

Ashlar Lodge
A. F. & A.M. No. 610 G.R.C.

1990 - 1995

History of Ashlar Lodge A.F.&A.M. 610 G.R.C. 1990-1995

Ashlar Lodge was instituted on June 22nd, 1922 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1972. An historical booklet was published in that year as was another one when the lodge celebrated its diamond anniversary in 1982. Since that time the history has been recorded in written form for two different periods, namely, 1973-1983, inc. and 1984-1989.

This portion of Ashlar's history will cover the period from 1990 to 1995 inclusive.

1. Introduction

Like many other lodges, churches, service clubs, etc., Ashlar lodge struggled a little during this period in its history. Membership declined and new members were few and far between. In addition there were many deaths of older as well as a few younger members. However, the worshipful Masters and the Brethren carried on faithfully and, by the end of the period, the outlook for growth and increased activity looked much better due in a large part to the dedicated officers and past Masters of the lodge.

This portion of the history, as was the case in the last two installments, will deal with separate topics as follows:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Introduction | 6. Fraternal Visits | 11. Blood Donors |
| 2. Membership | 7. Building | 12. Changes in By-laws |
| 3. Grand Lodge Officers | 8. Social | 13. Deaths |
| 4. W,M's, Secty,s, Treas's | 9. Presentations | 14. Television |
| 5. Meetings | 10. Masonic Education | 15. Masonic Housing Proj. |

2. Membership

At the end of 1989 Ashlar lodge had 147 members - 79 life members and 68 annual dues paying members. By December 31, 1995, the number had declined to 111 - 66 life and 45 annual dues paying members. Twenty six deaths contributed to the decline but

there were also some resignations and at least 11 members suspended for non payment of dues. On the other hand, there were very few initiations and affiliations. Up to the end of 1993 there were just two initiations and three affiliations. By the end of 1995 there were three more initiations and three more affiliations but optimism and hope seemed to pervade Ashlar officers during 1995. Part of this was due to the perceived renewal of interest in Freemasonry but also to the quality and hard work of the officers. Socially, the fraternal visit to Ashlar lodge 701 in Tillsonburg in June, 1995 with a return visit to Ashlar 610 in October helped to renew fraternal relations between the two lodges.

One of the things the secretary does is record the number of officers, past Masters, members and visitors who attend each meeting. A survey of this record shows how the lodge fared in attendance for the period. A natural increase in numbers for the installation of the worshipful Master and the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master is obvious but the regular meeting attendance is the real key to how active the lodge is. During the period January, 1991 to April, 1993 past Masters and members attending lodge were kept separate by the secretary. The number of officers and past Masters attending was relatively constant with a high number of 12 for officers and 14 for past Masters. The number of members attending lodge, however, was very low with only 6 in one meeting in 1991 and 1 or 2 in most other meetings. There are even meetings with no members recorded as attending.

The minutes of June 22, 1992 record that the lodge spent an hour discussing the apparent apathy of Ashlar lodge members when only 18 attended to discuss the proposed purchase of the Byron Bowling Lanes company shares.

After May, 1993 the secretary added the past Masters and members together for each meeting so it would be very difficult to know how many non past Masters attended each meeting. The only bright spot right up to December, 1995 was the number of

visitors. they ranged from only 2 in June, 1995 to 16 and 18 in September and October, 1995. Clearly, it appeared at the end of 1995 that there was a renewal of interest in Ashlar with 3 applications for initiation and 3 applications for affiliation.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

An additional item of interest near the end of 1995 was the initiation of a third generation member of a prominent Ashlar family -namely, the Sanderson family. In 1922 when Ashlar was instituted 3 Sanderson brothers were among the first members, Ninian T., David and John. Ninian was the first junior steward of Ashlar. A fourth brother, Thomas, was initiated in Leamington Lodge in 1920 and then affiliated with Ashlar in 1934 when he moved back to London. Ninian T., and David were Masters of Ashlar - Ninian in 1928 and David in 1940. Ninian served as secretary for 10 years from 1932 to 1942. Two of David's sons, Robert and Jack were also initiated in Ashlar and Jack was Master in 1965. Robert spent all his working life in Leamington but came back to London to retire. Ninian's son Robert Jay, was initiated in Ashlar and affiliated with Oakridge lodge 708 where he was Worshipful Master in 1971.

In February, 1995, Ashlar lodge was delighted to receive an application for initiation from Robert's son, David, making him the first third generation family member of Ashlar. Bro. Sanderson received his first degree in June, 1995. His second degree was conferred on him in September by relatives and friends of the family - his father, his uncle Jack, his first cousins, second cousins and cousins by marriage, as well as friends of the family. Rt. Wor. Bro. Ross Fuller, who knew all the members of the Sanderson family over the years, was pleased to be asked to assist. In October at the return fraternal visit of Ashlar 701 from Tillsonburg Bro. Sanderson received his third degree. The Ashlar brethren were very pleased with the manner in which he prepared and presented his work and they then elected him junior steward for 1996 in which position he was installed on December 11, 1995.

3. GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

During this period in Ashlar's history only one member received Grand Lodge honours. Ver. Wor. Bro. Wm. Macrow was appointed a Grand Steward at the Grand Lodge communication in July, 1994 and the lodge presented him with his regalia at the September meeting.

Other Grand Lodge officers of Ashlar who were still active during this period were:

- a. Rt. Wor. Bro. Ross Fuller, D.D.G.M., 1961-62
- b. Ver. Wor. Bro. Rolfe Weekes, Grand Sword Bearer, 1962
- c. Rt. Wor. Bro. Richard Palser, D.D.G.M., 1972-73
- d. Ver. Wor. Bro. Leroy Noble, Grand Steward, 1973
- e. Rt. Wor. Bro. Filip Cappa, D.D.G.M., member of Ashlar and past Master of
Oakridge lodge 708
- f. Ver. Wor. Bro. Harry Unwin, Grand Steward, 1982
- g. Rt. Wor. Bro. McKenzie Tilden, D.D.G.M., 1987-88
- h. Ver. Wor. Bro. Fred Cotton, Grand Steward, 1988
- i. Ver. Wor. Bro. Philip Brown, Grand Director of Ceremonies, 1988
- j. Ver. Wor. Bro. Jay Sanderson, member of Ashlar and Past Master of Oakridge

4. WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1990 - Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker | 1991 - Wor. Bro. James Gladwish |
| 1992 - Wor. Bro. Ronald Tapp | 1993 - Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker |
| 1994 - Wor. Bro. David Harding | 1995 - Wor. Bro. Bruce Dow |
| 1996 - Wor. Bro. Edward Barber | |

As membership declined so did the number of members seeking office. Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker was the first person to be Worshipful Master for two different years, but,

also, at the end of 1995, it was necessary for past Masters to occupy one or two chairs for 1996. Some other lodges seemed to be in worse position in this regard than Ashlar but it is a concern.

4. Secretary

After 5 years of distinguished service as secretary, Wor. Bro. Geoffrey Lund resigned and Wor. Bro. Ken Turner was elected starting January, 1993. Wor. Bro. Lund moved to Southampton but still retains his membership in Ashlar and returns frequently.

4. Treasurer

When Wor. Bro. Robert Soper moved to Bracebridge in 1984, Wor. Bro. Philip Brown assumed the office of Treasurer in September of that year. He carried out his duties with skill and devotion until December, 1992. At that time Wor. Bro. Larry Carter was elected to fill that position. He has followed all other treasurers with the same care and attention of lodge funds and devotion to duty.

5. MEETINGS

As new candidates were scarce in the first part of this period in Ashlar's history the worshipful Masters came up with some innovative ideas to keep the meetings interesting. Masonic speakers were invited to attend our lodge to inform and entertain.

In April, 1990, Wor. Bro. Bruno Ciccotelli from Acacia Lodge 580 spoke on Ontario Hydro. In October, 1990, Wor. Bro. Brian Howard of Doric Lodge 289 gave a talk on his trade of shoemaking. In April, 1993, Wor. Bro. Joseph Arnold of St. John's Lodge 20 spoke on his trade of knifemaking.

One other interesting idea was started in 1990 by Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker to keep up interest and attendance. This was to ask Ashlar officers to tell the lodge about their vocation - in short, their life history and how they became interested in Freemasonry

The following brethren participated in this very worthwhile project:

Wor. Bros . Macrow,Tucker,Harding,DenysMortimer,Lund,Turner,Shaw,Harkness, Carter, and Dow, along with Bros. Barber,Jackson,Redpath,Masters and Lipskey.

6.FRATERNAL VISITS

One way of extending Masonic knowledge,experience, and enjoyment is to visit other lodges. A number of Ashlar members did this during the last five years.

In January, 1992, six Ashlar members travelled to Elmira to attend the installation of one of their own members , Wor. Bro. Ken Klinkman as WM of Glenrose Lodge no. 628 in Elmira. Wor. Bro. Klinkman is faithful to Ashlar returning periodically to pay a visit to his mother lodge.

Wor. Bro. David Harding attended several lodges in the U.S. to witness the conferral of degrees in the German language. He told the brethren about his visits to Cleveland in 1992. In April, 1993, and again in March, 1994, he attended a German lodge in Detroit and toured the stately Detroit Masonic Temple.

In January, 1993, Wor. Bro. Harding went to Gothic Lodge 608 in Lindsay to give the apron charge to his brother.

Wor. Bro. Geoffrey Lund, our former secretary, brought greetings from 2 English lodges that he visited while on vacation in 1993. He stated that the dues for these two lodges are L145 per year. Previous to this, Wor. Bro. Lund, who was master of an English lodge before he came to Canada, gave an interesting and informative talk on the differences in the work between English and Canadian lodges.

In May, 1993, Wor. Bros. David Harding and Bruce Dow reported attending St. Marks lodge no. 94 in Port Stanley and how impressed they were with the lodge furniture

At the May 22nd, 1995, meeting, several brethren from Hanover lodge no.432 attended to surprise a former member of theirs, Wor. Bro. Murray Armstrong, who had moved to London and affiliated with Ashlar. Wor. Bro. Armstrong was asked to be the installing Master at Hanover and six or seven Ashlar brethren accompanied him when he went to Hanover later in May to perform this task.

Ashlar 610 was invited to portray the first degree on June 15th, 1995 at Ashlar 701 in Tillsonburg. This renewed a fraternal fellowship with the two lodges that had lapsed over time. After the meeting the 15 or 16 Ashlar 610 members were invited to a nice lunch at the secretary's home.

The Ashlar 701 visit was reciprocated in October when the Tillsonburg brethren conferred the 3rd degree on Bro. David Sanderson. After this meeting all the brethren were treated to an Octoberfest luncheon held at the Byron United church. It was hoped that this fraternal relationship could be continued in the future.

LODGE BUILDING

A very important aspect of Ashlar's history in the past 40 years has been the story concerning the lodge building.

In 1954 several lodge officers including the Master, the senior and junior wardens, decided it was time to upgrade the old building which was built either in the late 19th or early 20 th century and did not contain modern toilet facilities.

A plan was proposed to add an addition to the front of the old structure which would contain modern washrooms. A contract was let in the spring of 1954 but the contractor did not start the project, so, in the fall, the officers decided to see if the lodge was willing to discuss the removal of the old building and replace it.

In the meantime, Bro. Elmer Quinney, who was part owner of Quinney Builders Supply Co., located next door to the lodge building, stated that he would build a new

building incorporating a lodge room and then give it all back to the lodge in 50 years debt free.

The officers discussed this proposal among themselves and decided that, if Bro. Quinney could do this, perhaps they could do it too, without having problems with neighbouring businesses.

A meeting was called to see if the members of the lodge would be willing to provide funds for a new building. The turnout of members was disappointing, to say the least, but the officers pressed on with their idea.

It should be noted here that Ver. Wor. Bro. Rolfe Weekes, who was senior warden at the time, and an excellent lawyer, is the Ashlar member most deserving of appreciation for his advice and constant supervision over the years.

In April, 1955, an agreement was made whereby a new company would lease the property for a period of 50 years and would erect a building which would incorporate a lodge room and ante room. At the end of the period the building would revert to Ashlar. The cost of the new building was approximately \$40,000 and the company, incorporated as Byron Bowling Lanes, Ltd., installed bowling lanes in the lower part of the building.

Ashlar members who were original stockholders were, Bro's Rolfe Weekes, Owen Foster, Ross Fuller, Harry Unwin, N.T. Sanderson, D.R. Sanderson, Earl Woodcock, Roy Weir, Harry Phillips, Stanley Davies, and Elmer Quinney. In addition there were two non Masons who held shares in the company.

About that time the lodge sold some property at the back of the lot to Quinney Builders Supply Co. for \$3,000, and, with an additional \$3,200, the lodge renovated the old furniture and bought new furnishings for the lodge room.

The first meeting in the new lodge room was held in January, 1956, and Grand Lodge dedicated it on June 26, 1956.

The company operated the bowling alleys until 1974 with limited success but always at a profit. The building was then rented until 1988 to a person who operated a ceramics school and store. At his retirement the company decided that it would like to sell its shares to the lodge for the remaining years of the lease. Only 4 of the original Masonic shareholders were still alive and only 3 were members of Ashlar.

The company approached the lodge and, at the March meeting in 1989, the senior warden proposed a notice of motion that the lodge proceed to buy the company shares. At the next meeting the motion was tabled because it was learned that there was not a suitable tenant for the lower portion of the building.

In the meantime, later in 1989, the company was successful in renting the lower part of the building to a shirt laundering and dry cleaning business. At the end of 1989 the lease still had 15 years and 9 months to go to the expiry date of October 1, 2005.

In November, 1991, Ver. Wor. Bro. Philip Brown briefed the lodge on the offer by Byron Bowling Lanes Ltd. to sell the company to the lodge.

As a result, on May 25, 1992, a notice of motion was made in the lodge by the junior warden, Bro. David Harding as follows:

1. That Ashlar lodge acquire the shares of BBL provided all the shares can be purchased.
2. That 2 or 3 members make an extended commitment to act as executive directors to:
 - a. establish a non profit corporation
 - b. arrange financing
 - c. be responsible for the day to day management of the enterprise
3. That no impediment be encountered in the formation of a non profit corporation

This motion was tabled in June but at the September meeting the motion was amended to read "the majority of shares" rather than "all the shares" as Wor. Bro. Wm. Harkness explained that, of the original founders of BBL, seven were deceased, with result that 10 of the 305 shares could not be located.

The amendment carried and Wor. Bro. Harkness, Bro's Bruce Dow and Wayne Crowder were appointed as executive directors. The trustees of the lodge were empowered to negotiate a mortgage on the property up to \$60,000 to pay for the purchase of 295 shares at \$195 per share.

Here again, Ver. Wor. Bro. Rolfe Weekes came to the assistance of the lodge in forming a non profit corporation known as Ashlar Masonic Hall, Byron, Inc.

The purchase in June, 1993 was accomplished as follows:

Byron Bowling Lanes Treasury	\$36,000.
Loan from Ashlar Life Membership Acct.	11,800.
Loans from members @ 8% interest	17,500.
TOTAL	\$65,300.

On June, 27, 1994, Bro. Wayne Crowder reported that, after the first year of operation of Ashlar Masonic Hall Byron, Inc., the balance was \$11,204.16 and that the company was paying the lodge utility invoices.

As of December 31, 1995, the bank balance was \$20,553.35 and the company paid \$2114.64 for building insurance and \$1010.93 for lodge utilities in 1995.

Thus the satisfaction of having accomplished the dream of a new lodge building was finally completed for the three living Ashlar members who promoted the idea in 1954.

Not enough can be said about the assistance of Ver. Wor. Bro. Weekes, who not only served as secretary treasurer of Byron Bowling Lanes Ltd. but arranged all the legal matters over the 40 years. Ashlar lodge owes him a very great debt of gratitude.

8. SOCIAL GATHERINGS

a. LADIES NIGHTS

For many years Ashlar Lodge had an annual evening when each member could bring his spouse, or a friend, or sometimes even his family. This usually consisted of a dinner and then perhaps dancing and cards. It was the night the Worshipful Master could invite all his travelling companions and other friends and most of the time it was a successful evening. The drawback in recent years was the fact that not enough Ashlar lodge members attended.

In 1993, during Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker's second term as Master, it was decided to change the format and honour past Masters. The oldest living past Master, in years of service, at the time, was Wor. Bro. Reginald Thody who was Master in 1949. A very successful evening was held at the Highland Golf Club and it consisted of a gourmet dinner and short speeches honouring Reg. and his wife Mardell.

This turned out to be such a good idea that it was again tried in 1994 when the next oldest Master in years of service, Rt. Wor. Bro. Ross Fuller, who was Master in 1954, was honoured. This was also a very successful night and the idea was expanded a little from 1993. The District Deputy Grand Master and the district secretary graced the head table along with Ross and Shirley and the Worshipful Master. This was also held at the Highland Golf Club and quite a number of visitors attended along with a goodly group of Ashlar members. Ross was presented with a framed plaque which highlighted his Masonic history and was signed by the District Deputy Grand Master, Scott McNair, and the Worshipful Master, David Harding. Unfortunately, the pattern was broken in 1995 but a very successful dinner was held at a nice restaurant when approximately 40 Ashlar persons attended.

b. AFTER LODGE MEETINGS

After each meeting, over the years, a light lunch has been served to the Brethren. In the

early years each member was required to bring part of the lunch for a certain meeting when his turn came up. This was discontinued as time went on and it became the junior Warden's duty to see that there was a lunch after each meeting. On special nights, such as the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master or a special anniversary, the lodge would go to a nearby church. The Byron United church was used sometimes, but in the last few years, St. Anne's Anglican church has been used mostly because it is close and many Ashlar members belong there.

At one time, probably in the 1950,s and 60,s, some members stayed after the lodge meeting and enjoyed a game of euchre and the fellowship that went with it. There were usually 2 or 3 tables. An attempt was made to revive this in 1994 and the effort met with some success.

c. PAST MASTERS DINNERS

In the early 1980's some past masters thought it would be a good idea for the past masters to get together at a dinner to discuss lodge matters with the incoming master and the two wardens. The election of new officers, lodge projects, installation, etc., and many other things have been discussed. The attendance of past masters has been excellent with probably 80% to 85% attending this night which is usually held in early November. The immediate past master is given the job of arranging the gathering each year. The only drawback might be that there is nothing similar for lodge members who are not past masters or senior officers.

d.LOBSTERFEST

Sometime in 1994 at the Board of General Purposes meeting it was suggested that a good fund raising project for the lodge would be a lobster dinner. Enthusiasm kept building for the idea and it was launched on Friday, June 23rd, 1995. The lobsters were cooked and flown in from Nova Scotia. The event was held in the White Oaks community centre and 202 persons enjoyed the feast. Ashlar members and their wives served the dinner and everyone was kept very busy. The "lobsterfest" was

Judged a total success for the first year despite the fact that at least two other lodges had fund raising events that same night. Tentative plans were made for Saturday, June 15th in 1996 and it was hoped to serve 400 persons.

9. PRESENTATIONS

Several presentations were made to Ashlar lodge by members and others during this period of history. At the January meeting in 1990 it was noted that the stone that is situated under the senior warden's chair came from the foundation of the old building that was demolished in 1955 to make way for the new one.

Other presentations were:

October 1990 -- The Wor. Master, Douglas Tucker, gave the secretary, Wor. Bro. Geoffrey Lund, a set of bookends as a token of appreciation.

- Wor. Bro. Murray Dale donated a plaque depicting the 3 degrees of Masonry.

January 1991 - W.M. Douglas Tucker gave the lodge a new 200 page minute book.

September 1991 - W.B. Stanley Norris fabricated and donated 2 hand crafted pedestals for the Ashlar stones.

November 1991 - W.B. Murray Dale and his wife presented 3 degree tracing boards replacing ones that were 60 years old.

- W.B. James Gladwish, on behalf of himself and his wife, presented a collar stand to the lodge in memory of W.B. Roman Strell, W.B. Alex Cowie and Bro. Wm. Harkness, Sr.

February 1992 - W.B. Robert Shaw donated a new set of square and compasses for the volume of the sacred law in memory of all departed Ashlar brethren.

May 1994 - As a result of receiving the most pledges for the annual walkathon in 1994 in which Ashlar members participated the lodge won a hand carved brass and mahogany Jacob's ladder. This was donated by W.B. Fred Smallbone of Myra Lodge 529, Komoka.

September 1995 - Bro. Wm. Hodgman presented an antique ballot box that he found in a store in Barrie which he refinished and donated to the lodge for the interest and enlightenment of the brethren

While Ashlar lodge was the recipient of many gifts during the period the tide was turned in December, 1991 when Ashlar was visited by the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Ed. Drew, and 3 other Grand Lodge officers. On this occasion Ashlar gave each of the visitors a cane hand crafted by Ver. Wor. Bro. Harry Unwin.

10 MASONIC EDUCATION

For a number of years the London Masonic districts have had a program where each lodge has a committee that goes once a year to another lodge and presents Masonic education. Ashlar has such a committee and for the past 5 years W.B. Murray Dale has been the chairman. The other members of his committee in this period of history were W.Bros. Tucker, Gladwish, Harding, Tapp, Dow, and Bros. Mortimer, Stanley, Redpath, Jackson and Masters. In addition to going to other lodges W.B. Dale has given Masonic education talks in Ashlar a number of times in this period.

11 BLOOD DONORS

Ashlar lodge has been famous over the years for blood donations. This has been accomplished by a very few members as many Ashlar brethren are older and others are unable to donate. Three members were honoured by Grand Lodge during this period for their generous gifts of life to their fellow human beings.

In February, 1994 W.B. James Gladwish was presented with a plaque for 224 donations by Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert McKibbon, a member of the Board of General Purposes, who asked that this be recorded in the minutes.

Bro. Robert Mortimer was given a certificate for 100 donations at the November meeting in 1991 but he had actually given 124 times up to that point.

On June 26, 1995 W.B. David Harding received a certificate for 100 donations.

There were several other members who donated regularly during this period and for several years Ashlar was in second place in the London West District, due, no doubt, to the three members mentioned above and also, to others who gave the gift of life.

Unfortunately, it was learned in 1994 that W.B. Gladwish could no longer give blood but it must be said that his unselfish gifts over so long a time sets an example that most of his brethren could never hope to attain.

12 CHANGES IN BY-LAWS

The Board of General Purposes undertook a detailed study of the by-laws and revised them early in 1991. A notice of motion listing the revision was passed at the April 22nd, meeting and approved by the Grand Master, Most Wor. Bro. David Bradley on July 2, 1991.

The changes were as follows:

- a. That all matters regulated by the Book of Constitution of Grand Lodge be deleted from lodge by-laws and that these by-laws deal with items particular to Ashlar only.
- b. That a clause be inserted to the effect that the lodge will be governed and administered strictly in accordance with the constitution of the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. in Ontario except as specifically provided in the lodge by-laws.

- c. That the Ashlar Masonic year be defined as December 1 to November 30.
- d. That the June regular meeting be re-instated.
- e. That the December regular meeting be changed from the first to the second Monday at 6.45 pm for general business and 7.30 pm for the installation of the Worshipful Master
- f. That the annual Divine service be deleted.
- g. That the appointment of a Historian be included and the office of the assistant secretary be by appointment and not by election.
- h. That the duties of the elected and appointed officers be amended in some detail.
- i. That the duties of all committees be set out in detail.
- j. That the fees ,annual dues, reimbursements and expenditures shall be decided from time to time on the recommendation of the General Purposes committee and by resolution of the lodge following a notice of motion and the existing by-laws be amended to give effect to these changes which, following approval by the Grand Master, will come into force on December1, 1991.

The annual dues are as follows: resident members - \$50.

- members outside the 2 London districts \$45.
- there is a \$5 additional payment if not paid by April 1st.

DEATHS

page 17

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Date of Initiation</u> <u>or Affiliation</u>
October 5, 1990	Glen Austin	M.M.	June 25, 1956 - a
November 23, 1990	Wm. Harkness	M.M.	March, 8, 1976
March 27, 1991	Maurice Crawford	P.M. WM 1964	June 27, 1955
March 18, 1991	Alex. Cowie	P.M.	February 22, 1988 - a
May 5, 1992	Joseph Morton	M.M.	January 14, 1980
August 10, 1992	Keith Abbot	M.M.	September 16, 1963
July 2, 1993	Hugh Placid	M.M.	April 25, 1983
October 6, 1993	Alfred T. Onions	M.M.	February 23, 1953
November 10, 1993	Arthur Dowdle	M.M.	October 23, 1961
January 6, 1994	Denys Mortimer	P.M. WM 1985	November 26, 1979 -a
March 16, 1994	Ward Boam	M.M.	June 28, 1948
June 14, 1994	Douglas Robinson	M.M.	March 5, 1979
July 16, 1994	Thomas Sanderson	M.M.	October 24, 1934 -a
October 7, 1994	James Smart	M.M.	October 23, 1989
December 17, 1994	Paul Lipskey	M.M.	March 24, 1980
December 18, 1994	Donald McKenzie	M.M.	May 26, 1958 -a
January 8, 1995	Fred Tucker	M.M.	April 26, 1971
January 19, 1995	Leonard Ridgeway	M.M.	February 12, 1973
October 21, 1995	William Summers	M.M.	February 10, 1975
December 14, 1995	Fred Edwards	W.M. WM 1971	March 11, 1963

a-affiliated

14 TELEVISION

Wor. Bro. Douglas Tucker, who was the district chairman of the Mentors program, and whose vocation brings him in contact with many areas of publicity has a close association with the local Rogers community television channel 13. In discussion with the channel he offered to host a program on Freemasonry. He called the program "Dispelling the myth" and asked Rt. Wor. Bro. Ross Fuller to appear on the program with him. The taping took place on July 6, 1995 at the Dufferin Avenue Temple and it began by showing the outside of this "mysterious" building in downtown London and then going into the ante room and the lodge room explaining the functions of the altar as well as each of the officer's chairs, etc.

No particular lodge was mentioned but both participants names appeared on the screen. Added to the local presentation was the Grand Lodge video presentation, "Friend to Friend" which was professionally done. The whole presentation took one hour and the local channel showed the program at least 10 times.

Most of the comments were very favourable especially from Masons but also from many non Masons.

Ashlar lodge voiced its appreciation to the two members at the October meeting and congratulated them for putting Ashlar lodge in the forefront for promoting Freemasonry,

Rt. Wor. Bro. Arthur Rake, D.D.G.M., reported that Grand Lodge was pleased with the presentation.

15 MASONIC HOUSING PROJECT

Ashlar, as well as all other lodges in the London area, was asked to participate in the Masonic Housing project known as the William Mercer Wilson Centre. It is an 86 unit apartment building and is located at 331 Commissioners Rd. W., London.

Although the building itself was funded by the Ontario Ministry of Housing many of the amenities, such as some infrastructure items, finishing the community centre and the lodge room, had to be funded by donations.

At Ashlar's meeting in February, 1994, W.B. Douglas Banks gave a preliminary presentation on the project.

W.B. Robert Brewster was appointed Ashlar's representative for this project assisted by W.Bros. Ken Turner, Fred Cotton and Larry Carter.

The official opening was held on October 29th, 1994 with Most Worshipful Bro. Durward Greenwood, the Grand Master, performing the ceremony.

The building was erected and partially occupied in 1994. In the fall 1995 report of the Centre it was noted that 95% of the building was rented with just a few market value vacancies still available but there was a waiting list of 90 applicants for the geared to income units.

CONCLUSION

Thus ends the history of Ashlar lodge from 1990 to the end of 1995. It is hoped that the past will enlighten the future and that Ashlar members will continue to show the world at large the example of good Masonic citizens who prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune.

This history was researched and written by Rt. Wor. Bro. Ross C. Fuller, February, 1996