

A HISTORY OF MIRIAM LODGE No. 20, B. C. R.

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It is a curious characteristic of human affairs that the makers of history seldom realize the fact that their doings will have any interest in for their posterity. The historian finds his task bristling with difficulties when he attempts to reconstruct the circumstances attendant upon the genesis of any great undertaking. In the absence of any detailed record of the events which would explain how, why and wherefore any given movement has originated, he is obliged to exercise much discretion in his examination of available material, and to be very careful that his reconstruction of the past is not too much colored by his own imagination.

In no department is this lack of data more noticeable than in the early history of our Masonic order. Freemasonry is an esoteric institution, so that the natural tendency to avoid the written word is strengthened by the fact that, in this particular connection, there is much not proper to be written. Secretaries and other recorders lean towards an excess of caution, and omit many things vital to an historical record which should not be regarded as belonging to the secret part of the institution.

From a paper by R.W. Bro. Leonard Norris in the Proceedings of the Okanagan Historical and Natural History Society, I have taken some memoranda of Vernon, the location of Miriam Lodge, No. 20.

189 Vernon is built chiefly on two pre-emptions, one west of Swan Lake Creek, pre-empted by Luc Girouard in 1867, and the other east of the creek, pre-empted by Amos Delorier in 1878. In 1885, E. J. Tronson laid out a townsite and called it "Centreville", but the name was not popular. From the peculiar formation of the banks of Swan Lake Creek where the Barnard Avenue Bridge now stands, the Indians derived the name NINTLE-MOOS-CHIN meaning, "Short jump over". The name, "Forge Valley", was used by some because of a smithy which stood not far from Price Ellison's former residence, but the most popular name was "Priest's Valley", from a rest cabin built by the Fathers of the Okanagan Mission within the present city limits. This point was a convenient day's journey from their headquarters, south of the present city of Kelowna.

When a post office was established in 1884, it was called "Priest's Valley". Three years later, on November 1, 1887, the name was changed to "Vernon" in honour of Forbes George Vernon, Esq., the then owner of the Coldstream Ranch, and, at the time, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for the Province. It was incorporated as a city in 1892.

The Vernon family comes originally from the town of Vernon, in Normandy. Two brothers, Richard and Walter de Vernon, came over with William the Conqueror and settled in England. A descendant, Colonel Edward Vernon, received a grant of the castle and lands in Clontarf, in Ireland. It was to this Irish branch of the family that Forbes George Vernon belonged, his father having been Edward Vernon of Clontarf Castle.

The early records of Miriam Lodge are scanty. It would be a matter of great difficulty to reconstruct those early days were it not for a short history written from memory by R.W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw, a Charter Member, after the Lodge had existed about twenty-five years. He was the first W.M. of the Lodge, and one of the few who took a leading part in its organization, and he was peculiarly fitted for the task; but he was obliged to admit that his recollection of

some events was incomplete, and that much detail would have been of great interest to us was necessarily omitted, and cannot now be recovered.

Bro. Megraw says that the first meeting for the purpose of organizing a Lodge took place about October, 1892, in Caryell and Burnyeat's draughting office, the front room on the first floor of the building occupied by Martin Bros. as a hardware store on the N. E. corner of Barnard Avenue and Seventh Street, the present site of the Royal Bank. At that meeting those present were R.W. Bro. John Highman, P.D.D.G.M., of Manitoba, W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw, P.M., Bros. A. J. Venn, James M. Martin, J. P. Burnyeat, A. J. Flett, Luc Girouard, C. A. Shortt, and possibly others. Ten Brethren were willing to sign a petition for a new Lodge, being the minimum number required by the regulations of the Grand Lodge at that time. Evidently, Bro. Flett, who was present at the meeting, was not one of the signatories, as I do not find his name mentioned in the minutes of the Lodge.

In the petition, W. Bro. Megraw was named as Master and Bros. A. J. Venn and J. P. Burnyeat as S.W. and J.W., respectively. The other signatories were R.W. John Highman, Bros. C. A. Shortt, H. Mcintosh, W. Reinhard, J. M. Martin, L. Girouard and W. L. Germaine.

The Brethren soon found that the preparation and presentation of a petition were by no means the greatest obstacles in the way of the formation of a new Lodge. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. William Downie, did not favour the establishment of a new Lodge which would deprive Spallumcheen Lodge of the greatest portion of its territory. That his attitude was not unreasonable can be readily understood by referring to a map of the Province, and noting that the nearest Lodges were located at Chilliwack, Kamloops and Revelstoke. In addition to this a number of the Brethren of Spallumcheen Lodge were opposed to the establishment of a new Lodge in their neighbourhood. To overcome this opposition and to secure the good will of the Spallumcheen Brethren, W. Bro. Megraw was obliged to ride the eighteen miles to Lansdowne, where the meetings were then held, and return to Vernon one cold winter night in January, 1893. It was no small feat to take so long a journey on horseback in mid-winter, especially as he had not even the moon to guide him for a considerable part of the return trip, and it was an eloquent proof of his Masonic zeal; but he must have been cheered by the fact that his mission had been successful, and that the Brethren of Spallumcheen Lodge had endorsed the application of the Vernon Freemasons. Moreover, the Officers of the proposed Lodge had to drive to Lansdowne over a very muddy road one day in the early spring of 1893, to demonstrate to the Brethren of Spallumcheen their proficiency in the three degrees of Freemasonry, before the Grand Master finally relented and granted a dispensation.

The dispensation for Miriam Lodge was dated April 26, 1893, and the first meeting was held on the 25th of the following month.

An emergent meeting took place a week later, on June 2, 1893. No business was transacted at either meeting, except the passing of accounts and arranging to rent the Oddfellows' Hall in which they met. As these were the only meetings which took place prior to the annual communication of Grand Lodge, Miriam Lodge was fortunate in being granted a warrant at that meeting, their period of probation having been remarkably short. Grand Lodge probably felt that the way in which the Brethren had overcome their difficulties, and the length of time so occupied, merited special consideration. The Grand Master, too, had visited Vernon earlier in the month and had made it his business to become acquainted with the Brethren and inspect the Lodge room, with the result that thereafter he gave the new Lodge his cordial

support. The warrant of Miriam Lodge was dated July 3, 1893. It was given the number 20 on the register of the Grand Lodge, and was constituted on July 29, by the new Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Sibree Clarke. All members were present except Bro. McIntosh, S.D.

The minutes report the presence of a number of Brethren from Spallumcheen Lodge, but their names are not given. Certain features of the ceremony on that occasion strike one as being somewhat unusual.

They indicate a different procedure from that prevailing at present. In the first place, when a Lodge has returned its dispensation — a necessary preliminary before its application for a warrant can be considered — there is no authority for a meeting until the warrant has been issued and the Lodge has been regularly constituted; yet the minutes record a meeting of the Lodge on July 13, at which arrangements were made for the Grand Master's visit and a committee appointed to prepare a set of By-laws. True, no Masonic business was transacted, but the meeting was opened in the three degrees and, strictly speaking, was irregular. On the Grand Master's visit, July 29, the Lodge was opened by the W. M. This also is unusual. There is no mention of any meeting of Grand Lodge, but merely a statement that the Lodge received the Grand Master with honours. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, after which the Lodge proceeded to receive petitions for initiation and considered the report of the committee on the by-laws. The Grand Master then installed the Officers, and, later, addressed the Lodge. Possibly there were not enough members of Grand Lodge present to form a quorum and, while it is usual to call a meeting of Grand Lodge for the purpose of constituting a new Lodge, the constitution of Lodges is one of the prerogatives of the Grand Master. No doubt, the manner in which such prerogative may be exercised is largely a matter for his personal judgment. The minutes omit all reference to any ceremony or act of constitution on the part of the Grand Master. Such omission is not to be regarded as evidence that the requirements of the constitution were not duly performed. The Grand Master in his address to Grand Lodge, in 1894, merely says that he "Visited Miriam Lodge, No. 20, and installed Officers." The room where the ceremony took place was the Oddfellows' Hall, over W.R. Megaw's store. Here all the earlier meetings of the Lodge were held, until the Oddfellows built a hall for themselves on the site of their present building.

Wor. Bro. Ainsley Megraw is generally credited with the choice of the name, "Miriam". Being the first Master of the Lodge, his wishes would, no doubt, carry weight with the Brethren. He was extremely fond of music and felt that in the nomenclature of Masonic Lodges, his favorite among the liberal arts and sciences had suffered neglect. Miriam is one of the earliest musicians on records, and is, indeed, the first whose name is associated with percussion instruments.

Despite her sex and the somewhat monotonous character of timbrel music, her name was chosen for the new Lodge.

The first seal of Miriam Lodge bore a representation of a female figure, draped and dancing, with a timbrel in her hand. It was destroyed with other Lodge effects when the Oddfellows' Hall was burned in 1907, and one of more conventional design adopted. It was felt that the original design, however appropriate and effective, bore an unfortunate resemblance to a symbolic figure which ornamented certificates issued by a certain clandestine organization, and it was therefore deemed advisable to make a change.

The first year of Miriam Lodge appears to have been prosperous.

The membership increased fifty per cent. as a result of four initiations and one affiliation. All the initiates received the degree of M.M. before the end of the year, but the first degree actually worked by the Lodge was that of M.M. conferred, by courtesy on Bro. W.T. Shatford at the request of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, Nova Scotia.

Reckoning from the constitution at the regular meeting on July 29, and including the festival on December 27, seven regular and two emergent meetings were held in 1893; the first set of by-laws was adopted; and the Lodge made its first step in respect to the possibility of erecting a Masonic Hall.

The statement rendered by the Treasurer at the end of the year showed a credit balance of \$49.70, Satisfactory as this might seem, it only represented the amount of cash on hand, and did not take into consideration the liability of the Lodge to its founders for money advanced. Possibly, had the rate of expansion of the first six months been maintained for the next few years, no embarrassment, financial or otherwise, would have occurred; but unfortunately, such progress was not to be the fortune of the Lodge for some years. Bro. Megraw was an able and experienced Master and the remainder of the Brethren appear to have been zealous and loyal, but the year 1894, must have been a terrible disappointment to all, and especially to the new W. M. Bro. Burnyeat.

Bro. Burnyeat had been J.W. in 1893, and was elected Master for 1894. Bro. Venn, the S.W., was re-elected S.W. with Bro. Germaine as J.W.

At the installation, W. Bro. Hamill, of Spallumcheen, acted as Installing Master. Another P. M. of Spallumcheen was present, as he had been at several meetings before. He took a great interest in Miriam Lodge until the time he was summoned to the Grand Lodge above. I refer to R.W. Bro. Costerton, later elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

The first regular meeting of the year on January 18, 1894, gave no indication of trouble. Both wardens were in their chairs, but it was Bro. Venn's last appearance until election night, December 6.

At the regular meeting in February, both wardens were absent.

Three petitions for affiliations were received and an exemplification of the E.A. degree took place, Bro. F. H. Barnes, a Spallumcheen visitor and now a member of Enderby Lodge, acting as candidate.

Exemplifications of the work in the various degrees were a feature of Bro. Burnyeat's Mastership, and several emergent meetings were held for this purpose.

Bro. Germaine was in his chair at both the regular and emergent meeting in March, but is not recorded as having been present at any of the later meeting during the year. At the regular meeting in March, an application for dimit was received from Bro. Venn, but he was informed that no dimit could be issued as he was an elected and installed Officer.

At the regular meeting in June, a motion was passed requesting Bro. Germaine to attend to his duties as J. W. more regularly or, otherwise, to resign the office so that it might be filled by some Brother who could devote more time to it This drew a letter from Bro. Germaine resigning his office, which made it necessary to hold a special meeting early in July, at which it was decided to send Bro. Venn's application for dimit and Bro. Germaine's letter of resignation to the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. R. B. McMicking, asking for a dispensation to hold a new

election of wardens. A reply from the Grand Master was read at the August meeting as a result of which Bro. Germain's resignation was not accepted, and further action was deferred until the next election of Officers.

The first Masonic funeral conducted by the Lodge took place on December 9, 1894, when the last sad tribute of respect was paid to the remains of Bro. Robert McDougall, an initiate of the previous year.

During 1894, five new members were added by affiliation and two by initiation. Reviewing the membership at the end of the year, we find that, since its inception, in addition to the ten founders, the Lodge had acquired six members by initiation, namely, Bro. R.N. Taylor, L. Norris, R. McDougall, F. Billings, C.D. Simms and A. Muir. The following members had been added by affiliation: Bros. F. W. Pettit, Wm. Postill, A. Poole, W. C. Baldwin, M. Fierheller and G. Cunningham. Bro. McDougall's death brought the total membership to twenty-one.

The name of Bro. Luc. Girouard is not recorded in the minutes after Bro. McDougall's funeral. His death occurred less than six weeks later on January 22, 1895. This devoted Brother belonged to a well-known French-Canadian family, several of whose members have attained distinction. Previous to his settlement in the neighbourhood of Vernon, he had had an adventurous career as a soldier, Indian fighter and miner, amongst other occupations. He was a Roman Catholic, and Bro. Megraw records that he was refused the last rites of his church because he would not abjure Freemasonry on his death bed.

The election of Officers, for 1895, resulted in Bro. Venn being elected W.M., with W. Bro. Burnyeat and Bro. Norris as Wardens.

Bro. J. M. Martin was elected Chaplain. I mention this as it was the only occasion on which the office was filled until the late Bro. Rev. Lennox Fraser was elected for 1920. It is true that W. Bro. Highman was elected for 1896, but he does not appear to have been installed. At the installation on December 27, 1894, W. Bro. Highman acted as Installing Master, assisted by W. Bros. Costerton and Hamill.

During 1895, there was no addition to the membership of the Lodge. On the other hand, Bros. Baldwin and Fierheller dimitted.

The minutes show that the financial condition of the Lodge was anything but satisfactory. At the January meeting, the Secretary was instructed to notify the Brethren who had not yet paid their affiliation fees. There was also a discussion as to whether or not the annual dues should be increased. The matter was referred to the finance committee for a report and to ascertain the views of the Charter members on this question. A committee which had been appointed to interview the Oddfellows on the question of rent also reported that the rent would be reduced from \$75.00 per annum to \$40.00. The higher rate covered the use of the hall every Thursday evening, so, no doubt, the reduced rent involved a curtailment of the privileges of the Lodge. At the same meeting, the practice of reading the rough minutes at the close is mentioned for the first time. This was the practice of the Lodge for several years.

At the February meeting of Charter members were requested to surrender their claims to the "back dues", and to pay dues in the ordinary way from January 1st, 1895. The term "back dues" is somewhat obscure. It probably meant "dues paid in advance", and referred to the sums advanced to the Lodge to cover costs of dispensation, warrant, equipment and other

preliminary expenses. There seems to have been an understanding that a portion of these sums was to be repaid out of revenue, but this had been found impracticable. The Charter members appear to have acquiesced in the suggestion.

An emergent meeting was held on May 16, 1895, when the Lodge received an official visit from R.W. Bro. Lacey R. Johnson, Deputy Grand Master. The reference to his reception reads somewhat strangely in the minutes:

“R.W. D.G. Lacey R. Johnson was then announced and was duly received according to ancient custom, after which he was introduced by Bro. P. M. Highman.”

No degrees were conferred during the year, but exemplification of the work was practised on several occasions. At the July meeting, by way of variety, the W.M. examined the Brethren in the three degrees of Freemasonry.

During 1895, the Lodge suspended Bro. Pettit for non-payment of dues. This was the first occasion when such action was found necessary. Peculiarly enough, this particular case caused trouble later on.

At the November meeting, two applications for initiation were received and referred to committees in the usual way. Bro. Leonard Norris was elected Master and Bros. Taylor and Simms, S.W. and J.W., respectively, for 1896. They were installed on December 26, and thus Miriam Lodge for the first time had three of its own initiates in the three principal chairs. The promise of improvement in the affairs of the Lodge indicated by the applications mentioned proved illusory. One candidate was rejected by the committee of investigation, but the other passed the ballot and received the degrees in due course. He was the only addition to the Lodge during the year.

At the January meeting, a waiver of jurisdiction requested by Spallumcheen Lodge was refused. At a later stage, there was some friction between the two Lodges over the candidate involved, but it appears to have been due to a misunderstanding.

On February 24, 1896, an emergent meeting was called by Bro. Simms, J.W., in the absence of both the W. M. and the S. W., for the purpose of conducting the funeral of W. Bro. William Kinghorn, a Past Master of Torphichen Kilwinning Lodge, No. 113, Bathgate, Scotland. This Brother had died at Sicamous, and received Masonic burial at the request of his son, who was also a member of the Craft.

At the April meeting, a letter was received from Bro. Pettit, who had been suspended for non-payment of dues in the previous year, asking for remission of dues and reinstatement. The Lodge had a perfect right to refuse this request and did so, but, most unfortunately, assigned reasons for its action. The Secretary was instructed to inform Bro. Pettit that his suspension was due not only to non-payment of dues but for unmasonic conduct. In other words the Brother was illegally condemned without trial. The incident is important, for while it is probably the only serious error to be charged against Miriam Lodge during its existence, it placed the Lodge in an unfavourable light, and, until the matter was finally adjusted some years later, Grand Lodge looked upon us with anything but a friendly eye.

Bro. Reinhard, one of the founders of the Lodge, was granted his dimit at the same meeting.

After the May meeting, interest fell to a low ebb. No meetings were held in June or July. A bare quorum, which included two visitors, was present at the August meeting, after which no further meetings took place until November 26, when an emergent meeting was held at which the election of Officers for 1897, took place. W. Brp. Venn was re-elected as W.M., with Bro. F. Billings and Bro. C. D. Simms as Wardens.

A ray of light brightened the situation at the regular meeting in December, when three petitions for initiations were presented.

The Officers for 1897 were installed at the regular meeting on January 14, W. Bro. Burnyeat acting as Installing Master. The three applicants for initiation passed the ballot; one Brother was suspended for non-payment of dues; and the death of Bro. R.N. Taylor, who had been S.W. the previous year, was announced. Two of the successful candidates were initiated the same evening. The third candidate was initiated at an emergent meeting on January 28.

No regular meeting took place in February, but the three entered apprentices were passed to the Fellow Craft degree at an emergent meeting. Two of them received the M. M. degree at an emergent meeting on April 1, and the third at the regular meeting on May 13. The regular meeting for April was omitted.

The three new members were, at the May meeting, appointed to the officers of S.D. and J.D. and I.G. This unusual action, together with the frequency with which regular meeting had been omitted, shows how near the Lodge must have been to extinction.

In many cases, only the presence of visitors enabled a quorum to be formed. No wonder the Lodge was ready to adopt any plan which might ensure a steady revenue and attract new members. At this meeting (May 13, 1897) a resolution was adopted, sponsored by W. Bros. Highman and Burnyeat, reducing the dues for members living outside the city of Vernon from \$6.00 to \$3.00 per annum and the affiliation fee from \$5.00 to \$1.00. Arrangements were also made to insure the furniture and regalia.

The next regular meeting was held in July, when one application for initiation was received. The candidate passed the ballot at the regular meeting on September 9, no meeting having been held in August. Two applications for affiliation were received in September. One of these was from Bro. Thomas Robinson, who, later on, was elected an honorary member of the Lodge.

A suggestion was made that Brethren who did not attend regularly should be fined. In the end, the Secretary was instructed to request the delinquent Brethren to attend the next regular communication on October 7. They appear to have treated the Secretary's communication with scant courtesy, as there is no record of any of them having replied thereto. It may be that such a breach of Masonic etiquette meant only that the Lodge was not in a healthy condition, but it certainly does not induce a charitable frame of mind towards the delinquent Brethren. Announcement was made that W. Bro. Costerton, of Spallumcheen Lodge, had been appointed D.D.G.M., which was highly gratifying to the members of Miriam. The two applicants for affiliation passed the ballot and the candidate for initiation received the E.A. degree.

A request was received from the City Clerk asking the Masonic body to lay the foundation stone of the new city hall, but the Secretary was instructed to inform him that the Lodge would consider the matter more fully when -the City Council was in a position to

proceed with the erection of that building. I am inclined to suspect the existence of some undercurrents which do not appear to have come to the surface. Certainly, there is no record of the foundation stone of the City Hall having been laid by the Freemasons.

The D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Costerton, visited the Lodge at the regular meeting on November 4. One F.C. degree was conferred and the D.D.G.M. addressed the Lodge in a complimentary manner.

The Brother who had received the preliminary degrees at the last two communications was raised to the degree of M.M. at an emergent meeting held on November 18.

Three petitions for initiation and one for affiliation were received at the regular meeting on December 2. The Brethren were evidently so much encouraged by this that a proposal was made to hold a banquet on December 30, and invite the members of Spallumcheen Lodge. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements, but the banquet was not held. W. Bro. Highman was elected Master of the Lodge for 1898, with Bros. Simms and Cutler as Wardens. Bro. T. W. Robinson was elected to the office of Tyler, which he held for several years continuously, as well as on other occasions subsequently.

The Lodge, at the end of 1897, seemed to have definitely turned the corner and to be enlarging its membership, but it was many years more before it attained any degree of security or stability.

The year 1898, opened auspiciously and may be considered a successful year so far as new members are concerned, seven new members being acquired by initiation, two by affiliation and one by restoration. On the other hand, two were suspended for non-payment of dues and three took out dimits, making a total gain of five. Yet, when the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. E. D. McLaren, visited the Lodge, on January 26, there were only five members present to receive him. Both wardens were absent and a visitor acted as S. W.

The presence of the D.D.G.M. must have been necessary within the Lodge to complete a quorum in order to open, and, later on, he had to act as Deacon and conduct a candidate through the ceremony of Passing. The subject of the Grand Master's address as "Masonic Duties and Behaviour", and, though the minutes are silent on the point, one cannot help feeling that the Grand Master was by no means satisfied with the way in which the Freemasons of Vernon performed their Masonic duties. There is ample evidence that the standard of decorum within the Lodge was by no means high, though, of course, the behaviour of the Brethren outside the Lodge may have been quite satisfactory. Let me quote from the minutes of an emergent meeting of the Lodge held on January 20, 1898, when a candidate was initiated. The candidate

"having been reported as waiting in the ante-room, Bros. Burnyeat and Secretary were instructed to leave the Lodge to interview him and make report. They were readmitted and made report that the candidate was not to be found. They had directed Bro. Tyler to go and make search, but he returned after a fruitless quest, having been unable to find him. He had heard of him as having been last seen vanishing rapidly in the direction of the Malamalka Hotel. The W. M. called the Brethren from labor to refreshment for the space of fifteen minutes in order that further and more diligent search should be made. However, shortly

afterwards the candidate returned of his own free will and accord, so that the Brethren were spared the labour of further search."

During the year, the Lodge began to receive visits from Brethren residing in the neighbourhood of Kelowna, particularly from the late Bros. Budden and Bailey. The latter became a member of the Lodge, and amongst other new members, are to be found some from Kelowna district who were later to form the nucleus of St. George's Lodge, The most prominent of these was Bro. B. F. Boyce, who became W. M. of Miriam, in 1902, and first W. M. of St. George's.

At the meeting on August 25, a vote of thanks was given to W. Bro. Coserton for exonerating Miriam Lodge from blame in connection with occurrences at the funeral of the late Bro. Harrison, at Armstrong. At the same meeting, a committee was appointed to confer as to the advisability of changing the place of meeting to the new Gilmore block, then in course of construction, but the report of the committee is not recorded.

During the year, the question of consolidating Miriam and Spallumcheen Lodges was given serious consideration, but, both Lodges acquiring confidence as the year progressed, the project was abandoned. R.W. Bro. Costerton appears to have been responsible for the suggestion. Throughout his year of office as D.D.G.M., he was a constant visitor at the meetings of Miriam Lodge. It was probably more to his excellent example than to any other cause that a great improvement in the attendance of the members is due.

In September, a petition was received from Brethren in Greenwood asking permission to establish a Lodge there. This permission was readily granted and the goodwill of the Brethren even extended to the point of refusing an application from a candidate for initiation, on the ground that Greenwood was nearer, though the Lodge at that point was probably not then formed. This was a time of great activity in the Kootenay and Boundary districts, and Lodges were formed in rapid succession at Nelson, Kaslo, Rossland, Greenwood, Sandon, Fort Steel, Ymir, Trail, Cranbrook, Fernie, Phoenix and Grand Forks. It is peculiar that there is no record of any request from the Nelson Brethren for permission to establish a Lodge there, but as Nelson is only slightly nearer to Vernon than to Revelstoke, the fact was probably not generally known, and was overlooked because communication between Nelson and Revelstoke was more direct and obvious.

At the October meeting, a committee was appointed to arrange for a ball, but its report, at the November meeting, indicated that it would be too expensive as there was no suitable hall; so it was arranged to have a dinner, conversazione, and smoking concert instead, in the Cameron Hall, on December 15. There is no further mention of the festivity, but a bill for \$158.00 from Bro. O'Brien, passed on December 22, together with bills for the hire of Cameron Hall, piano, etc., shows that it was carried out according to plan.

W. Bro. Highman was re-elected to the Master's chair for 1899, with Bros. E. S. F. McClintock and R. C. Haws as Wardens. The installation took place on December 27, W. Bro. Burnyeat officiating.

The death of Bro. Baldwin, a dimitted member of the Lodge, was reported at the March meeting. A considerable contribution from Lodge funds was made for the relief of his widow.

At the May meeting, the Pettit affair again made its appearance. It was not finally disposed of till 1902.

Two candidates were initiated in 1899, and one affiliated. On the other hand, four Brethren took their dimits. Miriam Lodge was entering upon another bad period and did not recover until 1901. At the same time, the members showed signs of exercising their right of choice more than is noticeable previously, in that two applications for initiation were rejected during this year. Only three of the original members of the Lodge were left at its close, namely, Bros. Highman, Megraw and Burnyeat; and, of these Bro. Megraw no longer resided in the neighbourhood.

In August dues were made \$6.00 per annum for all, the reduced rate for those living outside Vernon being abolished.

I notice, among the visitors at the October meeting, the name of W. Bro. Elvin Dixon, P.M., of Hiram Lodge, No. 319, Hagersville, Out. In the years which have passed since then, it is very difficult to find a meeting of Miriam Lodge at which that Brother has not been present, for he joined the Lodge shortly afterwards, served it in various offices, ruled it as W. M., and finally became its efficient Secretary.

Bro. E. S. F. McClintock was elected W. M. for 1900, with Bros. N. J. O'Brien and B. F. Boyce as Wardens. Installation took place on December 28, W. Bro. Highman exercising his privilege as W.M. to install his successor.

In 1900, three Brethren joined by affiliation. One M. M. degree was conferred by courtesy on Bro. D. F. Drier, a resident of Kelowna, belonging to Woodstock Lodge, No. 11, New Brunswick. Strangely enough, the conferring of this degree was the cause of some heated exchanges between Spallumcheen and Miriam Lodges, with the result that the former was accused by W. Bro. Highman of attempts to invade jurisdiction not only in this but in several other cases. Bro. Highman was convinced ultimately that his information was incorrect and his accusation consequently unjust, so he apologized handsomely, and peace and harmony were restored by the kind offices of Bro. Costerton. A quarrel of a personal nature between some of the Brethren, arising out of political difference, was settled amicably in open Lodge.

M.W. Bro. H. H. Watson, G.M., accompanied by R.W. Bro. Leonard Norris, D.D.G.M., the first member of Miriam Lodge to attain that dignity, visited the Lodge on October 17, 1900. There were more visitors than members present. M.W. Bro. Watson was not favourably impressed, for his report was distinctly critical.

At the regular meeting in December, Bro. Costerton was elected an honorary member of the Lodge. This was the first occasion on which such an honour was conferred by it.

At the election of Officers for 1901, W. Bro. Highman objected to Bro. Boyce being considered eligible for the Master's Chair, as he had not attended any meetings since his installation as J.W., except one emergent. W. Bro. Burnyeat was elected M.W., with Bros. R.C. Haws and R. Lambly as Wardens.

The closing days of the nineteenth century were not without hope for Miriam Lodge. The spirit of inquiry seemed to be afoot once more for certain petitioners had made known their desire to be initiated. The Oddfellows were building a new hall which would soon be ready. One can readily imagine that the combined influences of a new century, new material and a new home must have aroused a hope that the days of toil and struggle would soon be over; that Miriam Lodge would soon lift her head above the concealing mists of mediocrity

and poverty and achieve a worthy place among the Lodges of the Jurisdiction. The remainder of this narrative will show how great was the distance between the hopes and their fulfillment.

The installation of Officers for 1901 was delayed through an unfortunate combination of circumstances. The usual festival of St. John's was omitted, as well as the regular meeting of January 3, so that the first meeting of the new year was held on January 31, when so much business was transacted that the Lodge was not closed until 1:30 a.m., without getting so far as the installation which, in consequence, did not take place until February 28. The case of Bro. Pettit came again before the Lodge, and it was decided to ballot on the question of his reinstatement at the February meeting.

The death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria had just occurred and the common grief of the entire British Empire was the occasion for an appropriate resolution on the part of the Lodge. It was decided to ask for a dispensation to attend a memorial service in Masonic clothing, but as the service was to be held in conjunction with other organizations, no doubt the permission was withheld. A candidate passed the ballot and another was initiated so it was no wonder that the installation ceremony had to be postponed.

The delayed ceremony took place at the February meeting. Bro. Pettit's application for re-instatement was rejected, as was Bro. Highman's motion to limit eligibility of Wardens for the Master's Chair, to those who had attended not less than eight regular meetings.

R.W. Bro. Leonard Norris made an official visit, installed the Officers and, in his address, took occasion to refer to the illegal action of the Lodge in the matter of Bro. Pettit. His remark seem to have fallen on deaf ears, as the money tendered by Bro. Pettit in settlement of dues was returned to him—another illegal act. W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw received his dimit.

At the regular meeting on May 2, announcement was made that the rent of the hall would be raised from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per annum. The Lodge had been in occupation of the new hall for all but the first meeting of the year.

At the election of Officers for 1902, Bro. Boyce was chosen as W. M., with Bros. R. Lambly and S. D. Sinims as Wardens. Bro. J. R. Sturt, who had affiliated a month previously, was elected Secretary. The minutes written by this Brother are beautifully engrossed in a small and perfectly formed hand, while the style is characterized by a certain stately dignity enhanced by the continual use of the phraseology of an earlier period in Freemasonry.

While the Lodge made no gain in membership during the year, two candidates were initiated and several applications for initiation had been received; so that prospects were good: Nor did these prospects prove deceptive for 1902 was a phenomenally good year so far as the activity of the Lodge was concerned.

Bro. Boyce and his Officers were installed by R.W. Bro. C. S. Stevens of Kamloops, D.D.G.M. for District No. 3, at the regular meeting in January; and so much importance did the W.M. attach to the efficient performance of their duties by the Officers of the Lodge that he appointed only Past Masters to fill the Junior Chairs.

The R.W. D.D.G.M. admitted that his visit was inspired by the M.W. Grand Master, who, no doubt, had in mind the report of his predecessor in office; so that there must have been a definite feeling abroad that a special effort was necessary in order to justify the continued existence of the Lodge. W. Bro. Boyce appointed W. Bros. Costerton and Norris,

Past D.D.G.M.'s as his Deacons, and W. Bro. Burnyeat as Inner Guard, while W. Bro. Highman was elected J.W. to replace Bro. Simms who declined installation.

During the year, there were eleven initiations, eleven passings and ten raisings. One Brother was restored, one affiliated and one dimitted, making a total gain of eleven members, besides two entered apprentices and one fellow craft, who had not received the balance of his degrees. The restored Brother was Brother Pettit, who at last received justice after a committee had been appointed to enquire into the allegations of unmasonic conduct and had reported favourably.

The D.D.G.M. visited the Lodge a second time on May 1, when a full programme was presented for his inspection; two candidates being initiated, one passed and two raised. The two new Master Masons were Bros. S. C. Smith and Fred B. Jacques. The D.D.G.M. assured the Lodge that he felt satisfied that the cloud, if any, which had been hanging over the Lodge in the estimate of the Past Grand Master, was now dispelled; and that in his opinion, there was now no reason that the Lodge should continue to suffer under the ban of disapproval by Grand Lodge. W. Bro. Highman, in reply. stated that he felt bound to defend the Lodge by strenuously refuting the aspersion contained in the context of the Past Grand Master's report, and severely criticized his conduct in placing undue credence on outside gossip, which invariably and inadvertently misrepresented the facts; concluding his remarks with the assertion that from first to last the Brethren of Miriam had generally been able to perform their work with ability. No doubt Bro. Highman was warmly applauded for his vigorous defence of the Lodge. Of his sincerity there can be no doubt, but the weight of evidence is against his interpretation of the facts and the soundness of his judgment. The worst errors made by Miriam Lodge can be traced to Bro. Highman's lack of familiarity with Masonic law, and more confidence might be felt in his knowledge of ritual had his concluding remarks not been made in reply to an expression of regret on the part of the D.D.G.M. that he had not more leisure at his disposal to undertake to instruct the Lodge on some of the floor work. It must not be forgotten that the quality of the floor work of the Lodge must have been due almost entirely to Bro. Highman. No other member of the Lodge can share that responsibility, save perhaps Bro. Megraw, whose services had been available for only a short time.

The meeting of August 14, failed through lack of a quorum, the W. M. and Brethren having been detained therefrom by lamentable and unavoidable circumstances.

At the meeting on November 13, the dues were reduced from Six to Three Dollars per annum, and a committee was appointed to ascertain what city lots were available for purchase with a view to providing a site for a Masonic hall. This committee submitted a report at the December meeting which was referred back. A report was ultimately accepted from the committee in January, 1903, but no action was taken, W. Bro. Dixon was elected for 1903, with Bros. F. McGowan and Joseph Weeks as S.W. and J.W. The Officers were installed by W. Bro. Burnyeat at the January meeting.

The year 1903 was also good; five new Members were received by initiation and four by affiliation, one being lost by dimit and one through suspension for non-payment of dues. One candidate was rejected.

The D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Fred Fraser, visited the Lodge in February. His remarks appear to have been chiefly congratulatory.

In March, a Petition was received from a number of Brethren at Kelowna requesting permission to establish a Lodge there. The petition was granted and a certificate given as to the qualifications of Vv. Bro. Boyce as Master.

In April the Lodge made certain grants in relief of those Freemasons who had suffered loss by fire at Kelowna.. In only one of these cases was the Brother in receipt of relief a member of Miriam Lodge. In July a waiver of jurisdiction was granted to Spallumcheen Lodge in respect of a candidate.

In this year the Grand Master appointed W. Bro. Highman to be D.D.G.M. He made an official visit in August, but, as might be expected, had no criticisms to offer.

The election on December 3 resulted in Bro. Joseph Weeks being chosen as W.M. for 1904, with Bros. Estabrook and Arthur Weeks as Wardens. At this meeting R.W. Bro. J. F. Burne of Ymir was a visitor. He was D.D.G.M. of District No. 6, and, later, became a Member of St. George's Lodge, Kelowna.

Installation took place on December 31, in the presence of an unusually large number of visitors. The D.D.G.M. was there in his official capacity and acted as Installing Master. For the first time, Stewards were appointed and installed.

Five Brethren were raised during the year and two were affiliated. There being no losses. Two applicants for initiation were rejected.

At the January meeting, a suggestion from Kootenay Lodge to raise a fund to defray the expenses of the D.D.G.M. was discussed. At the March meeting, when R.W. Bro. Highman paid an official visit, the sum of \$15.00 was voted for that purpose. At this meeting, a letter was received from one A.N. Dundas, stating that he had been initiated into Freemasonry at Gibraltar about 1872, had taken his second degree at Dundblane, Scotland, about 1876, and had sought to be raised to the third degree at Kippur, Oregon (Heppner). He was refused as he could not produce evidence from his Mother Lodge of his initiation and passing, and was still unable to do so. The matter was referred for advice to the Grand Master who suggested that Mr. Dundas should apply to Dunblane for particulars, but there is no further reference to the matter.

The M.M. degree was conferred, by courtesy, on Bro. Van Arum, of Antient Landmark Lodge, Winnipeg, at the August meeting. In September, arrangements were made to hold a Lodge of Instruction, but no further mention of this is made in the minutes.

M.W. Bro. W.J. Bowser, Grand Master, visited the Lodge on December 15, 1904, accompanied by Bro. Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia.

During the year, another committee was appointed to go into the question of the price of building lots, but the discussion of the report was laid over till the next year.

The election on December 22, resulted in Bro. G. L. Estabrook being chosen as W. M. for 1905. W. Bro. Dixon and Bro. J. C. Robson being elected Wardens. They were installed by R.W. Bro. Highman on December 27.

In 1905, five Brethren were initiated and one affiliated. One took his dimit. The minutes record little of special interest. There is no record of any further discussion regarding a building site. Arrangements were made to set aside ten per cent. of revenue as a charity fund. One curious omission occurs. There must have been an emergent meeting on March 30, as Bro.

A. W. McCulloch was initiated on March 16 and raised on April 13, but there is no record of the meeting at which he must have received the F.C. degree, although there is a blank page in the minute book where the record should be.

R.W. Bro. Harper, of Kamloops, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on May 16. On June 15, the annual dues were restored to \$6.00 per annum. The degrees of F.C. and M.M. were conferred, by courtesy on Bro. Springfield, of Farnborough Lodge No. 2203, E.C. On December 7, W. Bro. Estabrook was re-elected Master, and Bros. J. C. Robson and F. B. Jacques, Wardens for 1906.

The Officers were installed on January 4 by the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. C. J. Becker, of Spallumcheen Lodge. The number of members present constituted a record up to that date, for there were twenty-seven members and sixteen visitors. The latter were from no fewer than nine Grand Jurisdictions.

During the year there were eleven initiations, five passings and three raisings. One Brother affiliated and four dimitted, so that there was no actual increase in membership. Bro. Stuart was elected an Honorary member but, nevertheless, took out his dimit. St. George's Lodge refused a waiver of jurisdiction on a Penticton candidate, but before the end of the year, Penticton had passed out of the jurisdiction of St. George's into that of a new Lodge at Hedley, which granted waivers in the case of the same and other candidates. R.W. Bro. Becker paid another official visit to the Lodge before the expiration of his term of office. A slight difficulty arose through a change in the constitution. Certain Kelowna members omitted to take out dimits when St. George's Lodge was constituted. Prior to the change in the law, this process would have been automatic, but now these Brethren became liable to suspension for non-payment of dues. The matter was finally adjusted amicably.

The Masonic districts were altered by Grand Lodge at its annual communication, so that Miriam Lodge was in District No. 9, instead of No. 3, with one of its members R.W. Bro. Highman, as the first D.D.G.M. of the new District. Grand Lodge also, by resolution, decided to hold its next annual communication at Vernon, but, at a later stage, this arrangement was cancelled, the local Brethren finding it impossible to make suitable arrangements for its accommodation.

An E.A. of St. John's Lodge, Halifax, N. S., received the F.C. and M.M. degrees at the request of his Lodge.

Bro. J. C. Robson was elected Master for 1907, with Bros. F. B. Jacques and J. T. Duncan as Wardens. W. Bro. Elvin Dixon was elected Secretary, an office which he had previously held in 1901, and has continued to hold this position ever since to the advantage of the Lodge.

The installation ceremony was held on December 27, R.W. Bro. Highman acting as Installing Master. The year began with disaster, as the Oddfellows' Hall was destroyed by fire, together with most of the property of the Lodge, including the original seal. The Minute Book luckily escaped the flames. No meeting was held in January, but the regular meeting of February was held in the Orange Hall, when Bro. Vallance offered the Lodge the use of the upstairs room of the Vernon Hardware Company's building until such time as a new hall was built. The offer was accepted with thanks. The Secretary's salary was fixed at \$50.00 per annum.

R.W. Bro. Highman paid several official visits to the Lodge, and on October 17, the Lodge was visited by his successor, R.W. Bro. Fred Barnes, of Enderby. Three applications for initiation were rejected during the year.

Bro. J. T. Duncan was elected Master for 1908, with Bros. C.W. Corrigan and R. J. Mutrie as Wardens. The Officers were installed on January 9, 1908, R.W. Bro. Barnes acting as Installing Master. He made another official visit on March 30. This was the occasion on which R.W. Bro. Hamilton Lang became a member of the Lodge by affiliation. The By-laws were amended on the same day.

M. W. Bro. Frank Bowser, Grand Master, visited the Lodge, April 9, 1903. Twenty-five members and eighteen visitors were present.

A committee was appointed to invest \$1,000.00 of the funds of the Lodge. It arranged a loan of \$700.00 on property on Schubert Street. An emergent meeting was called on August 10 to conduct the funeral of Bro. William Heron. W. Bro. Becker, of Armstrong, officiated. A number of degrees were conferred by courtesy in 1908, and the membership of the Lodge steadily increased.

Bro. C. W. Corrigan was elected W.M. for 1909, with Bros. R.J. Mutrie and T.E. Crowell as Wardens. The Officers were installed on December 28, by W. Bro. Hamilton Lang.

On March 4, 1909, there was an official visit by D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw, founder and first Master of the Lodge. It must have been a pleasure to Brother Megraw to find the Lodge in such a flourishing condition. He noted, however, that many Brethren were becoming careless about the payment of dues.

In the year 1909, the Lodge voted \$50.00 to start a Masonic library in conjunction with Okanagan Royal Arch Chapter, which is mentioned in the minutes for the first time. In this year also, the Lodge undertook to furnish a ward in the hospital, which was done at a cost of \$137.00.

Bro. R. J. Mutrie was elected W.M. for 1910, with Bros. W. R. Knowles and J.A. MacKelvie as Wardens. The Officers were installed by W. Bro. Lang at an emergent meeting on January 13.

A somewhat unusual act on the part of the Lodge was the loan of \$50.00 to a F.C. to be refunded when he was raised. The Brother died before that event, however, so that the Lodge in effect, refunded his initiation fee.

The Lodge attended a service in All Saints' Church on May 8, 1910, in memory of His Majesty King Edward VII. The acquisition of a Masonic home seemed a little nearer when the Lodge purchased lots on Barnard Avenue and, later on, sold the property at a profit of \$700.00, an option being then taken on the lots now held. It was arranged to invite Grand Lodge to meet in Vernon in 1911, but the invitation was not accepted. R.W. Bro. Boyce visited the Lodge, as D.D.G.M., in April.

The years 1908 to 1910 brought a large increase of membership to the Lodge, and, in addition to the degrees conferred on its own material, many were conferred by courtesy. This activity gradually diminished until the middle of 1915, when the Great War had been in progress for a year, at which period there was an interval of a year and ten months without any addition to the Lodge by initiation. In 1917 applications began to come in and continued to

be received in ever increasing numbers until the post-war years of 1921 and 1922, when the Lodge was inundated with new material. This phase will be dealt with later.

To return to our record, Bro. Highman took his dimit in 1910. This left W. Bro. Burnyeat as the sole survivor of the Charter members.

Bro. W. R. Knowles was elected W.M. and Bros. J. A. MacKelvie and S. P. Elliott, Wardens for 1911.

The question of arrears of dues received serious consideration early in 1911. The death of W. Bro. Venn, W. M., in 1895 and 1897, was announced, and his widow received some assistance from the Lodge. In the minutes of an emergent meeting held on April 6, it is recorded that the Lodge acknowledged, with thanks, the receipt of a handsome jug decorated with Masonic emblems; the donor being Price Ellison, who had secured the jug while on a visit to England. Another donation during the same year was that of a number of Masonic books, from Mr. J. L. Bunting.

The Lodge was obliged to borrow \$2000.00 on mortgage in order to take care of the lots purchased. W. Bro. A. Stansfield, Tyler of the Lodge, died during his term of office. He was buried with Masonic honours on August 25. W. Bro. Sutherland and the Officers of St. George's Lodge visited the Lodge and conferred the M.M. degree on a candidate in November. Visits of this nature by neighbouring Lodges are mentioned from time to time. Unfortunately, it would be necessary to examine their minutes to find a record of the occasion when those visits were reciprocated. An incident of a very unusual nature occurred in 1911. A visitor was announced and admitted after examination. Later on, it transpired that he had been made in a clandestine Lodge of Co-masons. As it happened, the visitor had acted in good faith and had submitted documentary evidence, including a Grand Lodge certificate which did not differ sufficiently from the usual form to be detected at a casual glance.

As Co-masonry uses a ritual differing but little from that in use in Miriam Lodge, the committee admitted him without hesitation, but it was fortunate for the Lodge that its offence was slight compared with that of another Lodge which admitted the same gentleman to its membership by affiliation. That Lodge was obliged to expunge his name, to have him proposed, balloted for and accepted as a profane and initiated in the ordinary way. As Co-masonry admits women to its membership, it is in consequence, not Masonic in any sense of the term.

Bro. J. A. MacKelvie became Master for 1912, with Bros. S. P. Elliott and C. A. Pope as Wardens. M. W. Bro. Burd, Grand Master, visited the Lodge on June 6. He was accompanied by the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Gerald L. Parker, who had made a previous official visit, and who joined the Lodge by affiliation later in the year.

An inquiry received from a Lodge in Ireland during 1912, reveals the necessity for strict investigation into the previous history of all candidates for initiation. A former resident of Vernon had made application to the Lodge in question, but, as a result of the inquiry, Miriam Lodge was in a position to state that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be made a Mason. Towards the end of the year, objection was made to the advancement of a certain entered apprentice. A committee was appointed to investigate and report, after which he was charged with unmasonic conduct, tried and found guilty and suspended forthwith.

Bro. S. P. Elliott was selected Master for 1913, with Bros. F. B. Jacques and W. E. Megaw as Wardens. R.W. Bro. Lang installed the Officers at the regular meeting in January when thirty-six members were present. He made other official visits, including one in the company of the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Rudd. In his report to Grand Lodge, Bro. Lang mentioned that he had been obliged to reprimand Miriam Lodge for carelessness in the examination of visitors, having in mind the case of the clandestine previously mentioned. The Lodge protested that it had been unfairly singled out for blame, as the other Lodge whose offence was much greater had not been mentioned. As it happened, the Grand Master had undertaken to deal with the latter case personally and actually did so, but did not mention the delinquent Lodge by name, so Bro. Lang readily admitted that his strictures had the appearance of undue severity. As he was appointed to serve a second term as D.D.G.M., he was able, in his next report, to modify considerably the terms of that submitted in June, 1913.

R.W. Bro. Lang was elected Master of the Lodge for 1914, and was, therefore, obliged to resign his office as D.D.G.M., being succeeded therein by R.W. Bro. D. W. Sutherland. The Wardens for 1914 were Bros. W. E. Megaw and H. A. Heggie. A new office, that of Director of Ceremonies, was filled for the first time this year.

There was no appointment in 1915, but in 1916 and 1917, a Brother was installed in this position. It was then empty for two years but, since 1920, has been filled every year. It was at first looked upon as a junior office, but eventually the time-honoured custom of selecting the most experienced Brother available was adopted.

R.W. Bro. Sutherland visited the Lodge in March. At the same meeting, a charge of unmasonic conduct was laid against an E.A. who was suspended a month later.

At the April meeting, another attempt was made to advance the project for the erection of a Masonic Hall, and a committee was appointed to consider this, together with the advisability of selling some of the lots, but no action resulted. R.W. Bro. Sutherland paid another visit in May. He was appointed for another term as D.D.G.M. and visited the Lodge again a year later.

Bro. W. E. Megaw became W.M. for 1915, the Wardens being Bros. H.A. Heggie and L.A. Cresset Kent. A somewhat unusual situation arose as the result of a request by the Lodge to Moose Jaw Lodge, No. 3, Saskatchewan, to confer the F.C. and M.M. degrees on one of our Brethren, the Moose Jaw Lodge demanding \$12.00 per degree for its services. Fortunately, the Brother was able to return to Vernon later, so that the question of the legality of this demand did not become a matter for discussion between the Grand Jurisdictions concerned.

In September, 1915, the Lodge was honoured by a visit from the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Ditmars, who was accompanied by the D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Wm. Astley.

At this period, a bowling alley was in occupation of the premises beneath the Lodge room. An attempt was made to have the nuisance abated, but does not appear to have been successful, as a Committee was appointed shortly afterwards to see if arrangements could be made to hold the meetings of the Lodge in the old Court House. One Brother was tried for unmasonic conduct during the year. He was found guilty and recommended for expulsion, which penalty was inflicted in due course by the Grand Lodge.

While the Great War is not mentioned in the minutes, there are indirect references to it. For instance the Lodge abandoned the use of the banquet hall in order that it might be used as

a recreation room by the soldiers in camp at Vernon. The Porch Book too is interesting by reason of the numbers of visitors' names recorded.

When M.W. Bro. Ditmars visited the Lodge, there were present thirty-one members and twenty-nine visitors from twenty-five different Lodges in six Jurisdictions. No doubt, many of these visitors were from the camp. In 1916, the Officers of the 131st Battalion filled the chairs on one occasion and sixty-four visitors were present along with eighteen members. There were twenty-seven Lodges in the Jurisdiction of British Columbia and fourteen Lodges belonging to eight other Grand Jurisdictions represented at that meeting.

A number of degrees were conferred by courtesy at this time, so that the Lodge was very much alive, even though very few new members were coming forward, and, owing to the load of debt, the falling off in initiation fees was a distinct embarrassment.

For 1916, the principal chairs were occupied by Bro. L. A. C. Kent, as W.M., and Bros. H. A. Heggie and E. F. Lloyd as Wardens.

Early in the year the question of non-payment of dues was vigorously pressed with the result that no less than nine Brethren were suspended for that cause at a single meeting.

R.W. Bro. Kirkpatrick, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge in April, and, in the same month, a memorial service was held in honour of the late W. Bro. R. J. Mutrie, who had been killed in action. Later in the same year, the Lodge had to mourn the loss of Bro. Alfred Smith for the same reason.

The exigencies of military service prevented W. Bro. Kent from occupying his chair for a number of meetings. He was succeeded as W.M., by Bro. J. A. Fraser, the Wardens being Bros. Colin Reid and L. A. Bray. An Honour Roll of the members of the Lodge on active service was unveiled by R.W. Bro. T. D. Whitehouse, D.D.G.M., when he made an official visit in March, 1917; a portrait of the late W. Bro. Mutrie being also unveiled on the same occasion.

A committee was appointed to prepare a history of Miriam Lodge. The result of their labours was a short history of the early days of the Lodge prepared by W. Bro. Ainsley Begraw, to which reference has been already made.

In April, the W.M. announced that he was dissatisfied with the conduct of the Junior Warden, and had removed him from Office. Bro. P. R. Finlayson was elected to fill the vacancy.

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Wm. Astley, visited the Lodge on April 24, 1917. The attendance was not large. No doubt the falling off in the number of visitors was due to the fact that most of those who were present at the meetings of the Lodge in the previous year were now in France. An emergent meeting was held on September 27 to conduct the funeral of Bro. T. Crowell. Ten Brethren were suspended at the end of the year for non-payment of dues.

Bro. Colin Reid was elected W. M. for 1918, with Bros. P. R. Finlayson and Ira Robinson as Wardens. Applications for initiation began to come in freely, but the Lodge was in difficulties financially, foreclosure being threatened in respect of the mortgage on its property.

A proposal to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the constitution of the Lodge by a banquet was abandoned, probably for financial reasons. On December 8, the Lodge attended divine service, by way of thanksgiving for the conclusion of the war.

Bro. P. R. Finlayson was elected W.M. for 1919, with Bro. Ira Robinson and S. H. Moore as Wardens. During the year an increasing stream of new material came into the Lodge. One somewhat unusual occurrence was the rejection by the committee of inquiry of a petition for affiliation. R.W. Bro. Andrew, D.D.G.M., visited on May 8, and R.W. Bro. Morley, his successor in office, on November 6. The financial stringency continued and the Finance Committee was instructed to sell the lots, but without result. A notice of motion was handed in at the regular meeting in December to increase the dues from \$6.00 to \$10.00 per annum. The election, on the same date, resulted in Bro. H. A. Heggie being chosen as Master and Bros. S. H. Moore and R. Fitzmaurice as Wardens for 1920.

The years 1920 and 1921 can only be described as years of activity so far as the acquisition of new Members is concerned. In common with other Masonic Lodges throughout the English-speaking world after the world war, the doors of Miriam Lodge were well-nigh stormed by hordes of applicants for initiation, and for a time the Lodge was little else than a machine for conferring degrees.

Many writers have recorded their impressions of this phase of Masonic history and it is usual to regard the extreme popularity of the order at this time as unfortunate. It is beyond question that many were admitted to our institution who could never appreciate its peculiar quality, and who were incapable of becoming Freemasons at heart, even though they were to acquire every degree, Masonic, quasi-Masonic, or pseudo-Masonic, that the ingenuity or foolishness of man could devise. I have reason to believe, however, that in the case of Miriam Lodge, the guardians of the gate were more diligent than in the majority of Lodges elsewhere and many rejections occurred, there being no less than twenty in the two years mentioned.

One of the oldest members of the Lodge, W. Bro. Norris, was honoured, during the year 1920, by being chosen, for a second time, to fill the office of D.D.G.M., he having previously represented the Grand Master in this capacity twenty years before.

One result of the influx of new members was that at the last meeting of the year, the lot committee was able to report that the mortgage on the lots had been paid off. No doubt the Lodge had suffered from its unfortunate investment in real estate. A certain lack of masonic enthusiasm among the members occasioned comment by various D.D.G.M.s and was attributed by them to this cause; but the period is still too close in point of time for us to see it in its proper perspective, so that the diagnosis of these eminent Brethren cannot yet be absolutely confirmed.

Bro. S. H. Moore was elected W. M. for 1921, no less than one hundred and two were present at the banquet out of one hundred and three recorded at the meeting. Later in the year, there was a Past Master's Night when W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw, the first Master of the Lodge, who had again resumed membership, occupied the Master's Chair and W. Bro. Burnyeat, the first Junior Warden, again occupied the Chair he had filled twenty-eight years before. There were seventy-six Brethren present.

Bro. George Ross was elected W. M. for 1922, his Wardens being Bros. W. H. D. Ladner and J. G. Knight. At the festival on December 27, a pleasant ceremony was arranged as a supplement to installation, a presentation of Past Master's jewels being made to all the surviving Past Masters of the Lodge who had not previously been so honoured. There were ninety-seven Brethren present.

During 1922, a scheme was discussed whereby the Lodge might join with other societies in building a community structure, each society to have control of one floor. In the end wiser counsels prevailed and the scheme was abandoned.

One hundred and six Brethren attend an emergent meeting convened for the purpose of attending Divine Service on June 25. R.W. Bro. Finlay Fraser, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on February 9, and the Grand Master, M. W. Bro. A. McC. Creery, on September 12. This was made the occasion for a combined meeting of Spallumcheen and St. George's Lodges, which proved most successful.

An effort in another direction on the part of the Lodge during this year was also a success. This was an "At Home," which not only did not become a charge on the Lodge funds, but actually realized a surplus which was laid aside to form the nucleus of a Charity Fund.

This fund has been maintained since that time by voluntary contributions and has taken care of the charitable work of the Lodge to a large degree.

In this year, too, the Lodge was advised of the Speakman bequest. Bro. C.J.S. Speakman, who became a member of the Lodge by initiation in 1909, died in December, 1921, and bequeathed the residue of his estate to Miriam Lodge, to form the nucleus of a building fund for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Temple in Vernon. The amount of this bequest was nearly six thousand dollars. The Lodge still owed money to various Brethren who had advanced certain sums in order to retire the mortgage on the lots. The rent of the Hall was raised from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per year. In the following year, the rent was further advanced to \$150.00 per year.

On August 25, 1922, the Lodge had an informal visit from M. W. Bro. Burel, P. G. M., who addressed the Brethren on the early history of the craft. Bro. W. H. D. Ladner was elected W. M. for 1923, with Bros. Ira Robinson and H. Bowman as Wardens. The degree mill was still working overtime, but there were indications that the rush was subsiding. R.W. Bro. Ainsley Megraw and W. Bro. Burnyeat, the first two Masters of the Lodge and the last of the founders to remain in the Lodge, died during the year. R.W. Bro. P. D. Van Kleek, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on May 10, and M. W. Bro. Wm. Henderson, P.G.M., was an unofficial visitor on August 16. This year the title of "Right Worshipful" was conferred by the Grand Master, at the request of the Lodge, on Bro. Leonard Norris and Hamilton Lang, Past D.D.G.M.s in accordance with a recent resolution of Grand Lodge. The same dignity had been conferred on Bro. Megraw before his death, at the request of Hedley Lodge, and Bro. C. F. Costerton acquired it at the request of Spallumcheen Lodge.

The question of building a joint structure in co-operation with other societies was again raised but nothing came of it.

Bro. I. Robinson was elected W.M. for 1924, with Bros. H. Bowman and J. A. Henderson as Wardens. An affiliated Past Master of the Lodge was tried for unmasonic conduct on February 12, and found guilty. He was sentenced to suspension *sine die*. That the Lodge did not err on the side of severity may be inferred from the fact that, at a later date, this Brother applied for re-instatement which was refused. He then appealed to Grand Lodge, but on investigation of the charge, and of his conduct both before and after his association with the Lodge, by the appropriate Grand Committee, it recommended that he be expelled from the rights and privileges of Freemasonry, which was carried out by Grand Lodge.

R.W. Bro. W. R. Trench, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on May 15. The funeral of W. Bro. MacKervie was the occasion for a large attendance of Freemasons. This distinguished Brother was M.P. for Yale at the time of his death, and the attendance at the funeral was a marked tribute to the esteem with which he was regarded both as a citizen and a Freemason. One hundred and forty-five Brethren recorded their names on the Porch Book, but many others were present who did not register. Another marked loss sustained by the Lodge during the year was that of W. Bro. W. H. D. Ladner, the I.P.M., who was killed in an automobile accident. His funeral was also largely attended.

A distinguished visitor, towards the end of the year, was M.W. Bro. Geo. M. Weir, P.G.M., of Saskatchewan, who gave an interesting account of some unusual Masonic activities in that Jurisdiction.

Bro. H. Bowman was elected Master for 1925, with Bros. J.A. Henderson and F.J. C. Ball as Wardens. For a time it seemed as if the Lodge was about to sell its lots, but the deal failed. Bro. T. Robinson was made an Honourary member of the Lodge in recognition of his half century of membership in the Craft, and his many services to the Lodge. Bro. S. C. Smith was also the recipient of a presentation in acknowledgement of his long service as Treasurer and to mark his seventy-fifth birthday. These two functions took place at the regular meeting on April 2, when eighty-two members and one hundred and three visitors signed the register, thirty-three Lodges and ten Grand Jurisdictions being represented.

A joint communication of Spallumcheen, Miriam and St. George's Lodges was held at Armstrong to receive the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. A. M. Manson. An unusual feature was that both Spallumcheen and Miriam Lodges opened Lodge separately.

Bro. J.A. Henderson was elected W. M. for 1926, with Bros. F.J.C. Ball and C.B. Lefroy as Wardens. The By-laws were revised during the year but did not receive the assent of the Grand Master until the following one. A new form of Lodge notice was also adopted. The Oddfellows having announced their intention of re-modelling the hall, a committee was appointed to see if suitable quarters could not be found elsewhere, but without result. The rent, however, was again raised, this time to \$192.00 per year. R.W. Bro. Foley Bennett, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on March 25.

Bro. F.J.C. Ball was elected for 1927, with Bros. C. B. L. Lefroy and S. Barnes as Wardens. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. D. W. Sutherland, attended the installation and took charge of the ceremony. R.W. Bro. K. S. Hogg, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on March 17. The desire of the Lodge to have a home of its own gradually gained strength and a committee was appointed to have plans prepared, but the financial obstacles were still considered too great. A financial advisory committee recommended that a lump sum from the surplus funds of the Lodge be set aside as a building fund. Accordingly \$1200.00 was so ear-marked and it was decided to augment this fund at the rate of \$600.00 per annum, payable quarterly.

W. Bro. P. R. Finlayson was appointed D.D.G.M. at the meeting of Grand Lodge and visited the Lodge during his term of office in his official capacity.

Bro. C. B. L. Lefroy was elected W. M. for 1928, with Bros. S. Barnes and G. Livingstone as Wardens. R.W. Bro. C. S. Mackenzie, D.D.G.M., who had been initiated into Freemasonry in Miriam Lodge, visited the Lodge officially on November 22. He was the first D.D.G.M. of the new South Okanagan District, No. 10, in which, by a re-arrangement, Miriam Lodge was now

included. Bro. Stanley Barnes was elected W.M. for 1929, with Bros. George Livingstone and W.B. Piers as Wardens. There was an attempt, early in the year, to change the date of meeting from "the Thursday on or before the full moon" to "the second Thursday in each month", but it failed to obtain the support of the Lodge. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Baird, visited the Lodge on October 17.

In the latter half of the year, there seemed to be a prospect of a change of quarters as the West Canadian Hydro Electric Corporation proposed to erect a building which would include accommodation for the Freemasons at a rental of \$90.00 per annum, but the project did not materialize. The death of R.W. Bro. P. R. Finlayson, P.D.D.G.M., as the result of a shooting accident at the end of November, was the occasion for the expression of the sincere love and appreciation in which the deceased Brother was held. A special committee was appointed with power to dispose of the lots owned by the Lodge.

The W.M. for 1930 was Bro. George Livingstone, his Wardens being Bros. W. B. Piers and H. H. Evans. R.W. Bro. McDougall paid a second official visit to the Lodge on May 8, while R.W. Bro. Morley, S.G.W., was a visitor on June 6. An old and valued member of the Lodge entered into his rest on July 6, in the person of R.W. Bro. Costerton, P.D.D.G.M., and an Honorary Member.

There was a large attendance at the funeral, particularly from Spallumcheen and Miriam Lodges. A committee appointed to inquire into the suitability of various buildings for Lodge purposes reported unfavourably on all considered. R.W. Bro. Grand Lang, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on November 20.

Bro. W. B. Piers was elected W.M. for 1931, with Bros. H. H. Evans and T. W. Hyland as Wardens. R.W. Bro. Grant Lang paid a second official visit on April 2. The W. M. was obliged to leave the town, on transfer, during his term of office, and was, in consequence, in occupation of his chair on only one occasion after April 30. R.W. Bro. Huddleston, D.D.G.M., visited the Lodge on October 22. At this meeting, a motion was passed to proceed with the erection of a Freemasons' Hall and a strong committee appointed, it being felt that the building fund was now sufficiently large to justify the venture.

Bro. H. H. Evans was elected W. M. for 1932, with Bros. T. W. Hyland and A. Fleming as Wardens. Plans for the new hall were prepared and work begun on the excavation for the new structure on April 14. The Grand Master, M. W. Bro. H. B. Morley, visited the Lodge on May 19, accompanied by the D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. C. J. Huddleston.

On May 20, a special communication of Grand Lodge was held in Vernon, when the Grand Master laid the corner stone of the new building with appropriate ceremony, in the midst of a large and representative gathering of Freemasons.

Miriam Lodge is now about to enter upon a new phase and dwell beneath its own vine and fig tree. May the principles of true Brotherhood ever animate its members and may they ever be devoted workers for the good of the Lodge and enthusiastic lovers of the Fraternity.

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