

Botsford Chapter No. 7

150 years

May 16th, 1870

Celebration 2020



Unto the Excellent Principals and Companions of
Botsford Chapter No. 7 - Royal Arch Masons
Registry of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Brunswick

The first 150 years in the life of Botsford Chapter No. 7 Royal Arch Masons of New Brunswick are now drawing to a close and it has been decided by the Officers, and Companions to fittingly observe the Sesquicentennial of this branch of Capitular Masonry in New Brunswick,

This booklet is a humble effort to portray a concise word-picture of some of the most outstanding events of "Botsford No. 7" as far as space permits. It furnishes, as near as possible, the reader with names, dates, and other items of interest gleaned from the minutes, and other sources of information, and is designed to entertain and inform our Companions in an effort to stimulate continued interest in the future progress of this "Royal Arch Chapter."

Many items of interest may of necessity, or accident, have been overlooked. And possibly some errors occur in composition, if such be the case your Historical Committee humbly apologize and crave your indulgence.

Remarks - FIRST GRAND PRINCIPAL

Excellent Companions and Companions of Botsford Chapter No. 7

I wish on behalf of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch of Masons New Brunswick, to extend Congratulations and best wishes to the companions of Botsford Chapter No. 7. on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Chapter.

Botsford R. A. Chapter has always been one of the bulwarks of Royal Arch Masonry in the Grand jurisdiction of New Brunswick. The Chapter has made an outstanding contribution to the furtherance of Capitular Masonry in the Province. A host of offspring have served as Grand Chapter Officers. They were men with faith in God. Man's faith in God, and God's faith in man together makes an unequalled motive for great living.

In celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Chapter, we are honoring those men of the Moncton and surrounding area who with foresight and abiding interest in Masonic Principles, laid a foundation which has stood the test for One Hundred and Fifty years, may Capitular Masonry continue to prosper in this area.

I am proud to number myself as one of the Past First Principals of Botsford Chapter, along with many other great men, a list of whom is included in this booklet.

Fraternally yours,

M.E.C. Christopher Kitson

First Grand Principal Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons New Brunswick

OFFICERS OF BOTSFORD CHAPTER #39 INSTALLED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY 1870

Comp. Bliss Botsford	1 st Principal "Z"
Comp. John L. Harris	2nd Principal "H"
Comp. Amos H. Chandler	3rd Principal "J"
Comp. W. N. Boyer.	Chaplain
Comp. Christopher P. Harris.	Scribe "E"
Comp. Duncan N. Harper	Scribe "N"
Comp. William. S. Crowsdale.	Principal Sojourner
Comp. Irwin S. Binney	Senior Sojourner
Comp. Alfred E. Oulton	Junior Sojourner
Comp. Ebenezer Oliver . .	Master 3 rd Veil
Comp. Chipman W. Smith .	Master 2 nd Veil
Comp. William. S. Torrie	Master 1 st Veil

BOTSFORD CHAPTER LOOKS BACK

It is the usual practice of any organization, on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial, to look back in retrospect over those one hundred and fifty years and prepare a summary of its origin and the highlights in the succeeding years. A glance backward often sparks the enthusiasm necessary to move ahead. Botsford Chapter, Royal Arch Masonry, therefore, has arranged a concise history, including a brief description of Moncton when this Chapter was instituted and Biographical sketches of the eight charter members. Excerpts from the Minutes should give the reader a sense of realism with the past, whether it be in times of adversity or gladness.

Over a century ago, inhabitants of Moncton numbering about a thousand, were placing all their hopes on the construction of the Intercolonial Railway between Riviere du Loup in Quebec and Truro in Nova Scotia. It seemed very certain, if the line were built, it would pass through or at least so near, that the former town would be revitalized. Fifteen years earlier, this community then known as "The Bend" had 'been incorporated as the Town of Moncton and looked forward to economic growth based upon the shipbuilding industry and later the construction of the European and North American Railway. This railway was finally completed in 1860 and linked the ports of Saint John and Shediac, but soon proved a disappointment due to decreasing freight traffic. The shipbuilding boom at The Bend was largely due to the energy of Joseph Salter, whose yards at the peak employed close to 500 men, while other builders and the associated lumber business employed another 500. When Salter's firm failed in 1861, it put the entire Town in serious difficulty. The following year, Mayor Bliss Botsford (after whom the Chapter was named) had the unpleasant task 'Of seeking repeal of the Act of Incorporation and winding up the Town's affairs. The Town's only Bank (Westmorland -where the Central Trust Building is now located) failed in 1866 and the population dwindled to less than 700 people. Ironically just 'a century earlier the Township of Monck ton comprising 100,000 acres (from Hail's Creek to modern Salisbury) was granted to four Pennsylvanian Land Companies and they too lost their holdings due to the American Revolution. The Township was named in honour of Lieutenant General the Honorable Robert Monckton, who captured Fort Beausejour in 1755 and served as Wolfe's second- in-command at The Plains of Abraham four years later, at which time he was seriously wounded. In 1784 the Province of New Bruns wick was set off from Nova Scotia and when the Counties and Parishes were organized the Parish comprising the old Township appeared without the letter "K" apparently through a clerical error. The name of the Parish, Town and City has been written as MONCTON ever since, although not without argument on occasion,

Before 1870 was ended the citizens learned that not only was the Intercolonial Railway destined to pass through the settlement, but the workshops for the new railway east of Riviere du Loup were to be Located in an area south of the existing rail lines and west of the road on which Weir's and Record's Foundries were located (now Foundry Street). Its western boundary was the old steam Tannery, then known as the Moncton Leather Company, one 'Of the largest industries in the community. A new factory was under construction East of King Street to be known as the Moncton Tobacco Factory. When full production was underway the plant employed upwards of 60 persons. This building was demolished in 1882 to make way for the new cotton mill of brick construction which later served as the first mill of J. A. Marven. 1870 also marked the beginning of the Y. M. C. A. :in Moncton. A large competitive school examination for the Parishes of Shediac, Salisbury and Moncton was held in September 1870 and the enthusiasm was so great that Dunlap's Hall was given over for the evening session. Dunlap's Hall was the largest at: the time and was situated on the south side of Main Street where the western portion of Bore View Park is now located. The bridge across the Petitcodiac River had been lost during the Saxby Gale in October 1869. The new bridge was not completed until 1872, the same year that a bridge was put across the mouth of Hall's Creek and Main Street was extended eastward to Leger's Corner (now Dieppe). Despite these vicissitudes and an international depression in the mid-seventies, the Intercolonial Railway was completed in July 1876. Moncton was reincorporated as a Town in 1875 and chose an appropriate motto: A Steam Engine with the word RESURGO (I rise again). By 1885 Moncton was the fastest growing community in the Maritimes and was incorporated as a city on 23 April 1890.

BOTSFORD CHAPTER HISTORY

The first regular convocation of "Botsford Chapter" was held May 16th A. D. 1870 (A.I. 2400), under dispensation from the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Canada in Ontario and designated No. 39.

After the formation of the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick in 1887 this number was changed to No. "7 on the register of the newly organized Grand Chapter, dated August 10th, 1870.

Small in number but great in energetic capability the eight Masons who became charter members of the new Royal Arch Chapter little realized that their zealous endeavors would result in the outstanding fraternal organization which is now marking its One Hundred and fiftieth Anniversary. It would be well for us to see just what kind of men actually organized this Chapter:

HONORABLE BLISS BOTSFORD was of Loyalist stock, his grandfather and father both held the office of Speaker of the House of Assembly, as did he for some years. Botsford came to The Bend in 1836 and soon became a well-known citizen and prominent barrister.

By 1850 he owned a large tract of land extending from north of St. George Street and west of the street which bears his name to what is now called Church Street. It was he who gave the land for the erection of St. George's Church in 1851 and became one of the first Wardens. His imposing residence was situated well back from Main Street 'between Alma and Church; it now stands, greatly altered in appearance, on the southeast corner of Church and Queen and is the home of the Moncton City Club. He served as Worshipful Master of Keith Lodge in its infancy and was Senior Grand Warden in 1870. In 1862, as mentioned earlier, he served as Mayor and, having been a member for Westmorland for several years, he entered the Cabinet in 1865 and served as Surveyor-General of the Province until 1866. In 1870 he was called to the Bench and served as Judge of the County Court until his death in 1890. His picture may be found in the library room of the Moncton Temple.

DR. AMOS H. CHANDLER was of Loyalist stock as well, his father being the Honorable E. B. Chandler, "Father of Confederation" and later Lieutenant Governor of the province. Dr. Chandler practiced here for some years before returning to Dorchester. By a coincidence, his residence in Moncton was on the present site of the Masonic Temple. Dr. Chandler served as Chairman of the School Board 1874-1875. Chandler's interests were in more than one field, as he authored several poems and short stories which appeared in various periodicals.

H. THADDEUS STEVENS came to Moncton in 1868 to establish the second weekly newspaper, THE Weekly TIM)ES, (The WEST- MC?RELAND TIMES was the first paper.) This paper became a "Daily" in 1877. Mr. Stevens lived at the corner of Main and Botsford with his printing shop facing Botsford, near where .the brick building housing the Times Printing Company is now situated. His home and shop were among the first to have electricity installed in 1884. He was highly active in the Temperance movement and very well known in the business Life of the community. A Councilor for several years, he had the distinction of being the last Mayor appointed by Council in 1883 and the first Mayor elected by the ratepayers the following year,

IRVINE W. BINNEY was the youngest son of Stephen Binney, the first Mayor of Halifax (1841) and the first Worshipful Master of Keith Lodge (1853). This well-known Halifax family came to The Bend in 1844 and his father soon became a leader in the lumber and shipbuilding industry, selling out to Joseph Salter in 1850. Irvine Binney entered the business world and his 'Occupation in 1870 was that of "Bookkeeper". In 1873 he entered the Civil Service and became Collector of Customs in 1881, a post which he held until his death. His father's fine home still stands in Lewisville, while Irvine Binney's beautiful colonial home retains its dignity on Church Street.

JOHN L. and CHRISTOPHER P. HARRIS were the sons of Michael Spurr Harris, pioneer shipbuilder and lumberman. They became undoubtedly the leading entrepreneurs of the Down in the wave of economic prosperity which followed the introduction of MacDonald's National Policy in 1878. Their firm, known as J. & C. Harris, was engaged in the wholesale and retail lumber, grocery, and dry goods trade. The Harris Wharf was Located at the foot of King Sweet, C. P. Harris lived on the east side of Steadman, now numbered 65; while John L's last residence was on the east side of Alma above Queen, just across from the Temple. The area now known as Victoria Park was given (10 the city by the Harris Brothers and J. A. Humphrey. John Street was named for John 1. as it marked the northern limits of his pmpeJ.1ty. J. 1. Harris was a Past Master of Keith Lodge and was the second Principal of the Chapter. His picture is also in the Library room.

DUNCAN S. HARPER was a grandson of William Harper, first innkeeper and an early storekeeper at The Bend. He was in business in Shediac, being a partner of William Webster (father 'Of Dr. John Clarence Webster, eminent surgeon and historian) in the manufacture of boots and shoes. Duncan Harper held many offices in The Masonic Grand Lodge throughout the years.

WILLIAM S. TORRIE was also a manufacturer living on Bonaccord Street, first in the house on the southeast corner of Bonaccord and later in the Murphy house, which was later moved to make way for the Pythian Castle and is now known as the Bonaccord Hotel. Torrie operated a Steam Tannery and Soap Factory on the west side of the street. An oral tradition has it that Judge Botsford was responsible for naming this street. It seems that Torrie's land bordered that of Oliver Jones' and a dispute arose over the Line; but Botsford was able to affect the settlement, in which both men gave up some land in order that a street might be laid 'Off. In token of their good- will in making this arrangement, Botsford named the street Bon Accord which it has retained but now in one word. Old street plans showed it as two words.

It will be seen that the Companions who formed Botsford Royal Arch Chapter had both vision and determination. Where they first met is not known; it could have been in a private home 'Or office. Later and in company with Keith Lodge they moved to Goodere's (later known as Kinnie's Hall,) directly across the street from Dunlap's Hall. They were burned out un 1880 when the Duffy Block was destroyed. The Chapter came into the new Temple on 24th September 1924, after many temporary locations over the years. The first meeting was held on May 16, 1870, the Chapter U. D. was Instituted on August 10, 1870, and formally consecrated on October 16, 1871. The Chapter's Warrant was damaged in several fires over :the years, but now hangs in the Lodge room, an object of fascination as it shows its "battle scars" proudly. The Chapter has been fortunate in having faithful Scribes who have kept ,their records most diligently.

One of the most dedicated scribes ever to Serve Botsford Chapter is Rt. Ex. Comp. S. J. Horton, and it will be noted here that the Charter mentioned, was rescued and restored to its present condition by the efforts of Rt. Ex. Comp. Horton.

Rt. Ex. Companion Horton served Botsford Chapter for 24 years as Scribe "E" retiring from that office in 1968, and it was through his efforts and dedication, to masonry in general and Botsford Chapter in particular, that the historical Documents were preserved, which were necessary to the writing of this booklet.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Horton was born in England, on coming to Canada, he was Initiated into Masonry on Nov. 18, 1910. Passed in Dec. 1910 . Raised March 1911, in Fernie, B. C. was exalted to the Holy Royal Arch in Crows- Nest Chapter in 1912. He served Overseas in the first great war, on returning came to Moncton, and there he affiliated with Botsford Chapter R. A. M. in 1922, and served as a member of the Executive Committee, he was an Hon. Past Grand Scribe E of the Grand Chapter of N. B. Rt. Ex. Hon. Comp. Horton served the city of Moncton as a Merchant, held an office of administration for the City and through all his years was a Pillar of strength and inspiration to all the officers and Companions, and it is largely through his efforts and foresight, that the seeds of Royal Arch Masonry planted by our Founders have continued to grow and prosper.

Reading thru the Minutes of "Botsford No. 7" it is recorded that the Chapter lost regalia etc. by fire in the Lodge room shared with "Keith Lodge #23," Goodere Hall, Lower Main St. May 27th, 1885.

It is also recorded that the Chapter had suffered in another fire in 1880.

More recently the Masonic Temple, Queen St. was badly damaged by fire in 1940 and 1944, and again Botsford lost much of its property, regalia etc, When the Lodge room was fit to enter, a search was made for the "Charter" but it was not to be found until at last it was located, a water soaked-smoke stained parchment hanging on a nail below collapsed floor level. It was eventually dried and restored to its present condition.

This brief account of the first Years of Botsford Royal Arch Chapter along with a description of Moncton as it appeared about 150 years ago and biographical notes on the Charter members should be of interest to the Companions (both resident and visitors) on this occasion as it is intended to show the spirit of Capitular Masonry existing in this community during the last one hundred years.

To further commemorate the 150 years of Botsford Chapter a Jewel has been struck and is available to all Companions.

OFFICERS OF BOTSFORD CHAPTER FOR THE YEAR 2020

Rt. Ex. Comp. Stephen Gouzoules	1 st Principal "Z"
Ex. Comp. Jim Buchanan	2nd Principal "H"
Ex. Comp. David Jessop	3rd Principal "J"
M. Ex. Comp. Gerry Gardner.	Treasurer
Rt. Ex. Comp. Steven Smith	Scribe "E"
V. Ex. Comp Gordon Stubbs*	Scribe "N"
V. Ex. Comp. Marc Gaudett	Principal Sojourner
Comp. Kevin Beliveau	Senior Sojourner
Comp. Joey Duplesis	Junior Sojourner
M. Ex. Comp. Chris Kitson .	Master 3 rd Veil
M. Ex. Comp. Richard W Golding	Master 2 nd Veil
R. Ex. Comp. Timothy C Yates	Master 1 st Veil
M. Ex. Comp. Ray Chapman	Outer Guard

**Passed away 17th May 2020 – His memory we will cherish fondly in our hearts.*

Past First Principals / High Priests of Botsford Chapter

Year		
1870	Bliss Botsford	1st Prin. Z.
1871	John L Harris	1st Prin. Z.
1872	Amos. H. Chandler	1st Prin. Z.
1873	Amos. H. Chandler	1st Prin. Z.
1874	Amos. H. Chandler	1st Prin. Z.
1875	Christopher P. Harris	1st Prin. Z.
1876	John L Harris	1st Prin. Z.
1877	John L Harris	1st Prin. Z.
1878	John L Harris	1st Prin. Z.
1879	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1880	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1881	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1882	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1883	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1884	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1885	George H. Pick	1st Prin. Z.
1886	Sam. McKean	1st Prin. Z.
1887	G.M. Jarvis	1st Prin. Z.
1888	E. Tweedie	1st Prin. Z.
1889	E. Tweedie	1st Prin. Z.
1890	George Ackman	1st Prin. Z.
1891	H.B. Flemming	1st Prin. Z.
1892	Geo. B. Willett	H.P.
1893	R.A. Borden	H.P.
1894	J.E. Masters	H.P.
1895	J.W. Whitehead	H.P.
1896	W.A. Metzler	H.P.
1897	A.Y. Clarke	H.P.
1898	H.B. Flemming	H.P.
1899	F.N. Hall	H.P.
1900	W.A.D. Steven	H.P.
1901	W.A.D. Steven	H.P.
1902	E.W. Givan	H.P.
1903	E.W. Givan	H.P.
1904	George Ackman	H.P.
1905	George Ackman	H.P.
1906	George Ackman	H.P.
1907	George Ackman	H.P.
1908	J. McD. Cooke	H.P.
1909	F.W.S. Colpits	H.P.

1910	Geo. H. Pick	H.P.
1911	George Ackman	H.P.
1912	F.N. Hall	H.P.
1913	F.N. Hall	H.P.
1914	F.P. Forbes	H.P.
1915	F.P. Forbes	H.P.
1916	T.R. Campbell	H.P.
1917	O.B. Dobson	H.P.
1918	O.B. Dobson	H.P.
1919	O.B. Dobson	H.P.
1920	D.W. Kyle	H.P.
1921	D.W. Kyle	H.P.
1922	A.C. Wilbur	H.P.
1923	L.P. Stratton	H.P.
1924	H.A. Carson	H.P.
1925	S.E. Calhoun	H.P.
1926	S.G. Hopper	H.P.
1927	S.G. Hopper	H.P.
1928	Jas. H. Henry	H.P.
1929	Jas. H. Henry	H.P.
1930	J.H. McAfie	H.P.
1931	G.F. Knight	H.P.
1932	G.F. Knight	1st Prin. Z.
1933	C.C. Ehrhardt	1st Prin. Z.
1934	G.C. Trites	1st Prin. Z.
1935	A.R. Carson	1st Prin. Z.
1936	J.H. Davison	1st Prin. Z.
1937	T.H. Dickson	1st Prin. Z.
1938	A.W. Henry	1st Prin. Z.
1939	A.E. Horsman	1st Prin. Z.
1940	D.R.I. Hourston	1st Prin. Z.
1941	W.J. Weir	1st Prin. Z.
1942	J.R. Freeman	1st Prin. Z.
1943	C.E. Fraser	1st Prin. Z.
1944	W.W. James	1st Prin. Z.
1945	A.C. Rhodes	1st Prin. Z.
1946	J.E. Collings	1st Prin. Z.
1947	W.V. Spencer	1st Prin. Z.
1948	J.A. Gorveatte	1st Prin. Z.
1949	J. Kirsh	1st Prin. Z.
1950	E.W.N. Bradley	1st Prin. Z.
1951	E.L. Steeves	1st Prin. Z.
1952	A. Gordon	1st Prin. Z.

1953	Edward E. Lewis	1st Prin. Z.
1954	H.J. Livingstone	1st Prin. Z.
1955	J.R. Dickie	1st Prin. Z.
1956	Robert Upon Day	1st Prin. Z.
1957	G. Hector McKenzie	1st Prin. Z.
1958	J. Kirsh	1st Prin. Z.
1959	G.R. Fowler	1st Prin. Z.
1960	Ralph J Coy	1st Prin. Z.
1961	R. Lunn Burns	1st Prin. Z.
1962	Norman L Jones	1st Prin. Z.
1963	K.W. Forbes	1st Prin. Z.
1964	L.G. Donald	1st Prin. Z.
1965	John H Lingley	1st Prin. Z.
1966	R.S. Horsman	1st Prin. Z.
1967	E.H. Wadman	1st Prin. Z.
1968	F.B. Clark	1st Prin. Z.
1969	C.H. Jarvis	1st Prin. Z.
1970	W.D. Munns	1st Prin. Z.
1971	J.R. Kidney	1st Prin. Z.
1972	J.H. Grahame	1st Prin. Z.
1973	C.E. Steeves	1st Prin. Z.
1974	R.A. Prosser	1st Prin. Z.
1975	J.R. Douglas	1st Prin. Z.
1976	R.O. Downey	1st Prin. Z.
1977	W.A. Sherrard	1st Prin. Z.
1978	G.R. Elliott	1st Prin. Z.
1979	R.J. Jessiman	1st Prin. Z.
1980	R.J. Jessiman	1st Prin. Z.
1981	J. Mitton	1st Prin. Z.
1982	R.J. Collins	1st Prin. Z.
1983	R.J. Collins	1st Prin. Z.
1984	Henry T. Morton	1st Prin. Z.
1985	George. A. Theal	1st Prin. Z.
1986	B.E. Steeves	1st Prin. Z.
1987	J.S.S. Lakshminarayana	1st Prin. Z.
1988	James R. Leadbetter	1st Prin. Z.
1989	A. Gerry Gardner	1st Prin. Z.
1990	A. Gerry Gardner	1st Prin. Z.
1991	C.E. Steeves	1st Prin. Z.
1992	L.S. Cain	1st Prin. Z.
1993	L.S. Cain	1st Prin. Z.
1994	L.S. Cain	1st Prin. Z.
1995	James R. Leadbetter	1st Prin. Z.

1996	G.B. Robinson	1st Prin. Z.
1997	Darrel. K. Thurber	1st Prin. Z.
1998	G.B. Robinson	1st Prin. Z.
1999	M.J. Head	1st Prin. Z.
2000	H.A. McCabe	1st Prin. Z.
2001	Charles H. Webber	1st Prin. Z.
2002	George Bowness	1st Prin. Z.
2003	Desmond. E. Sonley	1st Prin. Z.
2004	J.F. Burnett	1st Prin. Z.
2005	J.F. Burnett	1st Prin. Z.
2006	George Bowness	1st Prin. Z.
2007	George Bowness	1st Prin. Z.
2008	George Bowness	1st Prin. Z.
2009	Travis W. Jones	1st Prin. Z.
2010	Paul F. Parker	1st Prin. Z.
2011	Philip A. Lewis	1st Prin. Z.
2012	Richard W. Golding	1st Prin. Z.
2013	Stephen S Smith	1st Prin. Z.
2014	Michael Crofts	1st Prin. Z.
2015	Michael Crofts	1st Prin. Z.
2016	Chris Kitson	1st Prin. Z.
2017	Chris Kitson	1st Prin. Z.
2018	Stephen M. Gouzoules	1st Prin. Z.
2019	Stephen M. Gouzoules	1st Prin. Z.
2020	Stephen M. Gouzoules	1st Prin. Z.
2021	James Buchanan	1st Prin. Z (<i>Elect</i>)