

HISTORY OF THE BUILDERS & PRINCE of WALES LODGES

by WBro Kosta Hatzis

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Brethren before I start, I would like to provide deepest apologies from VW Bro Lyness Jones who would have loved nothing more than to be here tonight, to help us with this little history that I am about to present. He was just telling me today, about how the relationship with the builders, was a strong one dating back in past history as well as near history.

You see he and Bro Don Eddy of PoW used to work the bar on Friday nights with Bro Rolly Carrol from the Builders Lodge. You see the Builders night used to be on the second Friday of the month or if you will on PoW's emergent night. And our night, like tonight was on The Builders emigrant night – so we both shared this building on Friday nights. Each lodge covering the others regular nights!

But brethren, our history goes much deeper...and in fact, one could say so deep, and so similar we might even say we have the same roots!

Now my proviso is this...what I am about to recount to you all, has been generated from some PoW historical documents (even though PoW has suffered 3 fires in its history destroying much of our documents), lengthy discussions with the Grand Historian and reading his works, and of course with our resident historian VW Bro Jones. ...NOW Some colour, for the sake of a good story might have been added – but I promise you, I have tried to lace it with just enough truth & history to make it sound good.

I would like to take you back to the year of 1877:

Governor general – Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood – Lord Dufferin

Prime minister – Alexander Mackenzie - Canada's second PM.

And we are in our 3rd session of parliament

Tom Thomson – famed artist – group of 7 – is born

And also the starts of the history of PoW...

A few years before a group of masons were cut adrift after the surrender (by resolution of the Lodge) of the Charter of Lodge, No. 59 “Corinthian Lodge” and found themselves without a Lodge. They wanted to form a Lodge but we unsuccessful.

And in 1877...the Principal cause that brought about the desire to form a new Lodge, occurred in “The Builders” Lodge, No. 177, when a large number of brethren withdrew from that Lodge.

Much conjecture over the years has come about for the reasons...but according to the stories handed down from masonic generation to masonic generation...the story is told that it was a dispute over...alcohol...being served at the festive board following lodge. Now we are not 100% sure of who were the tea tootlers and who were those who enjoyed a tiple now and then – but sure as can be – our ancient Brethren clearly had paid attention to the apron lecture in the first and a split in The Builders occurred.

At the time, then past master of the Builders lodge Wor. Bro. Samuel Rogers – who was one of a number, persistent in their efforts that eventually succeeded in the formation of a new Lodge.

Now I say persistent effort and there was considerable opposition manifested at the time to forming a new lodge in Ottawa – especially due to the circumstances. But Samuel Rogers was an Englishman and according to accounts would not be denied, even though I am told 3 lodges in Ottawa supported the new formation and three lodges dissented.

Driving forward on July 16, 1878 a meeting was held at the office of Bro. A. H. Taylor then Grand Trunk Agent in the city, at which numerous brethren were present. Officer positions were discussed along with the new name of the Lodge which was to be “The Prince of Wales” Lodge.

The next meeting was held at the home of Bro. H. Letch, when all members present signed the application to Grand Lodge

On the 20th November 1878 a meeting was held at St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto where Wor. Bro. Samuel Rogers presented recommendations from “Civil Service”, “Chaudière” and **The Builders** Lodges; this being a necessary preliminary to being granted a Warrant. These were all forwarded with the application at the time. On the 6th December 1878, Wor. Bro. Samuel Rogers received a letter from the DDGM enclosed the dispensation.

The first regular meeting of “Prince of Wales” Lodge under Dispensation was held on the 12th December 1878 with WBro Rogers as our first Master of PoW.

At the regular meeting held on Oct. 9th, 1879 the warrant dated September 10th, 1879, was read, and the new Lodge constituted, dedicated and officers officially installed.

As a footnote, WBro Rogers then goes on to be our first DDGM in 1880 from Prince of Wales Lodge.

So, Brethren...with both a fight internally at The Builders but also tremendous their support, we wold have never existed. And this is our shared history of our two Lodges!!

And based on this, if I could have WBro Sayed join me on the level for a small presentation...