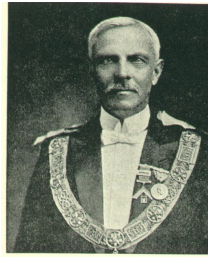


William John Drope, MA

Grand Master (1923-24 and 1924-25) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario



M.W. Bro. W. J. Drope, M.A.

(1866-1927)

Mr. William John Drope was born in 1866 in Roseneath, Northumberland County, Ontario. He was educated at Cobourg, where he received a BA degree in 1889. He graduated with an MA from Trinity College, Toronto, in 1890. He began an education career at the Peterborough Collegiate Institute where he taught for several years.

In 1892 he married Julia Lillian Nelles in Grimsby and they had two sons (Gordon, who married Jessie Malcolm on September 3, 1928 at St. George, Ontario and Harold who was married and had one daughter, Jane, born in 1926) and one daughter.

William John and Julia returned to Peterborough until 1895 when he completed his teaching assignment at the Collegiate Institute. They then returned to Grimsby where he accepted the office of Headmaster of Lake Lodge School, at the end of Maple Avenue (on what was to become Bonham Farm and, today, the north-east corner of Lake Street and Maple Avenue in the Stonegate subdivision). He purchased the school and operated the well-known Lake Lodge Boys' Private School for 31 years, expanding the attendance from 3 to 52 students.

He took a keen interest in the Grimsby's municipal and educational affairs and was elected several times to the Grimsby Council. He was also a member of the Grimsby Board of Education for a number of years, and was Chairman of the Board for 1918. He was also an active member of the Conservative party and in 1914 he contested the West Lincoln Riding against Thomas Marshall, but lost.

When Grimsby High School was being constructed, Union Lodge convened a special meeting on May 20, 1925 and laid the cornerstone of the building at the request of the Board of Education.

M. W. Bro. William John Drope, died on June 21, 1927 in Grimsby, after several years of poor health aggravated by pernicious anaemia. He is buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Grimsby.

Masonic Career

In *Symbolic Masonry*, Mr. William John Drope was initiated in Peterborough Lodge, No. 155 GRC, Peterborough in 1892. He moved to the Grimsby area shortly afterwards and visited Union Lodge, No. 7 GRC, which he had first attended on August 1, 1895. He affiliated with Union Lodge on November 4, 1897, becoming Lodge Historian and Secretary of the Anniversary Committee of Union Lodge (1899) and was, at that time, one of three Lodge members who were descendants of the original founders of the Lodge: Bros. J. D. Bennett, Murray Pettit and William John Drope (by marriage). He served as Inner Guard the same year. He served as WM for 1900.

He was elected as DDGM of the Hamilton District 1902-03. After serving on various committees of Grand Lodge and holding a number of offices, he was elected as Deputy Grand Master for the 1921-22 and 1922-23 terms. In July 1923 he was elected as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario for the 1923-24 and 1924-25 terms.

No details are known of any involvement in the York or Scottish Rite bodies.

[Sources: (1) *The History of Freemasonry in Canada*, Volumes I and II, by John Ross Robertson, published by The Hunter, Rose Co., Limited, Toronto, 1899. (2) *A History of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario 1855-1955*, by Walter S. Herrington and Roy S. Foley, Published by the authority

of Grand Lodge, McCallum Press Ltd., Toronto, 1955. (3) *Two Hundred Years at "The Forty": The Official History of Union Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 7, GRC, Grimsby, Ontario*, compiled by R. W. Bro. Robert J. Brooks, printed by Niagara Yearbook Services Ltd., Fonthill, Ontario, copyright 1999. (4) Obituary from The Globe and Mail, Wednesday, June 22, 1927. (5) *The Ontario Masonic Blue Book*, Published and Edited by David Hauraney, Print Master, Etobicoke, 2000.]