

In the month of May, 2020, the Sarnia District Librarian & Historian offered a 'virtual scavenger hunt'. This was a series of photos and comments, posted on the Sarnia District FaceBook page, and the Ontario Freemasons FaceBook page. Items or questions were posted Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Answers were posted on Friday each week. What follows is the summary of 'scavenger hunt'.

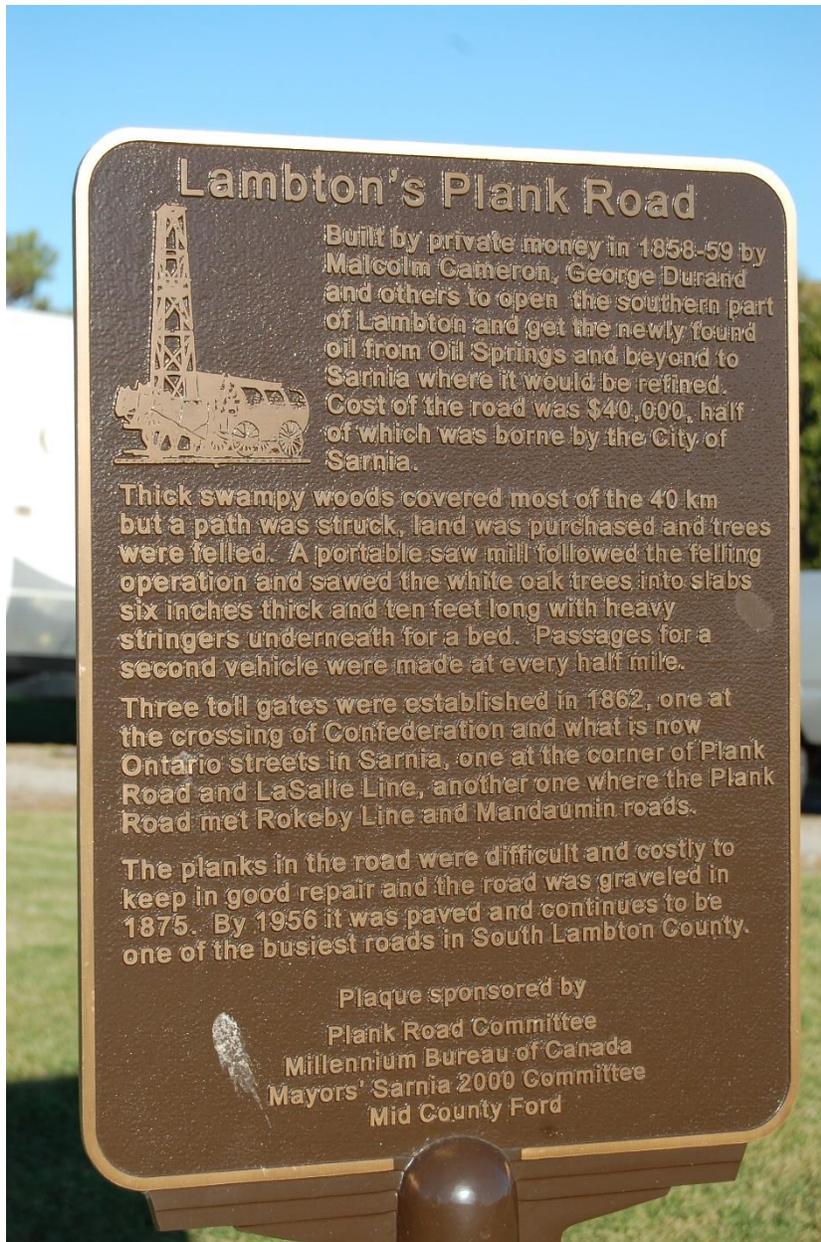
For Monday May 4 2020:



Question: Where is this building? And do you have any stories about it?

Answer: This is the former Masonic Temple in Petrolia, at the corner of Petrolia Line, and Oil Street. 4239 Petrolia Line.

For Tuesday May 5 2020



Question: For the names of the men on this plaque, what is their respective connection to Masonry?

Answer: I haven't confirmed that Malcolm Cameron was a Mason. George Durand was the architect who designed the old Masonic Temple in Petrolia. Streets are named after both men.

For Wednesday May 6 2020

Question: The street address of a Lodge building in Sarnia District has delightful Masonic inferences. The street number is consistent with an instruction given to a Candidate in a degree. The street name is the word defined during the opening of the Lodge in a degree. What is the address? Bonus question: what is the name of the Lodge that meets there?

Answer: A correct answer came from Neily Dolson Beaver Lodge 83. 15 Centre Street West, Strathroy Ontario

For Monday May 11, 2020



Question: There is an image of a Lady Freemason in a Lodge building in Sarnia District. Yes, we are a fraternity of men, and we don't admit women. There are a few famous instances in the history of the craft of women becoming Masons. Here is an image of 'The Hon. Mrs. Aldworth, The Lady Freemason'. Which Lodge building in Sarnia District owns this print? Do you have a story about her that you can share?

Answer: From David Jamieson: She was hiding behind a curtain in a private lodge room when an EA degree was conferred. She was found out by the members and they decided that due to her bearing witness, they'd make her an EA. There's a bio in the GLI (Grand Lodge of Ireland) museum in Dublin about her and the event. She's quite well known in Masonic lore at this point. Istvan Horvath added: There were other instances as well...

Helene Hadik-Barkóczy and the Freemasons

This study presents and analyses the hardly known story of the initiation of a woman, the countess Helene Hadik-Barkóczy's into freemasonry and its annulation in detail. In Hungary in that time two masonic Grand Lodges, The Grand Lodge of St. John and Grand Orient worked independently from each other. The countess request was supported by Johannite Grand Master Ferenc Pulszky, and accomplished initiated by a provincial lodge of Grand Orient. Her initiation was then declared void by decision of Grand Orient and collaborators were punished. The countess based her request and argued about its validity on common law. In the argumentation she brought up her knowledge of freemasonry, her legal status of a son (praefectio) and the absence of dispositions about candidates' gender in constitution of Grand Orient. This latter, upholding the Prussian law concept considered null and void the initiation because of the absence of bureaucratic formalities required by them. Interesting phenomenon is the contradiction between countess's emancipatory claims to affiliation based on a feudalistic institution (the praefectio) and the freemasons' opposition based on the ideal of civic equality. [my remarks: Johannite - in local verbiage means the "craft" lodge > via German: of the order of St John(s) > Johann] Unfortunately, the paper is in Hungarian...

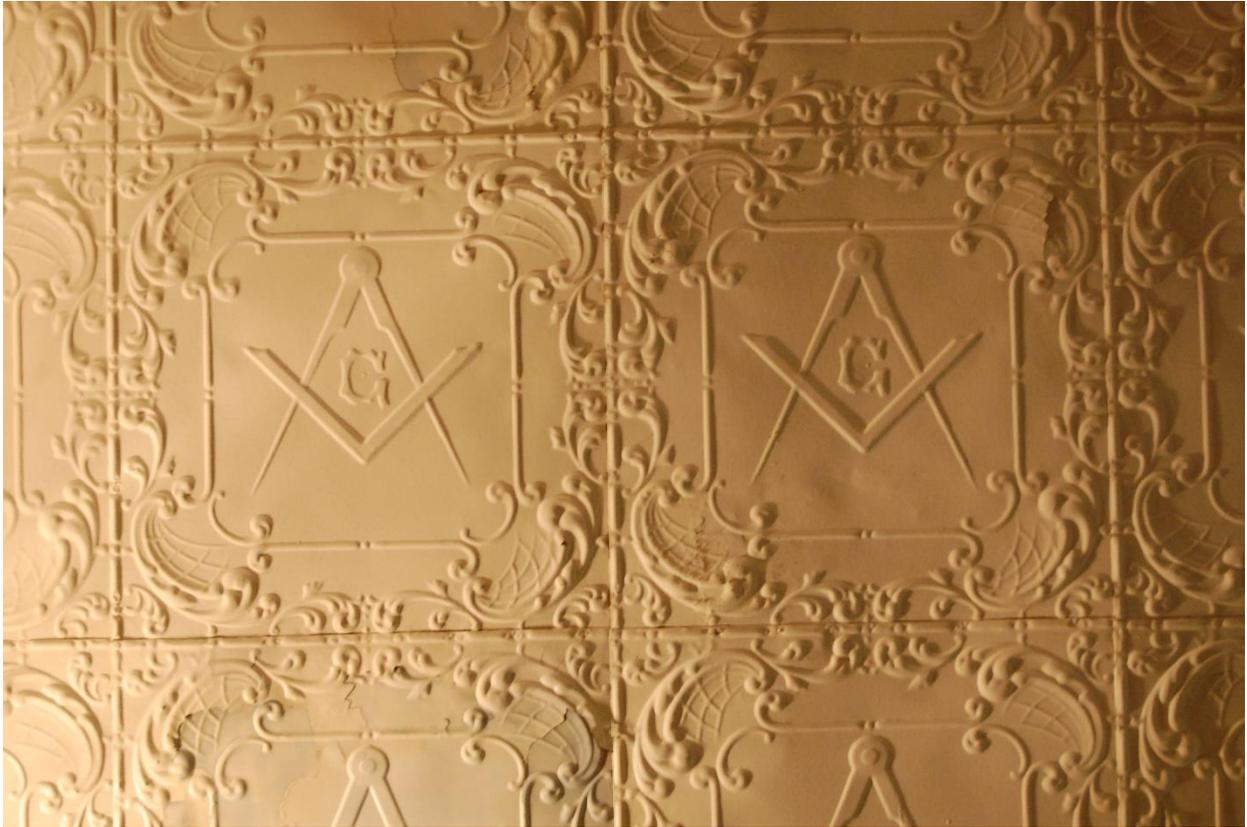
https://www.academia.edu/2422794/Hadik-Bark%C3%B3czy_Ilona_%C3%A9s_a_szabadk%C5%91m%C5%B1vesek_Helene_Hadik-Bark%C3%B3czy_and_the_Freemasons_fbclid=IwAR3g9vxISByyb-oqWHkWbrtrJgRvLjSICH-gX3nYwDZU5ERXo4hLmA6fLqQ

Jim Forbes added: Burns has a copy in the back store room. Not sure if there are others in the District.

Final Answer: Congratulations to Jim Forbes for noting the location of this particular image. And David Jamieson was right on the mark with his explanation about the Lady Freemason. Thank you to Istvan Horvath for adding to the story. Coincidentally I posted the image on May 11th, which is given as the anniversary of her death.

https://www.masonrytoday.com/index.php?new_month=4&new_day=16&new_year=2015&fbclid=IwAR3YxATsLypH8KpPIG-8MwJRTVv7qUPy8_NOhgmffVrVet85Cv0HiWVqw5g

For Tuesday May 12 2020



Question: These pressed-tin ceiling tiles are just at one lodge room in Sarnia District. Which lodge room? And for bonus points -- how many ceiling tiles are there on the ceiling? (Sorry about the apparent colour; in reality they are much whiter than they appear in the photo.) And I'd really like to know if there are other Lodge rooms in Ontario with something similar. What is on the ceiling of your lodge room?

Answer: Congratulations Jim Forbes, and Tim Eastman. Yes these tiles are on the ceiling of Arkona Lodge No. 307. Michael Vanos has looked up at them many times. I counted 10 rows of 14 tiles, for a total of 140 tiles. I look forward to sitting in this lodge again, and sharing the task of counting them with a great group of Masons.

For Wednesday May 13 2020



Question: Beaver Lodge No. 83 has a beautiful mosaic pavement in the floor of the Lodge room. I understand that there are just a few such adornments in our jurisdiction. Where are they? AND appropriately for a Masonic site, there is a plate of brass within the pavement. What is marked, incised, carved, engraved, or otherwise delineated on the surface of the plate of brass?

ANSWER as Provided By Others:

Colin Cooper R.W. Bro Herb Schroder started making the floors by himself in the late 70's. He and several Worshipful Masters formed the "1980 Past Masters" group. The group of them would get together at Herb's shop in Oakville and make the floors. Everyone would chip in doing something, even if they weren't the most handy. Over the years a few of the original 1980 Past Masters have passed to the G.L above so the group has expanded to keep the floors in production. Herb goes to his shop every day (even the Covid19 won't stop him) and continues work on floors, as well as other items, usually Masonic based.

Zavar Byramjee The DDGM for Hamilton District A in 1980 got the Masters in his district to do them as a way for them to be together. Several have past on and younger masons have joined the group to help. They still work on these 3 - 4 year I believe

Sarnia District Masonic Scavenger Hunt for May 18, 2020.

Victoria Day is the celebration each May of the birth of Queen Victoria. Her actual birth date is May 24th, but it is now marked on the third Monday of the month so we always have a long weekend. Sarnia District encompasses Victoria Lodge No. 56. Yes, it was named in honour of the Queen. Victoria Lodge No. 56 pre-dates Confederation for Canada, so Queen Victoria was the sovereign of the realm when our Lodge was Instituted. Our lodge seal represents young Victoria in profile. The scavenger hunt activity for today is to visit the Victoria Lodge No. 56 website and enjoy the Masonic Education pieces we have posted there. Comments from the other lodges named in honour of Queen Victoria are most welcome! www.victoria56.ca

Answer: In Ontario there are 4 lodges with the name 'Victoria Lodge'; Nos. 56 (Sarnia), 299 (Napanea), 398 (Kirkfield -- in Victoria District), and 474 (Toronto). There were no additional comments added by others.

For May 19, 2020

Question: In Sarnia District there is Lodge that started in Sylvan, moved to a different community, and moved again. Where is it now? Are there any other Lodges with multiple moves over their history?

Answer: Cassia Lodge No. 116 received dispensation to begin meeting in the Village of Sylvan, County of Middlesex. Later the Lodge moved to Thedford. And now is located in Ravenswood. Of additional interest is the fact that the dispensation (proudly displayed in the Lodge room I must add) is signed by our first Grand Master, MW Bro. William Mercer Wilson. Well done Bill Moore, Tim Eastman, and Bruce Falconer.



For May 20, 2020



Question: Does your Lodge have an artefact that pre-dates your Lodge? Victoria Lodge No. 56 in Sarnia has a Lodge Seal that dates to before the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. This was the subject of a presentation at The Heritage Lodge No. 730 in 2015 for the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo. With more first-hand research done, an updated article is posted on my blog. Can you share information about really old Masonic artefacts in Sarnia District, Ontario, Canada?

<https://masterseblem.wordpress.com/2020/05/15/a-military-and-irish-masonic-lodge-seal/>

Answer: The comments on this post pertained more to the symbols than to other artefacts. Several commenters are members of Lodges in Ontario that have a long history, including David Jamieson of The Barton Lodge No. 6.

For May 25, 2020



Question: Where will you find this Ashlar? And how did it get there?

Answer: A more expert workman will find this lying open in Havelock Lodge No. 238 in Watford, ON. It was brought to its new home as the Brethren of Alvinston Lodge decided to amalgamate with Havelock Lodge. Eric Bryce explained that this ashlar was presented to the Lodge by Wor. Bro. and Dr. M. Matheson, the first WM of Alvinston Lodge No. 323; and he provided this photo:



Photo provided by Wor. Bro. Eric Bryce

May 26, 2020

Some Lodges in Ontario have moved from one community to another. Some Lodges in Ontario have changed their name; usually as result of an Amalgamation. In Sarnia District there is a Lodge that moved from one community to another, and twice changed the Lodge name by choice. What is the name and number of that Lodge?

Answer: Murat Saygin correctly identified the current name and number as Liberty Lodge No. 419. He also found the history of the Lodge on the Sarnia District Masons website.

The lodge started in 1887 as Point Edward Lodge No. 419 in Point Edward ON. A year later, in 1888 it changed the name to Bismarck Lodge No. 419, still in Point Edward. Then in 1911 the Lodge moved to Sarnia Ontario. And in 1919 the name changed to Liberty Lodge No. 419.

May 27, 2020



This is the LAST ENTRY for the Sarnia District Masonic Scavenger Hunt – for May 27, 2020. Did you ever sit in Lodge with Bro. Hugh Johnston? Neither did I. After all, he was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1789 (and he died in Moore Township, Ontario, in 1866). In Sarnia District there is an old apron on display; complete with a note stating it belonged to Bro. Hugh Johnston in 1814. Research is ongoing and it shows that this old apron indeed did belong to Bro. Hugh Johnston. He was registered as a Mason in Concord Lodge No. 332, Omagh Ireland on May 11th, 1814 (with thanks to Rebecca Hayes, Archivist with the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland). His descendants include a Member of Parliament, and the first Mayor of Sarnia, and several generations of Masons. **Is your name on your apron? Is there enough identification that perhaps two centuries from now your apron will be the subject of research and inquiry?**

Coincidentally, 1814 is the year during which a group of fellows gathered on a Tuesday evening in a London UK tavern and wrote the standard description of all the aprons for EA, FC, MM, and PMs. What they decided then was accepted into the Constitution of the UGLE, and has spread around the world. Our aprons in the GL of Canada in the Province of Ontario are consistent with the decisions made by that committee in 1814 – and quite unlike the apron worn by Bro. Hugh Johnston. This is in my book ‘The Master’s Emblem Explained for Masons’. **Does your Lodge or museum or archive have old Masonic aprons?**

And for a published biography of Bro. Hugh Johnston, follow this link:

<http://www.mooremuseum.ca/newsletter-articles/personalities-moore-hugh-johnston>

Answer: Ted Cambridge added “We have loaned Joseph Brant’s apron to The Burlington Cultural Centre. He wore it to our first meeting in 1795 and dates back to his initiation in England.”

I have received information regarding the symbols on the apron from the Archivist of The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland, Rebecca Hayes. *“The sun and moon are two of the three lesser lights. The sun governs the day and the moon governs the night, so the Master should govern the Lodge with this regularity.*

The square reminds the Freemason to treat his fellow man honestly and the compass represents virtue, inspiring good personal conduct.

The arch is the vaulted arch beneath the Temple of Solomon and synonymous with the Royal Arch. Hugh Johnston must have been exalted to the Royal Arch Degree.

The apron would date to a period when the degrees of Royal Arch and Knights Templar would have been worked under the Lodge Warrant. Some examples of the composite aprons have symbols of all branches of Freemasonry.”

Prepared, posted, and summarized by Wor. Bro. Marshall Kern, FCF; Sarnia District Librarian & Historian. Photos by Wor. Bro. Marshall Kern with the exceptional addition of a photo by Wor. Bro. Eric Bryce.