Constitution And Consecration Of Loge la France No. 138

On November 12, 1999, over 200 Brothers met at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Conference Centre at the AgriTech Park in Bible Hill for the Ceremonies of Constituting and Consecrating Loge la France No. 138, G.R.N.S.

At 6 p.m. the Junior Warden welcomed ninety guests to the formal banquet. The Grand Piper led the Head Table guests into the banquet room and the Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Lloyd Blagdon and the Worshipful Master of Loge la France, W.Bro. Robert H. Meyer, retired to welcome His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, Rt.W.Bro. James J. Kinley. The honour party returned to the banquet room led by the Grand Piper.


After the Banquet, the Worshipful Master opened Loge la France in French and welcomed the Brethren who had traveled to Bible Hill from all parts of Nova Scotia, the Maritimes, Quebec, the USA, and France. The Officers and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia then entered the Lodge in Grand Procession and were welcomed by the Master of Loge la France.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Nova Scotia assumed the chair and the Master, Officers and Members of Loge la France were formally introduced and after confirming their intent were presented with the Warrant for their Lodge which bears the Number 138 on the Grand Registry of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

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Newly Published Masonic Books

Freemasonry Universal - A New Guide to the Masonic World, Vol. 1, by Kent Henderson and Tony Pope. This book covers many topics, i.e., Masonic government, regularity and recognition, rites, rituals and much more. In examining the information given on Nova Scotia there are some discrepancies. Soft cover, 370 pages. Available for £16.95 (plus shipping and handling), from Ian Allan Publishing, Subscription Department, Riverdene Business Park, Molesey Road, Hersham, Surrey KT12 4RG.

A Reference Book for Freemasons by Frederick Smyth. This book has over 800 references with a full index. Entries on personalities, places, lodges and terms are very well written. Hard cover, 336 pages. Available for £14.95 (plus shipping and handling), from Ian Allan Publishing.
The Grand Master and his Officers proceeded with the Consecration of the Lodge in accordance with the ancient usages and customs of the Craft in a most dignified and impressive manner.

After these Ceremonies, the Most Worshipful Grand Master welcomed and honoured the visiting Grand Masters from Newfoundland and New Brunswick. The representatives from the Grande Loge Nationale Française and the Grand Lodge of Quebec were also presented to Grand Lodge and recognized by the Grand Master.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master then closed Grand Lodge in ample form and returned the gavel to the Worshipful Master of Loge la France who, as the first act of his newly consecrated Lodge conducted a Memorial Service honouring the memory of the four Brothers who had passed to the G.L.A. since Loge la France was created in 1995: Robert Amon, Douglas Russel, Edwin Fraser, and Arthur Smith.

V.W. Bro. Ken Peach, on behalf of the Ruling Masters, welcomed Loge la France into the family of Craft Lodges in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

A delegation of six Brothers from the Grand Lodge of Quebec was welcomed and Bro. Gilles Coupal presented Loge la France on their behalf with a beautifully handmade bag for the Sunshine collection and a carrying case for the V.S.L as well as a Gavel, a gift from the L’Acadien Belle Province’ No. 905, GLNF, at Paris France.


After comments from the visiting M.W. Grand Masters, the M.W. Grand Master, his Officers and Honour, Rt.W. Bro. James J. Kinley retired and the Worshipful Master closed his Lodge in Peace, Love, and Harmony. Many of the Brethren concluded this memorable evening by enjoying the social time and refreshments provided.

Submitted by Robert H. Meyer, V.M. –
Photos by Jack Ronalds Photography and Didier Chavigny
Clarke Lodge No. 61

A Christmas Remembrance Supper for Ladies of the Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Chester, on December 4, 1999 hosted by Worshipful Master John Chandler of Clarke Lodge, and Worthy Matron Joanne Giffin of Shoreham Chapter O.E.S. Following the supper, presents were handed out, and a silent auction was featured.

Afterward, everyone took part in carol singing with music by V.W. Bro. Whitman Giffin, giving a very enjoyable evening for all.

Santa was unable to be present as his “sleigh” was due for its 12 month check-up.

A surprise visitor to Clarke Lodge’s regular meeting was Bro. Scott Williamson, R.C.M.P. stationed in the Yukon, then visiting relatives in Halifax with his wife and family. Bro. Williamson is also a member of a Lodge in the Yukon Territories. Our best wishes go out to him and his family.

A re-dedication service on the 130th anniversary of the Institution of Clarke Lodge will be held on April 13, 2000 with the Grand Master M.W. Bro. Lloyd Blagdon in attendance. Everyone is invited.

New Worshipful Master for the start of the millennium is Wor. Bro. Richard Logan.

Glynne K. Lloyd, Clarke Lodge No. 61.


Burns Lodge No. 10

The highlight of the Christmas season was the festive spread to Honour our Burns Lodge Ladies, a yearly Remembrance of Members who have passed to the Supreme Lodge.

The event was held in the Shrine Temple, Connelly St., Halifax, December 11, 1999 under Worshipful Master Douglas Haskins. A carol sing-along preceded the Festive Table (catered by the Daughters of the Nile) with V.W. Bro. Ken Lantz and Bro. Dennis Fargey directing. Following this we heard a tremendous commotion outside the building (I think it was 8 reindeer pounding their hooves, (Rudolph was sick with a cold in his nose), and into the hall bounced none other than Santa Claus complete with a bulging bag of goodies.

With a big HO HO HO, he handed out presents to the ladies of the hour.

Then Santa spied a little boy whose eyes were almost popping out of his head. It was Nicolas, grandson of D.D.G.M. R.W. Bro. Derrick Coulson and wife Charlotte, who were attending the event. Nicolas, very excited received an early present from Santa.

Our Worshipful Master for the year 2000 will be Wor. Bro. Victor Lewis.

Glynne K. Lloyd, Burns Lodge No. 10

Attention Readers

The Nova Scotia Freemason is very fortunate to be receiving so many good submissions. Keep them coming! Please keep in mind that we try to please everyone, however space is at a premium and you may not see your submission in print when you are expecting it to be. We will make every effort to carry all submissions forward to the next edition.

— Bro. Lorne Urquhart

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At the August meeting of Heather Lodge No. 124 in Framboise, Bro. Peter MacLeod was presented with a 50 Year Jewel. The Long Service Award was presented by Rt. Wor. Bro. Julian Carabin D.D.G.M. Members of Heather Lodge and several visiting lodge members were in attendance to extend their congratulations and well wishes to Bro. MacLeod. Bro. MacLeod was one of the founding members of Heather Lodge No. 124. He now resides in the U.S.A. but has kept in touch with his brothers at Heather Lodge and attends lodge whenever he is in Cape Breton visiting family and friends.

Duty is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less.

~Brother Robert Burns~
Ad Astra No. 130 AF&AM

Five Year Plan

Vision
Leading the Way in Masonry

Mission
Ad Astra is a well-organized Lodge well versed in the Masonic teachings, whose members strive for perfection through a professional and intellectual approach to their Masonic work.
Involved in various projects Ad Astra is well known throughout the Masonic community.

Goals and Objectives
To have a base of 50 active Masons by the year 2005.

Action plan:
A) Through active recruitment of our current absent members.
B) Through the influx of new active members.
C) Through the influx of Brethren who will wish to affiliate with us.

To increase the Brethren and the Public’s awareness of Ad Astra

Action Plan:
A) Placing posters in the entrance to the Blue Room relating to our events and activities.
B) Since we are a military lodge, we will place a monthly ad in the military paper. This would inform all visitors and newcomers to our area of our existence and Lodge hours.
C) Communicate with the Grand Secretary and request him to advise us of any Lodges that may be surrendering their Charter. We then can have a team visit this Lodge inviting their members to affiliate with Ad Astra.
D) Through the continued development of our own Website.
To undertake the development of a Veterans Visit.

Action Plan:
A) To take a veteran for a walk in the park on a weekly basis.
B) Establish teams of two to carry out this function.

Stewiacke Lodge No. 98
Joint Lodge Installation

Stewiacke Lodge No. 98 and Elm Lodge No. 115 held a joint installation at Stewiacke Lodge on January 12.

Temple Lodge No. 57

Mulgrave student Norman MacDonald (center) attended Temple Lodge No. 57 on February 3, 2000 to tell the members about his recent trip to Ottawa and thank lodge members for their financial support. Also shown are Bro. G. Douglas Halfpenny (left) and Rt. Wor. Bro. David England D.D.G.M.

Fidelity Lodge No. 119

On Saturday, January 8, Fidelity Lodge’s Millenium Installation Ceremonies took place with a special guest W. Bro. Eric H. Johnstone (left) of Lodge St. John #189, Scotland shown here with newly installed Wor. Bro James Withers Jr. (right).

Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart.

— Henry Clay
Briefing Document
Regarding Notice Of Motion – Separation Of The Present Constitution

When the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia was formed in 1866, the Constitution contained 38 pages and 10 appendices. Since then, 99 per cent of the items adopted by our Grand Lodge have been added to the Constitution regardless of whether or not they were truly constitutional matters. As a result, the Constitution is now a 137 page document most of which is not constitutional in nature. However, because this material is contained in a book called Constitution any amendment no matter how inconsequential, must be presented as a Notice of Motion at Grand Lodge and dealt with accordingly. This process is not in dispute for truly constitutional components; however, many of these items belong in bylaws or administrative rules.

The Board of General Purposes, hereafter referred to as “Board,” elected by our Grand Lodge to assist the Grand Master in governing the Fraternity, proposes therefore that the present Constitution be separated into three documents, namely a Constitution, Bylaws which will be referred to as “Laws” and Administrative Directives which will be referred to as “Rules”. The Constitution can only be amended by the current practice of Notice of Motion and a two-thirds vote at Grand Lodge Annual Communication. The Laws and Rules would have a simplified amending formula which is described below.

The Board believes that the Grand Lodge Annual Communication should be used to report to its members the progress of the various programs and projects of our fraternity, to deal with truly constitutional issues, of which there are a few, to install a new slate of officers who will lead the organization in the upcoming year, and to celebrate another year of Masonic harmony and accord. Many Masons who have attended in the past have found the part of Grand Lodge Communication dealing with Notices of Motion to be a more negative than positive experience and, it is believed that this is due to the lengthy process of dealing with lists of constitutional amendments which are often administrative in nature. This proposal will enable the Grand Lodge Communication to be more efficient and effective.

In 1997, the Board tasked the Long Range Planning Committee, hereafter referred to as “LRPC”, to develop the recommendations on how to separate the present Constitution into a more workable and user friendly document with the intent of making Grand Lodge Communication more efficient and meaningful for all members. The Committee obtained legal advice on what issues were constitutional matters and what could be better described as “Laws” and “Rules”. These titles were chosen to be consistent with our Ritual; where in the M.M. Obligation we “promise and swear to support the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, also all laws, rules and edicts of the same.”

It should be noted that in this process undertaken by the LRPC, not one item from our present Constitution has been changed. Articles have only been segregated into matters that are “Constitutional” and those that are more administrative and more rightly belonging in the categories of “Laws” and “Rules”.

Brother Richard Melanson of Ad Astra Lodge No. 130, is a lawyer experienced in constitutional matters related to the governance of associations, and in his address to the LRPC on October 4, 1997, he stated that certain general principals must be observed when reviewing a constitution such as ours which are:

• The legal structure of Grand Lodge (incorporated by statute);
• Amendments must respect the fundamental principles which cannot be changed;
• The constitution must provide a foundation and general framework for administration of the organization;
• Procedures are normally in bylaws.

He went on to state that the constitution should contain:

• Terms of admission to the organization;
• Rights and duties of members;
• Conditions by which a member ceases to be in good standing and the manner of expulsion;

• Methods for annual communication and emergency meetings;
• Voting rights of members;
• Method of voting in broad terms;
• Method of appointing officers and a governing body;
• Duties and powers of officers and members of the governing body (Board of General Purposes);
• Provision for removal of officers and directors;
• How records (minutes, financial) are to be kept;
• How amendments are made (in a true constitution, amendments would be very infrequent and would have to be supported by a very cogent argument).

Brother Melanson also went on to say that the above items would be covered in broad terms in the Constitution. Regulations and procedures are more appropriately dealt with in a set of bylaws, while purely administrative matters could be dealt with in another separate document. The requirements for amending the bylaws and administrative matters would be covered in the Constitution, and these could be less stringent.

Based on this advice, the LRPC, as directed by the Board began the lengthy process of separating the Constitution into the three documents previously referred to in this explanatory note as “Constitution”, “Laws” and “Rules”, a copy of which will be given to the Secretary of each lodge with the Notices of Motion contained in the 135th Grand Lodge Communication Notice.

The amending formula for the separated Constitution has not been changed. It will be exactly as described in our current Constitution. The amending formulas for Laws and Rules have been simplified and extended so that any Master Mason may submit an amendment. Proposed amendments to either the Laws or the Rules must be submitted in writing as a Notice of Motion to the Grand Secretary, who will submit the Motion to the Board on behalf of the mover if the mover is not a member of the Board. Proposals for amendment to the Laws will be for
Cape Breton Shrine Club

Eight members of the Cape Breton Shrine Club have formed a “Scottish Unit” for the purpose of attending Civic functions, parades, and conferring Degrees in Craft Lodges all in full Kilt regalia. This photo shows V.Wor. Bro. Stewart, M. Wor. Bro. Sam Karrel, and Rt. Wor. Bro. Bill Hopkins laying a wreath on Remembrance Day on behalf of Shriners.

Maple Leaf Lodge No. 88

Maple Leaf Lodge No. 88 presented a Past Masters Plaque to The Tyrian Youth Lodge No. 45, Glace Bay. Maple Leaf Lodge had to sell their building in New Waterford because of financial restraints. In a fine gesture of Fraternal relations, Tyrian Youth invited Maple Leaf to hold our meetings in their premises in Glace Bay. In appreciation the above presentation was made. Shown are Wor. Bro. Robert Davis, Master of No. 45, V. Wor. Bro. Robert Marche, Master of No. 88, V. Wor. Bro. David Alteen, Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert Roper, and M. Wor. Bro. Sam Karrel.

Conference Notice

There will be a conference for North American Daylight Lodges in Toronto, Ontario on May 26-29, 2000.

For more information please contact Sheldon Kofsky, 11 Cowles Court, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9A8
Email: jmaks@sprint.ca Fax: (905) 770-3014

Markland Lodge No. 99

Markland Lodge No. 99 in the village of Kingston, Nova Scotia recently celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary. The Lodge was founded in October of 1934 when a group of leading citizens in the area decided to form a Masonic Lodge. The Lodge first met in the old Creamery in Kingston and then in 1936 moved to the old IOOF Hall situated near the present Town Offices before it was destroyed by fire in 1938. Markland then met at the Masonic Temple in Middleton for six months until a new IOOF Hall was opened in October of 1938. Meetings were held there until October, 1963, when the Lodge moved to their present Temple on Victoria Street in Kingston.

On November 22nd, Markland celebrated its sixty-five years in the community by hosting a banquet and an evening of historical highlights that culminated with the presentation of a fifty-five year bar to Bayard MacIntyre for long and faithful service to the Masonic Order. He joined the order in August of 1944. Bayard, who now lives in his native New Brunswick, had been a long time resident of the valley until his retirement. He was the weather forecaster for the RAF Base at Greenwood in 1943 when it first opened. Over sixty brothers were in attendance at the dinner/meeting representing the following: Evangeline Lodge of Lawrencetown; Ionic Lodge in Middleton; and all eight Lodges of Kings District.

Briefing Document… Continued from previous page

They are: Argus 133 in Kingston, Harmony 52 from Aylsford, Valley 90 in Berwick, Scotia 28 in Canning, St. Georges 20 in Wolfville, and the two Lodges from Kentville, Kentville No. 58 and Horton No. 132, plus one from Scotland.

The Great Lights were closed on this special sixty-fifth evening by RW Bro. Sam Kempton of Horton No. 132, a sixty-six year member of the Craft.

Submitted by Winston Abbott, Worshipful Master, Markland Lodge No. 99

W. Brother Bayard MacIntyre (left) received his fifty-five year scroll and pin from District Deputy Grand Master Ken Pineo of St. Georges Lodge in Wolfville. The man in the centre is VW Brother Vinton Balster, a fifty-eight year member of the Masonic order, from Harmony Lodge in Alysford who was assisting DDGM Pineo in the presentation.

It has been observed that our members arrive in the East prepared to do the ritual but ill prepared to lead.

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Members Registration Form
for the
Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
June 2nd and 3rd, 2000
Best Western Glengarry Hotel, 150 Willow Street, Truro, NS  B2N 4Z6
For Reservation Phone: 1-800-567-4276
Rooms $71.00 (includes Tax).  Single or double occupancy.

Members must book their own rooms
Ensure that you and your Lady are not disappointed,
reservations are Required for Banquet and Ladies Programme
(No tickets for these events will be available at the hotel)

Name: .............................................................................................. Rank: .....................................
Name of accompanying Lady (for name tag): ..............................................................
Lodge Name: ..................................................... No. ....................... Location: .......................
Your full address: ..........................................................................................................................
......................................................................................................... Postal Code: ........................
Are you a Grand Representative? ..................... if so, what G.L.? ..............................................................

So that proper arrangements can be made,
please indicate which of the following events you plan to attend:-

Friday, June 2nd:
Church Parade: Yes: ....... No: .......

Saturday, June 3rd:
Ladies Programme: Yes: ....... No: .......
Will you attend the Grand Lodge Banquet: Yes: ....... No: ........
Your Lady? Yes  No: ........
Will you require a box lunch: Yes: ....... No: .......

Note: Ladies programme tickets are $20.00 each.
Grand Lodge Banquet tickets are $25.00 each, $50.00 per couple.  Box Lunch Tickets are $7.50 each.

Payment in full for all tickets must accompany this reservation form.

Please return this form with payment for tickets requested not later than May 15th, 2000 to:

Grand Secretary
1533 Barrington Street, 2nd Floor
Halifax, NS, B3J 1Z4
Phone: 1-902-423-6149

Complete and Mail This Form Only If You Plan To Attend The 2000 Annual Communication