

Templum Fidelis Paper – presented December 8th, 2012

R.W. Bro. Hugh Goldie, DDGM Frontenac District

Brethren in the name of Most Worshipful Brother D.Gary Dowling grand master of the grand lodge of Canada in the province of Ontario. I thank you Brother Tim Barber for your kind remarks and warm welcome this evening.

I must start with an apology to the brethren of Templum Fidelis as this is the first time I have visited your lodge. And I am embarrassed to say the only lodge in Frontenac district that I have not visited. Worshipful brother Tim Barber has on many occasions invited me to join him and the brethren; however I have always had some other function to attend or been out of the country at the time.

I do however follow your excellent web page and always look forward to the latest posting of your speakers and members talks. I find this a great way of enjoying the evenings highlight without actually being there.

And I commend the lodge for the range of topics and the quality of their content two particular presentations I enjoyed were The question of Agnostics presented by W. Brother Sean Pere and

The Jacobites, Catholics and grand lodge of England presented by W Brother Steven Hampton. This really had me interested, being a Scottish history buff, and also being a Catholic who took the opportunity of what we as Catholics perceived as papal permission to join Freemasonry in the eighties.

Few people realize that the Scottish Jacobites were within 125 miles of London on their vicious and successful attack of England in 1745 when they turned around and went back to Scotland to be badly defeated at Culloden; this was the end of the uprisings and shaped the country to what it is today.

What would the picture of Great Britain be if they had succeeded?

Everyone eating Haggis and wearing kilts

The Jacobites were supporters of the rightful claim to the English throne by James Stuart and his descendants. There are a lot of songs in favour of the Jacobites and

their victorious battles.

Robert Burns' our Masonic poet laureate song "Ye Jacobites by Name" has a different point of view and decries the violence they used in their attempt to achieve their political ends. The Jacobites were accused of killing wounded soldiers and pillaging their belongings.

In 1746 the Jacobite uprising was finally crushed at the Battle of Culloden and the English came down hard on the Scots, banning the kilt the carrying of arms and even the playing of bagpipes and outlawing the clan system. This was the 1746 act of abolition and proscription. There followed years of tyrannical control by the English. The act was not repealed until 1786

Approximately 3000 Scots lost their lives at Culloden

It is said that the elaborate degrees of the Scottish rite were written by Jacobites in France where they took refuge.

I also noted through the extensive and interesting musical choices played in lodge an old Robert Burns song adapted by him from a Jacobite song Awa Whigs Awa.

Tonight I would like to congratulate Templum Fidelis on their excellent approach, and giving an alternative to the normal everyday Masonic experience.

The appearance of the members here wishing an alternative speaks volumes.

The first significant item I was drawn to was that you had a motto LUX LUCIS IN OBSCURUM. Which I believe means light to light the darkness or Light in the Darkness.

I would be interested in its real translation and the symbolism of it. In Scottish masonry the first degree is considered the passage from darkness to light.

I am also quite pleased that you have a Mission Statement, although not posted as such it is refreshing to see what the aims, goals and expectations are of the lodge.

- the focus is on the Work, protocol and the candidate.
- quality is far more important than quantity,

- only one voice in the lodge room
- You envision candidates that learn more about Masonry as they go along, who will not only prove themselves before advancing, but also present a paper on their experiences and significance of the former Degree before they advance.
- Your focus is on candidate development rather than a Mason-making-machine – expecting the average period between candidates Degrees to be a year.
- You envision tuxedos, white gloves, candles and solemnity that will make a lasting impression on the candidate and your members.
- Maybe if each lodge was required to issue a mission statement and review it annually we would have more vision, interaction and participation.

Brethren my talk this evening was inspired by a drive in the car on my recent vacation and a building that captivated me as a teenager.

Brethren on my recent trip to Scotland I drove past the now very famous Rosslyn chapel located just outside Edinburgh.

Instantly famous from the release of "The Da Vinci Code," Rosslyn Chapel's mysteries have been lost in literary translation.

This evening I would like to discuss some of the Masonic significance of Rosslyn chapel.

Everyone gets something different from being a member of this great fraternity. I have always been intrigued with the why part of the ritual and have researched reasons for just about every part of it.

I am also fascinated with its origins and constantly dig for more historical data; I always reckoned that Rosslyn held the secrets, and the Templar's on their escape from persecution, established themselves in Scotland as what we now call freemasonry.

When you copy someones work it is called plagiarism, if you use more than one source it is called research.

I have read extensively about Roslyn and some of the references I have used in my research are.

References

- Barry Dunford .Visions of Albion, the Key to the Holy Grail and The holy land of Scotland
Beth Maxwell Boyle photographs
Rosslyn Chapel trust
Phillip Copper. The stone puzzle of Rosslyn
Christopher Knight, Robert Lomas. The Hiram Key
Robert LD Cooper. The Rosslyn Hoax
Andrew Sinclair. The sword and the Grail and the Story behind the Da Vinci Code
The Kirkwall scrolls
Laurence Gardner. Shadows of Solomon
Dr Vern G Swanson Dynasty of the Holy Grail Mormons sacred Blood Line
Thomas J Mitchell. The Music of the Cubes.

The lists of articles written about Rosslyn are endless

As a teenage boy we had a high school trip to Rosslyn where the mystery of Scotland's secrets are hidden and guarded by the St Claires or Sinclair's as we know them. I visited Rosslyn many times after, always in awe and most visits being a teenager and knowing nothing about masons missed the significance of what stories this building holds. To me it was knights on horseback and the crusades. I was fascinated with Sir Walter Scots books Ivanhoe and the Talisman. Sir Walter Scott was captivated with Rosslyn and actually copied some of the architecture of Rosslyn in his house in Abbotsford. In his book the talisman Rosslyn is used as the church he refers to.

Rosslyn Chapel gained much recognition with the 2003 release of Dan Brown's novel *The da Vinci Code* and it should be repeated Dan Browns novel. There are so many references to his book as being factual that people have put their beliefs in everything in the novel.

Gaining almost instant fame, tourists flock to the chapel which allegedly houses the Grail, documents that trace the lineage of Jesus Christ. But there is more to this chapel than Grail seekers look for.

As a high school student we were given the list of possible hidden treasures

- The secrets of the Knights Templar which always fascinated me as I lived three miles from Torphichen preceptory belonging to the knights of the Order of St John or the Hospitallers. Built in 1140.
- The embalmed head of Jesus Christ
- The real stone of destiny, which is the stone that all Scottish monarchs were crowned on. This stone, was held by the English and they crowned their monarchs upon it. It was said that Scotland would never have its independence until the stone was returned. It was returned in 1996 and Scotland is now looking towards independence.

This stone alone opens up another path for research. The stone of Destiny or Stone of Scone is also known as Jacobs Pillow; and is also thought to be the keystone to King Solomon's temple.

- The Ark of the Covenant. Said to hold the Ten Commandments.
- The nasorean scrolls which are supposed to tell the story of Christ's life and discovered by Hugh De Payne the husband of one of the Sinclair's. They are said to be hidden there after being saved from the persecution of the Knights Templars in 1309.
- The Holy Grail. Or Sangreal. Here lies another line of research it is said that Mary Magdalene carried the Holy Grail to Scotland. But the question is? Was the Holy Grail written diary of Christ's life; the chalice that Christ used at the last supper? Or Mary Magdalene herself carrying the child of Christ? The start of the rose line

Any one of these sparks the imagination, and excites any visitor to look for hidden signs, symbols, secret passages or trap doors the feeling of this old damp and poorly lit building is captivating. Now in 1966 when I first visited the chapel it was pretty drab and almost at the point of neglect. Over the last few years especially after the Da Vinci code its appearance and upkeep have been greatly improved and a visit these days is a pleasurable experience. Just make sure you

take nine pound with you for it is no longer free to go to church after it has hit the big time.

Centuries before the novel, Rosslyn chapel experienced the turmoil of local history including long periods of non-construction and ceasing to be a house of worship. Brown's novel may have popularized the location because of the alleged ties to Christ but Rosslyn Chapel houses other mysteries not mentioned in the book, such as the legend of the 'Apprentice Pillar.'

The initial building of Rosslyn Chapel began in 1446 by Sir William Sinclair, the last Sinclair prince of Orkney. Though unfinished at the time of his death, subsequent work continued over the next century and a half but by 1592, the chapel was no longer used as a place of worship. The next centuries were politically and economically unstable at times, which in turn affected the functioning of the chapel but by the early 20th century, restoration was well under way. In the year 2000 a Trust of several financiers, financed the restoration that is still in progress today. While visitors may be coming to look for the Holy Grail, the real history surrounding the chapel offers just as much excitement and secrecy.

Perhaps one of the lesser known mysteries of the chapel is that of the 'Apprentice Pillar,' an intricate hand-carved, stone pillar that adorns the interior.

Said to be carved by an apprentice mason, the legend surrounding this pillar is somewhat cryptic. According to *An Account of the Chapel of Roslin* first published in 1774, Bishop of Caithness Dr. Robert Forbes tells his readers the mystery surrounding this immense stone carving. . . . "A model of this pillar had been sent from Rome the norm in those days was first to make models carved in wood and send them to the stonemason). . . . the master mason upon viewing, would by no means consent to work on such a pillar till he should go to Rome . . . to take

the exact inspection of the pillar from which the model had been taken. . . .in his absence . . . an Apprentice finished the pillar as it now stands. . . . and the master, upon his return, seeing the pillar so exquisitely well finished made an inquiry as to who had done it.

Being told that it was an apprentice

His thoughts were that no apprentice could finish such an ornate carving without stealing some of the knowledge of a Master mason.

Being stung with envy he slew the apprentice using a heavy setting maul.

For his action The Master was put to death by hanging but his punishment was for eternity.

High up in the south west corner, is a carved head with a severe gash on the right temple, and in the opposite side the northwest corner from where you can see both the apprentice pillar and the slain apprentice is the carved head of the person who killed him; Sentenced to look upon both the victim and his marvelous work for eternity.

Also overlooking is a carving of the widowed mother of the slain victim.

There was no hope for this widow's son to the cruel end he suffered from the master mason.

We cannot however stop at the apprentice pillar there are actually three pillars in a row in front of the choir area.

The apprentice pillar also referred to as the Prince pillar, the centre pillar referred to as the Journeyman pillar, and the Masters pillar also referred to as the Princess pillar.

Some believe that the princess pillar represents Mary Magdalene.

It is also thought that the outside pillars refer to the two great pillars of masonry.

Until 1835 the Master (Princess?) pillar had been plastered over. It was only when the plaster was removed that its overlaid symbolic carvings were revealed. Why was there a deliberate attempt to conceal this? Considering the elaborate designs sculptured on the two adjacent pillars, why then should the key central pillar ostensibly be left blank? Is it conceivable that the currently plain central pillar may also have been plastered over? If so, then why and what might it conceal? Could the primary focus of attention, which has been directed towards the elaborately carved apprentice (prince) pillar, have been engineered as a decoy?

Are the secrets hidden in the pillars?

Do these pillars represent wisdom strength and beauty?

While the Rosslyn Templars recognize the great deal of mystique surrounding the Chapel, much of the hullabaloo seems to be for the wrong reasons; either tourists reacting to the Grail stories or non-Freemasons trying to make something out of the symbolism contained within the wall carvings. Yet, a non-Code seeker will find that Rosslyn is as mysterious as the book mentions, but for different reasons.

Is the so-called 'Mason's Pillar' actually a rendering of the priestly pillar known to Freemasons as Jachin, and the 'Apprentice Pillar' the kingly pillar called Boaz.

Quoting from Scottish masonry

The two great pillars which were placed in the porch way or entrance... they were formed hollow, the better to serve as archives to Freemasonry, for therein were deposited the constitutional Roll

On the lower frame of the window in the South West corner of the Chapel there is a carving which seems to be of a Masonic First Degree.

The figure shows a man kneeling between two pillars. He is blindfolded and has a running noose about his neck. His feet are in a strange and unnatural posture and in his left hand he holds a bible. The end of the rope about his neck is held by another man who is wearing the mantle of a Knight Templar.

Remember this is 1446, freemasonry from England started over 200 years later.

Is Rosslyn a post-Templar shrine built to house the scrolls found by Hugues de Payen and his team under the Holy of Holies of the last Temple at Jerusalem! Beneath may be the most priceless treasure in Christendom. Is Rosslyn Chapel a deliberate burial-place of the secret scrolls!

What's hidden in the vaults? Mythology suggests that the Sinclair family hid ancient Templar and Masonic artifacts and documents in the vaults. This may include the Holy Grail. During a modern day excavation of an underground vault, workmen were prevented from reaching a large chamber by a massive wall. It is also suggested the bodies of some of the Knights lie inside. Traditionally male members of the St Clair family were buried there, without coffins in their full knightly regalia. A non-invasive seismic survey in the 1980s, did reveal metal objects contained within the vaults, but proposals for further scans met a chorus of opposition, and no further investigation seems likely to take place in the near future.

There is only one inscription in the entire church, and it is a quote from the bible - unremarkable, were it not for the fact that the quote is

directly related with Zerubabel, the builder of the Second Temple of Jerusalem.

Wine is Strong, a King is Stronger, Woman are even Stronger, but Truth will Conquer All

Zerubabel is a major figure in freemasonry: he set the Jews free from captivity and rebuilt the Temple of Solomon, the central focus of masonry.

Two authors with a more than casual interest in Rosslyn Chapel, Robert Lomas and Christopher Knight, have been claiming for several years that the chapel itself is based on the Temple of Solomon. Their main focus is on the west wall of the building. This, they claim, resembles the wall of the Temple of Solomon; rather than unfinished, they believe St Clair wanted it to look like that, to mimic the temple wall. They claim it could never have been part of a larger church - even though there are drawings of much larger church for the site - as the wall itself is non-weight-bearing and hence could never have supported the larger structure.

So is there hidden mystery?

Many say that the birth of freemasonry from the templar knights started in Rosslyn; of course others dispute this. However the feelings as you walk and look around the chapel is mysterious who knows the answers.

It is one of the many Masonic mysteries that conjure up excitement, disappointment, frustration and the need to investigate more; the need for Knowledge, the need to know.

I haven't even talked about the 13 dancing angels, the triple tau, the dragons and all the green men. The Devils chord or the carved bee hives on the roof; The seal of Solomon. If you really want to get deep into Rosslyn read 'the Music of the Cubes' by Thomas J Mitchell who believes that there is music hidden in the cube carvings using the 7 note diatonic scale. In fact Mitchell and his son have written a tune called Rosslyn Motet based on the cubes.

I encourage anyone interested in this to first of all look at the panoramic view of Rosslyn and I have the site to go for this for anyone interested.

<http://www.panoramas.dk/da-vinci-code/rosslyn-chapel.html>

Brethren like masonry Rosslyn is a mystery a whole building of symbols.

In 1650 Oliver Cromwell was successful in defeating the Scottish army at the battle of Dunbar, four thousand Scots lost their lives and ten thousand were taken prisoner. Cromwell went on to capture the capital Edinburgh.

During this campaign Cromwell attacked Rosslyn chapel and Rosslyn castle.

Cromwell himself ordered his General, to 'leave the Chapel alone'.

Both Oliver Cromwell and Francis Bacon are said to be the fathers of freemasonry in England.

As Master Mason of England, was Cromwell aware of the Chapel's significance to the Masonic movement? Cromwell's general proceeded to batter Rosslyn Castle to ruins but the Chapel (apart from a few musket shot holes) remained intact.

Each part of history or reading you do on Rosslyn sends you off on another line of research.

Rosslyn is an unending source of mysterious beliefs, that this was the birthplace of freemasonry as we know it. Each book or article I read brings another theory or hidden secret. In angels and demons Dan Brown talks of the Rose Line throughout the book even by its name it conjures up another area to investigate. ROSE LYN or Rose line.

It is said that Mary Magdalene had the son of Jesus known as the Rose of Sharron in Iona Scotland and the descendants of this birth are called the rose line. But this is another topic of research.

I can't finish tonight without mentioning the Kirkwall scroll

On the west wall of the temple of Lodge Kirkwall Kilwinning No. 38(2) in Orkney hangs one of the oldest and most important Masonic artifacts in the world. Known as The Kirkwall Scroll, it is made of three pieces of strong linen (some suggest sailcloth) sewn together and hand-painted throughout. The complete hanging cloth is eighteen feet six inches long and five feet six inches wide. It consists of a centre strip which contains around one hundred Masonic symbols, and two outer strips which appear to be maps. The two outside strips appear to have come from the same piece of material and may well have been joined at one time.

These scrolls are said to have belonged to the St Clair's

The St Clair Earls of Orkney were strongly associated with the legendary Templar knights, and the family stronghold in Midlothian is the site of Rosslyn Chapel, built by Orkney Earl William St Clair in the fifteenth Century. The chapel as I have mentioned is known for its Masonic connections and symbolic carvings, and was built in memory of the

Earl's grandfather William de St Clair, who legend has it formed a secret order to protect the Templar's a century earlier.

Carbon dating of these scrolls dates them to the 15th century'

In reading one of Laurence Gardners many books the Shadow of Solomon. I think the Kirkwall scrolls were what we would know of today as the tracing board for use in the lectures. And that it was moved from Rosslyn to Kirkwall after a fire in Rosslyn for safe keeping.

But I digress again

For every article proving the Masonic connection there is one disproving it. Authors take great pride and a lot of researches to prove that Rosslyn is a Masonic, Knight Templar copy of King Solomon's Temple, and holds great secrets; others spend the same energy disproving their theories.

Brethren I find Rosslyn chapel fascinating it gives up no secrets. Does it actually have any secrets or are all of its peculiarities just someone's inventive mind, I leave you brethren to make your own judgment.

I have had the great satisfaction of visiting Rosslyn on many occasions, Iona and the monastery there, torphicen preceptory, the great minster in York which is a fascinating example of actual stone masonry and Lincoln cathedral, Lincoln cathedral was used to represent Westminster Cathedral in the Da Vinci Code. Here you are challenged to find the carving of the Lincoln imp, it also holds an original copy of the magna carta.

Brethren I am always fascinated with the influence that freemasonry has had in world history, if you Google just the word freemasonry you get 7 million 7 hundred thousand hits people are fascinated with its origins and mysteries. It is a never ending story.

I have a few research books I have used with me tonight that anyone is free to look at. They include a copy of the Kirkwall scrolls.

I also have a learning aid with me tonight that is very interesting. It is used to assist students to learn more about Rosslyn. It quite openly talks about the Masonic connection and makes the student ask questions and do research it is used for religious and moral teaching.

Brethren I thank you for an interesting and enjoyable evening your kind hospitality your patience and your presence here this evening.