



# Landmarks and Secrets

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## Trepanier Lodge No. 83

*As to have been presented on Oct. 9, 2007.*

I know I have said this before but, I cannot totally agree with all the Masonic definitions concerning Landmarks and Secrets. It is recommended you consult any good library when in search of material

About Freemasonry, always being aware of anti-Masonic junk; if you have no books by Masonic writers, the best libraries I can recommend are those in lodges of research and instruction. In point of fact there are books published regarding unabridged information of the rituals; all of the F.P.O.F. including the whispered part; the penalties of all three degrees; the royal arch and much more. How do I know? I own one.

I believe most Masons will agree with Bro. Bede concerning landmarks, when he wrote: quote: "they remain as devoid of authoritative solutions today as when they started!:" unquote.

"This is one of the most debatable subjects in masonry and gives rise to wide differences of opinion," said bro. Carr in his book, Freemasons at Work. Bro. Bede agreed whole heartedly.

Most good dictionaries define landmarks, but not as applied to Freemasonry. Masonic writers agree unanimously on two essential points:

- a) A landmark must have existed from the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary!
- b) A landmark is an element in form and essence of the society of such importance that freemasonry would no longer be freemasonry if it were removed!

Several Masonic writers having attempted to put together such a list wished to include the principles, systems and regulations of freemasonry; but if (a) and (b) above, as written by bro. Carr, were the test, then few, if any, could be included.

In bro. Carr's book, The Freemason at Work, he list five items with which many could agree would make suitable beginnings for a list of landmarks; they are:

1. That a Mason believes in God, the Supreme Being.
2. That the VOSL is an essential and indispensable part of the lodge, to be open in full view of the brothers when at Labour.
3. That a mason must be male, free-born and of mature age.
4. That a mason, by his tenure, owes allegiance to the sovereign and the craft.
5. That a mason believes in the immortality of the soul.

The old charges from about 1390, being the oldest known documents belonging to Freemasonry, make up the first four of those items. The fifth, immortality, comes from the religious beliefs of that time and is believed today.

Some Grand Lodges about the world have adopted Bro. Mackey's twenty-five landmarks without putting them to any test. Others have made lists of their own and included them in the preamble of their constitutions. There may be lodges which have adopted the full fifty-

Four of Bro. Grant's, all of which makes it impossible to have standard landmarks in force and enforced worldwide.

## **Secrets? What Secrets?**

Most of the following was lifted, copied or plagiarized from work done by Canon Richard Tyedman, which was received from Bro. K. Van herd and submitted by Bro. D. Roy Murray. Perhaps I should apologize in advance, but all the foregoing and following is intended to be heard and read by Freemasons and they won't tell. Every Freemason has solemnly sworn never to reveal any of the secrets or mysteries of Masonry -- but what does that mean?

When Masonry was an operative science it was far different then now. Since it has become speculative, few are learning to cut and build with stone, by hand; how to prove uprights and level walls or to square corners. None of these are difficult at this time; but in distant days that had to be learned, and there were many individuals willing to attempt that without apprenticing; so secrets were necessary. As for the grips, tokens and words; many Masonic words have slipped into our language and will continue to do so. Anyone harbouring a secret which would be advantageous to man in general is, to me, a sin. There are no secrets within freemasonry which are profitable to mankind.

*The End.*

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