

Norval Richard Richards, BSA, MS, DSc

Grand Master (1979-80 and 1980-81) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
in the Province of Ontario



(1916- )

Norval Richard Richards was one of four sons and two daughters of Richard A. Richards and Annie L. Patterson. He was born in the hamlet of Kinlough in 1916 and spend his early years on the family farm near Lucknow, Bruce County. He was educated at local primary and secondary schools' undertook further education with the Ontario Agricultural College and the University of Toronto and postgraduate studies at the Michigan State University.

His first career spanned thirteen years with the federal Department of Agriculture but his preference for academia and research brought him to the University of Guelph where he became the first Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College at the University. He studied land resource science and received a number of fellowships for his research. He was awarded an Honourary Doctorate by Laval University in 1967 and was named a Fellow of the University of Guelph.

In 1950 he married Mary Katharine Greer and they lived in Guelph, raising two sons Robin (orthopaedic surgeon) and Gregory (lawyer). The family were active in the Dublin Street United Church. M.W.Bro. Richards died on October 19, 2008 at Guelph, Ontario.

#### Masonic Career

M.W.Bro. Richards was initiated in Waverley Lodge, No. 361 GRC, Guelph (1943) and served as WM (1952-53 and 1953-54). He served as District Secretary (1956-57) of the Wellington District and was appointed as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (1957-58). He was first appointed to the Board of General Purposes for 1965-66 and served continuously thereafter on Masonic Education, Benevolence and as a Director on the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. He was elected Deputy Grand Master (1977-78 and 1978-79) and Grand Master (1979-80 and 1980-81). He was a charter member of West Gate Lodge, No. 734 GRC, Streetsville. He served as President of the masonic Foundation of Ontario from 1986 to 1990 and was appointed as Custodian of the Work from 1984 to 1995.

He was a member of Guelph Chapter, No. 40 GRC, Guelph. He was appointed Grand Senior Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario in 1979.

He was a member and presiding officer of the Royal City Lodge of Perfection and Guelph Chapter of Rose Croix. He was a member of Moore Consistory, Hamilton and coroneted as an Active Inspector General 33° (1974).

He was a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

[Sources: Biography (1) *The Freemason* magazine, Vol. 100 No. 3 October 1980. (2) *Annual Proceedings* of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. (3) Grand Lodge website on biographies of the Presidents of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario, [www.masonicfoundation.on.ca/publications/bios.html](http://www.masonicfoundation.on.ca/publications/bios.html).]