

With the social life of the community centred around the home and the church, one can well imagine the desire of the founders of Walker Lodge for the fellowship of Freemasonry. In the month of February 1874, members of the craft, residing in Acton, finding it difficult to visit their mother lodges or other lodges in the vicinity, took steps to form a lodge in Acton.

The initiative of the following nine Masons was responsible for the establishment of Walker Lodge and the laying of the foundation of Freemasonry in Acton.

Charter members: Hugh Walker, fruit dealer, Wor. Master; William McDonald, lumberman, Sen. Warden; Lachlan Cruickshank, lumberman, Jun. Warden; Thomas Clark, station agent, secretary; Wilson Irvine, carriage maker, Master Mason; Henry Cargill, lumberman, Master Mason; John McKee, merchant, Master Mason; John Ross, school teacher, Master Mason; Theo. B. Winn, Doctor of Medicine, Master Mason.

Wor. Bro. Hugh Walker of Guelph Lodge 258, consented to act as the first Worshipful Master and the brethren resolved to designate the lodge "Walker Lodge" in his honor. An application to Grand Lodge was forwarded to the Secretary in Hamilton. It was signed by the nine duly registered Masons mentioned earlier and had the permission of the neighbouring lodges—St. Clair Lodge of Milton, Speed and Guelph Lodges of Guelph and Credit Lodge of Georgetown. Dispensation was granted on August 15th, 1874, and the first regular communication was held in Acton at Agnews Hotel on September 21st, 1874.

The charter or warrant was granted on July 15th, 1875. Walker Lodge was in the Masonic District of Hamilton until 1916, at which time it was transferred to Wellington District.

The first initiation in Walker Lodge took place on October 19th, 1874, when five candidates from Acton and the surrounding area received their first degree. The names of these five candidates were as follows:—

John F. Secord, Merchant; John A. Anderson, Lumberman; James Matthews, Merchant; James Ryder, Blacksmith; Thomas Kennedy, Clerk; Bro. Charles Matthews, son of the late Bro. James Matthews, and Bro. Donald Ryder, grandson of the late Bro. James Ryder are still members of Walker Lodge.



At the time of the founding of Walker Lodge in 1874 the daily life of the members was quite different to that of our present day members in this age of motor cars, telephones, electric power, radio and television. Transportation except to a limited extent by railroad, was by horse drawn vehicles. Communication by telephone with outside points was not established until the year 1884, and the first electric lights did not appear until the late nineties.

It was for this reason that the first by-laws of the lodge provided for the meetings to be held on the first Monday of the month on or before the full moon. This allowed the brethren travelling to and from lodge meetings to take the maximum advantage of natural light.

To the best recollection of past members and early records, the first lodge room was established over Kennedy Brothers' Store located at Number 11 Main Street North. In 1879 this building became the property of Bro. John Kenney Sr. and his sons, William and John Jr., both of whom were very prominent in the life of Walker Lodge. Bro. William Kenney served as secretary for sixteen years and Very Wor. Bro. John Kenney Jr., became a Past Master of Walker Lodge and the Dean of Past Masters of Wellington District. The rental for these early lodge quarters was fifty dollars per year. On October 6th, 1924, the lodge quarters were moved to number 29 Mill Street East. The present quarters of the lodge in the Y.M.C.A. building were first occupied on February 28th, 1935, and were formally dedicated on the 16th day of October, 1935, by Most Worshipful Bro. F. A. Copus.



HUGH WALKER was charter member and first Master of Walker Lodge. This portrait hangs in the lodge rooms, above the Y.M.C.A.

Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, accompanied by thirty Grand Lodge officers.

The Masonic year 1939-40 was a memorable one in the history of Walker Lodge. In that year Wor. Bro. J. A. Leslie became the first member of our lodge to be elected to the high office of District Deputy Grand Master of Wellington District. He made his official visit to Walker Lodge on April 15th, 1940 accompanied by his secretary Wor. Bro. Frank McIntosh. After being received and welcomed by Wor. Bro. F. J. Salt, the Worshipful Master of Walker Lodge, he was accorded Grand Honour after which he assumed to gavel. Rt. Wor. Bro. Leslie served his term of office with distinction and continued an active interest in the affairs of Walker Lodge until his death on May 16th, 1966.



RT. WOR. BRO. CHESTER ANDERSON OF WALKER LODGE IS NOW DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OF WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

Walker Lodge was also honoured on that historic night of April 15th, 1940 by the presence of Most Worshipful Bro. W. J. Dunlop, immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario. He was guest speaker at the banquet.

During the evening the following presentations were made:—
New Antique Brass Door Alarms

Presented by Ver. Wor. Bro. F. H. Cooke of Guelph Lodge No. 258.

New Stewards Wands Presented by Ver. Wor. Bro. Roy McIntosh and Wor. Bro. F. McIntosh.

A life membership in Walker Lodge was to have been presented to Wor. Bro. W. D. Frick, but owing to illness this worthy brother

was unable to attend the meeting.

Our 75th Anniversary was celebrated on October 21st, 1949. The guest of honour was the late Most Worshipful Brother J. P. Maher, the Grand Master. He was welcomed by Wor. Bro. W. J. Beatty the Worshipful Master of Walker Lodge, and after receiving Grand Honours, Most Wor. Bro. Maher assumed the gavel and the following interesting events took place, one of which was quite unusual.

Lodge Room Address by Most Wor. Bro. J. P. Maher; An Historical Sketch of Walker Lodge, read by Ver. Bro. C. R. McIntosh; Presentation of a 50 year jewel to Ver. Wor. Bro. William Cooper, by Wor. Bro. Charles A. Darby; Presentation of Pastmasters jewel to Wor. Bro. George Wallace, by Wor. Bro. H. L. Ritchie; Presentation of Working Tools in memory of the late Bro. Daniel Taylor, by Wor. Bro. Fred J. Salt on behalf of Mrs. D. Taylor.

As memorable as these events proved to be, a unique honour was bestowed upon Wor. Bro. Charles A. Darby. The Grand Master, evoking the power possessed by virtue of his office asked Wor. Bro. Darby to approach the East where he proclaimed him a Grand Steward, entitled henceforth to be addressed as Very Worshipful Brother.

The Masonic year 1960-61 again brought honour to Walker Lodge when Wor. Bro. Allan Buchanan became the second member of our lodge to be elected District Deputy Grand Master of Wellington District. He made his official visit to Walker Lodge on April 10th, 1961, accompanied by his secretary Wor. Bro. L. W. Lovell. After being received and welcomed by Wor. Bro. Stan Joe, the Worshipful Master of Walker Lodge he was accorded Grand Honours and assumed the gavel. The guest speaker for the evening was Right Worshipful Bro. Everon Flath who was District Deputy Grand Master of Wellington District in 1916. (R. W. Bro. Dr. Flath passed away in 1973 in his 96th year). During Rt. Wor. Bro. Buchanan's term of office, Wellington District Masons held a reception at the Royal Hotel in Guelph in honour of Most Worshipful

Bro. C. M. Pitts the Grand Master. At this meeting every twenty-two lodges in Wellington District were in attendance. Rt. Wor. Bro. Buchanan served his term of office with distinction and

119th Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, held on the seventeenth day of July 1974 in the Royal York Hotel in the city of Toronto, another Past Master of Walker Lodge, Wor. Bro. C. D. Anderson was

Brother Hugh Walker was a dedicated Mason. He assumed many responsibilities in his zeal to promote the welfare of the Craft. He was five times Worshipful Master of Guelph Lodge No. 258 between the

Grand Junior Warden. Because of his willingness to accept the responsibility for the formation of a lodge in Acton, we are this year able to celebrate our centennial.

Wor. Bro. John Shaw was Master of Walker Lodge for four terms, 1891, 1893, 1895 and 1896. It is recalled that this Master walked five miles from his home in the country on lodge nights, often in trying winter weather, to preside at the meeting. It is also related that his zeal occasionally resulted in visits to the homes of some of his fellow officers in the village to assure himself that all the officers' chairs would be occupied.

Wor. Bro. Henry Hunt was Master for three terms, 1877, 78 and 79. Wor. Bro. William Stark was Master for three terms, 1890, 91 and 92. Wor. Bro. John Lawson was Master for three terms, 1892, 93 and 94. Ver. Wor. Bro. William Cooper was Chaplain for 36 years, 1909-1944. Ver. Wor. Bro. Frank McIntosh was Dean of Masonic Education, Ritual and Procedure. Ver. Wor. Bro. Murray MacDonald was secretary for 23 years, 1901-1924. Ver. Wor. Bro. Herbert Ritchie has been secretary for 21 years, 1953-1974.



WOR. BRO. ROY KNAPP IS THE PRESENT MASTER OF THE LODGE.

years 1871 and 1879. He was a Grand Superintendent of Work, and in 1879 was elected

continues to take an active interest in the affairs of Walker Lodge.

As a fitting close to the history of Walker Lodge, it can be recorded that at the

Top 4-H drivers

On Saturday morning, October 5 at Georgetown Fair, the Halton 4-H Tractor Club members had to show their skill by driving through a staked course and backing up to a designated spot. The competition was under the leadership of Rick Britton and Russell Murray, their 4-H club leaders. The top five members in the driving, out of a score of 300, were Ken McNabb (253), Cecil Patterson (223), Bruce McKeown (212), James Lindsay (196), and Wayne May (180).

Association wants grant

Halton Region's Administration and Finance Committee will consider a request from the Niagara Mid-Western Ontario Travel Association for \$7,900 at the committee's next meeting. Association President G. Paul said the grant was necessary to keep the association operating. Twelve Travel Associations in the province now do the job previously done by 39 groups

in the province. The association undertakes advertising programs on behalf of the areas, prepares publications to inform visitors of attractions and encourages attractions for visitors.

The province's Ministry of Tourism provides an annual \$30,000 per year grant, to cover administration of the association.

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ACTON FIRE CHIEF MICK HOLMES (left) accepts the keys for his new car from Mike Tarp, (right) of Georgetown Chrysler while acting Mayor Ern Hyde (centre) looks on. Holmes' new car is red and has a siren and flashing light. It also has a fire crest on the doors.

Stephen Stanley is winner

The Halton 4-H Sheep Club members showed their lambs at Georgetown Fair on Saturday afternoon, October 5. They were first placed for showmanship by the judge, Joe Willmott of Milton. Top in showmanship were Stephen Stanley, Joseph Weeden, Lindsay Knight and Richard Stanley.

In the ewe lamb class, the winners were Lindsay Knight, Joseph Weeden, Leslie Knight and Richard Stanley. The market lamb class was won by David Stanley, followed by Stephen Stanley and Jamie Couper. The special class winners for the best 4-H lamb, sponsored by the Georgetown Agricultural Society, were Lindsay Knight, Joseph Weeden, Leslie Knight, David Stanley and Stephen Stanley. Several of the 4-H Sheep Club members will be going to Rockton Fair on Monday, October 14 to compete in the 4-H Inter-club Sheep Competition along with members from the Haldimand and North Niagara 4-H Sheep Clubs.

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