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# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE FORMATION  
AND PROGRESS OF

## VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M.

No. 1.

G. R. B. C.



READ AT THE CELEBRATION OF THE BI-CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE GRAND  
LODGE OF ENGLAND, HELD IN MASONIC TEMPLE,  
VICTORIA, B. C. - - - - - JUNE 8TH. 1917

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

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## VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

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The history of Freemasonry in the Province of British Columbia is inseparable from the Records of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1.

Long before the present Grand Jurisdiction was established, Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was constituted under the authority of a Charter granted by the Grand Lodge of England, this memorable and auspicious event occurring on the 19th day of March, 1859.

It was the first Masonic Lodge to be constituted in these vast Western Domains, then known as New Caledonia and the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island, and which now form the present Province of British Columbia.

The Dominion of Canada was not yet formed, and the government of this country was in the hands of James Douglas, who was appointed by the British authorities.

Victoria was in a transition period of her history. Almost over night, the sleepy little back-woods trading post had been transformed into a city of tents and miners and adventurers from every part of the Western Hemisphere made their rendezvous on the flats at James Bay, and on either side of the Johnson Street ravine. Gold—that "Magic Talisman," had drawn them to Victoria, and it was among such surroundings, and in such exciting times, that Victoria Lodge No. 1085 was started on its Masonic journey.

The place of meeting was in a hall over Hibben & Carswell's stationery store on the south-east corner of Yates and

Langley Streets. The first W. Master of the Lodge was Joseph Johnston Southgate, who occupied that position for three years, and the following Charter Members were present at the first meeting of the Lodge:

J. J. Southgate, Geo. Perkes, W. Jeffreys, J. N. Thain, Kady Gambitz, Thomas Harris, L. Franklin, John T. Howard and Amor De Cosmos.

For nearly three years Victoria Lodge was the only Masonic Lodge in the country, but on December 16th, 1861, Union Lodge No. 1201, meeting in New Westminster, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of England.

Three years after the Constitution of Victoria Lodge some of its members and some un-affiliates of the Craft, were desirous of forming a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and accordingly an application dated April 1st, 1862, was received by Victoria Lodge No. 1085, from certain of its members and other Brethren, asking for a recommendation to the Grand Lodge of Scotland to entertain favorably their petition to form a Lodge to be called Vancouver Lodge No.....under that Grand Jurisdiction. At the regular monthly meeting of Victoria Lodge held on May 15th, 1862, the petition was read, and after some discussion, the following resolution was duly adopted:

"That the Victoria Lodge, No. 1085, cordially responds to the petition of the Brethren desirous of establishing a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, but in doing so, they reserve the precedence of the Grand Lodge of England in general Masonic affairs within the Colony, and they communicate this resolution to the Grand Lodge of England as a matter of record."

In due course Vancouver Lodge received its Charter, and was numbered 421 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and held its first meeting on October 20th, 1862.

Other Lodges were chartered in the following order: Nanaimo Lodge, British Columbia Lodge at Victoria, Bar-

kerville Lodge, Caledonia Lodge, Mt. Hermon Lodge, and Quadra Lodge at Victoria.

On September 29th, 1863, Victoria Lodge No. 1085, was renumbered as No. 783 on the Roll of Lodges on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, that Grand Body being desirous of filling in the vacant numbers on their Roll of Lodges.

In 1871 the present Grand Lodge of British Columbia was formed, and on March 7th, 1872, Victoria Lodge was formally placed on the Roll of the Grand Lodge as Victoria No. 1.

In 1874 was commenced a custom highly appreciated and esteemed as an honor by every member of No. 1 Lodge, that of having their officers installed by the Grand Master of the Province. This custom has been rarely broken and Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, as the Senior Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, now feels that it is an established privilege to have their officers so installed.

As already intimated British Columbia Lodge was constituted at Victoria July 26th, 1867, by authority of a Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of England and numbered 1187, and the first meeting was held October 24th, 1867.

It was the fifth Masonic Lodge to be formed in the Province.

The first Master of the Lodge was W. Bro. Thos. Harris, and the following ruled as W. Masters in the succeeding years.

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1868.....Thos. Harris      | 1873.....H. Brown       |
| 1869.....N. Nathan, Jr.    | 1874.....Wm. Harrison   |
| 1870.....Eli Harrison, Sr. | 1875.....Thos. Trounce  |
| 1871.....T. Shotbolt       | 1876.....Geo. Thomson   |
| 1872.....John Winger       | 1877.....T. R. Mitchell |

On the formation of the Grand Lodge of B. C., British Columbia Lodge was registered as No. 5 on the Roll of that Grand Jurisdiction and continued to work as such until its amalgamation with Victoria Lodge in 1877.

April 3rd, 1877, was a "Red Letter Day" in the annals of Victoria and British Columbia Lodges, for at an Emer-

gency Meeting held by Victoria Lodge on the evening of that day, presided over by W. Bro. Mat. Coates, the following transaction is recorded in the minutes:

"The British Columbia Lodge No. 5, having previously opened their Regular Monthly Meeting, was now admitted and the two Lodges were merged into one, called Victoria-Columbia No. 1, and the minutes were taken by the Secretary of the New Lodge."

Immediately afterwards the officers of the newly amalgamated Lodges were installed by the Most W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of B. C., Most W. Bro. F. Williams, W. Bro. Mat. Coates being installed as W. Master, Bro. J. C. Bales as S. W., Bro. W. Harrison as J.W., and Bro. C. C. McKenzie as Secretary. Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, consequently passed the 40th milestone on its Masonic journey, under its present constitution, on April 3rd last.

Many distinguished Brethren have filled the office of W. Master in No. 1 Lodge since its inception. Time does not suffice to make an extended reference to each Brother, but the following mentioned Brethren have occupied the W. Master's Chair from 1859 to the present year:

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1859 Joseph Johnston Southgate | 1889.....Geo. S. Russell      |
| 1860 Joseph Johnston Southgate | 1890.....Thos. B. Pearson     |
| 1861 Joseph Johnston Southgate | 1891.....W. J. Quinlan        |
| 1862.....George Pearkes        | 1892.....Benjamin Williams    |
| 1863.....Robert Burnaby        | 1893.....Arthur St. G. Flint  |
| 1864.....Thomas Harris         | 1894.....Benjamin S. Oddy     |
| 1865.....Robert Burnaby        | 1895.....Arthur L. Belyea     |
| 1866.....Lumley Franklin       | 1896.....Harry L. Salmon      |
| 1867.....Richard Lewis         | 1897.....Dr. W. A. Richardson |
| 1868.....J. F. McCreight       | 1898.....Alex. Stewart        |
| 1869.....S. W. Blackbourne     | 1899.....Robert E. Brett      |
| 1870.....Henry Nathan          | 1900.....C. Dubois Mason      |
| 1871.....Cornelius Thorne      | 1901.....John W. Crocker      |
| 1872.....Vincent Ragazzeni     | 1902.....Peter J. Riddell     |
| 1873.....Fred Williams         | 1903.....Samuel W. Edwards    |
| 1874.....Fred Williams         | 1904.....W. K. Houston        |
| 1875.....John Weller           | 1905.....Gilbert D. Christie  |
| 1876.....W. T. Livock          | 1906.....James H. Greer       |
| 1877.....Matthew Coates        | 1907.....W. H. F. Richdale    |
| 1878.....T. R. Mitchell        | 1908.....Dr. G. L. Milne      |
| 1879.....E. Crow Baker         | 1909.....J. F. Sallaway       |
| 1880.....John Teague           | 1910.....Andrew F. Forbes     |
| 1881.....John Teague           | 1911.....Stephen Jones        |
| 1882.....John Teague           | 1912.....John R. Saunders     |
| 1883.....James Miller          | 1913.....R. Ford Verrinder    |
| 1884.....C. C. McKenzie        | 1914.....Allan S. Ashwell     |
| 1885.....E. J. Salmon          | 1915.....Duncan B. McLearn    |
| 1886.....D. Cartmel            | 1916.....John Minto           |
| 1887.....John Piercy           | 1917.....Albert A. Belbeck    |
| 1888.....W. W. Northcott       |                               |

Some reached distinguished positions in the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and Victoria-Columbia No. 1 has been honored in the selection of the following mentioned members of the Lodge to fill the office of Grand Master of Masons in British Columbia:

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1876-77.....Fred Williams        | 1885.....Thos. Trounce     |
| 1878-79-80.....Eli Harrison, Sr. | 1890.....Angus McKeown     |
| 1882.....H. Brown                | 1908.....W. K. Houston     |
| 1883-84.....E. Crow Baker        | 1913.....William Henderson |

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, through its intimate connection with the old Victoria Lodge, may justly be deemed to be the cradle of organized Freemasonry in British Columbia.

Oldest in point of seniority, it still endeavors to maintain the traditions of the past and combine them with the needs of the present day, and so long as the light of Freemasonry shines in this far-flung outpost of the British Empire, Victoria-Columbia No. 1, will ever be found maintaining the principles of Freemasonry, pure and unsullied, and, by precept and example, its members will ever endeavor to uphold the honor and dignity of our ancient Craft.



**NOTES ON THE  
BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
HELD IN VICTORIA, B. C.  
JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>. - - - 1917**

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The Bi-centennial anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of England, A.F. and A.M. was celebrated in Victoria, B.C., on June 8th, 1917, at the Masonic Temple, under the auspices of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 49.

It was the only function of the kind held in the Province, and was participated in by the following lodges: Victoria-Columbia No. 1, A. A. Belbeck, W.M.; Vancouver-Quadra No. 2, W. P. Marchant, W.M.; United Service No. 24, W. E. McIntyre, W.M.; Temple No. 33, James Greig, W.M.; St. Andrew's No. 49, E. J. Hearn, W.M.; Camosun No. 60, Ernest Fairey, W.M.; Britannia No. 73, J. W. Edwards, W.M.

The introductory address and welcome was given by Right Worshipful Brother Stephen Jones, D.D.G.M., District No. 1, G.R.B.C. A historical sketch of Masonry from its earliest records to the revival in 1717 was delivered by Most Worshipful Bro. E. B. Paul, Past Grand Master of British Columbia, an address on the revival of 1717, and the history and progress of Freemasonry to the present time was given by Most Worshipful Brother William Astley, Grand Master of British Columbia, and other short addresses dealt with the history and formation and institution of the lodges of No. 1 District.

On behalf of Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, the Historical Sketch printed in this Brochure, was read by Most Worshipful Bro. Angus McKeown, P.G.M.

The following details of the attendance on this occasion may prove interesting to the Brethren:

There were 467 seats available, in addition to which a number found accommodation on the steps, etc., so a conservative estimate of the attendance would be 480.

Owing to the unprecedented attendance, the facilities for signing the porch book proved inadequate, and only 348 members signed. In this number, it is found that 65 different Lodges scattered over the four quarters of the globe were represented, including 24 Lodges under B.C. Registry, viz., Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 14, 18, 21, 24, 26, 27, 33, 34, 41, 45, 48, 49, 56, 57, 60, 62, 68, and 73.

With the exception of No. 79, every Lodge in Districts No. 1 and No. 5 was represented. Seventy-three Masters and Past Masters were in attendance, including the M.W.G.M., four P.G.M.'s, S.G.W., J.G.W., S.G.D., G. Organist, and one G.S.

The attendance from the constituent Lodges of District No. 1 was as follows:

|              |    |              |    |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| No. 1 .....  | 80 | No. 33 ..... | 9  |
| No. 2 .....  | 77 | No. 49 ..... | 26 |
| No. 24 ..... | 21 | No. 60 ..... | 29 |
| No. 73 ..... | 38 |              |    |

Had the record of the whole attendance been available, the showing would have been more remarkable.

The above statistics of attendance at the meeting were prepared by W. Bro. E. C. Hayward, Secretary of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 49.





## ROLL OF MEMBERS

### VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M.

No. 1.

G. R. B. C.

— JUNE 1917 —

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Ager, G. S.            | Clarke, Hardress       |
| Allen, E. P.           | Carse, Wm.             |
| Angus, J. K.           | Christie, G. D., P.M.  |
| Armstrong, W. H.       | Curtin, A.             |
| Ashwell, A.S., P.M.    | Cuzner, M. W.          |
| Austin, H. M.          | Crocker, S. L.         |
| Anderson, J. S.        | Crocker, A. H.         |
| Alexander, W. C.       | Cliff, Geo.            |
| Atwell, F. T.          | Cullin, Fred A.        |
| Amphlett, H.           | Cummings, R. W.        |
| Brett, R. E., P.G.S.   | Cowden, Thos.          |
| Belbeck, A. A., W.M.   | Crump, Joseph          |
| Blackwood, E. E.       | Cathcart, Wm.          |
| Barnes, Chas.          | Clark, Stewart G.      |
| Brown, Thos. H.        | Collie, R. R.          |
| Brown, Douglas         | Draney, Robert         |
| Bradley, E. W.         | Dean, John             |
| Bruce, C. T.           | Danby, W. H.           |
| Bishop, H. F.          | Davey, John            |
| Battersby, J. G.       | Dunn, K. G.            |
| Burns, K. J.           | Duncan, A.             |
| Bassett, W. P.         | Dockings, W.           |
| Battersby, W. H.       | Dobie, W. H.           |
| Bird, A. H.            | Davis, Thos.           |
| Brown, Walter G.       | Drake, Samuel J.       |
| Bugslag, Peter         | Dandridge, A. H.       |
| Baker, E. Crow, P.C.M. | Dey, Wm.               |
| Baxter, C. S.          | Davie, H. A., P.M.     |
| Barlow, W. G.          | Davidson, Daniel       |
| Bowden, John L.        | Davie, Frederick       |
| Burnett, Archibald     | Deans, Geo.            |
| Brown, Geo. Wm.        | Duckett, Louis         |
| Brown, Walter Graham   | Denholme, John R.      |
| Berrett, G. W.         | Durbridge, A. J. W.    |
| Barlow, J. M. R.       | Edwards, S. W., P.M.   |
| Black, Robert          | Esnouf, R. B.          |
| Roulton, John T.       | Elliott, J. G.         |
| Banke, S. F.           | Elliott, Alex. W.      |
| Boulton, Thos. C.      | Edwards, W. J.         |
| Bailey, Henry C.       | Evans, David M.        |
| Booz, Thos.            | Exham, F. R.           |
| Bryant, Frank M.       | Flint, F. St. G., P.M. |
| Croft, Henry           | Fraser, R. L.          |
| Campbell, Danl.        | Flummerfelt, A. C.     |
| Courtney, Geo. L.      | Frost, W. A.           |
| Crocker, John W., P.M. | Fowler, David, P.M.    |

Forster, John G.  
Ferguson, Peter  
Greenhalgh, Samuel  
Gilchrist, W. L.  
Gordon, Wm.  
Gutmann, M.  
Greenwood, A. E.  
Going, A. S.  
Gordon, Peter  
Greer, Jas. H., P.M.  
Gidley, Jas. W.  
Griffith, H. S.  
Garrett, B. C.  
Gowen, F. A.  
Godfrey, Alfred H.  
Galt, Wm.  
Grant, B. W.  
Grant, Jas. Fred  
Henderson, Wm., P.G.M.  
Hawkins, T. W. C.  
Hollins, J. M.  
Hobbs, F. V.  
Hannah, W. J.  
Hewitt, A. N.  
Howes, W.  
Hanson, R. E.  
Hawes, G. J.  
Hunter, R. A.  
Hands, Jonathan  
Handley, W. H.  
Hooper, Francis  
Hüniger, Fritz  
Halkett, Gordon  
Hall, C. A. B., P.M.  
Hood, George  
Hammond, John  
Homer, Stephen  
Hastings, Thos.  
Hulke, Walter B.  
Hind, E. W.  
Hopper, Chas. W.  
Hill, Robert  
Harrison, Robert  
Ironside, M. G.  
Jeffcott, John Edw.  
Jones, D. L.  
Jones, Stephen, P.M.  
Jones, Richard  
Jones, A. McNab  
Jones, Robert R.  
Jackson, Henry B.  
Jones, John  
Ker, David R.  
Lee, Norman T.  
Langley, E.  
Lindsay, J. A.  
Lewis, Geo.  
Lawrie, S.  
Lloyd, John L.  
Le Page, J. H.  
Little, P. R.  
Low, Vivian  
Lovell, F. R.  
Lynn, Varnor  
Lennox, Joseph W.  
Leask, Cleveland S.  
Leigh, John L.  
Minto, John, P.M.  
Mesher, G. C.  
Mason, C. Dubois, P.M.  
MacDonald, John Hugh  
Milne, G. L., P.M.  
Munn, H. A.  
Mable, W. J.  
Murray, William  
Moon, Frank H.  
Moffat, Thos.  
Merryfield, G. S.  
Michell, Geo. T.  
Moore, Ivan M.  
Mardell, G. W. W.  
Mowat, D. S.  
McKeown, Angus, P.G.M.  
MacPherson, John D.  
Mermod, Willie  
Moir, Geo. B.  
Mason, Robert  
Menzies, Wm. R.  
Middleton, Wm.  
Morrison, Thos. E.  
MacDonald, Geo. A.  
MacKenzie, Robert B.  
Marshall, James  
Miller, Joseph E., P.M.  
Meston, W. McKenzie  
McCahill, M.  
McCandless, A.  
McKenzie, W. G.  
McTavish, G. S.  
McKilligan, J. B.  
McNivin, A.  
McCoskrie, Edw.  
McArthur, James  
McIntosh, J. McL.  
McLaren, D. B., P.M.  
Macabe, T. B.  
McDonald, J. D.  
McPherson, T. S., P.M.  
McGraw, John  
McOrmond, Samuel  
McKenzie, Alex.  
Northcott Sr., W. W., P.M.  
North, Fletcher  
Nickerson, Chas.  
Northcott, Jr., W. W.  
Oddy, B. S., P.M.

Owen, F. I. M.  
 O'Neill, John  
 O'Neill, Walter  
 O'Neill, Wm.  
 Pearson, T. B., P.M.  
 Pennock, W. H.  
 Preece, Thos.  
 Perdue, G. M.  
 Payne, G. T.  
 Porter, R. J.  
 Peiser, K. K.  
 Palmer, R. M.  
 Percy, John, P.M.  
 Porter, H. A.  
 Parkinson, Geo.  
 Porter, G. A.  
 Peden, Alex.  
 Peden, Robert  
 Poole, Walter  
 Pineo, Holmes D.  
 Phillips, Jas. W.  
 Prescott, Claude  
 Palmer, Thos. R.  
 Purdy, Reginald H.  
 Pettingell, Benj. C.  
 Russell, Geo. S., P.M.  
 Robinson, J. J.  
 Ridgeman, A. H.  
 Robson, F.  
 Richardson, W. A., P.M.  
 Richards, Oliver  
 Riddeil, P. J., P.M.  
 Rostein, J.  
 Richdale, J. H.  
 Richdale, W.H.F., P.M.  
 Richards, E. E.  
 Ritchie, J. Fred.  
 Richardson, Fred  
 Robertson, H. M.  
 Rogers, J. W.  
 Roberts, Thos.  
 Rennie, W. J.  
 Ritchie, John  
 Rombough, Alex. A.  
 Renouf, Joseph  
 Robinson, Arthur  
 Robertson, G. E. L.  
 Roff, Robert  
 Robertson, D. S.  
 Richmond, James  
 Robinson, James  
 Rainey, Samuel  
 Rowlands, Wm. H.  
 Rogers, O. H. P.  
 Renton, Thos. F.  
 Robinson, Theo. H.  
 Rowlands, Wm. U.  
 Richards, Jr., Oliver  
 Salmon, E. J., P.M.  
 Shotboit, Thos., P.M.  
 Shaw, W. H.  
 Salmon, H. L., P.M.  
 Stewart, Alex., P.M.  
 Sinclair, Robt.  
 Swinerton, R. H.  
 Speed, J. W.  
 Sheret, Andrew  
 Sallaway, J. F., P.M.  
 Schaper, E.  
 Stewart, Wm.  
 Stevenson, F. W.  
 Schell, J. E.  
 Saunders, J. R., P.M.

Sallaway, H. M.  
 Skeene, J. L.  
 Sharp, Kendrick, P.M.  
 Stephenson, Thos.  
 Stanton, Herbert  
 Sturgess, T. M., P.M.  
 Scott, W. T.  
 Spencer, Samuel, P.M.  
 Smith, W. J.  
 Sherwood, A. R.  
 Smith, Robt. M., P.M.  
 Sewell, Edward F.  
 Shields, J. M.  
 Saunders, Geo. H.  
 Stamford, J. L.  
 Shade, Herman H.  
 Songhurst, John W.  
 Stevenson, Thos. L.  
 Smith, Hiram Isaac  
 Shields, Albert Roy  
 Stevenson, Geo.  
 Sylvester, Jesse  
 Todd, Eric. W.  
 Taylor, R. R.  
 Trickey, Wm.  
 Tulk, C. J.  
 Townsend, N. F.  
 Toneri, P. E.  
 Tubman, Thos.  
 Tumilty, J.  
 Tripp, G. M.  
 Taylor, F. J.  
 Tennant, E. J.  
 Turner, John A., P.M.  
 Thomson, Wm.  
 Thompson, J. W.  
 Thompson, F. A.  
 Verinder, R. Ford, P.M.  
 Whittaker, W.  
 Wenger, J.  
 Williams, W. T.  
 Wilkes, John  
 Wenger, C.  
 Wood, J. S.  
 Welch, H. H.  
 Wilders, C.  
 Walsh, John, P.M.  
 Wilson, Sr., Alex.  
 Ward, Albert W.  
 Wriglesworth, W. J.  
 Wilby, James  
 Ward, Septimus  
 Wilson, Jr., Alex.  
 Wood, J. T.  
 Willis, Fred. A.  
 Wright, Fred. D.  
 Williscroft, W. A.  
 Walsh, Arthur R.  
 Winslow, Roy M.  
 Witmer, A. M.

**FELLOWCRAFTS**

Davies, D. W.  
 Dunn, Robt.  
 Holden, Osbern  
 Robertson, D. C.  
 Sayers, A. E.  
 Unternaher, John  
 Williams, W. H.

**ENTERED APPRENTICES**

Heald, Sidney J.  
 Davidson, A. A.

## VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE

A. F. & A. M., No. 1, G. R. B. C.

### OFFICERS FOR 1917

---

W. BRO. A. A. BELBECK.....W.M.  
W. BRO. JOHN MINTO.....I.P.M.  
Bro. E. P. Allen.....Senior Warden  
Bro. T. W. C. Hawkins....Junior Warden  
M.W. Bro. Wm. Henderson....Treasurer  
W. Bro. A. St. George Flint     Secretary  
M.W. Bro. Angus McKeown...Chaplain  
Bro. Eric D. Todd.....Senior Deacon  
Bro. Norman T. Lee.....Junior Deacon  
Bro. R. R. Taylor.....inner Guard  
W. Bro. S. W. Edwards.....Dir. of Cer.  
Bro. C. W. Heaton.....Organist  
Bro. C. Nickerson.....Senior Steward  
Bro. D. S. Robertson.....Junior Steward  
Bro. Fritz Hilliger.....Tyler  
V.W. Bro. R. E. Brett..... }  
Bro. W. Gordon..... } Auditors

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