

MW BRO. WILLIAM TYRE

1887/10/08 - 1986/01/17

William Tyre, honorary past grand master, was born on 8 October 1887, at Largs, Scotland, and passed away suddenly at Vancouver, BC, on 17 January 1986.

He received his primary and secondary education in his native land, and was initiated, passed and raised in St. John Kilwinning No. 173, Scotland, in 1910. After some years experience in coastal shipping business, he came to Canada in May 1911. Having spent a year in Ontario, he arrived in Vancouver in July, 1912, where he became employed with the British Columbia Telephone Co. that same year. During his forty-one years of service with that company he held various positions, retiring as staff accountant in October, 1953.

On 12 March 1913, M.W. Brother Tyre affiliated with Plantagenet Lodge No. 65, and became master of that lodge in 1917. He was the founding master of Vimy Lodge No. 97 in 1921-1922, and served as district deputy grand master of District 15 during 1929-1930. Apart from him having been one of the oldest past masters in this jurisdiction, he was the only past master who ever had the distinction of having celebrated two sixtieth anniversaries as master of two different lodges. In 1977 he was honoured on his sixtieth anniversary of being master of Plantagenet Lodge No. 65; and on 9 March 1981, Vimy Lodge No. 97 celebrated its sixtieth anniversary by paying honour to him as the founding master, and oldest and only surviving founder member.

MW Bro. Tyre was active in the original Vancouver Masonic Board of Relief, was instrumental in its reorganization and replacement by the present Vancouver Masonic Service Bureau, and in 1935-1936 served as chairman of that bureau. At different periods he served on the board of directors of the Masonic Cemetery Association of BC.

Perhaps MW Bro. Tyre's keenest masonic interest lay in the affairs of grand lodge where he served on many of its standing committees. He was chairman of the Committee of Warranted Lodges and Lodges UD for twenty years, and for the last eight years he was a member of the Jurisprudence Committee, during six years of which he served as chairman.

Prince of Wales Lodge No. 100 had elected him an honorary member in 1954 as had Western Gate No. 48 in 1967 and Kilwinning No. 59 in 1971.

In 1977, in recognition of his merit, ability, and a dedication of over sixty years of service to this Grand Lodge, he was unanimously elected to the rank of honorary past grand master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

The grand historian, Robert J. Ferris wrote in 1986:

Always active in the craft lodge, as well as concordant bodies of Freemasonry, MW Bro. Tyre will long be remembered as a superb ritualist, imparting the philosophy and meaning of our rituals with a high degree of sincerity and dramatic effort.

This Grand Old Mason's dedication to Freemasonry will serve as an example and inspiration to all and his presence will be sorely missed. What more can we say than, "He was our friend and Brother."

He was invested in the regalia of MW Bro. Henry Percival Rutter (1963-1964), donated to grand lodge by United Service No. 24 upon Rutter's death in 1970.