Wells, who has been Secretary of the Lodge for the past 24 years, was made an Honourary Life Member. The membership in 1968 was recorded by the Secretary as 283. Special mention was made in Grand Lodge by R.W. Bro. Charles Webber, D.D.G.M., regarding the high quality of degree work being done in Acacia Lodge. The Temple suffered a break-in with considerable damage to the various locks being reported. Bro.

John Nowlan, who is incapacitated with Multiple Sclerosis, was made an Honourary Life Member.

A contingent from Athole Lodge #15, Halifax, N.S., with W. Bro. John Saunders as Worshipful Master, conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree in Acacia Lodge using the Nova Scotia Ritual. As our ritual is derived from the Massachusetts Constitution and that of Nova Scotia from the Scottish Constitution, the dissimilarities made for a refreshing change. W. Bro. Saunders presented Acacia Lodge with a copy of the Holy Bible as a memorial of the visit. The Secretary of Athole Lodge presented a small white apron to each brother of Acacia Lodge who was present, to mark the 125th anniversary of Athole Lodge #15. W. Bro. Tait welcomed M.W. Bro. M.S. Speight, Grand Master, on October 27, 1969 with the usual ceremony and then proceeded, with the help of the Officers to exemplify the Fellowcraft Degree for inspection by the Grand Master before retiring to the Banquet Hall for a sumptuous repast.

Fellowship Lodge #112 of Truro, N.S. was again invited to Acacia Lodge, this time to work a degree. They eagerly accepted and on November 15, 1969 Fellowship Lodge professionally presented the Master Mason Degree, on the Nova Scotia ritual with lunch and fraternalism following. R.W. Bro. John Lingley, acting as Worshipful Master, headed a team which exemplified the Master Mason Degree. In all, 17 Candidates were raised in 1969.

Bro. I.G. Wood and Officers for 1970 were installed by W. Bro. W.A. Steeves, assisted by Past Masters. The ceremony and the usual banquet were both dignified and enjoyable. At a subsequent meeting, there was a discussion on improving attendance, and while no decision was reached, this indicates there was a problem. The Worshipful Master and Officers performed the Entered Apprentice Degree in Howard Lodge #15, Hillsborough. Acacia Lodge visited Fownes Lodge #45 and Salisbury Lodge #20. Bro. David Creighton reported that \$680.00 had been collected for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage. Bro. Thomas Miller was made an Honourary Life Member of the Lodge. At the Annual Roll Call, 61 members answered the Roll. Nine Candidates had been raised during 1970. The Treasurer reported \$1,440.00 in the General Account, \$12,773.00 in cash and investments in the Benevolent Fund. The brethren who had done the examinations of the Candidates for the several degrees during the last several years were Bros. K. Barnes, Hopper, I.G. Wood, Harmer, J.A.W. Ramsay, H.W. Perks and Topf. Those taking part in the degree work: V.W. Bro. Skidmore, R.W. Bros. Forbes and G.C. Robinson,

W. Bros. Horton, Johnston, Davies, Wadlyn, McCaughey, Tait, I.G. Wood, and Bros. Munns, Kidney and K. Barnes, as well as the regular lodge officers.

Bro. E.H. Wadman and officers for 1971 were installed by R.W. Bro. John Lingley with the able help of other Past Masters. His ritual is always very exact. A workshop of Districts 2 & 7 was held this year. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. M.S. Speight, Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W.J. Summerville, the Grand Treasurer, R.W. Bro. M.W. Dalton and the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. A.C. Lemmon attended this workshop as well as brethren of the several lodges of the area. Brethren of the adjacent lodges exemplified the Entered Apprentice Degree at this time. They received favourable comment on the work. Discussion and refreshment followed. This workshop was held in the Masonic Temple, Moncton. Chairman Bro. Arthur Gear reported that the sum of \$1000.00 had been collected for the New Brunswick Protestant Orphanage. Officers and members of Acacia Lodge traveled to Halifax, N.S., where they conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree in Athole Lodge #15. The sum of \$100.00 was donated to Salisbury #20 to help pay for a new carpet for the lodge room. On the occasion of the official visit of the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. M.W. Dalton, he was accompanied M.W. Bro. Ralph Pearson and M.W. Bro. Donald Summerville, R.W. Bros. W.A. Steeves, D.G.M., E.B. Ross, D.D.G.M. District #2, and W. Bro. F. S. Tuck of Tweedie Lodge #41. The Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred at this time with R.W. Bro. Winston A. Steeves, D.G.M. as Worshipful Master. The usual festivities followed. The Lodge mourned the death of M.W. Bro. J.S. Hoyt who passed to the Celestial Lodge on August 28, 1971. His helpful influence in the Lodge will be keenly missed. Forty-five members and 13 visitors attended the Annual Roll Call.

With R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes in the Chair, a team of Past Masters conferred the Master Mason Degree most impressively. Bro. Sidney J. Horton was made an Honourary Life Member on December 20, 1971. Five Candidates were raised this year.

Bro. John Ramsay became Worshipful Master of our Lodge in 1972. He was installed by R.W. Bro. John Lingley, assisted by other Past Masters in the usual and customary manner. A delicious supper was then shared with the usual toasts and good wishes to the new officers. Steven Lodge #37 in Petitcodiac hosted the Workshop this year, chaired by R.W. Bro. Carl Caner. The purpose of this year's workshop was examination of ritual and instruction in its proper use.

M.W. Bro. Dr. A.S. Robinson passed to the Celestial Lodge, March 8, 1972. He will be especially remembered for his efforts in obtaining a warrant for our Lodge when he was Grand Master. His extensive knowledge of Freemasonry and his ability to display it were outstanding. He was an Honourary Member of Acacia and his untiring efforts in its formative stages were well known. The example he set as a Mason had a tremendous effect not only on the brethren of Acacia Lodge, but in the entire jurisdiction.

Farewell good and faithful friend.
You have been faithful over a few things.
You will become ruler over many things.
Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

In 1972 the Lodge donated \$25.00 to Canadian DeMolay. Bro. Murray Carroll reported \$671.35 collected for the Orphanage. The new, two compartment ballot box came into use at this time, by order of Grand Lodge, replacing the single compartment box previously in use in the jurisdiction. Two Candidates received the Master Mason Degree, with W. Bra Ramsay as Worshipful Master. The lectures for this degree were given at a later date by brethren of Howard Lodge #15 in their Lodge. The Grand Master, MW. Bro. Maurice Dalton made an official visit to the Lodge. After being received in the customary manner, he presented W. Bro. Carmen Wells with a John Beardsley Medallion to commemorate and recognize his dedication to Masonry. A framed certificate was presented to W. Bro. W.A.D. Trent, attesting to his 25 years as a Charter Member of the Lodge. W. Bro. A.E. Horton and other Past Masters conferred the Master Mason Degree in a very able manner. W. Bro. George Hudson received his 50 year pin. Four Candidates received the Master Mason Degree during the year.

At a joint installation with Tweedie Lodge, Bro. Robert Kidney and the Officers for 1973 were installed by M.W. Bro. M.W. Dalton, assisted by Past Masters. This installation was of very high caliber. The program at the banquet was most appropriate. R.W. Bro. C.A. Carter, D.D.G.M., paid an official visit on February 26, 1973. It was quite remarkable that he could call every Brother who accompanied him by name, by position or office, and by lodge and number without any assistance. Such is one of the many benefits to a traveling Mason. The officers of Acacia worked the Entered Apprentice Degree at this visit to be critiqued by R.W. Bro. Carter, afterward adjourning to the Banquet Hall for a quiet hour of fellowship and refreshment, served by the ladies. Bro.

Ivan Steeves, Chairman of the Orphanage fund drive reported two very successful years: 1972 - \$671.35, 1973- \$1531.00. Congratulations Bro. Steeves! The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. J, Stewart Brooks, attended the Annual Church Parade- W. Bro. 1.0. Wood and assisting Past Masters exemplified the Fellowcraft Degree with the precision of a Regimental Sergeant Major. V.W. Am. John Ramsay and a bus load of brethren visited a Lodge in the Eastern States. He reported that the brethren really got a "shot in the arm" from the ritual and the sociability demonstrated by their American Masonic counterparts. M.W. Bro. Brooks paid an official visit to view the Entered Apprentice Degree put on by W. Bro. 1.0. Wood. 1973 saw 6 new Master Masons raised in Acacia Lodge.

Bro. Ivan Steeves became Worshipful Master of the Lodge and he and his Officers were installed into their respective offices for 1974 at a joint installation with Tweedie Lodge #41, by W. Bro. Austin Steeves and other Past Masters. An appropriate Masonic banquet completed the evening. A workshop of Districts 2 & 7 was held at the Coverdale Masonic Temple in Riverview. W. Bro. Ivan Steeves hit a note that will be remembered when he said, "The reputation of the Fraternity, to a greater or lesser degree, is in the keeping of each member. It is within the power of every Mason to glorify or nullify the institution. The public never reads Masonic books or Masonic philosophy. Its idea of the Fraternity is not well defined and the sole basis of judgment it falls back on, is the character of those who are supposed to exemplify its teachings". Bro. David Creighton reported that \$2175.80 had been collected for the Orphanage and the collection at the Annual Church Parade was \$276.48. Bro. John Johnston was presented his 50 year pin.

W. Bro. J. Carmen Wells, who had been absent from the Secretary's desk in the Lodge for several months, was called Home on December 18, 1974. He had been Secretary of the Lodge for 29 years, which duty he performed most faithfully in a very efficient manner, and with the proper ceremony. He also took part in conferring degrees, when his lectures were letter perfect. The Lodge lost a valuable Brother.

At a Joint Installation with Tweedie Lodge in 1975, Bro. K.E. Barnes and Officers, excepting the Secretary, were installed by R.W. Bro. Leslie Caddell, assisted by Past Masters. Following this ceremony the brethren repaired to the Banquet Hall where the Ladies of the Eastern Star, Frank H. Tingley Chapter #5 prepared and served another delightful dinner. A degree team dressed in kilts and accompanied by pipers conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree

during the year with W. Bro. Everett Ryder as Worshipful Master. This team became known as the Keltic Degree Team, and with the untiring efforts of such as R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes, W. Bro. Ryder et al, performed degree work which was the envy of all. The team lost some momentum with the passing of R.W. Bro. Forbes and W. Bro. "Tad" Steeves of Tweedie but is still functioning, albeit sporadically, at this writing. They later were invited to Acacia Lodge #8 in Amherst where they worked the Entered Apprentice Degree. On Past Master's Night in Acacia Lodge, the Fellowcraft degree was exemplified.

A Memorial Service was called to pay our last respects to W. Bro. E.L. Lawson, who passed away November 4, 1975. Worshipful Master in 1959, he had remained remarkably faithful to the Lodge. Acacia Lodge raised 13 throughout the year.

R.W. Bro. John Ramsay and other Past Master installed the Officers of Acacia #49 for 1976. Bro. David Creighton was installed as Worshipful Master. Monthly rent to the Temple Board was increased to \$80.00. Bro. George McNutt was presented a 50 year pin. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Earl Bedford Ross, paid an official visit, was received with appropriate dignity and ceremony, and witnessed the Entered Apprentice Degree conducted by the Officers of the Lodge. M.W. Bro. Ross, at refreshment following, expressed best wishes to the new Officers which were echoed by other distinguished guests; toasted and thanked the ladies for their customary excellent work. Regular dues were increased to \$15.00, with members on fixed pension paying \$7.50. The Keltic Degree team visited Albion Lodge #1 in Saint John, N.B. In order to assist in remodeling the kitchen and banquet areas, Acacia #49 donated \$675.00 to Frank H. Tingley #5. O.E.S. Seven Candidates were raised in 1976.

At this, the 30th anniversary of Acacia Lodge #49, the "State of the Lodge" is as follows:

Finances

Current Account - \$911.00, Benevolent Fund - \$ 3,765.00, Canada Bonds (McAfee Endowment) & Investment Certificates - \$14,708.00 Total -\$19,384.00

Membership - 286

Reports from Grand Lodge state that Acacia is progressing favorably, the business is carried on in an efficient manner and the degree work is excellent.

In 1917 Bro. William Perks and his Officers were installed at the first, Open installation held in Acacia Lodge. Members wives and families, and invited guests witnessed the proceedings and were doubtlessly impressed, as installations are impressive in their precision and beauty even to the perennial visitor. While still a novelty, these "semi-public" installations would become commonplace later. W. Bro. Perks installation was conducted by The Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, MW. Bro. Earl B. Ross assisted by Past Masters of the Lodge. W. Bro. LeBaron Stubbs and Bro. G.W. Price received Life Memberships from W. Bro. Perks and Acacia Lodge. The Keltic Degree Team with wives and other brethren visited England and Scotland, the home of modern Masonry. Many fraternal exchange visits will follow over the years. Albion Lodge #1, Saint John, returned our visit and exemplified the Entered Apprentice Degree with great precision. Attendance at the Annual Church Parade was approximately 150. The new Grand Master, (Grand Lodge elections are held the 2nd weekend in May) M.W. Bro. Blake Allen Oulton, accompanied by members of Grand Lodge, paid an official visit. His excellent address was rewarded by refreshment and fellowship following the close of Lodge.

W. Bro. E.H. Wadman, acting Worshipful Master, and other Past Masters conferred the Master Mason Degree during the Annual Past Master's Night. The importance of these experienced members of a Lodge cannot be overstated. They teach us the proper ritual, they guide our feet in the floor work, they remind us where we have gone and show us where we are going. They are invaluable and it is gratifying to see them take a continuing part in the affairs of the Lodge. Two Candidates became Master Masons in 1977. During the past several years the Master and Officers have been aided in the work by the following brethren. Instruction: W. Bro. 1. G. Wood and Bros. H.A. Barkus, J.G. Shute, J.D. Welsh, and G.M. Kay. Lectures: R.W. Bros. J.H. Lingley, Fred Forbes, W.L. Caddell, and John Ramsay, W. Bros. A.E. Horton, I-I W. Perks, E.H. Wadman, Robert Kidney, Ivan Steeves, R.H. Johnston, 1G. Wood, T.S.K. McCaughey and Bros. V. Howe, D. Lusby, Gary Smith, Murray Carroll, W.A. Cudmore, and G.M. Kay Bro. D.A. Lusby was inducted into the Oriental Chair for 1978. He and the Officers were installed jointly with the Officers of Tweedie Lodge #41 by M.W. Bro. Earl B. Ross, P.G.M. They could not help being inspired by the correctness of the work, the wisdom of the address and the fraternalism of the Order. M.W. Bro. Ross, as a Sportscaster with CKCW TV was well noted for ending his program with the phrase, "It isn't whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." Costs are increasing more frequently and

the rent is again increased, this time to \$87.00. The Lodge was saddened by the death of R.W. Bro. George Blakney on April 4, 1978. Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge in 1954, he later became District Deputy Grand Master for District #2. His untiring efforts on behalf of Freemasonry and the Craft will be his legacy. R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes delivered an address entitled "God's Promise to David" which, in his inimitable way, was both instructive and enjoyable, and appreciated by the Master. The Lodge was pleased and honoured to receive the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Oulton on the occasion of his official visit. He was treated to the Entered Apprentice Degree by the Officers of the Lodge and the traditional hospitality and fellowship of Acacia Lodge and its *members* at refreshment following. Five Candidates became Master Masons this year.

R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes installed Bro. Victor Howe and officers for 1979. Bro. S.J. Horton departed this life on February 23, 1979. He was a most conscientious Mason, devoted to the precepts of Freemasonry and particularly interested in the Moncton Masonic Library. It is through his efforts that the 3 Lodges presently occupying the Moncton Temple enjoy a very fine Library of Masonic works. He was a beloved Mason and always a gentleman.

A workshop of lodges in Districts 2 & 7 was conducted at Sussex Lodge #4 in Dorchester where the ritual of the 1st and 3rd Degrees was examined and instruction given. These workshops are under the direction of the District Deputies and endeavor to promote uniformity of ritual by lodges within the jurisdiction. The Master, Wardens and Secretary of each lodge are requested and expected to attend and all Master Masons are encouraged to be present.

The Charter was again draped, on this occasion for R.W. Bro. R.B. Graham, who passed away on July 14, 1979. A valued Brother, he was a signatory on our petition to Grand Lodge in 1946. His opinions on lodge matters were invaluable and he is owed deep gratitude for his efforts in the formation of Acacia Lodge and in promoting its progress.

The Keltic Degree Team, with pipes, under the direction of R.W. Bro. William J. Murray of Tweedie Lodge, conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree. Clothed in aprons and kilts, they entered the lodge, performed the degree and retired to the skin of the bagpipes. How could a Candidate fail to be impressed and the brethren motivated? A later convocation saw a team headed by W. Bro. H.W. Perks convey the Fellowcraft Degree. M.W. Bra Clarence Carter, The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, who was a regular

visitor to our meetings, visited us officially on November 26, 1979. He astounded those present by introducing all 52 accompanying members of Grand Lodge by name and rank, lodge name and number without consulting the register. At this meeting, he witnessed the Master Mason Degree as conferred by the Officers of Acacia. The remarks of MW. Bro. Carter were stimulating - he was a great leader of the Craft - and at refreshment proved himself to be a true Brother. In all, 6 Candidates were raised in 1979.

Bro. W.A. Cudmore and his Officers for 1980, were installed by the Keltic Degree Team, R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes, Installing Officer. The installation was conducted with much dignity and sparkle, both in the Lodge Room and the Banquet Hall.

R.W. Bro. W.L. Caddell passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on February 26, 1980. He will be remembered as a most ardent worker for Freemasonry in general, and Acacia Lodge in particular. He was an accomplished ritualist, and a frequent visitor to many lodges and especially to the sick and confined brethren. He was District Deputy for District #2, a position he filled with credit to himself and to the Fraternity'.

The dues for 1981 were set at \$20.00, with members 65 years of age and over to pay \$15.00. The Parade to the church service was led this year by the Keltic Pipe Band and was very well attended. On November 24, 1980, the Lodge donated \$750.00 to the Moncton Masonic Temple Inc. as their per-capita share for special repairs and renovations to the building. Six Candidates were raised in 1980.

The 1981 slate of Officers with Bro. Norman F. Kelly as Worshipful Master were installed by W. Bro. H. William Perks ably assisted as always, by other Past Masters and a social evening followed.

All brethren were shocked to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Clarence F. Carter while he was visiting Grand Lodges in the British Isles. He was a devoted Mason, one of great stature and a distinguished Grand Master who governed with fairness, intelligence and wit. It was particularly sad to see a young man with his prominent abilities and great promise for the future, taken away. Although not a member of Acacia Lodge, he was a frequent visitor and revered by all the brethren. He led by example.

A group of brethren from Scotland visited our Lodge in 1981. They were given a rousing reception including banquets, tours of the area and other social gatherings. In October W. Bro. Victor Howe and the Past Masters conferred the Fellowcraft Degree. Two Candidates received their Master Mason Certificates this year. The Auditors Report showed \$1620, 00 in the Current Account, cash in the Benevolent Account and Investment Certificates amounting to \$18,991.00, which included \$2500.00 in the John McAfee Endowment, and 59 members with dues outstanding.

W. Bro. Kenneth Barnes and his team of Past Masters installed Bro. John Shute and the other Officers for 1982, with the usual ceremony and great dexterity. After the many remarks by the brethren expressing their good wishes to the new Officers, all adjourned to the Banquet Hall where the customary program of toasts, etc was followed. The ladies of the Eastern Star prepared and served the banquet. W. Bro. Shute invited anyone who wished, including families, to a reception afterwards at St. James Anglican Church, an interesting deviation from the norm. Some lodge brethren accompanied by brethren of neighboring lodges, visited Pawcatuk Lodge #141, Connecticut. 1982 saw R.W. Bro. George Robinson receive his 50 year pin. The lodge voted that regular notices be sent bi-monthly (ie. every two months) instead of monthly, due to the increased cost of postage. Only time will tell if this practice will effect the attendance in Lodge. R.W. Bro. George Robinson, Deputy Grand Master, paid an official visit to the Lodge. He and his entourage were greeted with Grand Honours. After the address and expressions of good will by visiting dignitaries, a lunch and social gathering was enjoyed.

The Brethren were saddened by the death of W. Bro. R.H. Miller. A Charter Member of Acacia Lodge, he was prominent in organizing and promoting the progress of the Lodge and obtaining new members. He was one of the great builders of Acacia. Being a prominent businessman, his talents proved most helpful to the Lodge. The Lodge lost a great Brother.

There were 75 members in attendance at the Annual Roll Call in 1982. The Plate of Benevolence was passed and realized in excess of \$210.00. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. I. Dale Steeves, accompanied by 41 Grand Lodge officers and members, paid his official visit to our Lodge on November 22, 1982. Following the usual reception and congratulatory remarks by guests, the Grand Master initiated a discussion regarding the declining membership from

which came some helpful suggestions. M.W. Bro. Steeves' address for the evening, "What Every Mason Should Know," was enlightening to all present.

Five only of our Charter Members are still numbered among the Craft in 1982, the rest having gone to their reward. Of them, W. Bro. L.H. Stubbs and Bro. S.D. Leonard had previously been made paid-up Life Members. This year the other three, R.W. Bro. George Robinson, W. Bro. W.A.D. Trent and W. Bro. A.E. Horton were presented their well deserved Life Memberships as well. Bro. George Kay with his Officers were installed by R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes and other Acacia Past Masters, with due solemnity and dignity and the immaculate ritual which was the hallmark of R.W. Bro. Forbes. The good wishes to the Officers continued in the Banquet Hall where the toasts and speeches were conducted with the proper formality. It is noted that all the regular Officers were present at every regular communication during 1983, an enviable record. The rent was increased yet again to \$144.00. W. Bro. Trent presented the Lodge a picture of the first Officers of Acacia. It was hung in the Library where it remains at this writing. W. Bro. Fred Davies was made a paid-up Life Member.

Bro. Thomas F. Millar passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on May 4, 1983 at the age of 91. Although there is no record of his having held an office in the Lodge, he will be remembered for his almost perfect attendance, his pleasant smile and particularly his many visits to sick brethren. He was held in very high esteem by his brethren in Masonry.

The Grand Master for 1983, MW. Bro. Gordon W. Coffey, paid his official visit on September 23 accompanied by a large contingent of Grand Lodge Officers and members. After being received with Grand Honours and the Grand Lodge Officers were introduced, the Lodge carried out its business of the day. The Grand Master complimented the Officers on the very efficient manner in which the affairs of the Lodge were conducted. Other distinguished guests concurred. The banquet was fully enjoyable.

Bro. Ralph Chapman was presented a 50 year jewel and certificate on behalf of Grand Lodge on October 24, 1983. R.W. Bro. Ralph Laltoo, a distinguished Mason from Trinidad, P.D.D.G.M. of the Grand Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia and affiliated with Acacia Lodge, presented an exceptionally well prepared and received paper entitled "The Festival of St. Andrews and the Craft of Scottish Masonry." Two Masons were raised during the year but other degrees were well conferred.

R.W. Bro. Fred Forbes quit this life on December 7, 1983 at the age of 66. He was a most prominent member and Officer of the Lodge and a constant attendee. As Worshipful Master he led the Lodge in a most capable manner. He expressed his opinions very freely but with great wisdom, consequently they were highly respected. His ritual work was perfection, setting an example for the brethren, both young and old, to emulate. As District Deputy Grand Master, he was successful in promoting fellowship among the different lodges and he was most faithful in the discharge of his duties. As R.W. Bro. C.A. Pincombe has said; "He was a true Mason and if he had lived, would have become Grand Master." R.W. Bro. Forbes took a very active part in the activities of his community, including prominence in church affairs. The large number of brethren and others who crowded the Chapel to pay last respects was testimony to his popularity and the respect in which he was held and constituted a fitting tribute. Mrs. Irene Forbes, donated a Temple Board Share Certificate to the Lodge as a Memorial.

Bro. Donald H. MacFarlane was installed Worshipful Master for 1984 by W. Bro. H. William Perks and the Officers were subsequently installed by assisting Past Masters. W. Bro. George Kay was then presented his Past Master's apron, a gift from his wife, and a Past Master's Jewel on behalf of the Lodge. The ladies of the Eastern Star again outdid themselves in the preparation of the annual banquet. Later in the year and at the conclusion of a regular meeting, the brethren were encouraged to exhibit and explain their several hobbies, a different idea which proved quite enjoyable. An interesting article on "The Applications of New Members and the Investigation" was read by R.W. Bro. John Lingley at another meeting. The brethren saw that this was information which should be a constant practice to safeguard the portals of Freemasonry from the pretenders to our Fraternity. Another increase in the rent was recorded, to \$151.00. The Past Master's Unit of the Luxor Temple Shriners with R.W. Bro. Edward Sherrard of Keith Lodge #23 as Worshipful Master, conferred the Master Mason Degree.

The Keltic Degree Team visited New Carlisle, Quebec and Athole Lodge #15 in 1984. At a later meeting, the Past Masters of Acacia Lodge, with W. Bro. John Shute in the Chair, conferred the Fellowcraft Degree with great proficiency. Three Candidates received the Master Mason Degree and other degrees were capably conferred by the regular officers.

During the past few years the list of brethren who have been examining Candidates on the several degrees was bolstered by the addition of W. Bro. David Creighton, Bro. S. Freeman Dunnett, Bro. Melville Johnston and Bro. Michael Swetnam. Those assisting in other degree work: R.W. Bro. G.C. Robinson, W. Bros. G.M. Kay, D.H. MacFarlane, K.E. Barnes, D.A. Lusby, V.S. Howe, W.A. Cudmore, P.R. Creighton and Bros. C.A. Mills, S.F. Dunnett and the regular Officers of Acacia #49.

Bro. C. Allison Mills and his Officers for 1985 were installed under the direction of R.W. Bro. John Lingley, with the proper ceremony. W. Bro. MacFarlane received his Past Master's Apron, presented to him on behalf of his wife, Elizabeth. The installing officers were justifiably complimented by the visiting dignitaries and the banquet was ample and enjoyable. W. Bros. George Kay and Donald MacFarlane donated a slide projector and slides to the Lodge. The slides are duplicates of those which have been utilized by the Lodge for a number of years, faithfully copied to the more modern medium. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. J. William Murray, a member of Tweedie Lodge #41, paid an unofficial visit, just one of many. He was gracefully received and made suitable response. The District Deputies, R.W. Bro. Owen Walton, District #2, and R.W. Bro. J. Robert Kidney, District #7 (and a member of Acacia Lodge) visited with M. W. Bro. Murray, also unofficially. These distinguished visitors certainly generate interest by their presence. M.W. Bro. Murray brought greetings from Grand Lodge and brought the brethren up to date on Grand Lodge matters and Masonic items of interest from around the jurisdiction. W. Bro. LeBaron Stubbs was presented his 60 year bar by R.W. Bro. George Robinson on behalf of Grand Lodge. Rent to the Moncton Masonic Temple Board Inc. was upped yet again to \$158.00.

A meeting of the brethren of Districts 2 & 7 was held in 1975, with 25 Masters and Secretaries in attendance. They discussed Church Parades, monies collected at such parades, a Masonic Float for the Railroad Days parade, and the Travelling Gavel.

The Districts 2 & 7 Church Parade was hosted by Lebanon Lodge #28, Sackville, N.B. The service was conducted by W. Bro. Rev. Wayne MacArthur, Past Master of Lebanon Lodge and Pastor of the Sackville United Church. The collection was donated to community needs in Sackville.

W. Bro. John Wadman of Keith #23 gave a delightful and entertaining talk

entitled "The Bible and How it Fits into Masonry." Bro. John Merryfield presented a proper Masonic Altar Cloth and pedestal drapes to the Lodge, a beautiful gift, much appreciated and regularly used.

A ceremony was held to honour the Past Masters of Acacia Lodge, both living and deceased. They (15 Past Masters) were assembled West of the Altar, and each was introduced to the brethren. To strains of appropriate organ accompaniment by Bro. Gerald Dawson of Keith Lodge, the names of the departed Masters was read and a moment of silence was observed on their behalf. W. Bro. Fraser S. Hale of Coverdale Lodge #52 then presented a program of Masonic Music with certain of the brethren acting as the Choir. It is W. Bro. Hale's fond wish to see music become more prevalent at regular communications as it adds immeasurably to the enjoyment. Six Candidates were raised in 1985 and all degrees were conferred in a manner that was a great credit to the Officers.

Bro. S. Freeman Dunnnett and his Officers, except the Secretary, were installed for 1986 by Past Masters with W. Bro. David Creighton in the East. R.W. Bro. George Robinson was presented a gift in appreciation of his service to the Lodge over many years. R.W. Bro. Robinson in turn presented the new Worshipful Master with a Masonic Bible. W. Bro. Dunnnett also presented Bro. George Theal a gift in appreciation of his faithful work as Secretary of the Lodge for the past 7 years. Among the distinguished guests at the installation were M.W. Bro. J. William Murray, R.W. Bros. Owen Walton, D.D.G.M. #2, J. Robert Kidney, D.D.G.M. #7, Carl Carter, and Carl Jarvis. They complimented the Installing Suite, congratulated the newly installed Officers and wished them a successful year. The Banquet was admirably prepared and served by members of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Westmorland Assembly #23, assisted by the Advisory Board. This group of young ladies between the ages of 12 & 20 and sponsored by the Frank H. Tingley #5, O.E.S., were started in Moncton in 1978 by Mrs. Sandra Dunnnett, (Freeman's wife) and have dedicated their time to the service of others. At the time of W. Bro. Dunnnett's installation and in just over 7 short years, the Rainbow Girls of Moncton had donated in excess of \$10, 000.00 to the less fortunate of our region. The monies realized from this installation will go towards operation of the Assembly. Guest Speaker at the banquet was the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. J. William Murray. M.W, Bro. Murray, being in his chosen profession a Television Announcer, spoke with the ease which practice and an interesting subject affords and he was well received. Bro. George Theal, after some inducement, agreed to one more year as Secretary and was subsequently installed at the January meeting. Bro. John Merryfield received a

paid-up Life Membership in absentia, as he now resides out of province. Later in the year, however, he visited and emotionally thanked the Lodge and the members and restated his love for Masonry and Acacia Lodge in particular.

M.W. Bro. Murray, The Grand Master, paid his official visit on June 23, 1986, accompanied by 40 Grand Lodge Officers and members representing 12 lodges. He was received in proper form and introduced his entourage. He used this occasion to present the Master Mason Apron and Certificate to Bro. Kenneth Hubbard, a personal and special friend. In addressing the Lodge, M.W. Bro. Murray recounted recent business of Grand Lodge and gave special mention to the proposed Masonic Senior's Home and the setting up of the New Brunswick Masonic Housing and Charities Foundation of which he has been an advocate. He retired with ceremony and the meeting adjourned to the Banquet Hall for refreshment and fraternity.

At the convocation of Sept. 22, W. Bro. Dunnett, Worshipful Master, recognized the Past Masters on this the 40th anniversary of Acacia Lodge #49. Each Past Master was presented to the Lodge along with a brief history of his Masonic career. Special mention was made of the living Charter Members, R.W. Bro. George C. Robinson and W. Bros. LeBaron Stubbs, A.E. (Ted) Horton, and W.A.D. (Bill) Trent (who due to extremely poor health was unable to attend) as well as Bro. S.D. Leonard, who while not a Past Master was certainly deserving of mention. All Past Masters were duly honoured and the proper respects were paid to those who now occupy their Spiritual Temple.

With W. Bro. David Creighton as Installing Officer, Bro. William B. Pond was installed Worshipful Master for 1987 along with all Officers except the Secretary and Organist. W. Bro. Creighton was graciously assisted by the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, J. William Murray as well as other Past Masters of Acacia Lodge. At a subsequent meeting, Bro. Thomas H. Carroll was installed as Secretary by R.W. Bro. J.R. Kidney, D.D.G.M. #7. The rent was again increased effective Jan. 1, 1987. W. Bro. Dunnett was presented a Past Master's apron on behalf of his wife and family. The District Deputy Grand Master commented on the unusually low attendance at the monthly meetings, although no consensus could be reached regarding a solution or even a cause. It should be noted that while our attendance is low, it is as high or higher than other lodges in the districts. Poor attendance afflicts not only Acacia but is common among the lodges and seems more a general trend than a localized problem. Indeed at the November 23, 1987 official visit of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Kenneth Legassick, this very problem was

described as affecting the whole jurisdiction and elicited comment by the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Charles N. Hollett. In the past there have been downturns in the fortunes of the Fraternity which have been overcome by a strict observance of the Landmarks and the faithful adherence to its precepts. MW. Bro. Legassick addressed the brethren gathered on the Masonic truths and symbolisms of the Square, Level, and Compasses and after the ceremonial withdrawal from the Temple, enjoyed typical Acacia fellowship in the Banquet Hall.

True Brotherly Love and Relief were shown by W. Bro. Pond during the summer recess, when he and a work party of Acacia brethren painted the house exterior, caulked the windows and flashings and repaired fences for a Brother whose illness (terminal as it turned out) prevented him from doing the necessary work. Both the needy Brother and his spouse were astounded by the eagerness and number of volunteers that responded to the call. This is Masonry in deed.

The degrees were well handled by the regular Officers of the Lodge with Past Masters, organized by W. Bro. C.A. Mills, conferring the Fellowcraft Degree in October. In total, 7 brethren were raised, and the business of the Lodge was conducted with wisdom and decorum.

Bro. Michael G. Swetnam was installed Worshipful Master for 1988 by R.W. Bro. Charles N. Hollett, D.G.M., and the remaining Officers were ably installed by other Past Masters in a most impressive ceremony. W. Bro. Fraser Hale, Coverdale #52, provided the musical accompaniment. W. Bro. Swetnam presented an engraved gavel and case to R.W. Bro. Hollett in appreciation of the difficulty of the installation ritual and the inspirational manner in which it had been mastered. W. Bro. Pond received his Past Masters Apron and Jewel, presented to him by W. Bro. V.S. Howe. R.W. Bro. George Robinson used the opportunity to present gifts (which expense was borne by himself) to some of the brethren whom he considered to have contributed substantially to Masonry in the Districts. Gifts were presented to R.W. Bros. Hollett, Maurice Linkletter, Howard #15, and Eldon Libby, Coverdale #52 and W. Bros. Vaughan Scott, Keith #23 and M.G. Swetnam. The guest speaker at the banquet was R.W. Bro. Maurice Linkletter, P.J.G.W. and Chairman of the New Brunswick Grand Lodge Education Committee. The banquet was prepared and served by Westmorland Assembly, Rainbow Girls, of which W. Bro. Swetnam is Advisory Board Chairman.

The regular meeting in January saw Acacia Lodge in possession of the Traveling Gavel and 108 Masons in attendance. How gratifying it was to see the balcony used of a necessity. In February, W. Bro. S.F. Dunnett presented an interesting and timely paper entitled "Income Tax Investments and Shelters." R.W. Bro. C.A. Pincombe, D.D.G.M. #2, addressed the Lodge in March, presenting a short history surrounding the 3 Craft lodges in Moncton, including dates, names of prominent early brethren and interesting Masonic events. This was the official visit of R.W. Bro. Curtis E. Steeves, D.D.G.M. #7, and was very well attended. R.W. Bro. G.C. Robinson presented the Worshipful Master with a framed picture to thank him for devoted service. In April, Acacia Lodge had the Traveling Gavel and the Fellowcraft Degree was exemplified on a Candidate from Tweedie #41. The Senior Deacon, Bro. MacQuarrie was most impressive in the ritual. The first membership list since 1980 was mailed with the May notice. The June meeting was highlighted by a paper presented by Bro. George Theal entitled "Masonry in Germany" as well as a demonstration of some German Masonic items of interest. Instruction was the theme in September. A true or false quiz on proper procedures for balloting was overseen by Bro. Gerald Chaulk. Some answers were eye opening.

On October 8, 1988, Acacia Lodge sponsored and hosted a group of Masons and their wives / girlfriends from in and around the Boston area. These Masons travel under the name "The Colonial Craftsmen's Club of Colonial, Massachusetts" a branch of which, "The American Union Colonial Degree Team" was invited to Moncton. They conducted a typical Masonic meeting as it might have been held in the "Bunch of Grapes Tavern" in Boston around 1775, and conferred the 3rd Degree in period dress and ritual. Our ladies were entertained by their ladies with a program called the "Distaff Side". There were banquets and side trips and much fraternalism and the event was talked about long afterward.

W. Bro. W.A.D. (Bill) Trent passed to the Celestial Lodge on October 12, 1988. He took his degrees in Keith Lodge #23 and was a Charter Member of Acacia, becoming Master in 1952. He took a great interest in the growth of the Lodge, was outspoken in his helpful opinions and was a dedicated Mason. His Memorial Service was very well attended. The estate of W. Bro. Trent has provided for a Trust Fund for the education of children of Keith and Acacia Lodge members. The fund is controlled by R.W. Bro. George Robinson, Bro Arthur Robinson, and Bro. Scott Ellsworth.

The regular meeting in October has traditionally been Past Master's Night and Annual Roll Call. This year, as there were no petitions and hence no degree work for the Past Masters, W. Bro. Swetnam turned the October meeting over to W. Bro. Freeman Dunnett (traditionally Past Master's Night is presided over by the Immediate Past Master once removed) who opened on 11 and conducted the business of the Lodge. The various Officer's stations were filled by Past Masters. The Lodge passed a motion to the effect that, in the future, a donation of \$10.00 be made to the New Brunswick Masonic Housing and Charities Corporation in the name of each deceased Brother of Acacia Lodge and that a page of the minute book be set aside in his memory. R.W. Bro. Ralph Laltoo was called upon to speak and for over an hour held the brethren assembled, spellbound, as he recounted Masonic history, tradition and composition in his native Trinidad and Tobago. He iterated that although his homeland was composed of many and diverse cultures and races, the official language was and still is English.

November of 1988 saw the Officers conferring the Fellowcraft Degree on a Candidate of Salisbury Lodge #20. Acacia Lodge opened at 7:00 pm under special dispensation this evening because after the meeting closed, the brethren retired to the Banquet Hall where a special tribute had been planned in honour of R.W. Bro. George C. Robinson, P.D.G.M., for his illustrious and extensive contribution to Freemasonry. To quote from a paper written by R.W. Bro. C.A. Pincombe, D.D.G.M. #2: "George C. Robinson began his Masonic career at the age of 21 in Fownes Lodge, Havelock, N.B. on 25 March, 1932. He served as a Secretary in 1933 and 34 and served as Worshipful Master in 1939. He is therefore approaching the Fiftieth Anniversary of his installation as Worshipful Master. He was exalted as a Royal Arch Mason in Sussex Chapter #9, R.A.M., in Sussex, N.B.

W. Bro. Robinson was living in Moncton in 1945 when discussions took place concerning the need of a new Craft Lodge in this city. When dispensation was granted by M.W. Bro. Dr. A.S. Robinson, Grand Master, 15 August, 1946, Acacia Lodge was constituted, at which time our Brother was a Charter Member of Acacia Lodge, and served the Lodge during those formative years, along with the late W. Bro. Russell H. Miller, helping the new Officers and establishing standards of work which were a credit to Masonry. He was appointed Grand Standard Bearer for the year 1951. M.W. Bro. J. William Duncan, Grand Master, then appointed him District Deputy Grand Master for District #7 for the years 1952 and 1953. Some years later he was further honoured by our Grand

Lodge when appointed Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the State of Victoria in Australia.

Our companion continued his progress in the York Rite, becoming a member of Ivanhoe Preceptory #36, Knights Templar and Tantramar Council #8, Royal and Select Masters. Our Brother also took degrees in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, receiving his 14th degree from the Moncton Lodge of Perfection in 1949, his 18th degree from the Britton Chapter Rose Croix in 1979, his 32nd degree from the New Brunswick Sovereign Consistory at a later date. Albert Lodge #34 made him a honorary member many years ago. He became a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Luxor Temple a number of years ago and is a strong supporter of its work with crippled children. R.W. Bro. Robinson is a Past President of the Moncton Shrine Club. He was also interested in the Order of Demolay and served as a member of the Advisory Council for New Brunswick, his certificate being signed by Frank Land, of Kansas City, the founding "Dad" of Demolay.

The year 1982 marked his Golden Anniversary in Masonry and he received his 50 year pin, etc. He was honoured by his brethren who elected him Deputy Grand Master. He was further honoured by an invitation to become a member of the McLeod-Moore Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine #1 in Saint John. R.W. Bro. Robinson has served on the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge since 1982.

In recent years, while visiting the several lodges in our province and particularly South-eastern New Brunswick, he became very concerned by the ever decreasing attendance in our lodges. He then decided to offer a "Traveling Gavel, complete with Banner and Record Book" to be given to the lodge which held the Gavel at that time. A system of ratios was worked out to ensure equity among the various lodges in Districts 2 & 7. The competitive spirit which the Traveling Gavel engendered has stimulated visitation within our districts as many of those present will attest. Not content with the Gavel, etc., R.W. Bro. Robinson has instituted a system of gifts for those involved with the Traveling Gavel. It is quite impossible to adequately express our gratitude for his continued zeal and largesse. In his 57 years in the Fraternity he has given of himself to the utmost and tonight we gather to honour him. Some words from Edwin Markham seem appropriate:

There is a destiny which makes men brothers,
None goes his way alone.

All that we send into the lives of others,
Comes back into our own.”

It is fitting that for this meeting Acacia Lodge was in possession of R.W. Bro. Robinsons Traveling Gavel and passed it on during the regular business.

At the December meeting, before embarking on the business of the night, Bro. Arthur Gear was escorted to the East and presented a certificate of appreciation for his services to the Craft and a paid-up Life Membership for his services to Acacia Lodge. He was conducted once around the lodge to the applause of his brethren and, at the invitation of W. Bro. Swetnam, to a seat in the East. Bro. Gear's thanks was sincere and warm and said with emotion. At the close of the meeting, the brethren enjoyed refreshments and festive music provided by Bro. Ken Hubbard and his Barbershop Quartet. The walls were lined and the brethren sang Auld Lang Syne before leaving for home.

Bro. A.C. Tree and his Officers for 1989 were installed by W. Bro. M.G. Swetnam and Past Masters of Acacia Lodge. The ceremony was performed with keen accuracy. W. Bro. Swetnam thus became the first outgoing Master of Acacia Lodge to install his successor. Music for the ceremony was provided by Bro. Gerald Dawson, Senior Warden of Keith #23. W. Bro. Tree received a Master's Pin from W. Bro. Swetnam who expressed the hope that it would be passed on in succeeding years. The Past Master's apron, a gift from his wife Susan, and jewel, were presented by R.W. Bro. Hollett. The banquet, at which wives, family and guests were welcome, was handled by the girls of Westmorland Assembly #23 and R.W. Bro. Charles Hollett, P.D.G.M., was the invited speaker.

Financially at December 31, 1988, there was \$3,000.00 in the Current Fund and \$30,000.00 in the Benevolent Fund. The current membership is 238.

Acacia Lodge was honoured by a visit from R.W. Bro. Curtis Steeves, District Deputy Grand Master #7 on March 27th, 1989. His presence is always an inspiration to the brethren.

A change in the method of balloting was introduced which was operating very well and proving to be more convenient to the brethren.

After the Ballot is spread, the Worshipful Master directs that the brethren will stand to ballot, thus ensuring a more secret result.

The official opening of a New Brunswick Masonic Charities and Housing project was held in St. Andrews, NB. on April 22nd, 1989 with the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick participating along with St. Marks Lodge #5 of St. Andrews. This meeting was well attended.

Workshops have been held in several locations of the Districts where various aspects of ritual, organization meetings, special meetings, etc., are discussed and causing improvements.

R.W. Bro. George Robinson presented a few gifts to W. Bro. Michael Swetnam in appreciation of his interest and helpfulness to the Masonic Order.

An interesting lecture regarding the procedure to be followed by an investigating committee was presented by R.W. Bro. Ralph Laltoo, W. Urn. Allison Mills and Bro. Ken Hubbard. This was very well presented and found helpful to the brethren.

The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Tree, announced the passing of Bro. Cecil Fullerton. A moment's silence was observed and the Charter draped.

Acacia Lodge was honoured to have one of its highly respected members, R.W. Bro. Charles N. Hollett, elected Grand Master on May 13th, 1989. On May 22nd he attended Acacia Lodge where he was accorded Grand Honours and hearty congratulations from all — a memorable occasion for the Lodge.

Bro. Arthur Grear was honoured by Grand Lodge by being presented a Quinn Medallion award for service to his Lodge and Masonry. It could not have been presented to one more deserving.

Sussex Lodge #4 held a Church Parade in Dorchester, N.B. on June 18th in connection with the 150th Anniversary of the Lodge. Masons of Districts Two and Seven gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Bro. Don Edgecombe received his 50 year pin and Certificate on June 28th. Worshipful Master Tree announced that the deadline for receiving Grand Lodge scholarships will be July 14th. He congratulated R.W. Bro. George Robinson on his 50 years of service as a Past Master, R.W. Bro. Robinson having been Master of Fownes Lodge #45, Havelock, in 1939.

W. Bro. Ernest Bradley was made an Honourary Past Master and Life Member of Acacia Lodge on September 25th, for which he extended sincere thanks.

W. Bro. Tree presented 25 year pins to W. Bro. I.G. Wood, R.W. Bro. Robert Kidney, W. Bro. Ivan Steeves, Bro. Harris Keswick, Bro. Arnold Forster. R.W. Bro. John Ramsay and Bro. Stephen Gergely were also eligible, but were absent.

R.W. Bro. George Robinson presented pen sets shaped like a hammer and a nail to W. Bros George Kay, Kenneth Barnes, Allison Mills, David Creighton, Hamilton Wadman, and William Perks. He explained the significance and importance of the hammer and nail to the operative Mason. R.W. Bro. Orville Mason, Senior Grand Warden, also received a gift in thanks for his service and dedication to Masonry. M.W. Bro. Hollett, Grand Master, spoke glowingly about the Mentor Program which, wherever it is being used faithfully with new members, is producing excellent results.

The Traveling Gavel, which was being held by Acacia Lodge at this meeting, was won by Coverdale Lodge.

The annual plate of benevolence was passed and as is usual in Acacia Lodge, the brethren were most generous.

On November 27th, W. Bro. Carlyle Fulton Yuill and Bro. Stephen Bruce MacDonald became members of Acacia Lodge by affiliation. Also at this meeting, Stephen Boyce Ward and Robert Harley Jamieson received their Master Mason Degree.

R.W. Bro. John Lingley installed the Master-elect, W. Bro. Kenneth Edward Barnes, as Worshipful Master of Acacia Lodge. The remaining officers were installed in due form and the usual charges to the officers and brethren given. W. Bro. Tree presented W. Bro. Barnes with a "hat and gavel" pin to be worn by him and passed on to his successor. M.W. Bro. Hollett, G.M., presented a Past Master's apron to W. Bro. Tree and R.W. Bro. George Robinson presented W. Bro. Tree with a Past Master's jewel which had belonged to the late W. Bro. William Trent. W. Bro. Tree was most appreciative of both presentations. It was further announced by R.W. Bro. Robinson that the

late W. Bro. Trent had bequeathed \$66,000.00 jointly to Acacia Lodge #49 and Keith Lodge #23, which amount was in trust with the interest to be used by those Lodges for educational bursaries. The trust which will be called the Trent Memorial Scholarship Fund will be administered by R.W. Bro. Robinson, W. Bro. Scott Ellsworth and R.W. Bro. Michael Swetnam. Following the Installation, the brethren attended the Festive Board in the Banquet Hall to which families and guests were invited.

Bros. John Walter MacKay Miller, Melbourne Lee Heisler and Warren Folkes became members of the Lodge by affiliation on January 22, 1990. Bro. Claude Savoy assumed his duties as the new Lodge Secretary at this meeting.

M.W. Bro. Hollett, G.M., installed W. Bro. Michael Swetnam, Grand Director of Ceremonies, as the representative of the the Grand Lodge of Louisiana in New Brunswick. This commission carries with it the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana with the title of Right Worshipful. R.W. Bro. Swetnam expressed his thanks with much emotion.

In memory of Bro. Leonard B. Sherwood, the Lodge made a donation to the New Brunswick Masonic Charities and Housing Co. Ltd. and set aside a page in the minutes.

R.W. Bro. Ronald M. Hoar, District Deputy Grand Master for District #7 paid his official visit on March 26th, 1990, accompanied by many officers and members of Grand Lodge. R.W. Bro. Hoar presented 25 year pins, some of which had been overlooked and were long overdue, to R.W. Bro. George Robinson, W. Bro. Norman Jones, W. Bro. Harris Tait, W. Bro. Tom McCaughey, W. Bro. Edward Horton. R.W. Bro. Robinson presented pins to Bro. Wallace Cameron, Bro. Vaughan Harvey, Bro. Roy Hayes, Bro. Ingram McKnight and Bro. Robert McConnell. W. Bro. Edward Horton made similar presentations to Bro. Leonard Coates, Bro. George Dixon, Bro. Ronald McWilliam, Bro. Lorne Walker, and Bro. James Stevens. Bros. James Allaby, Robert Bowness, Donald Harris, Gilbert Meridith, Vern Murray, Roy Garland and John Miller received their 25 year pins from Worshipful Master Barnes.

Memorials were sent to the N.B. Masonic Charities and Housing Co. Ltd. in the names of W. Bro. Orley Fowler, Bro. Cecil Fullerton, R.W. Bro. Winston Steeves, P.D.G.M., and Bro. Roy Stewart.

The Worshipful Master reported that he had presented 25 year pins to Bro. Lloyd Pond, W. Bro. George Hudson, W. Bro. LeBaron Stubbs, Bro. James James, Bro. Milford Rawline, Bro. Leonard Johnson and Bro. Edwin Welling at their respective homes and to Bro. James Pike at Zetland Lodge #24, Shediac Cape, Bro. Doug Murray at Lebanon Lodge #28, Sackville, and a 60 year pin to W. Bro. George Hudson. The following were presented 25 year pins by M.W. Bro. Hollett, G.M., in open Lodge: W. Bro. E. Hamilton Wadman, Bro. Gerald Chaulk, Bro. Neil Trites, Bro. Lester Wheaton and W. Bro. Gerald Wigmore. In turn, the Worshipful Master presented the Grand Master with his 25 year long service award.

W. Bro. George Hudson was made a paid-up member of the Lodge on May 28th, 1990.

More 25 year service awards were presented by the Worshipful Master at the June 25th regular communication. Those receiving pins were Bro. Tom Griffiths, Bro. Fletcher McCully, Bro. Jackson Lefurgey, Bro. Ron Sealy and Bro. Mel Heisler.

The brethren were deeply saddened by the passing of W. Bro. LeBaron Holder Stubbs on September 11, 1990. He was a Charter Member of the Lodge, a Past Master and Treasurer, an Honourary Life Member of Coverdale Lodge #52, as well as a member of the Scottish Rite and the Royal Order of Scotland. He will be remembered for his kindness, his valued opinions on matters Masonic and his profound devotion to Masonry.

W. Bro. Gerald Dawson was made an Honourary Life Member on September 24th. Also at this meeting, seven more brethren received 25 year service awards: W. Bros. Robert Day and Walter Mitchell and Bros. Fred MacDonald, Cecil MacEachern, Donald Mitchell, Earl MacDonald, and Merle Keith.

The Traveling Gavel, with a number of Lodges vying for it, was won by Howard Lodge at the October 22nd meeting.

W. Bro. Murray Hannah and Bro. Eric Burdon received 25 year pins as did W. Bro. Donald Lusby, Bro. Alan Steeves, Bro. Darrell Spencer and Bro. George Theal at the November Communication.

Affiliating with the Lodge in 1990 were Bro. Edwin Drayson and Bro. Gordon Baker. Joining by initiation were Bro. Bruce Tait and Bro. Deno Pappas.

On January 12, 1991, W. Bro. H. William Perks installed R.W. Bro. Michael Swetnam as Worshipful Master in his usual efficient manner. The incoming officers were installed in due form. As an expression to his wife, Susan, for her support and encouragement, R.W. Bro. Swetnam presented her with a bouquet of roses, with the usual loving gesture.

R.W. Bro. Robert Hart, Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England, addressed the Lodge on Masonic Charities in England.

Mr. Michael Messenger, New Brunswick District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus presented a talk on the history and work of his institution, after which he opened the floor for questions. A large number of brethren attended this meeting and there were many questions which Mr. Messenger answered frankly, within the boundary of his duty.

M.W. Bro. Charles Hollett was granted a Life Membership to the Lodge and presented a Past Grand Master's apron and collar, towards the purchase of which many brethren in Districts 2 and 7 had contributed. M.W. Bro. Hollett announced to the Lodge that R.W. Bro. Swetnam had been made an Honourary Past Senior Grand Warden at the annual sessions of Grand Lodge held in Saint John in May. The brethren accorded R.W. Bro. Swetnam a hearty applause.

In May, Worshipful Master Swetnam and seven other brethren travelled to Royal Standard Lodge #398 EC in Halifax to attend on the installation of Bro. Douglas Welsh as Worshipful Master. Acacia is Bro. Welsh's Mother Lodge. After Lodge opened, the group was escorted in and presented as an official visit. Bro. Welsh was surprised and pleased by the visit and spoke warmly of his Mother Lodge in his acceptance remarks.

W. Bro. Kenneth Barnes was presented a Past Master's jewel, suitably engraved, on June 24th. W. Bro. Swetnam presented the first copy of the history of Acacia Lodge to W. Bro. Ernest W.N. Bradley, its author, with thanks for the excellent job. W. Bro. Bradley was modest in expressing his appreciation. The Trent Memorial Scholarships were won by Karlene Bishop and Russell Cochrane for the year 1991.

The Most Worshipful Bro. Orville Herbert Mason, Grand Master of Masons in New Brunswick, paid an official visit to the Lodge on October 28th, 1991. The Worshipful Master welcomed him and escorted him to the East where he received Grand Honours and introduced the Grand Officers who had accompanied him. The Grand Master's address was delivered in his usual interesting way. Bro. Mel Heisler presented a hand-crafted Masonic desk set to M.W. Bro. Hollett in appreciation of his work in promoting Masonic ideals, especially in Acacia Lodge. W. Bro. Fraser Hale presented a musical program, explaining the history and importance of music to our Masonic ceremonies.

Lodge dues were increased by \$10.00 on November 29, 1991, effective January 1, 1992.

R.W. Bro. John Lingley was presented a desk set and calculator with an appreciation plaque, by R.W. Bro. George Robinson, in appreciation of his outstanding contribution to Masonry. R.W. Bro. Lingley expressed sincere thanks.

R.W. Bro. Michael Swetnam presented a plaque to the Lodge listing the names of all who had served the Lodge as Master since its constitution on August 26, 1946. The plaque, in the form of three covered steps with three fluted columns, was hand crafted and donated for the purpose by Bro. James Pike. The brass plates, engraving and mounting hardware were donated by Bro. Melville L.N. Johnson and were installed by R.W. Bro. Swetnam. It is a beautiful commemoration of our Past Masters. The Traveling Gavel was won by Howard Lodge #15 of Hillsborough. A team of Past Masters conferred the Master Mason Degree on Bro. Ashley Sobey.

R.W. Bro. Lingley was presented a Life Membership to the Lodge and his thanks was heartfelt and emotional.

Affiliating in 1991 was Bro. Douglas Baird. Bro. Ashley Sobey joined by initiation.

The Master-elect, Bro. Frank Reade was installed by W. Bro. Donald MacFarlane followed in due form by the remaining officers. Mrs. Helen Reade presented a gavel to her son Frank who in turn presented her with a gift.

In his acceptance speech, W. Bro. Reade thanked Shelly Perks for his top hat, and it was not until later that the story of the hat came to light. W. Bro. Reade had made strict search in and about most of the area Lodges for an extra large hat, but without effect. One evening as he entertained a few of the brethren and their wives at his home, Mrs. Reade remembered a top hat worn by Frank's father in his young days and thought it was still in the attic. The hat was fetched but as luck would have it, was too small. Jokingly, Bro. Reade suggested that perhaps he should wear the hat box at which time he put it on. Lo and behold, the box liner was a perfect fit. W. Bro. Perks' daughter Shelly, who was a seamstress, covered the hat and brim with black felt and binding tape and W. Bro. Reade wore it during his entire term. Of course, not being designed for the purpose, it suffered many bumps and scrapes throughout the year and as his term came to a close, the hat too was ready for retirement.

R.W. Bro. John M. Jefferies, District Deputy Grand Master, District #7, paid his official visit to the Lodge on March 23, 1992. He was received in due form and in his address explained how the Craft Degrees apply to us as Masons. He reminded the Lodge of an upcoming workshop and requested a good attendance.

V.W. Bro. Gordon Rattray, Grand Historian, presented an outline of the History of Masonry in New Brunswick.

The Traveling Gavel, which Acacia has been quite proficient in obtaining, was won by Zetland Lodge #24, Shediac Cape on June 22nd, by Howard Lodge #15 on September 28th, again by Zetland in October and in December by Coverdale Lodge #52 of Riverview.

R.W. Bro. Carr W. Graham, Deputy Grand Master, presented Bro. George Dixon his 50 year long-service certificate and pin on behalf of the Lodge.

Bro. Roy Sellars and M.W. Bro. Fred Morrison affiliated with the Lodge in 1992.

Bro. James Pike as Worshipful Master and all his officers were installed by a team of very competent Past Masters led by M.W. Bro. Hollett. Mrs. Ruby Pike presented her husband with a gavel, which looked suspiciously like those

which he himself hand crafts but which was appreciated nonetheless. W. Bro. Reade's mother, Helen, presented him his Past Master's apron and congratulated him on a successful year. It was noted that both W. Bro. Pike and M.W. Bro. Hollett were fellow Newfoundlanders. To complete the Newfoundland occasion, two of W. Bro. Pike's Brothers and brethren were present — W. Bro. George Pike and W. Bro. Frank Pike. Also in attendance was M.W. Bro. Orville Mason, Grand Master.

At the February meeting, W. Bro. Pike had the brethren sing the National Anthem prior to opening Lodge. After opening and before closing Lodge, appropriate odes were sung, a custom which continues at this writing.

R.W. Bro. John Jefferies, DDGM #7 accompanied by many members and officers of Grand Lodge, made an official visit on February 22, 1992 and found the Lodge to be in excellent both healths fiscally and Masonically. The Lodge thanked R.W. Bro. Jefferies for his interest in the Craft and Acacia Lodge.

Bro. Mel Heisler presented W. Bro. Perks with a marble gavel in recognition of his generous and valuable contribution to the Lodge and Masonry. W. Bro. John Murray of Zetland Lodge #24 presented the Traveling Gavel banner to the Lodge symbolizing that Acacia had successfully challenged for the gavel more often than any other Lodge during the past year. In return, Acacia Lodge hosted the Traveling Gavel Banquet.

Several of the brethren and their wives traveled to Newfoundland where they were welcomed and entertained by their counterparts on the "Rock." Those from Acacia Lodge who visited were Charles Hollett; Arthur Grear; William and Dorothy Perks; Ken and Francene Hubbard; James Barnes; Harold and Elsie Smith; Tom and Dorothy McCaughey; Art MacLean; Ronald and Audrey McWilliam; Fred Morrison; James and Ruby Pike. They were accompanied by a number of brethren from other area Lodges and their wives.

They traveled by bus, piloted by Bro. Jim Barnes, to Sydney, N.S., then by ferry to Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland where they toured W. Bro. Pike's Mother Lodge, Cabot Lodge # 6177, EC. On Monday evening, June 6th, they were welcomed at a dinner held in their honour. On Tuesday they took a short tour of the Codroy Valley and in the evening the Masons attend the regular meeting of Cabot Lodge and witnessed the exemplification of the Fellowcraft Degree as worked in the English Constitution — different and enjoyable. The

Ladies Auxiliary expressed their delight to have such a congenial group. The bus returned to Moncton on June 8th. (Thanks to R. W. Bro. Jim Pike for the account of this visit).

On June 23, 1993, the Phil Drader/Coronation Chapter of DeMolay presented a program featuring the aims and ideals of the Order. This was an excellent presentation, done without the "book" and speaks well for the future of the Order. The boys were accompanied by R.W. Bro. William Balsler Jr., J.G.W. and R.W. Bro. Maurice Linkletter, P.J.G.W.

The Lodge paid tribute to the widows of those members who have passed on. Flowers, special pins and certificates were presented to all widows in attendance, including: Betty Chapman, Dorothy Horton, Gladys Price, Margaret Wadman, and Ruth Keith. The presentations were made by W. Bro. Pike assisted by M.W. Bro. Hollett who further explained the effects of Masonry on family life.

W. Bro. Pike introduced a social club to be known as the "Newfie Connection," He explained that he and MW. Bro. Hollett had been requested by R.W. Bro. Swetnam, in his term of office in 1991, to arrange a traditional Newfoundland "fish and brewis" dinner in the Fall. The summons for that particular meeting proclaimed that the meal was being prepared by Acacia's "Newfie Connection". R.W. Bro. Swetnam further suggested that there were probably enough Newfoundlanders in the area to form a social group. Pins and certificates were presented to M.W. Bro. Charles Hollett, W. Bro. John Duncan, Bro. Roy Sellars, Bro. Al Brace, Bro. Art Gear, Bro. John Miller, Bro. Gerald Chaulk and R.W. Bro. William Perks. Although not a Newfie, R.W. Bro. Swetnam was made an honorary member.

The Traveling Gavel was won by Zetland Lodge #24 on October 25th, 1993 and awarded to Worshipful Master John Murray.

Affiliating in 1993 were Bro. George Mattison, Bro. E. Al Brace, R.W. Bro. Elwood Mosher, Bro. Gerald Jones and Bro. Lloyd Clarke. Bro. Paul Barbour joined by initiation.

Bro. David Stiles and his officers were installed on January 8, 1994, by R.W. Bro. Swetnam and a team of assisting Past Masters. The ceremony was performed in the usual excellent manner to which we have become accustomed

in Acacia Lodge. M.W. Bro. Carr Ward Graham, Grand Master was in attendance and was accorded Grand Honours. Bro. Peter Steeves of Howard Lodge #15, presented a Past Master's apron to W. Bro. Pike. The apron had belonged to Bro. Steeves' father R.W. Bro. Winston Steeves, P.D.G.M. and W. Bro. Pike felt very honoured to receive it. After the customary charges to the Master, Officers and brethren, all attended to the Festive Board in the banquet room.

At the regular meeting held on January 24, 1994, R.W. Bro. Jefferies and Bro. Arthur Young affiliated with the Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Perks, accompanied by Grand Lodge Officers and members, was received on the occasion of his first official visit to his Mother Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master, District #7. His remarks were as usual interesting and informative, demonstrating again his enthusiasm for Masonry.

Acacia brought home the Traveling Gavel for the March meeting. The Lodge was pleased to confer the Fellowcraft Degree on four Candidates from Coverdale Lodge #52.

The Lodge had the Gavel again in September when it was taken by Zetland Lodge #24.

MW. Bro. Carr Graham, Grand Master, made an Official Visit on November 28, 1994. As is usual in Districts 2 & 7, he was accompanied by a large entourage of Grand Lodge Officers and members.

Effective January 1, 1995, Lodge dues were increased \$10.00 across the board. This brings annual dues to \$50.00 for those under 65 years of age, and \$35.00 for those 65 and older.

During 1994 Bros. James Sellars, Kurt Cobb, Donald Matheson and Stuart Cooke joined the Lodge by initiation.

Bro. Merrill Henderson was installed Worshipful Master on January 14, 1995. The Installing Officer was M.W. Bro. Charles Hollett assisted by a keen team of Past Masters. The ceremony was performed in due form and the customary Festive Board followed. W. Bro. Henderson presented W. Bro. Stiles with his Past Master's apron and jewel.

For the January meeting, Acacia was again in possession of the Traveling Gavel which was won by Keith Lodge #23.

As a method of defraying the continuing cost of printing and mailing summonses, the Lodge began soliciting donations from among its businessmen. In consideration of a \$25 or larger donation, the donor's business card will be displayed in the summons.

Widow's pins were presented by W. Bro. Henderson to Helen MacDonald, Shirley Wheaton and Caroline Day, followed by a very appropriate address by M.W. Bro. Orville Mason, P.G.M.

On October 3, 1995, at Howard Lodge #15, Hillsborough, W. Bro. Ernest W.N. Bradley was conducted to the East to M.W. Bro. W.H. Balser Jr. The Grand Master commissioned W. Bro. Bradley as the Representative to the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick from the Grand Lodge of Queensland in Australia. With the commission came the title of Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Queensland and the rank of Right Worshipful. The Worshipful Master of Howard Lodge vacated the Chair and turned the gavel and hat to R.W. Bro. Bradley who assumed the East and, as is his manner, eloquently thanked the Grand Master and the Lodge for this honour. He emotionally recounted a few Masonic memories since joining Howard Lodge in 1927 and the brethren accorded him a round of applause befitting his Masonic stature and gentlemanly demeanor. (Ed:- I added this to the History as R. W. Bro. Bradley was too modest to do so.)

At the regular convocation in November, 1995, the following brethren received 25 year service awards: R.W. Bro. William Perks; W. Bro. David Creighton; W. Bro. Victor Howe; W. Bro. Ralph Prosser; and Bro. Charles Harmer, making a total of 43 pins presented over the past few years.

During 1995 Bros. John Cudmore, David Conrad and Timothy Greening joined the Lodge by initiation.

M.W. Bro. William H. Balser Jr., Grand Master, paid an official visit to the Lodge on January 20, 1996, at which time he installed Gerald Allister Chaulk as Worshipful Master in due and regular form. The remaining officers were installed by officers of Grand Lodge. W. Bro. Chaulk presented W. Bro. Henderson with his Past Master's jewel and W. Bro. Henderson reciprocated by presenting the "hat & gavel" Master's pin to W. Bro. Chaulk.

Following the installation the brethren adjourned to the banquet hall for the Festive Board and the customary toasts and memorials. Midway through the program, the plaintive skirl of the bagpipes heralded the arrival of a special cake which W. Bro. Chaulk presented to R.W. Bro. John Lingley, it being his birthday.

W. Bro. Chaulk explained that the cake was also to thank R.W. Bro. Lingley who had “coached” him through the degrees. R.W. Bro. Lingley graciously expressed his gratitude and appreciation.

The address to the brethren was delivered by R.W. Bro. Swetnam. He reflected “that the past 50 years had been good ones for Acacia Lodge and Acacia Lodge has been good for Masonry during that time. Masons the jurisdiction over have looked to her for leadership, ritual prowess, Masonic information, fellowship and just plain Masonry, and Acacia Lodge has not let them down.” He reminded the brethren that the past is only a prologue to the future and admonished those who would make sweeping changes to Masonry that our self-appointed task is not to take Masonry and make it better, but to take Masons, one at a time, and make them better.

There was a break-in at the temple early in 1996. More accurately, it is assumed that a person or persons entered the building while the brethren were practicing in the lodge-room and hid out until all had left. They then broke into the lodge and regalia rooms where they did considerable damage. They did not destroy any regalia but they did make off with a few swords and other paraphernalia belonging to the concordant bodies. An alarm system has been subsequently installed throughout by Bro. Bill Millett of Keith Lodge #23, and the number and availability of access cards is strictly limited.

Brother Arthur Bliss Gear quit this life on April 19, 1996. Bro. Gear was one of Acacia’s most devoted members, a Mason on whom others could safely model their Masonic career. He was a faithful visitor of the sick and shut-in brethren and a regular at hospital bedsides. He was a keen supporter of Camp Goodtime, regularly donating expensive items on which to sell tickets. Without fanfare or recognition Arthur looked after the dues of several brethren whose financial situations were less than ideal. He donated loonies, to the tune of hundreds of dollars, to Centennial Day Camp for use as prizes in their activities. He was a constant visitor of local Lodges; he never missed picnics or other special events; he washed dishes; he helped prepare meals; he was at every practice. Over two hundred brethren from all over the Province attended his Memorial Service, an apt and fitting tribute to a much beloved man and Mason. Acacia Lodge and Masonry is poorer for his having gone, but immeasurably richer for the time he spent with us.

The Officers of the Lodge have been keenly interested in maintaining the Degree work on a high order. The Lodge was fortunate to have a good balance between several of the older brethren who are excellent ritualists, and our newer, younger brethren who are eager to learn the ritual. The lectures were usually given by the junior officers of the Lodge. A Past Master’s Night is

customary in October of each year, presided over by the Past Master who has just completed his year as Immediate Past. In Acacia Lodge he is jestingly known as the Immediate Past Master once removed. The several Masters have been diligent in seeing that the Antient Charges of a Freemason are rehearsed to the membership annually. The Lodge is always fairly represented at area Church Parades. The Lodge faithfully makes a donation to the N.B. Masonic Charities and Housing Co. Ltd. in memory of deceased members, also setting aside a page in the minute book in the member's name. In addition to its regular Ladies' Nights, Acacia is diligent in remembering the widows and shut-in members with a Christmas visit and gift. The Benevolent Committee regularly reviews the names of those in arrears of dues and if need is found, dues are paid from the benevolent account. Every year Masons of the area, coordinated by R.W. Bro. Swetnam, volunteer time to assist the Salvation Army with their "Christmas Cheer" campaign. Acacia Lodge has many members who participate in this charitable endeavor and indeed seem to receive more in personal satisfaction than they give in time or money.

W. Bro. Gerald Dawson, our Organist and a Past Grand Organist, adds immeasurably to the impressiveness and the enjoyment of the Degrees with his music and he is accompanied on special occasions by soloist, Bro Ashley Lloyd of Keith Lodge #23. The brethren sing the National Anthem before Lodge is opened; an appropriate ode after opening and again before closing. It should be noted that W. Bro. Dawson, in his Jove for the Pipe Organ, has researched and developed a book on the several Pipe Organs presently in use by area churches.

Each year since 1987, the four Lodges of Greater Moncton have hosted a dinner and dance, usually held during the weeks before Christmas. It is immensely popular and largely attended, and is one of the major Masonic social events of the year.

The refreshment periods held after every meeting continues to be a time for fellowship and fraternity, and the Festive Board held in conjunction with the Installation of Officers is usually a sell-out. At this Board, toasts are proposed to the Queen, Grand Lodge, the Craft and visiting brethren, and those who went to collect their wages in the Celestial Lodge are remembered with a minute of silence. The brethren are always interested to hear an oration from a guest speaker, usually a Grand Lodge Officer, always someone whose grasp of Masonry is acknowledged and respected. The last toast of the evening is reserved for the Junior Warden, "Happy to meet! — Sorry to part! — Happy to meet again!"

Each summer a family picnic is held, to this date always at M.W. Bro. Hollett's summer cottage at Caissie Cape. Music, games, fellowship and food are the order of the day.

The "Newfie Connection" continues to grow and now has members from many of the area Lodges. They meet socially four times a year and twice yearly they host a dinner at which traditional Newfoundland fare is served. The Jigg's Dinners are proving extremely popular, but unfortunately, the closure of the cod fishery has made it almost impossible to get good salt cod, a staple of "fish and brewis." In 1995, a salmon dinner was held its place and was readily accepted by the brethren.

Many of the December meetings were followed by a musical program presented by Bro. Kenneth Hubbard and his Barbershop Quartet "Had and the Idlers". The untimely passing of Bro. Hubbard in November of 1995 robs us of that pleasure.

Since 1991, the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick through its charitable arm, The Masonic Charities and Housing Company Ltd., has been the sole sponsor of Camp Goodtime, a summer camp for children with cancer, which is operated under the auspices of the New Brunswick Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society. The camp is held for one week each year at the YM/YWCA Camp Glenburn in Bellisle Bay. M.W. Bro. Hollett was a strong promoter of this cause.

The four Greater Moncton Lodges collaborate each Spring to provide an evening of good food and entertainment for Masons, their families and guests. All proceeds from the evening go to assist in the funding of Camp Goodtime and to their credit in the two years that this venture has been undertaken; nearly \$6000.00 has been realized. This and the fact that the brethren are eager for more family oriented social events, is sure to make this an annual event.

The Lodge has purchased personalized Memorial Cards containing a portion of the Masonic Memorial Service, and providing a space for attendees to sign. The card is presented to the family of a departed Brother to remind them of the esteem with their loved one was held by the Lodge and its members.

October remains the Annual Roll Call meeting and Past Master's Night. The Plate of Benevolence is always passed and the brethren are invariably generous.

Annual donations are made to the Royal Canadian Legion in tribute to the men who made the ultimate sacrifice that others may be free.

Frank H. Tingley Chapter #5, Order of the Eastern Star continues to work closely with the Lodge, especially in preparing and serving at our banquets. Acacia Lodge makes an annual donation to them for use of the kitchen facilities and utensils.

Acacia Lodge is fortunate to have many brethren — officers, former officers and members — who are active in degree work. Many of the Past Masters keep current in the ritual and there are number who have proven themselves qualified Installing Officers. The following list, while not complete, is provided as an example of the willingness of the brethren to assist the Worshipful Master and of his ability to provide employment for those in his charge: MW. Bro. Charles Hollett, R.W. Bros. George Robinson, John Lingley, Harry Livingstone, Robert Kidney, William Perks, James Pike, Ralph Laltoo, Ernest Bradley and Michael Swetnam; W. Bros. William Pond, Donald MacFarlane, George Kay, Harris Tait, Ivan Steeves, Clarke Tree, Kenneth Barnes, John Duncan, Victor Howe, Allison Mills, Lawrence Wadlyn, Keith Leighton, David Creighton, Irwin Wood, Freeman Dunnett, Harold Smith, Thomas McCaughey, Gerald Dawson, Merrill Henderson, Gerald Chaulk, Frank Reade, David Stiles, John Miller, and Lawrence Kelly; and Bros. Paul MacQuarrie, Steve MacDonald, Boyce Ward, Stuart Cooke, James Sellers, Kurt Cobb, Bruce Tait, Lloyd Clarke and Douglas Baird.

It is evident that the Lodge has many competent ritualists — a strong foundation on which to build for the future. The Lodge is also fortunate to have several brethren who are well educated Masonically and who have shared that knowledge with the other brethren of the Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Perks has presented several well researched and delivered addresses on the Biblical symbolism of the Degrees and the effects of Masonry on our family and friends. R.W. Bro. Perks is also expert in the ritual and floor work and is invaluable to the new officers as a member of the Ritual Committee. He was an asset to the entire District Seven as District Deputy Grand Master.

R.W. Bro. John Jefferies, also a District Deputy Grand Master for District #7 spoke many times and concentrated on the virtues and tenets of Masonry and the importance of applying them in our daily living.

R.W. Bro. James Pike was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick in 1995 and in that capacity had charge of the arrangements for the 1996 communications of Grand Lodge. All must have been satisfactory as he was elected as Deputy Grand Master at those sessions.

R.W. Bro. Michael Swetnam has been very active Masonically, both at the local as well as at the Grand Lodge levels. In addition to serving two terms as Master of Acacia Lodge, he is a Past Master of Albert Lodge #34 and Secretary of Steven Lodge #37. His knowledge of the ritual ensures him a place on our Ritual Committee and causes him to be sought after by other Lodges. He is asked regularly to speak at Acacia Lodge and is in constant demand as a speaker at other Lodges in the area. R.W. Bro. Swetnam publishes the notices of several Lodges and has served as the Editor of "Mostly Masonry", the Grand Lodge newsletter. He provides a monthly newsletter and calendar of Masonic events to the Masters of the fourteen Lodges in Districts 2 and 7. His newsletter, entitled "The Trestleboard" is photocopied and distributed widely in the area and articles from it have been quoted in Lodge notices as far away as Massachusetts. During M.W. Bro. Hollett's term as Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Swetnam served as Grand Director of Ceremonies and along with Bro. Arthur Grear, the three of them visited every Lodge in New Brunswick. For his services, R.W. Bro. Swetnam was made an Honourary Past Senior Grand Warden by the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. It was largely through the efforts of R.W. Bro. Swetnam that Grand Lodge, in 1995, voted to decode the ritual, an action which Acacia Lodge strongly supported. In addition to his Masonry, R.W. Bro. Swetnam, at this writing, is serving his fifth term as Chairman of the Advisory Board for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

M.W. Bro. Hollett's talks on the symbolism of Masonry, have been an inspiration to the brethren of Acacia Lodge and the entire jurisdiction. An address on the importance of traditions of Masonry which he presented to the Conference of Canadian Grand Masters in Winnipeg in 1990 has since been published by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. During his term as Grand Master, he visited the Grand Lodge of Spain, of which he is a Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. His accounts of the trip and the differences and similarities of the ritual, rites and ceremonies was most interesting. He has selflessly contributed his services to Masons Province-wide and continues as an Officer of Acacia Lodge. The following article appeared in the Newfoundland publication "Within These Portals" edited by J. Gordon Bartlett.

A Past Master

Of Avalon Lodge, 776 E.C.

The Grand Master of New Brunswick



The Masonic career of Charles N. Hollett commenced in Avalon Lodge, 776 E.C., when he was initiated on March 14, 1957. A Newfoundlander by birth he was educated in St. John's and commenced his working career with the Newfoundland Railway which later became a part of the Canadian National Railway system.

He served as Master of Avalon Lodge in 1969. Shortly after his transfer to Moncton with Canadian National he became a member of the Moncton Lodge of Perfection and served as Thrice Puissant Master in 1977. He was invited into the Royal Order of Scotland in 1978 and has been an officer in that body ever since. In 1981 he became a joining member of Acacia Lodge No. 49 of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick and continues active participation in all Lodge activities. He was Coronated Honourary Inspector General, 33 Degree, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in 1983. He is a Shriner of Luxor Temple and a member of the Past Master's Unit. The Grand Lodge of New Brunswick elected him as Junior Grand Warden in 1985; Deputy Grand Master in 1987; and Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1989. Since serving as Grand Master, and along with his many other Masonic involvements, he has continued as Chaplain of Acacia Lodge No. 49. His work in Freemasonry has been recognized in many ways, particularly by Honourary Memberships in a number of Lodges under the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick. - J.G. Bartlett, P.M.

The Lodge has been fortunate in having outstanding brethren who built the excellent foundation for the Lodge and in having officers who followed their lead, especially in presenting the ritual and in carrying on the business. They will be fondly remembered. The Secretaries, W. Bro. J. Carmen Wells, W. Bro. E. Hamilton Wadman, Bro George Theal, Bro. Thomas Carroll, Bro. Claude Savoy and Bro. Paul MacQuarrie have been most effective and efficient. The

Lodge has enjoyed numerous visits from brethren from every province of Canada, many of the United States, England, Scotland and Trinidad, etc. The many visits by brethren of neighboring lodges and Grand Lodge Officers proved to be a great encouragement to the brethren. The many visits of the District Deputy Grand Masters were especially beneficial. The Annual Roll Call and District Annual Church Parade have become an institution. The lunches after each meeting added to the good fellowship and sometimes, unfortunately, to the waistlines. The Lodge aided the needy brethren, the sick and the widows, and brethren were faithful in visiting hospitals, nursing homes and private homes. Flowers and cards were sent to sick brethren and Christmas remembrances delivered to widows of the brethren. The occasional offer of transportation to the elderly was appreciated. Memorial Services were held for departed Brothers when possible and requested. These are the deeds that identify the brethren with Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

As the late R.W. Bro. C.A. Pincombe, PDDGM has observed, "Acacia Lodge #49 was built on a true Masonic foundation, it has met many challenges and faces the future with confidence."

(Editor 's Note:- Acacia Lodge No. 49 owes a huge debt of gratitude to R. W. Bro. Ernest W.N. Bradley for researching, compiling and writing this history, both the earlier version in 1988 and this updated and revised version presented in Lodge on June 24, 1996. On behalf of the Worshipful Masters, Officers and Members, past and present, of Acacia Lodge No. 49— thank you Ern.)

