

ACACIA LODGE No. 61 G.R.C.



- Fifteen men showed up to attend a meeting of “Freemasons interested in the contemplated establishment of a new Masonic Lodge in Hamilton” at the City Hotel in June 1855.
- Elected chairman, William Comlyn Stephens, belonged to six lodges at the time:
 - i. Grenadier Lodge No. 66 Grand Lodge of England (WM in 1853)
 - ii. St. John’s Lodge No. 40
 - iii. Barton Lodge No. 6 (Affiliated in Jan. 1855)
 - iv. Ancient Landmarks (Buffalo)
 - v. Lodge of Strict Observance No. 27 (Affiliated Jan. 1855)
 - vi. Union Lodge No. 7 – he lived in Grimsby, eventually becoming an honorary member.
- Thomas Bird Harris was elected Secretary. He affiliated into the Lodge of Strict Observance and had been the first WM of St. John’s Lodge No. 40. Grand Secretary for 19 of the first 20 years of Grand Lodge.
- Acacia Lodge’s first meeting after dispensation was **Friday September 14, 1855** for the Installation of Officers
- **October 10, 1855 was the Grand Lodge of Canada Foundation Meeting.**
- Acacia Lodge’s first WM was William Comlyn Stephens.
- Acacia Lodge’s initial numbering was:
 - No. 954 Grand Lodge of England.
 - No. 51 Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West.

- Acacia Lodge's had 23 charter members, of whom Sixteen were members of the Lodge of Strict Observance No. 27.
- Five charter members worked for the Great Western Railway (opened in 1854)
 - i. W.C. Stephens – Secretary
 - ii. Charles J. Brydges – Managing Director
 - iii. George H. Mingaye – Paymaster
 - iv. William Riches – Official of the Company
 - v. Capt. J.W. Hicks - Official of the Company
- One became Hamilton Mayor, John Rose Holden (but we often claimed two, R.W. Bro. Charles Magill of Barton Lodge No. 6- he signed our petition but never our register)
- Acacia Lodge was unique in its original set up:
 - Membership limited to 25
 - Extremely high dues (\$24.00 per year)
- M.W. Bro. William Comlyn Stephens is number 1 on our role.
- R.W. Bro. Richard Bull, a renowned Strict Observance PM is number 2.
- Forty-one Lodges were represented at the October 10, 1855 Grand Lodge of Canada Foundation Meeting held on Friday November 2, 1855, there were seventeen (17) Grand Lodge officers that first year and eight of them were Acacia Lodge Brethren.
- Originally, Acacia Lodge No. 30 G.R.C., the lodge became number 61 on July 14, 1858 with the merging of the two Grand Lodges.
- It was five months (February 1856) before Acacia Lodge held its second regular meeting. We held four meetings in 1856, we initiated Bro. Felix Richard Stephens, son of W.C. Stephens plus one person affiliated.

- In 1857 two meetings– both in June, Officers elected but were never installed
- In 1858 two meetings, both in June, this time officers were installed.
- In 1859 two more, late June & early July for installation
- And then **3 years of darkness** but our representatives still made it out to Grand Lodge and the bills were paid.

- Our membership in 1860.
 - 13 of the original 23 members were struck off our register by Grand Lodge (T.B. Harris?) and at least 1 (Capt. J.W. Hicks) died. So, we had eleven (11), at the most.

- So, what happened next?
 - Thomas Bird Harris (Grand Secretary and still a member) acting as WM and Frederick J. Rastrick acting as Secretary call a meeting on Friday November 21, 1862. Thomas B. Harris informs the Lodge that “unavoidable circumstances had caused the regular meetings of the Lodge for some months to be ineffectual, inasmuch as when called the numbers in attendance were so small the Lodge could not be opened.” They immediately held an election and amended the By-laws. Dues were reduced to \$3.00 a year and membership unlimited.

- How many applications were received that night?
 - 12 (11 accepted) for affiliation. One of those was John W. Murton (Secretary in 1863).
 - 7 more in 1863.
 - By 1870 we had 84 members and 100 members in 1871 and then we were away to the races.

- In 1905-1915 we added 200 but 1915-1925 we added another 340 members. So, 540 members were added to our total between 1905 and 1925.

- Acacia Lodge had 65 members who served in WW I and another 59 in WW II. Each of our members who signed up for active service in WW I received a gold wrist watch inscribed “Roy Bailey Acacia No. 61”

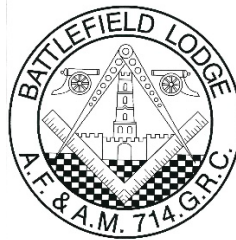
- Our membership crested December 31, 1930, when we report 944 members.

- December 31, 1928, we had 933 members – becoming the LARGEST LODGE IN THE PROVINCE.
 - This was the era of the “Super Lodge”.
 - So, for the next 20 + years we were the largest lodge in the province.
 - By December 31, 1950 we are down to 744 members.
- The average turnout for members of our Lodge in 1950 was 86.2 (11.59% participation). Not great, it became the focus of our Lodge for the next thirty years to try and improve this level of activity.
- Acacia Lodge had Seven (7) brethren who attained the rank of P.G.M.?
- i. M.W. Bro. William Comlyn Stephens 1858 (honorary PGM)
 - ii. M.W. Bro. Hugh Murray 1884-1886
 - iii. M.W. Bro. William Hugh Wardrope 1917-1919
 - iv. M.W. Bro. Thomas Hamilton Simpson 1947-1949
 - v. M.W. Bro. Russel Williams Treleaven 1961-1963
 - vi. M.W. Bro. Robert Wilson – GM of Wyoming (1880)
 - vii. M.W. Bro. Gary L. Atkinson (2005-2007) (honorary member)
- Acacia Lodge has had three (3) Grand Secretaries.
- i. Thomas Bird
 - ii. John Osborne
 - Harris (20 years)
 - iii. Hugh Murray
- Acacia Lodge member has held Seven (7) different Grand Lodge Offices
- i. Grand Senior
 - iv. GM
 - Warden
 - v. Grand Secretary
 - ii. Grand Junior
 - vi. Grand Treasurer
 - Warden
 - vii. Assistant Grand
 - iii. D.D.G.M.
 - Secretary
- Acacia Lodge have had Twenty-One (21) D.D.G.M's.
- i. W.C. Stephens
 - iv. E. Mitchell 1870-
 - 1855-1857
 - 1873
 - ii. Richard Bull 1860
 - v. Hugh Murray
 - iii. Harcourt B. Bull
 - 1877-1879
 - 1865

- | | |
|---|--|
| vi. George C. Holden
1895-1896 | District B Website
1949-1950. |
| vii. Lyman Lee 1906-
1907 | xv. George J.
Patterson 1955-
1956 |
| viii. William Wardrope
1912-1913 | xvi. Roy C. Middleton
1972-1973 |
| ix. Charles E. Kelly
1921-1922 | xvii. Kenneth G.
McLeod 1984-
1985 |
| x. John Forth 1924-
1925 | xviii. Donald Jagger
1994-1995 |
| xi. S.A. Wait 1925-
1926 | xix. H. Edward
Standish 1998-
1999 |
| xii. Thomas H.
Simpson 1933-
1934 | xx. Ronald E. Luxon
2005-2006 |
| xiii. Russell W.
Treleaven 1942-43 | xxi. Victor J. Abraham
2010-2011 |
| xiv. Stewart Davidson?
According to | |

- The first President of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario was our own, M.W. Bro. Russel W. Treleaven (1964-1968).

BATTLEFIELD LODGE No. 714 G.R.C.



During the year 1963, members of the 'STELCO 'M' CLUB' discussed the idea of starting a new Masonic Lodge in Hamilton. The 'STELCO 'M' CLUB' consisted of approximately 600 members from various area Lodges, who, at the time of joining the club were all employees of the 'STEEL COMPANY OF CANADA LTD.', a committee was formed consisting of the follow brethren:

W. Bro. Glen Hanson P.M. of Tuscan Lodge No. 551

Presented by V.W. Bro. Alan Campbell at the Hamilton B District Swan Song Tuesday Jun 17, 2025.
Prepared by V.W. Bro. Campbell, R.W. Bro. Thomas Peddle and W. Bro. Alec Cree.

W. Bro. Sandy Griffin P.M. of Westmount Lodge No. 671

W. Bro. Clayton Malchow P.M. of Hamilton Lodge No. 562

W. Bro. Marty Birthelemer P.M. of St. Johns Lodge No. 40

Bros. Everett Graham and Bob Phillips both of Tuscan Lodge No. 551.

The fruits of their labours were realized, when, on the 29th of June 1964, Battlefield Lodge was constituted with 60 Charter Members.

R.W. Bro. Eric W. Nancekivell, P.D.D.G.M. of Hamilton Masonic District 'B' led 39 of the charter members into the Lodge, and R.W. Bro. Len Hewitt then installed W. Bro. Sanford Griffin as the First Worshipful Master of Battlefield Lodge U.D. (Under Dispensation).

On the 21st of SEPT. 1964, Battlefield Lodge U.D. Initiated its first candidate, Mr. William Grundy. During their 1st year, while under dispensation, the Lodge initiated Mr. Robert Showkenik and accepted the application for affiliation from Bro. Ted Mills, the first member who was not a member of the 'STELCO 'M' CLUB'.

On the 27th of Sept. 1965, an emergent meeting was called for the consecration of Battlefield Lodge U.D., with Acacia Lodge's M.W. Bro. Treleaven P.G.M. officiating. The Lodge was now officially Battlefield Lodge No. 714, on the Register of The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.

On 26th April 1973, W. Bro. Edward (Ted) Mills led a delegation from Battlefield Lodge to Trafalgar Lodge No. 712 in Oakville, to initiate the annual Spring & Fall exchange of Fraternal Visits, which continues to this day, with more than 50 years of back and forth, Annual Fraternal Visits.

In 1981 Battlefield Lodge had their first D.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. Roy Stuart Henderson.

On the 7th of December 1981 M.W. Bro Eric W. Nancekivell, P.G.M., R.W. Bro. Clark Brooks D.D.G.M. accompanied by many past and present Grand Lodge Officers, visited for the presentation of the 'William Mercer Wilson Medal to Bro. Everett Graham.

In 1994 R.W. Bro. James (Jim) Miller McArthur became our 2nd D.D.G.M. and R.W. Bro. Graham Tait became our 3rd D.D.G.M in 2015.

Sadly, shortly after Battlefield Lodge celebrated its 50 year anniversary, the Stoney Creek Masonic Temple was put up for sale, and while the lodge discussed relocation options, we were most fortunate to have been approached by Acacia Lodge No. 61, who were looking for a Lodge to affiliate with. Each Lodge engaged a committee to meet and discuss the possibility of amalgamation and reported back to their respective Lodges, and the members of each Lodge voted in favour of amalgamation.

BATTLEFIELD LODGE No. 61

Amalgamation of Acacia Lodge No. 61 & Battlefield Lodge No. 714

On 20th November 2019, The Grand Master M.W. Bro David J. Cameron, accompanied by Past Grand Masters M.W. Bro. Ronald E. Groshaw, M.W. Bro. Gary L. Atkinson, and a delegation of Grand Lodge Officers, officially conducted the amalgamation ceremony, and W. Bro. John H. Broadhead was installed as the Worshipful Master of Battlefield Lodge No. 61.

Battlefield Lodge No. 61 member R.W. Bro. Thomas Peddle was elected to the office of Grand Junior Warden in 2022-2023.

Since Amalgamation, Battlefield Lodge No. 61 has had four (4) Worshipful Masters:

1. W. Bro. John H Broadhead
2. V.W. Bro. Alan Campbell
3. W. Bro. Scott Devine
4. W. Bro. Chris Anderson

