

*White Church
Wallacetown
No. 2*

The VOLUNTEER CHOIR

A Monthly Magazine
Devoted to the Interest of Untrained Choirs
Every Issue Containing Six or More Numbers
of a Very Easy Grade for Church Services

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CELEBRATING 125 YEARS – Members of Cameron Lodge, No. 232, Dutton celebrated the Lodge's 125th anniversary with a gala dinner on Friday evening, October 20th. Pictured are some of the evenings dignitaries, left to right: R. Wor. Bro. Charles Nichols, Immediate Past Deputy District Grand Master;

V. Wor. Bro. Bruce Lyle, Grand Steward; M. Wor. Bro. Durward I. Greenwood, Grand Master of Ontario; R. Wor. Bro. Stan Boughton, present Deputy District Grand Master, and Wor. Bro. Ron Campigotto, Worshipful Master of Cameron Lodge.

Cameron Lodge 125th Anniversary

A milestone was passed on Friday evening, October 20th. The Cameron Lodge, No. 232, Dutton celebrated their 125th Anniversary at the Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre. About 150 people attended the event.

Along with members of Cameron Lodge, dignitaries from other Masonic Lodges joined in this historic event evening, including the Grand Master of Ontario, M. Wor. Bro. Durward I. Greenwood.

The history of Cameron Lodge was also given. The

information from 1870 to 1970 was prepared by R.W. Bro. Herb Campbell and W. Bro. Cyril J. Beill with the update to 1995 by W. Bro. Lawrence Holland and W. Bro. Terry Heeney.

Historical Sketch of Cameron Lodge No. 232, Dutton

Through the efforts of a dozen members of the Craft residing in Wallacetown, Cameron Lodge, No. 232, A.F. & A.M. was established in 1870.

These Freemasons were

members of Prince of Wales Lodge No. 171, now located at Iona Station. They petitioned the then Grand Master of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Alexander B. Stevenson and Thomas B. Harris, Grand Secretary, who granted a dispensation for the formation of the new Lodge. It was named after one of the founders, John H. Cameron and the first Worshipful Master was John Edgecomb.

Cameron Lodge met in three different locations in Wallacetown following its establishment. It was forced to move from its first quarters when the building was moved to Dutton. Fire destroyed the second building in which Cameron Lodge members met, together with records and furnishings. The third meeting place in Wallacetown was in the upper storey of a general store which still stands.

By 1889 there were more members in Dutton than in Wallacetown and it was decided to move the Lodge there. The first meeting place in Dutton is believed to have been over Hockin & Pool's grocery store and the rental was \$12.00 quarterly. Later, meetings were held over Drake & McPherson's and J.H. Price's stores. While located in the latter building in 1903 fire again destroyed the lodge room and records.

From 1914 until 1957 the Lodge met in the Hodder Block on the west side of Main Street. In the latter year, removal was made to the fine new temple in which meetings have since been held.

Decision to Build

At a meeting in 1955 it was decided to undertake the erection of the new temple. In August 1956, work was begun and the first meeting was held in the new structure on May 1st, 1957, with Worshipful Master Larry Smith presiding.

Dedication of the new temple took place on June 7th, 1957, R.W. Bro. Bruce Foster of Ridgetown, representing The Grand Lodge, officiated at the ceremony. The Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Ewart G. Dixon, presented the keys of the building to R.W. Bro. James U. Brown, Chairman of the Building Committee.

A banquet attended by more than 300 proceeded the dedication. Arrangements were under the direction of R.W. Bro. Herb Campbell, Immediate P.D.D.G.M. of St. Thomas District, and R.W. Bro. Tho-

(continued on page 3)

Cameron Lodge 125th Anniversary

(continued from page 1)

mas Pullen, D.D.G.M. of St. Thomas District, presided. R.W. Bro. Foster was the principal speaker.

The first Board of Trustees of the new temple consisted of Bros. Lloyd Corby, President; Stuart McWilliam, Vice-President; John W. McNeil, Treasurer; Frost Hockin, Secretary and Alistair Littlejohn, Director.

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In charge of raising funds were Bros. Frost Hockin, John McNeil, Herb Campbell, Edwin Roberts and James Bennett.

Upon completion of the two-storey temple, the lower section was rented as a Post Office and this arrangement still exists. The first candidate initiated in the new temple following its dedication was Bro. Charles Forsyth, now of Windsor.

Cameron Lodge celebrated its Centennial on October 23, 1970 with a banquet held in conjunction with a Reception for the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Bruce B. Foster, W.Bro. Duncan McKillop, Worshipful Master of the Lodge, was presented with a gold trimmed Master's Collar to mark the occasion.

The mortgage on the building was burned in June 1981 at Cameron Lodge's Family

Barbecue. These barbecues, along with our Ladies' Nights, held each February, are our annual social events.

The Lodge Rooms have been redecorated, the benches and chairs have been re-upholstered and a new furnace and air conditioner have been installed over the past few years. New working tools were purchased in memory of R.W. Bros. Herb C. Campbell and Stuart McWilliam. The stand was made by V.W. Bro. George Ford and his son, Robert.

The Lodge sponsors the March Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic held in Dutton. It has also made sizable donations to the William Mercer Wilson Centre (a Masonic retirement complex in London) and the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital.

The widows of our deceased Brethren are remembered each Christmas with a visit and the gift of a Poinsettia.

Along with the consistent trend in most Lodges, Cameron 232 has had its share of 'ups-and-downs' over the past 125 years. There were, however, always enough interested, dedicated Brethren to sustain it in times of difficulty. We trust today's members may be appreciative of the magnificent efforts put forth by those who have gone before that they will play their part in advancing the principles of Freemasonry as well as in retaining and even enhancing the place in which Cameron Lodge has held in this community.

Historical Sketch of Cameron Lodge No. 232 - Dutton

1970 - Prepared by R.W. Bro. Herb Campbell & W. Bro. Cyril J. Beill

1995 - Update by W.Bro. Lawrence Holland & W. Bro. Terry Heeney

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Dedication of the new temple took place on June 7th, 1957, R. W. Bro. Bruce Foster of Ridgeway, representing The Grand Lodge, officiated at the Ceremony. The Grand Secretary, R. W. Bro. Ewart G. Dixon, presented the keys of the building to R.W. Bro. James U. Brown, Chairman of the Building Committee.

A banquet attended by more than 300 preceded the dedication. Arrangements were under the direction of R.W. Bro. Herb Campbell, Immediate P.D.D.G.M. of St. Thomas District, and R.W. Bro. Thomas Pullen, D.D.G.M. of St. Thomas District, presided. R.W. Bro. Foster was the principal speaker.

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Cameron Lodge History

(Prepared by Herb Campbell
and Cyril J. Beill)

October 1st, 1970

Cameron Lodge, No. 232, A.F. & A.M., came into being in 1870 as a result of the efforts of a dozen members of the Craft residing in Wallacetown. Being members of the adjoining lodge, Prince of Wales, No. 171, now located at Iona Station, they petitioned the then grand master of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Alexander B. Stevenson of Montreal and Thomas B. Harris, grand secretary, who granted a dispensation to the following brethren: John Edgecombe, Dr. G. W. Ling, D. G. McKellar, W. H. Loud, J. H. Stewart, Dr. D. G. Ruthven, C. L. Humphries, Joseph Scott, John H. Cameron, T. Cusack, W. Simpkins and several others.

The lodge was constituted a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and was named after one of the founders, John H. Cameron.

Meetings were held on the Wednesday on or before full moon and the first principal officers were John Edgecombe, W.M.; Dr. G. W. Ling, S.W. and D. G. McKellar, J.W.

First Meeting Place

The brethren rented a hall from J. Scott at Wallacetown, the lower part being occupied by J. P. McKellar's general store. This building was afterwards sold to Peter McCallum, who moved it to Dutton and placed it about where Dutton Bakery recently was situated. This necessitated a search for another hall at Wallacetown.

Alex. Urquhart was building a store at the time—about 1879—and the Masons arranged to fix up the upper storey for a lodge room at a rental of \$15 per year. They were in it only a short time, however, when C. G. Henry's hotel, which was located next door, caught fire and destroyed both buildings along with the Masonic records and lodge furnishings.

When the Foresters erected a brick block now occupied by Robt. Giles' general store at Wallacetown, the upper storey was fitted up for a Masonic lodge room and meetings were held there until 1889. At that time, there were

more members in Dutton than in Wallacetown and it was decided to move the lodge here.

Moved to Dutton

The first meeting place in Dutton is believed to have been over Hockin & Pool's grocery store. A lease still among the lodge records shows that William H. Nelson, jeweller; John C. Price and Joseph T. Sifton, merchants, acting on behalf of Cameron Lodge, agreed to rent from Hockin & Pool the quarters for the sum of \$12 quarterly.

Ten years later, in 1899, the lodge moved again, this time to rooms over Drake & McPherson's store on the west side of Main St. Rental for two small and one large rooms—\$36 yearly.

The lodge apparently met in the latter place for only a short time, because it was operating above J. H. Price's store in 1903 when that place was burned and again the lodge records were lost.

After operating in different quarters in the next few years, Cameron Lodge moved to the Hodder block in 1914 and for 43 years that was the meeting place. The late A. E. Roberts conducted the dedication of that hall in May, 1914.

Starting with a membership of 12 in 1870, Cameron Lodge had 49 on the roll in 1880, 34 in 1890, 32 in 1900, 62 in 1910, 103 in 1919 and at present there are close to 140 enrolled. (1970)

Observe 50th Anniversary

At a gala night in the Sons of Scotland Hall on September 16th, 1920, Cameron Lodge celebrated its 50th anniversary. Some 300 Masons and their ladies from Cameron and neighboring lodges attended. A. E. Roberts presided and an account of the gathering states that until the midnight hour there was a "feast of soul and flow of wit." Robert Jordan, the oldest living member at that time, presented a brief history of Cameron Lodge.

Dr. Webster, West Lorne; Peter Stalker and Rev. J. Pollock were among the speakers and the musical numbers were provided by W. Spencer, humorist, of Toronto; W. Hollingshead, Misses E. Hollingshead and K. Reekie.

Decision To Build

In 1955, the members of Cameron Lodge, being aware of the need for larger and improved quarters, decided to erect their own building. Arrangements were made to lease the lower floor to the Post Office which had been looking for larger accommodation for some time.

In early August, 1956, work was begun on the 33 x 65 foot building on the east side of Main Street.

The lot was donated and other liberal donations of time and money were made. Several members and relatives of former members made generous contributions in the way of furnishings to the new rooms. Financing of the building was done by debentures sold only to members of the Craft.

Officials

The first board of trustees consisted of Lloyd Corby, president; John McNeil, treasurer; Frost Hockin, secretary; Alistair Littlejohn, director.

Building committee members were Lloyd Corby, J. U. Brown, Dr. J. A. Hafele, Peter Love and George Ford.

Those charged with raising the funds were Frost Hockin, John McNeil, Herb Campbell, A. E. Roberts and James Bennett.

The first meeting in the new temple was on May 1st, 1957, with the Worshipful Master, Larry Smith, presiding and a large number of local Masons as well as visitors present.

1957 Officers

Officials of the lodge in 1957 were: I.P.M., George Ford, W.M., Larry Smith; S.W., Ralph Wilson; J.W., Alistair Littlejohn; chaplain, George Corneil; secretary, Frost Hockin; treasurer, Dr. J. A. Hafele; D. of C., J. U. Brown; S.D., Morley Page; J.D., Stuart McWilliam; I.G., Willard Watts; S.S., Gordon Gow; J.S., Len Doolittle; tyler, Donald Forsyth.

Dedication of New Building

At one of the largest gatherings of Masons ever gathered here, dedication of the new temple took place on June 7th, 1957.

Bruce B. Foster of Ridgetown, represented Grand Lodge and presided for the ceremony. The honor of cutting the ribbon symboliz-

ing the opening of the structure went to J. U. Brown, chairman of the building committee, who also received the keys to the temple from the Grand Secretary, E. G. Dixon. Some 200 attended the ceremony in the lodge room.

Preceding the dedication, a banquet was held in the public school with more than 300 attending. Thomas Pullen, D.D.G.M., St. Thomas District, presided and B. B. Foster gave the main address. Herb Campbell, chairman of the committee on arrangements for the banquet proposed the toast to Grand Lodge, while the worshipful master, Larry Smith, sponsored the toast to the visitors.

Entertainment included vocal numbers by the Page Quartet—Morley, Don, Jack and Bill—and a solo by Bill Page.

Present Officers

The 1970 officers of Cameron Lodge are as follows: Stuart Graham, I.P.M.; Duncan K. McKillop, W.M.; Donald Lackey, S.W.; Harold Smith, J.W.; Lloyd Corby, treasurer; J. U. Brown, D. of C.; Morley Page, chaplain; Cyril J. Beill, secretary; Gordon D. Gow, assistant secretary; Stuart Stacey, S.D.; Gordon Welch, J.D.; Arch. MacFarlane, I.G.; Dennis Siddall, S.S.; David Noiles, J.S. and John Crowe, tyler.

Grand Lodge Officers

The following Cameron Lodge officers: A. E. Roberts, D.D.G.M. (1913); M. S. Claus, D.D.G.M. (1931); J. U. Brown, D.D.G.M. (1945) and member Board of General Purposes (1969-70); Herb C. Campbell, D.D.G.M. (1955); Stuart McWilliam, D.D.G.M. (1967); H. B. Hockin, G.S. (1932); J. G. McKellar, G.S. (1946); Peter Love, G.S. (1956); George Ford, G.S. (1968); *Alistair Littlejohn, G.S. (1979)*

Centennial Committee

Stuart McWilliam heads the committee in charge of arrangements for Cameron Lodge's centennial observance. Others on the committee are J. U. Brown, Herb Campbell, Peter Love, George Ford, Duncan K. McKillop, Cyril J. Beill, Frost Hockin, Lloyd Corby, Alistair Littlejohn, Stuart Graham, Harold Smith, Morley Page, Donald Lackey, Howard Loveland and Harold Lyons.

Cyril Beill, G.S. (1980)