

grow strong, in Sturgeon Falls. Wor. Bro. W.C. Austin, Wor. Bro. A.E. Gurney, Wor. Bro. C.E. Taylor and Wor. Bro. G.N. Holder were a few of these remarkable leaders of the lodge, for many years. Wor. Bro. H.A. Bert Batsford was installed in the Master's chair on December 9th 1937 and instantly became the lodge's spokesman, with his easy address, pleasant, kind words of praise for good works and constant encouragement of all brethren. On December 8th 1938, Wor. Bro. L.J. Gilleland was installed. He had already established himself as an interesting, informative lecturer.

The Sturgeon Falls Lodge was finally able to field a District Deputy Grand Master, in the person of Right Wor. Bro. Bert Batsford, with Wor. Bro. Harry Armitage as his secretary, in 1939. Right Wor. Bro. Bert Batsford made his "Official Visit" on April 11th 1940, on the lodge's 40th Anniversary. On this special occasion, Bro. T. Berard presented the lodge with the Senior and Junior Warden's wands, Bro. H.W. Spencley presented two draped flags and Bro. Billings presented the lodge with the King's portrait.

The lodge secretary for a number of years, with a good knowledge of lodge procedures, excellent penmanship and proper communication skills, was charged with stealing from the lodge dues. Out of town brethren who had been regularly paying dues, were shown as being in arrears and were suspended. Right Wor. Bro. Bert Batsford noted these discrepancies, on his Official Visit and an Emergent Meeting was called. The secretary was expelled, the suspended brethren were reinstated and the secretary was required to repay the money he had stolen. When he became delinquent in his payments, Bro. Carl Waisberg, a lawyer, was asked to issue him a court order, to make him pay back his debt, of six hundred and eighty dollars, at ten dollars a month.

CHAPTER 5

In 1939, the Second World War was being fought in Europe but it's impact was felt world wide and everybody's lives were greatly changed, from it's devastating consequences. The town of Sturgeon Falls lost a large number of young men and women and saw many return with horrible wounds, which would disfigure them, for the rest of their lives. A "British War Relief Fund", was sanctioned by Grand Lodge, to buy food for our brethren and families in England, Scotland and Ireland. Each brother was required to give as much as he could, to the project. On March 11th 1943, Right Wor. Bro. Dr. W.J. Fuller made his "Official Visit" and spoke of the persecutions suffered by our brethren, in the European countries, under Axis control. Sympathy was sent to Wor. Bro. G.W. Holder, in the death of his son Ralph, who was killed in action over seas, with the Royal Canadian Air Force. On September 14th 1944, a letter of sympathy was sent to Very Wor. Bro. W.H. Armitage, in the death of his son Sidney, with the Canadian Army, in France.

Finally the war ended, in 1945, and Right Wor. Bro. Bert Batsford held a special Masonic service, called the "Thanksgiving For Victory in Europe" service. It was a time of great happiness and promise, but also a time of reflection of the sadness and terrible toll in human suffering, which had been endured by the whole world. Sadly, the alter was also draped, in memory of a great statesman and a brother Mason, Bro. Franklin D. Rosevelt, who helped bring the enemy to it's knees.

In 1946, the Abitibi Mill began operating again and new hope and life began in Sturgeon Falls. Many new people moved in, mostly people who had been in the Armed