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HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF ASHLAR LODGE No. 610, G.R.C., A.F. & A.M.

BYRON, ONTARIO.

During the early spring of 1922, Master Masons living in the vicinity of the village of Byron, owing to the inconveniences they were experiencing in attending their own Lodges on account of transportation, especially in the winter time, decided to call a meeting of the Masons with a view, if possible, of organizing a Lodge in Byron.

This meeting was called on Wednesday evening, March 22nd, 1922 at the office of Bro. Major H.P. Snelgrove, with the following brethren attending; Bro. Major H.P. Snelgrove, Bro. Robert Whitfield, Bro. Dr. R.D. Moyle, Bro. Dr. A.E. Wood, Bro. Major E.N. Chesham, Bro. D. Chapman, Bro. Rev. R.D. Mess, Bro. A. Marvell, Bro. Jas. Cresswell and Bro. E. Davison.

At this meeting Bro. Major H.P. Snelgrove was chosen chairman of the organization committee. It was decided at this meeting to secure petitioners in order to obtain permission from Grand Lodge to organize a Lodge at Byron, and that the lodge be known as Ashlar Lodge. Also that a deputation be appointed to visit St. Paul's Lodge 107 Lambeth, in order to receive their permission to ask for dispensation.

On April 19th, 1922 a meeting was called at the Town Hall, Byron, to hear the report of the chairman of the organization Committee, which report was as follows:-

That the following thirty-three Masons had signed the petition, asking for dispensation to organize a lodge at Byron; R.W. Bro. U.A. Buchner, W. Bro. J.W. Meriam, Bros. Major H.P. Snelgrove, Dr. A.E. Broome, Rev. R.D. Mess, N. Sanderson, Byron L. Dawson, D.G. Wadsworth, E.E. Graham, A. Marvell, W.H. White, Dr. F.H. Pratten, N.T. Sanderson, Edward Davison, G.W. Fish, R. Whitfield, Major F. Tanton, S.S. Irwin, Jas. E. Griffeth, Allan McLean, Dr. R.D. Moyle, Jas. Cresswell, D. Chapman, R. McCormick, J.H. Moss, F.J. Spyer, J.F.T. Marshall, T.W. Meriam, Capt. L.E.L. Taylor, Major E.N. Chesham, Dr. A.E. Wood, A.G. Elson and R.H. McCormick.

And that St. Paul's Lodge 107 Lambeth had unanimously consented to give their permission to the Masons in Byron to organize a Lodge and that the list of petitioners together with the permission from St. Paul's Lodge 107 Lambeth had been forwarded to the District Deputy, R.W. Bro. Wm. C. Moore, and endorsed by him and forwarded on to the Grand Secretary.

At this meeting it was decided to utilize the Town Hall, Byron, for the Lodge to hold its meetings, provided that the dispensation was granted.

It was decided also at this meeting that W. Bro. J.W. Meriam, Past Master, St. Paul's Lodge 107 Lambeth, be the first Worshipful Master.

The prayer of the petitioners having been granted the Grand Master issued Dispensation for the members to constitute a Lodge of Master Masons at Byron, to be known as Ashlar Lodge. Dispensation was issued by Grand Lodge on June 2nd, 1922.

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The first meeting was called for June 26th, 1922, at which meeting the following Grand Lodge officers instituted the Lodge in the presence of many visiting brethren from the surrounding Lodges.

- R.W. Bro. Wm. C. Moore, D.D.G.M. acting as Grand Master.
- R.W. Bro. C.H. Zeigler as Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- R.W. Bro. W.C. Metherall As " Senior Warden.
- R.W. Bro. L.A. Boss " " Juniro Warden.
- R.W. Bro. Geo. Poad " " Chaplain.
- R.W. Bro. R. Booth. " " Treasurer.
- R.W. Bro. Thos. Rowe " " Secretary.
- R.W. Bro. A.C. Ferguson " " Senior Deacon.
- R.W. Bro. E.T. Essery, K.C. " " Junior Deacon.
- R.W. Bro. N. McGill " " Inner Guard.
- R.W. Bro. J.W. Wallace " " Tyler.

The following officers were then duly invested:

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| W. Bro. J.W. Meriam | W.M. |
| R. W. " U.A. Buchner | I.P.M. |
| " Major H.P. Snelgrove | S.W. |
| " Dr. A.E. Broome | J.W. |
| " Rev. R.D. Mess | Chaplain. |
| " N. Sanderson | Treas. |
| " Byron L. Dawson | Sec'y. |
| " D.G. Wadsworth | S.D. |
| " E.E. Graham | J.D. |
| " A. Marvell | D.of C. |
| " W.H. White | I.G. |
| " Dr. F.H. Pratten | S.S. |
| " Edward Davison | Asst. Sec'y. |
| " G.W. Fish | Organist. |
| " Major F. Panton | } Auditors. |
| " S.S. Irwin | |

EVENTS UNDER DISPENSATION.

The By-laws adopted by Ashlar Lodge, while under Dispensation, were those of Kilwinning Lodge No. 64, London.

The first Church Parade of Ashlar Lodge was held On October 15th, 1922, to the Anglican Church, Byron.

At the request of Acacia Lodge No. 580 London, Ashlar Lodge conferred the Third Degree on members of that Lodge, at the regular meeting in March 1923.

At the request of Nilestown Lodge No. 345, Ashlar Lodge conferred the Third Degree on members of that Lodge, on April 24th, 1923.

The Lodge held its first picnic in conjunction with Dorchester and Nilestown Lodges, at Springbank Park, in August 1923.

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Ashlar Lodge held its first dance on April 11th, 1923, which was a huge success.

At the Grand Convocation held in Toronto in July 1923, Grand Lodge approved of granting a charter to Ashlar Lodge who gave it the number 610, authorizing J.W. Meriam to be the first Worshipful Master, Major H.P. Snelgrove, the first Senior Warden and Dr. A.E. Broome, first Junior Warden with the following Charter members. R.W. Bro. U.A. Buchner, Bro. Rev. R.D. Mess, N. Sanderson, Byron L. Dawson, D.G. Wadsworth, E.E. Graham, A. Marvell, W.H. White, Dr. F.H. Pratten, Edward Davison, G.W. Fish, Major F. Tanton, S.S. Irwin, Jas. E. Griffeth, Allan McLean, Jas. Cresswell, D. Chapman, R. McCormick, R.H. McDonald, J.H. Moss, F.J. Spyer, J.F.T. Marshall, T.W. Meriam, Dr. A.E. Wood and A.G. Elson.

On Sept. 10th, 1923, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Canada, Province of Ontario, W.J. Drope consecrated and dedicated Ashlar Lodge No. 610, in ancient and prescribed form.

The following Grand Lodge officers constituted Grand Lodge on this occasion.

M.W. Bro.	W.J. Drope			Grand Master.
R.W. "	Thos. Rowe	Acting as:	Deputy "	"
" "	T. Martin		District Deputy "	"
" "	W. Line	Acting as:	Grand Senior Warden.	
" "	J. Dunlop	" "	"	Junior Warden.
" "	Dr. C.H. Zeigler	" "	"	Chaplain.
" "	A.C. Ferguson	" "	"	Treasurer
" "	Edwin Smith	" "	"	Secretary.
" "	E.T. Essery	" "	"	Senior Deacon.
" "	G. Poad	" "	"	Junior Deacon.
" "	U.A. Buchner	" "	"	Architect.
" "	L. Boss	" "	"	Supt. of Works.
" "	B. Noble.	" "	"	Dir. of Ceremonies.
" "	W.C. Moore	" "	"	Sword Bearer.
" "	J.W. Wallace	" "	"	Pursuivant.
" "	N. McGill	" "	"	Senior Steward.
" "	W.C. Harris	" "	"	Junior Steward.
W. "	J.H.C. Woodward.	" "	"	Organist.

The following members of Ashlar Lodge No. 610 were then duly invested and installed as officers, by W. Bro. Nelson Walsh, London, as Installing Master:

W. Bro.	J.W. Meriam,	W.M.
R.W. "	U.A. Buchner	I.P.M.
" "	Major H.P. Snelgrove,	S.W.
" "	Dr. A.E. Broome	J.W.
" "	Rev. R.D. Mess	Chaplain.
" "	N. Sanderson	Treas.
" "	H.W. Thompson	Sec'y.
" "	E.E. Graham	S.D.
" "	A. Marvell	J.D.
" "	W.H. White	D. of C.
" "	N.T. Sanderson	I.G.
" "	Dr. F.H. Pratten	S.S.
" "	F.J. Spyer	J.S.
" "	Eli Davis	Third Steward.
" "	J.F.T. Marshall	Organist.
" "	Robt. Whitfield	Tyler.

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After the installation of officers a banquet was held in the Byron Hall, at which the Grand Master was presented with a silver serving tray, which was appropriately engraved, from the officers and brethren of the Lodge, to which he responded in fitting terms.

The thanks of the Lodge are due the several brethren from London District No. 3, for the great assistance given to the lodge in its early days.

The Lodge especially wishes to record its thanks to R.W. Bro. W.C. Moore, R.W. Bro. Benjamin Noble and R.W. Bro. Thos. Martin, who were district deputies from inception to the time of receiving Charter, whose advice was so often required and gladly given.

The members of Ashlar Lodge wish to thank of Nilestown Lodge No. 345 and Acacia Lodge No. 580 for their great sacrifices for the time and work given by them in assisting this Lodge during Dispensation.

The Lodge extends a hearty invitation to the members of the Lodges in London District No. 3, to attend the meetings on the fourth Monday of each month, at the town Hall, Byron.