

London Masons Extend Welcome to Their Grand Master Tonight

EIGHT VENERABLE MASONS TELL OF EARLIEST DAYS

Pioneers of London Lodges Are Revered by Younger Followers of Square and Compass—David Sare, City's Oldest Mason, Has Interesting Story of Long Ago.

ILLNESS WILL BAR SOME FROM RECEPTION

Although Masonry in London and district has grown in strength during the past half century, until now the membership totals upwards of 5,000, there was a time when there were few master Masons in this portion of Western Ontario.

Stability of this fraternal organization is undoubtedly one of the great factors which caused Masonry to flourish in London, but no small degree of credit is due those pioneers of the square and compass—who, through several decades, stood by their respective lodges in adversity and prosperity, and by their shining example, led so many just and upright men to form such a worthy opinion of the craft that they have linked themselves with it.

Recall Dim Past.

Many of these veteran Masons have long since gone to their reward, and few men in London have approached the half century of service to the community as Masons and good citizens. However, fortunately there are a few of these master Masons and these have all seen their allotted three score and ten years. And today on the occasion of the official visit of Most Worshipful Brother W. N. Ponton, K.C., of Belleville, grand master of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in Ontario, these veterans look back into the dim past and recall the days when they were in that accorded the privilege of wearing their blue lodge regalia.

Following are some of the oldest living Masons who were initiated into the secrets and mysteries of the institution about, and in some cases more than fifty years ago: Thomas Duff, 569 Princess avenue; William Hayman, 945 Elias street; John Ferguson, 189 Dufferin avenue; Hon. C. S. Hyman, 424 King street; David Sare, 25 Evergreen avenue; John Pritchett, 162 Wharncliffe road south; E. H. Greer, 99 York street; E. H. Ireland, Rio de Janeiro; W. R. Hobbs, Toronto, and Thomas Tracey of Vancouver.

Possibly the oldest Mason in London—that is to say, the man who has been a master Mason the greatest number of years—is David Sare, who has been a member of the craft for more than 54 years. Mr. Sare, or "Dave," as he is affectionately known to his brother Masons or intimate friends, is now in his 81st year, and has a host of friends in London and district. He was initiated in Quebec, in January, 1869.

Fought in Fenian Raid.

Mr. Sare was at that time a sergeant in the 53rd Shropshire Regiment, stationed at Quebec, a unit which was ordered to Canada from Ireland to quell the Fenian raids.

Interviewed by The Advertiser recently, he vividly recalled the joyous impressions of Canada and the joy experienced by himself and comrades at the new dominion as compared to conditions in Ireland. His first sight of the Emerald Isle in which his regiment had been stationed was described as "a horrid of Fenianism" by Mr. Sare, who related the details of the fighting at Waterford to the reporter.

During his sojourn at the citadel of Quebec, Sergeant Sare was responsible for the entertainment of the then Prince Arthur of Connaught, who is now the Duke of Connaught. With a twinkle in his eye, the veteran related that at this reception more than 1,000 members of Quebec aristocracy sat down at the banquet of the prince, and 120 dozen bottles of champagne and Madeira were opened on the occasion.

"He was a good kid," said Mr. Sare, referring to the Duke of Connaught, and a proper gentleman."

Gets His Discharge.

Coming to London a few years later, when he received an honorable discharge from the army, along with a grant of a tract of land as a reward for meritorious service, Mr. Sare retained his Masonic affiliations and linked his activities with those of other London brethren.

"We had a little lodge room on Adelaide street," he informed The Advertiser, "and that was before a Masonic Temple was ever dreamed of for London. Later, Fred W. Cole of the London Cast Works gave us quarters above his factory, which was located where the Globe Casket Company building now stands. In 1875 I became affiliated with the Corinthian Lodge, and am the only living charter member. My mother lodge in Quebec was the only Masonic lodge operating under the grand register of Canada at that time. There were lots of other lodges, but not operating under the register."

Mr. Sare, who is an invalid and sat in a chair Sunday for the first time in six months, is an old reader of The London Advertiser, which he has daily enjoyed for 53 years.

"I have read The Advertiser since they had a colored man for an engine," chuckled Mr. Sare. "There was no power then and he turned the press. That was in the days when the Cameron family owned the paper."

Suffers Illness.

Proud of his Masonic activities, Mr. Sare expressed regret that he would be prevented by his illness from taking part in the reception to the grand master tonight. He is also a life member of St. George's Society, and for many years conducted a hotel in London.

By a peculiar coincidence, William Hayman, 945 Elias street, who has been a master Mason for more than 60 years, came to Canada as a member of the same regiment as David Sare. Mr. Hayman, who is a well-known retired contractor of this city, and father of Harry Hayman, former chairman of the board of education, joined St. George's Lodge of London in 1873 and is now in his 82nd year. He is a pastmaster of this lodge and treasures his regalia of office.

Unfortunately he was seized with a heart attack last Sunday and is now in a serious condition at his home. However, he was not too ill to talk with The Advertiser, who visited him this week.

Erected Buildings.

Although he retired from the construction business 30 years ago, many buildings erected by this veteran citizen still stand in London as a monument to his effort. These include the up-town factory of the McCarty Manufacturing Company, Union Block on Dundas street, and the Scott-McHale shoe factory at Richmond and Bathurst streets.

A native of Devonshire, Mr. Hayman came to Canada as a member of the rank and file of the 53rd Shropshire Regiment in 1866. He later settled in London, and engaged himself as a master builder. Some time thereafter he was joined by his brother, John Hayman, head of John Hayman & Sons, one of the leading contracting firms of the district, who came out from England.

Mr. Hayman recalls the days when he sawed wood ten hours daily for remuneration of one dollar per day. Large trees in front of the Hayman home, several feet in diameter at the base, were planted by him, and he is very fond of his garden.

He also expressed regret at inability to attend the reception tonight, and inquired kindly for "my good old friend, Dave Sare."

Is Second Oldest.

Next to Mr. Sare, the oldest living member of a London lodge—in point of years as a Mason—is W. R. Hobbs of Toronto, who joined St. John's Lodge, No. 20, which, by the way, is the oldest blue lodge in London, in July, 1870.

Pressing him closely for seniority is A. B. Greer, 99 York street, prominent carriage manufacturer of this city, who joined the same lodge in December, 1870, and who has served with honor as a Mason for upwards of 52 years.

Mr. Greer is a past master of St. John's Lodge, and is well and favorably known by citizens of all ranks in Western Ontario. Ald. John Greer of ward one is a son of this veteran. Mr. Greer is enjoying excellent health, and will likely be on hand to greet Grand Master Ponton tonight.

John Ferguson, 189 Dufferin avenue, was worshipful master of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 64, in 1874, and has been a master Mason for more than fifty years. Mr. Ferguson founded the undertaking and furniture manufacturing business of John Ferguson & Sons, and is the oldest living past master of "good old Kilwinning." Like other veterans mentioned, time has laid a hand upon his venerable shoulders, and Mr. Ferguson is today reported to be seriously ill at his home. He is in his 90th year.

Started Business.

A native of Scotland, he is believed to be the first man to engage in the undertaking and funeral directing profession in London. Mr. Ferguson founded the firm which bears his name on May 24, 1856. The furniture factory and funeral parlors consisted of a one-story frame building, situated where the Dominion Savings and Investment Society Building at the northwest corner of Richmond and King streets now stands. Subsequently the business was removed to its present location, a few yards east, on King street.

A Mason in good standing for almost 50 years is the record of the Hon. C. S. Hyman of this city, who joined St. George's Lodge, No. 195, in 1875. His record as head of the C. S. Hyman & Co. in this city, and as a statesman at Ottawa, where he represented citizens of London for

several years, is too well-known to require repetition to Advertiser readers. He is in good health, and may join his brethren in welcoming the grand master here tonight.

Another veteran member of the craft of the Forest City is E. H. Ireland, who also was initiated into Tuscan Lodge but one year previous to the Hon. C. S. Hyman. Mr. Ireland is now connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and according to most recent reports to officers of the lodge, he is enjoying good health.

Oldest in Lodge.

To Thomas Duff, 569 Princess avenue, falls the honor of being the oldest local living member of St. John's Lodge, No. 209a, which is the largest Masonic blue lodge in this city and district. Mr. Duff joined St. John's Lodge in 1877, and hence his Masonic career is spread over a period of 46 years, and he is a life member of his mother lodge. In addition, Mr. Duff is a life member of St. John's Royal Arch Masonic Chapter in this city.

He was born in Dunganston, County Tyrone, Ireland, and settled in London at an early age. Mr. Duff is now retired, after serving almost 50 years in the continuous employ of the McCormick Manufacturing Company of this city. At present he is confined to his home through illness, and will not be able to meet Grand Master Ponton at the Masonic Temple tonight.

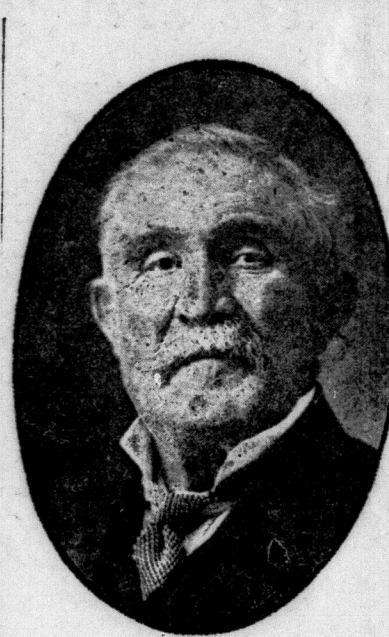
Thomas Tracey of Vancouver is the oldest living member of St. John's Lodge, No. 209a, which he joined in 1872, and has remained a member during the 51 years since. Among the most active veteran Masons of London is H. C. Simpson, 424 Rectory street, retired contractor, who is well and favorably known in East London. He was accepted as a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 330, in November, 1876, and is the oldest living past master of this lodge. Mr. Simpson, who is in his 77th year, was born in Kilton, Suffolk, and daily takes long strolls about the city.

Comes From England.

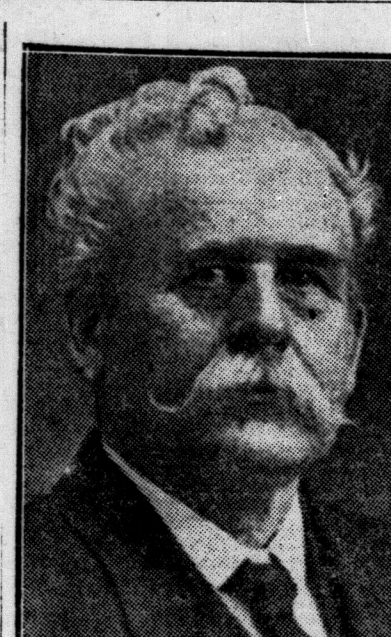
In 1872 he emigrated from England to Canada on the Allan liner Prussian, Lord Dufferin, en route to



JOHN PRITCHETT,
King Solomon, 378.
—Photo by Darragh.



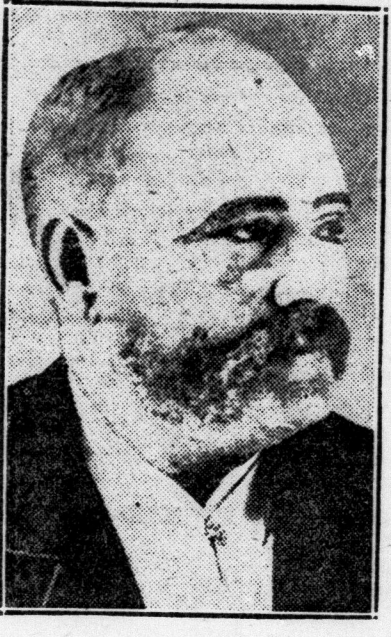
WILLIAM HAYMAN,
St. George's, 42.



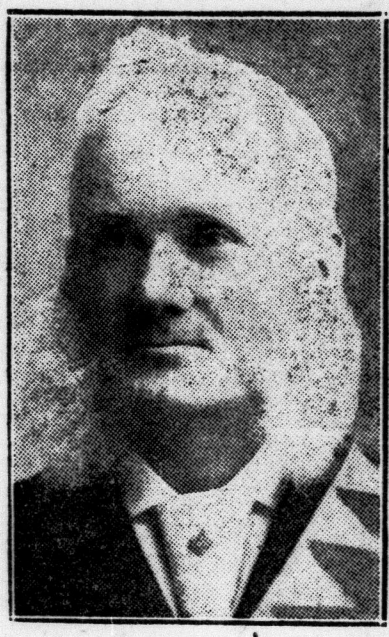
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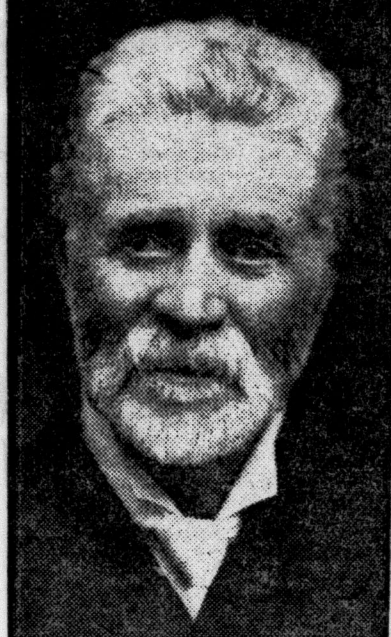
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THOMAS DUFF,
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JOHN FERGUSON,
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These Eight Men Have Been Masons in London For Half a Century

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Comes From England. In 1872 he emigrated from England to Canada on the Allan liner Prussian, Lord Dufferin, en route to

Canada as governor-general, of the Dominion, being a fellow-passenger. With memory keen, Mr. Simpson recalled to The Advertiser that each morning of the voyage Lord Dufferin bid everyone on the boat a cheery "good morning."

Mr. Simpson is also a life member of St. George's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 6, of London, and is past district grand Z for Royal Arch Masonry of London district. He is also past district preceptor for Knights Templar of London district, and is one of the twelve first Shriners of London.

Mr. Simpson engaged in the business of general contractor, which he conducted in London for more than 40 years. Both he and Mrs. Simpson are gifted singers, being members of the choir of Centennial Methodist Church for 22 years. Mr. Simpson is now a member of Dundas Centre Methodist Church.

Proud of Veterans.

Members of King Solomon Lodge, No. 378, are proud of their oldest member, who is John Pritchett, of 162 Wharncliffe road south. He joined his mother lodge July 16, 1879, and is the sole surviving charter

member. Mr. Pritchett is well-known in London, having engaged in the Forest City as a general contractor for 35 years, and as a grocer for twelve years. He is now retired, and enjoying excellent health and vigor.

Every one of the above staunch pioneers of the community and of Masonry when seen by The Advertiser recently, expressed pleasure that he should be accorded the venerable position of being numbered among the senior veterans of the craft in London. However, they admitted reluctantly that age must give way to youth, and are satisfied for their younger brethren to step forth tonight and accept the responsibility of greeting the grand master, just as they did in days gone by.

And every one of these sturdy pioneers possesses qualities which have stood them well in the test of time, and which, if possessed by the younger element who take part in the gala function of welcoming the grand master at the Masonic Temple tonight, would make them better citizens, greater assets to the community, and which could not help but make them better Master Masons.

MASONS OF BLUE LODGES TO HONOR GRAND MASTER

Tender Reception and Ball to Lieut.-Col. W. N. Ponton, K. C., of Belleville, and Other Grand Officers at the Masonic Temple Tonight.

PRESENTED WITH ILLUMINATED ADDRESS

Masons of London, members of city blue lodges, will gather with their ladies in the Masonic Temple, Queen's avenue, tonight to homage to their grand master, on the occasion of his official visit to the Forest City. Most Worshipful Brother Lieutenant-Colonel W. N. Ponton, K.C., of Belleville, grand master of A. F. & A. M. of Canada in Ontario, is expected to arrive in London early this evening, and upwards of 2,000 Masons will tender him an official reception.

This function will assume the form of a concert and ball in the Masonic Temple, and will be featured by the presentation of an illuminated address of welcome to the distinguished visitor. The grand master will reply to this reception, and as he is an eloquent speaker, and a most literary scholar, his remarks are expected to be the treat of the evening.

Most Worshipful Brother Ponton, according to latest advice received by the committee in charge of arrangements, will reach London from Belleville, via Toronto, at 5:30 p.m., and will be met at the Grand Trunk station by a committee of prominent London Masons. He will immediately proceed to his hotel to prepare for the official reception, which is scheduled to commence promptly at 8 o'clock.

To Wear Regalia.

Here the Masons of London and district will receive their chief in honor, all the brethren present wearing blue lodge regalia. Following the presentation of the illuminated address, and grand master's reply, a short concert will be held, Mrs. Edward Wyatt, and Messrs. Edward Webster, George Steer and Christiani providing the entertainment. Dancing in the main auditorium of the temple will follow, when gorgeous costumes of various hues worn by the ladies will present a wonderful contrast of color to the blue lodge regalia worn by the hundreds of master Masons who will be present.

committee representing the ten city blue lodges and entertained until the banner event of the evening is held.

Take Part in Reception.

Right Worshipful Brother Ben Noble, district deputy grand master of London district, will take a prominent part in the reception of the grand master, as will also masters of the ten city blue lodges. These masters are as follows: Wor. Bro. A. W. Johnston, St. John's Lodge, No. 20; Wor. Bro. Thomas Shaw, St. George's Lodge, No. 42; Wor. Bro. Geo. E. Perry, Kilwinning Lodge, No. 64; Wor. Bro. Roy Cairncross, Tuscan, 195.



RICHARD BOOTH,

secretary of the reception committee in connection with the visit of the grand master.

can Lodge, No. 195; Wor. Bro. Herbert McNab, St. John's Lodge, No. 209a; Wor. Bro. James Mills, Corinthian Lodge, No. 330; Wor. Bro. Frank Hornsby, King Solomon Lodge, No. 378; Wor. Bro. H. E. Livermore, Union Lodge, No. 380; Wor. Bro. J. H. C. Woodward, Acacia Lodge, No. 580; and Wor. Bro. Albert M. Trick, Temple Lodge, No. 597.

In addition to this galaxy of officers a special committee representing the London blue lodges will carry out arrangements which they have worked diligently to prepare during the past few weeks. Wor. Bro. A. E. Cooper is chairman of this committee, and Wor. Bro. Richard Booth is secretary. All the above officers have co-operated in their work, with the result that the preparations for the reception are being carried out without a hitch.

Not a Stranger.

Most Worshipful Brother Ponton is no stranger to London Masons, having paid several visits to this city in his official capacities when he held various high offices in the craft. His last visit to London was in 1922, when he attended the dedication of Temple Lodge, No. 597, and those Masons privileged to hear his address at that time retain in pleasant recollections of a brilliant speaker and of a forceful personality.

Prior to his elevation to the office of grand master, he was grand master of Masons of Canada in Ontario, he was grand Z of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in Ontario, and in this official capacity he has been a member of the Grand Lodge of the United Grand Masters of London, Grand Master Ponton was elected to his present office when the grand lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in Ontario met in annual session at Ottawa in 1921. His term of office expires in July next.

Successful Lawyer.

Besides his Masonic activities, the grand master has achieved signal success in the legal profession, having served as king's counselor in Belleville and district for many years. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, and some time before the great war was gazetted as a lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian militia.

Owing to the fact that he had passed the age at which Canadian citizens were accepted for overseas military service, the grand master was denied an opportunity of serving his country overseas during the great war, but this did not deter him from lending every effort to the allied cause while remaining at home. Several younger members of Lieutenant-Colonel Ponton's family served in the fighting zone during the war, including a son.

The visiting Masonic officer is a personal friend of many Londoners, and his acquaintanceship in the Forest City is not confined to those made in Masonry. For this reason his official visit to the city tonight is looked forward to with interest by thousands of master Masons, their wives and friends, who will be on hand at the Masonic Temple to extend him the right hand of fellowship, and to greet him royally.

SUSPEND CONSTABLE AWAY WITHOUT LEAVE

Sarnia Chief Claims J. Spearman Absented Himself Without Permission.

Special to The Advertiser. Sarnia, Feb. 15.—Police Constable James Spearman has been suspended for absenting himself from duty without leave, Chief of Police W. J. Lannin announced yesterday, and the charge will likely be brought before the commission in a few days.

Constable Spearman returned on Monday after two weeks' sick leave, according to the chief, and when asked to go on duty yesterday, which, under ordinary circumstances would have been his day off duty, did not report, and his suspension followed.

KITCHENER HOSPITAL TO APPEAL FOR HELP

Board To Request Councils For Substantial Municipal Relief.

Special to The Advertiser. Kitchener, Feb. 15.—Efforts are being made by the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital Board to arrange a joint meeting of the Waterloo and Kitchener councils, with a view to placing before both bodies the present straitened circumstances in which the institution finds itself. It is pointed out that municipal support of a most substantial nature must be forthcoming at once if the institution is to continue.

It is believed the result of the joint meeting will be a decision to consider ways and means of improving the institution, inaugurating a building campaign, and assuring the hospital some definite and adequate source of revenue.



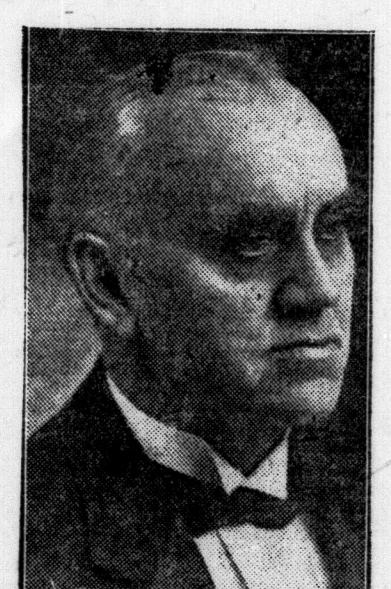
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A. W. JOHNSTON,
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GEORGE E. PERRY,
Kilwinning, 64.



H. E. LIVERMORE,
Union, 380.



FRANK HORNSBY,
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JAMES MILLS,
Corinthian, 330.



J. H. C. WOODWARD,
Acacia, 580.



HERBERT McNAB,
St. John's, 209a.



ALBERT TRICK,
Temple, 597.



THOMAS SHAW,
St. George's, 42.