

George Walter Baldwin
18 July 1928 - 30 September 1987

Most Worshipful Brother George Walter Baldwin was born on 18 July 1928, in Vegreville, Alberta, and died in a tragic auto accident on 30 September 1987 at the age of 59 years.

He grew up in the nearby village of Lavoy where his father was a grain buyer and at one time Master of St. John's Lodge No. 25 in Vegreville. His maternal grandfather had been a District Deputy Grand Master in Manitoba prior to 1900.

His high schooling was completed at Mission City, British Columbia in 1945, following which he attended the University of British Columbia where he graduated with degrees in Arts and Law in 1951.

Because his family had moved back to the USA while he was at university, he enlisted in the US Air Force the day after his graduation, which led to a commission as a Second Lieutenant. He then served near San Francisco, California and in the spring of 1953 he petitioned Alisal Lodge No. 321, Pleasanton, California and was accepted.

However, in the summer of 1953, and before he could be initiated, he was released from active duty and returned to British Columbia to pursue a legal career. He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in September, 1954 and a week later he married Daphne Syson of Victoria. They had four children: Andrew, Elizabeth, Matthew and Jennifer.

He was honoured professionally by an appointment as Queen's Counsel in 1971, and was admitted to the Bar of the Yukon Territory in 1972.

Having withdrawn his petition to Alisal Lodge he subsequently petitioned Nechako Lodge No. 86 at Prince George, and was initiated on 4 April 1958. He was passed to the Fellow Craft degree on 2 May 1958, and raised a Master Mason on 6 June 1958.

He was Worshipful Master of Nechako Lodge in 1968, was Grand Senior Deacon in 1972 and in 1985 was installed as Grand Master. He affiliated with Cariboo Lodge No. 4 and later with Yukon Lodge No. 45. He is a founder member of Prince George Lodge No. 178 and Mackenzie Lodge No. 186.

Among his many achievements in concordant organisations he was coroneted a 33° member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. He also served as TPGM of Cariboo Lodge of Perfection, MWS of New Caledonia Chapter of Rose Croix, First Principal of Fort George Chapter No. 36, RAM and was a member of Caribou Chapter No. 43. He was a member of Zenith Council No.16, R&SM at Kamloops and an officer of St. Andrew's Preceptory No. 36. He was also a member of the National Sojourners of America, at Seattle.

In addition to this, he was also a member of a number of research lodges and correspondence circles and was honoured at Grand Lodge by being made an honorary member of his brother's lodge, The Lodge of Antiquity No. 11, at Brentwood, New York.

In Prince George, he was also been active in community affairs and, among other things, was Past President of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and Registrar of the Anglican Diocese of Cariboo.