

## Elias Talbot Malone, Q.C.

Grand Master (1898-1900) of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons  
of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Honorary Grand First Principal (1919) of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of  
Canada in the Province of Ontario

Supreme Grand Master (1892-1893) of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, KT



*Photo provided by Grand Lodge*

(1854 – 1934)

*Prepared by V.W. Bro. Marshall Kern.*

Elias Talbot Malone was born in King's County, Ireland, on February 11, 1854, the son of John Talbot Malone and Dora Wrafter. He had one brother, Robert, and one sister, Dora. Elias Talbot Malone journeyed to Canada in 1863 and took his early education at the Ingersoll Grammar School. He earned the LL.B. degree at Osgoode Hall, being admitted to the Bar in 1877. He was appointed as a Queen's Counsel in 1899.



He commenced practice in the firm of Edgar, Ritchie and Malone in 1878, founded by Sir J. D. Edgar, KCMG and C. H. Ritchie, KC, and later became a senior member of Malone, Malone and Long, which later became Malone, Malone, Sedgewick and Montgomery, and then Malone, Malone and Montgomery.

In business, Elias T. Malone was Vice President of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation and the Imperial Life Assurance Company, a Director of the Toronto Type Foundry Company, and held numerous other Directorships, including being a Director of the Globe and Mail newspaper. He was also President of the Star Printing Company which directed The Toronto Star newspaper.

Elias T. Malone was active in public life and was at various times the President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, Treasurer of the Toronto Liberal Association, a member of the Board of Trade and a Trustee of both the Toronto Collegiate Institute and the Hospital for Sick Children. He was President of the Toronto Reform Association in 1892, and Treasurer in 1903.

He married Amy Morphy (1858 – 1944) in September 1882, and they had three sons, Maurice E. Malone, Frank T. Malone, and Gerald M. Malone. Maurice was born in 1895; twenty years later he suspended his studies and entered the Canadian Army with the rank of Lieutenant. In less than a year, he was killed in action, in June of 1916, at Zillebeke, Flanders. Lieutenant Malone is buried at Lijsenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium. A memorial cenotaph is at St. James Cemetery.

Gerald M. Malone was born in 1891. He also entered the Canadian Army with the rank of Lieutenant. During the war he received the Military Cross. On returning to Canada, he joined Freemasonry in Zetland Lodge No. 326. W. Bro. Gerald Malone served as Worshipful Master of Zetland Lodge in 1921. Then V.W. Bro. Gerald Malone was appointed Assistant Grand Secretary in 1924. Gerald Malone was a barrister and partner in a law practice with his father.

Elias Talbot Malone died on October 9, 1934, in his 80th year in Toronto and is buried in St. James Cemetery, Toronto. There is a family grave monument at the cemetery without Masonic designations.

### **Masonic Career**

In Symbolic Masonry, Mr. Elias Talbot Malone was initiated into Zetland Lodge, No. 326 GRC, Toronto in 1877 and was Worshipful Master in 1895-1896, and served as Treasurer from 1895 until his death in 1934.

After a number of years of declining membership and financial challenges, Harmony No. 438 GRC, Occident No. 346 GRC, Zetland No. 326, and Wilson No. 86 GRC,



all of Toronto, amalgamated on January 30, 2007 to become Zetland Wilson No. 86 GRC in Toronto Don Valley District, an action which was announced at the 152nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario by the Grand Secretary.

M.W. Bro. Malone was an active member of Grand Lodge and was elected as Deputy Grand Master (1896-1897 and 1897-1898) and as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario for the years 1898 - 1900.

In 1903, he was elected Grand Treasurer and held that position for 30 years. In 1910 he was a charter member of University Lodge, No. 496, Toronto.

In 1927, the brethren of Zetland Lodge honoured him with the Golden Jubilee Medal for fifty years of membership in the fraternity. At that special meeting of the Lodge, M.W. Bro. Malone acted as Worshipful Master for the evening, his son, V.W. Bro. Gerald Malone, as Senior Warden. R.W. Bro. J. B. Nixon, who fifty years previously had initiated M.W. Bro. Malone, acted as Immediate Past Master.

M.W. Bro. Malone continued active participation in Zetland Lodge, rarely missing a meeting, until his death in 1934. He had officiated as Installing Master for forty-eight consecutive years; a record of which he was justly proud. The history of Zetland Lodge notes: "No task was too trivial and none too great for M.W. Bro. Malone to devote to it all the powers of his fine mind. Of him it may be said with certainty that Freemasonry was the inspiration of his youth, the joy and passion of his manhood, and the solace of his riper years. His brethren hold him in affectionate, proud and grateful memory."

In Capitular Masonry his Chapter is not known, but he was an active officer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario and was elected and installed as an Honorary Past Grand First Principal in 1919. In Knights Templary he was a member of Geoffrey de St. Aldemar No. 3, Toronto and was Presiding Preceptor in 1885. He was active in Sovereign Great Priory, being elected as Provincial Grand Prior of the Toronto District (1886-1887), a member of the Grand Council (1887-1888; 1888-1889; 1889-1890 and 1890-1891) and Deputy Grand Master for the 1891-1892. He was elected and Installed as Supreme Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada for the 1892-1893 term.

He was a 33° Scottish Rite Mason. From 1913 through 1926 he served as the Grand Treasurer-General for Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite in Canada.

And M.W. Bro. Malone had the distinction of being Honorary Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the land of his birth.

### **As Grand Master**

Herrington and Foley, in their history of the Grand Lodge, describe the term of office of the 18<sup>th</sup> Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Malone as “Years of Quiet Uneventfulness Continued”. Yet the Proceedings of 1899 and 1900 tell the story of a significant dispute in Freemasonry that continues from the close of the 19th century into the 21st century. The Grand Lodge of Washington decided in 1899 to recognize a Grand Lodge of coloured men in the same state; contrary to the doctrine of “exclusive territory”. Grand Master Malone’s correspondence to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington is included in the Proceedings for 1899. Grand Master Malone’s letter avoids the issue of race or colour, with a focus on the question of the constitutional legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry. This subject has received extensive research. While Grand Master Malone objected to recognition of Prince Hall Masonry on the basis of constitutional legitimacy in 1899, the historical record is now understood to show proper constitutional legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry. Further, the actions of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario to recognize the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction in 2005 confirmed the constitutional legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry and set aside the doctrine of “exclusive territory”.

During his term as Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Malone brought to conclusion an outstanding issue from the time of the Institution of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. There were some Masonic Lodges that did not immediately join the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1856. Instead, they endeavoured to form a separate “Grand Lodge of Ontario”. Eventually this separate Grand Lodge failed, and a final adjustment was made in 1895. But some Past Masters under the separate Grand Lodge were not allowed to be recognized as such until M.W. Bro. Malone ruled that their rank should be restored. This brought an end to a period of division in the fraternity within the Province of Ontario.

Sources:

- (1) Jenkyns, Michael, *Biography of PGM Elias T. Malone*. Prepared for the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario
- (2) *Annual Proceedings* of the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario:1899, 1900, 2007
- (3) *Commemoration of the Graves of the Grand Masters*, December 2018. A project of the Museum and Archives Team.
- (4) *An overview of some significant or interesting contributions during the terms of the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, revisited* RW Bro. John W. Reynolds; ‘The Architect’ December 2012
- (5) McLeod, Wallace editor, *Whence Come We?* (Hamilton, Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, 1980)
- (6) Herrington, W.S., and Foley, R.S., editor Dunlop, Wm. J. *A History of the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario* (1955) McCallum Press Ltd., Toronto.
- (7) *Canadian Men and Women of their Time* by H. J. Morgan, 1898 and 1912 editions.

- (8) *The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada of the United Orders of Malta and of the Temple 1855-2002, The Supreme Grand Masters*, published 2003 by Gryphon Jenkyns Enterprises, ISBN 0-9732736-0-7.
- (9) *The Canadian Masonic Annual* Thompson, J.F., 1905, The Century Press, Toronto
- (10) History of Zetland Lodge No. 326
- (11) *Who's Who and Why* 1917-1918. International Press Ltd. Toronto.
- (12) Runnalls, J. Lawrence "The Coloured Man in Freemasonry", Canadian Masonic Research Association No. 77 (1964)
- (13) *PROCEEDINGS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the Thirty-third and Last Degree ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA*; Annual Session, 1927, 2020
- (14) Some family information confirmed in Ancestry.com; and a private genealogy webpage for the family. Accessed November 2022
- (15) Commonwealth War Graves Commission