

I Offer You Two Bits From My Pieces Of Eight.

Are you familiar with the word "slang"? Did you know that the word "slang" is a slang expression? It comes from the phrase "secret language", slang for short. Much like when we "enquire" about the word "History" ~ we now perceive the word slang as the standard. *"Not many people know that."*

History is a collection of experiences that tie together in many layers to make one more connexion in the "world wide web" of life.

In my few years as a novice amateur historian and coming from a painter's perspective ~ I have experienced a revelation:

History (*like most things*) depends on perception.

Take for instance a founder's jewel in a drawer. Perhaps because this drawer is located in a bank vault one could surmise that this jewel has some value. We may seek for evidence in the items surrounding the jewel within the drawer but we never really know for sure if there is any correlation between these items. Unless there's some written receipt or record with it, all we can do is speculate. Albeit we are speculative masons.

However, if we find the founder's jewel ~ mounted on the wall beside the lodge charter ~ then it takes on a whole new meaning.

Some of you may be familiar with a Rudyard Kipling novel, "The Man Who Would Be King". Think what you might recall about it. A clever satire regarding the three degrees of the Craft. Now do you remember where Peachy Carnehan and Daniel Dravot were seeking their fortune? "Kafiristan", a fictitious country for the sake of this story ~ a great name ~ and it's a *great* story! Built in layers and "veiled" in mystery like an ancient stone wall. You will therefore, brethren, be not surprised to learn that "stan" translated into English refers to "state". I'm sure that some of you already know this. But did you know that "kafiri" means "infidel"? Now think about the story again with Danny and Peachy trekking off into the "State Of Infidels"... kinda puts a new spin on the film, eh?

Perception. ~*"It's the real thing"*~. It's like hearing a song that brings you back. Sometimes with a mild nostalgia, sometimes with a more cathartic experience, perhaps a memento mori. When I painted the Genius Of Masonry for the Grand Lodge Museum it occupied my home for four months. I was either listening to Beethoven piano sonatas or the atmospheric music of "Dead Can Dance" while I painted it and I'd keep repeating the music as I entered into the canvas. Once I'd completed the painting and delivered it, I put that music away. I was sick of it after four months.

So one day a couple of years later I'm driving back to my flat with a friend and we were talking. He asked me if I knew anything about a group called "Dead Can Dance". I said "Sure, I have some at home and I can play it to you when we get there...". When we arrived to my digs I pulled out a small tape cassette and inserted it into the tape deck of my hi-fi and released the lilting grace of Dead Can Dance. My chambers were suddenly permeated with the buttery smell of raw linseed oil that had not been there minutes earlier. When I turned on the music of an earlier time where I painted the Genius Of Masonry I could smell the paint in a room that had not experienced a wet canvas or even an open tube in over a year.

This was my perception demonstrating a prominent period in my life which resulted in an eight by five foot illustration, that would shortly be a testimony to it's patron who died of cancer some months later. History, it turns out ~ is very connected and not without some irony. Either by design or by default, one historical datum begs the question of something else.

I mention this so you consider *perception* for when you read these accounts. Sense their human physical experience from the uneven paths of adversity that *you* have tottered on. Surmise the intent of the environs surrounding these people... What *was* it like?

Wor. Bro. P. Puleston-Clarke {Lodge Historian}

Luther Watts Doney: First W.M.(1912)

Luther Watts Doney was born in the Parish Of Forrabury, in Dunn Street at Boscastle, Cornwall, England in 1865, likely in his mother's family's home [1]. Luther's father was Peter Doney, 25. A tailor working in Altarnun in Cornwall. Luther's mother was Selina Watt, 29. Selina worked as a servant for the Vicar of Altarnun, Rev. Robert Tripp and the Tripp family in Altarnun, her detail was cook and dairy maid. Peter and Selina were married on the 26th of September, 1861 [2]. Luther's grandparents were John Doney, a mine labourer (64 at time of L.W.D.'s birth) and Emma Doney, a char woman (60 at time of L.W.D.'s birth). John, Emma, Peter & Luther lived at the Doney household at Church Gate in Altarnun, where Selina appears to have resided at the Tripp family's home. At the age of six in 1871 young master Luther's home was in Altarnun and he was a scholar at Boscastle some ten miles away [3].

Luther's mother, Selina, perished on the 2nd of February, 1870 at the age of 33 when Luther was five, two years after the birth of his sister, Bessie Louisa Watts Doney (June, 1867), who died in October of the same year [8].

By the time Luther was fifteen years of age he was considered a "Pupil

Teacher" and living with his grandparents [4]. By this time his father was no longer living with him. In fact Peter had moved to Devon and in 1873 he remarried to Mary Jane Gifford in Holsworthy [5]. In 1876 Peter and Mary immigrated to Ontario, Canada when Luther was eleven [6]. Peter plied his trade as a tailor in the Village Of Norwich in Oxford County, Ontario and owned his own house. Peter died of valuvlar heart disease on the 23rd of May in 1909. Mary died in 1916 [7].

Somewhere around his 21st birthday, Luther found himself in China, working as a clerk in a Dàgū fort (大沽炮台), on the south-east outskirts of Tianjin (*I'm speculating that he was a member of the militia to find himself in this situation, still gathering evidence*). What we *do* know is that at the age of 22 he was initiated into Freemasonry on the 3rd of March, 1887 in Union Lodge N° 1951 in Tianjin, China. He was passed on the 7th of April and raised on the 2nd of June of that year [9].

{ *Incidentally, "The first meeting of Union Lodge under a provisional warrant was held on 7 January, 1881 in the hall of the English Methodist Mission" in Tianjin, China [10].*}

In 1894 Luther Watts Doney attained the rank of District Grand Steward (Northern China, E.C.) [11].

In 1897 he became Worshipful Master of Union Lodge N° 1951. The following year he attained the rank of District Grand Standard Bearer. In 1901 Brother Watts Doney became District Assistant Grand Director Of Ceremonies [12].

In July of 1902, Brother Watts Doney is the founding master of a new lodge in Tianjin called: Coronation Lodge N° 2931 [13].

1903 saw him to the chair of District Senior Grand Warden, (Northern China, E.C.) [14].

On the 1st of May, 1903 at the age of 38, L.W. Doney boarded the S.S. Empress Of India in Yokohama, Japan, bound for the Port Of Vancouver. He is recorded on a C.P.R. manifest as being a "broker" and last place of residence being Shanghai. The manifest also reads that he was passing through the U.S., via New York to London, England [15]. One wonders if he knew where is father was at this time or if he cared by this point.

In the second quarter of 1904 Luther (39) married Doris Kathleen Groves (25, Born in Limerick, Ireland) in the Strand, London [16]. *Here I have a query. How and when did Luther meet Doris? Was it overseas in Tianjin? Was it a romantic correspondence? Was she a "mail order bride"? Was it an impulsive romance?*

In 1905, L. Watts Doney resigned from his mother lodge, Union Lodge N° 1951, Tianjin, presumably via the postal service [17].

Resigned from Coronation Lodge N° 2931, Tianjin on 8th May 1905 [18].

A year later in 1906 Luther became a founding member of Anglo-Colonial Lodge N° 3175, in London, England [19].

In 1910 the Doney's boarded the S.S. Laurentic in Liverpool, England and arrive at Quebec City, Canada on the 2nd of July. They bill themselves as "Luther W. Doney & Doris Doney" being 45 & 31, married in 1903 and state England as "Country Of Birth" for both. Presume travelled by train to Vancouver, then ferry to North Vancouver [20].

Brother Watts Doney first visited Burrard Lodge N° 50 on the 15th of September, 1910. He states: *Rank*: PM. *Lodge & Number*: Union EC 1951, Coronation EC 2931. *Jurisdiction*: England. He was the last visitor to sign the porch book that evening [21]. It isn't until the 2nd of December, 1910 that he visits again, this time he's the first visitor to sign the porch book. He visits on the 16th of that month (emergent) and again on the 27th of December, 1910 (regular, according to the porch book). There were fifty-nine brethren present that evening.

January, 1911 sees Brother L. Watts Doney affiliating with Burrard Lodge N° 50 and for the first time on the 3rd of February, 1911, Brother Watts Doney signs the Burrard porch book as a member. He " immediately took a prominent part in the affairs of the lodge, and in almost every degree conferred that year". In November, at the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master to Burrard, the Senior Warden Brother J.B. Bennett, acting Worshipful Master, turned the gavel over to Rt. Wor. Brother Watts Doney and his two proposed wardens, Brothers W. J. Irwin and J. Wylie Donaldson, who conferred a master mason's degree on Brother Sam Walker [22].

In the 1911 Canadian Census they are reported as L. Watts Doney and Doris K. Doney, ages 40 & 29, living in Moodyville, along with Doris's brother, Gerald Greves (20) [23].

On Wednesday, the 15th of November, 1911, L. Watts Doney meets with the Most Worshipful Grand Master Francis J. Burd and receives dispensation to form a lodge called "Duke Of Connaught Lodge" in district N° 2^A, "at the town of North Vancouver" [24]. There were twenty-one founding members of the new Duke Of Connaught Lodge: Fifteen were from Burrard Lodge N° 50; two from Mount Herman N° 7; two more came from Cascade Lodge N° 12; one was a member from St. George's Lodge N° 41 in Kelowna, B.C. and one a member of Arrow Lodge N° 47, Arrowhead, B.C. [25].

Duke Of Connaught Lodge U.D. holds her first ever installation on the 28th of November, 1911 [26].

On the 13th of March, 1912 Luther joined the Royal Colonial Institute Lodge N° 3556, London, giving his address as "Vancouver" and his occupation as "Merchant" [27]. As he was present and sitting "in the chair" at both the Duke Of Connaught regular and emergency meetings of March, 1912 [28], I'm inclined to speculate that he affiliated with Royal Colonial Institute Lodge by correspondence. He resigned from that lodge on the 6th of December, 1915.

On the 10th of November, 1915 Brother Watts Doney was appointed Police Magistrate of the City Of North Vancouver [29].

In June of 1918, Luther resigned from Anglo-Colonial Lodge N° 3175. [30]

According to his tombstone, L. Watts Doney died at the age of 55. This occurred in his home on the 3rd of November, 1924 due to myocarditis [31]. However this age is aligned with the age he gave in the 1911 Census. His actual age, determined from the year of his birth, would have been more like 59 or 60. *I find it note worthy that both the father, Peter, and Luther died from heart related ailments.*

On the front page of the North Shore Press, 7th of November, 1924 read an article: "**City Magistrate Called By Death: Many Years Here.** *Was Founder and First Master of Masonic Lodge of This City.*" [32].

In 1933 Doris, going by the name Kathleen Watts Doney, left Vancouver on the S.S. Annie Johnson (Johnson Line), via San Francisco to arrive at Plymouth, England and reside at "37 Thonton Ave., Chiswich, London". As no such place exists I suspect this was a typo and she moved to 37 Thornton Ave, Chiswick, London, which does exist. [33]

They had *had* no issue.

Sixty-five years after Rt. Wor. Brother Watts Doney first initiated into the Craft, Union Lodge N° 1951, Tianjin, China closed her doors in 1952. As did Coronation Lodge N° 2931. According to my source these lodges closed because of attrition rather than through the objections of the authorities in China [34].

Compiled by Wor. Bro. Paul Puleston-Clarke (Lodge Historian).

I would like to extend my heart felt thanks to those who helped me with this project. Without their help much of this research would not have been possible. Rt. Wor. Bro. John Cain; Sister Marion Cain P.M.; Wor. Bro. John Cook; John Stuart; V. Wor. Bro. Trevor McKeown & Peter Aikenhead. Thanks guys.

Appendix I

Luther Watts Doney Bibliography:

- [1] Based on Luther's birth records & the fact that Selina's family lived in Dunn Street. There was also another Doney household in Dunn Street (John, Charity & Grace) three houses away, although it is not yet known what, if any, connexion there may have been.
- [2] Saint Nonna's parish records.
- [3] England Census of 1871 records Luther Watts Doney as six years of age, born about 1865; England & Wales BMD Index; England Census of 1861.
- [4] England Census of 1881.
- [5] England & Wales BMD Death Index and Birth Index (1837-1915).
- [6] Canadian immigration records.
- [7] Ontario Canada Death Records Index.
- [8] England & Wales BMD Death Index and Birth Index (1837-1915).
- [9] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [10] Haffner, Christopher: *The Craft In The East* (Libra Press Ltd., Hong Kong 1977).
- [11] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [12] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [13] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [14] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [15] C.P.R. Company list or manifest of alien immigrants for the commissioner of immigration.
- [16] England & Wales BMD Marriage Index (1837-1915).
- [17] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [18] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [19] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [20] S.S. Laurentic ship's manifest. Presumed travelled by train to Vancouver as there were no commercial flights at that time, nor was there a bridge spanning the narrows then, either.
- [21] Burrard Lodge N° 50 First Porch Book 1908-1911.
- [22] McMahon, Donat Robert; Cook, John: *A 100 Year History Of Burrard Lodge N° 50* (Private Publication). Burrard Lodge N° 50 First Porch Book 1908-1911.
- [23] 1911 Census Of Canada.
- [24] Duke Of Connaught Minute Book I (page 1).
- [25] McMahon, Donat Robert; Cook, John: *A 100 Year History Of Burrard Lodge N° 50* (Private Publication).
- [26] Duke Of Connaught Minute Book I (page 2).
- [27] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [28] Duke Of Connaught Lodge Minute Book I, (pp. 14, 18).
- [29] North Shore Press; front page 7th of November, 1924. See Appendix III.
- [30] U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.
- [31] C.N.V. Cemetary Records/ England Census 1871.
- [32] North Shore Press; front page 7th of November, 1924.
- [33] S.S. Annie Johnson ship's manifest.
- [34] Haffner, Christopher: *The Craft In The East* (Libra Press Ltd., Hong Kong 1977).

Appendix II

Luther Watts Doney U.G.L.E. Masonic Records.

Union Lodge No. 1951, Tianjin

Initiated: 3rd March 1887

Passed: 7th April 1887

Raised: 2nd June 1887

Age: 22

Address: Taku

Occupation: Clerk

Master of the Lodge in 1897

Resigned in 1905

Anglo-Colonial Lodge No. 3175, London

One of the Founders of this Lodge in June 1906

Resigned in June 1918

Royal Colonial Institute Lodge No. 3556, London

Joined on 13th March 1912

Address: Vancouver

Occupation: Merchant

Resigned on 6th December 1915

District Rank (Northern China)

1894 – District Grand Steward

1898 – District Grand Standard Bearer

1901 – District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

1903 – District Senior Grand Warden

Information contained in the D.G.L. Proceedings also revealed that Brother Doney was a member of :

Coronation Lodge No. 2931, Tientsin

One of the Founders of this Lodge in July 1902

Master of the Lodge in 1902 (Founding)

Resigned on 8th May 1905

Appendix III

City Magistrate Called By Death: Many Years Here

Was Founder and First Master
of Masonic Lodge of
This City

Following but a brief illness, Luther Watts Doney, police magistrate of this city for the past nine years, passed away at the family residence, Queensbury Ave. and Keith Road, Monday afternoon last.

The Passing of Mr. Doney has removed from the community one who for the past fourteen years has been actively identified with numerous undertakings of importance here and his death has deprived the North Shore of a most valuable citizen.

To the late Mr. Doney is credited the the founding of the masonic lodge, Duke of Connaught, of this city, of which lodge he was the first master. Mr. Doney also held the office of Past District Deputy Grand Master in the Greater Vancouver jurisdiction and in early life while living in China he held the office of Past Master and Grand Lodge Officer. For many years Mr. Doney had been actively identified with the North Vancouver Board Of Trade in which organization he had held several offices. During the war he was secretary of the Red Cross Patriotic Fund and was also chairman M. R. Grimmett and Grand Secretary

Of the exemption tribunal.

Born in Cornwall, England +Mr. Doney in early life proceeded to China, where for nearly twenty years he was engaged in the shipping business. On leaving the Orient, he returned to the Old Country, where he remained for several years and then came to Canada. He took up permanent residence in the city about fourteen years ago. On November 10, 1915, he was appointed police magistrate of the city and had held that office until the time of his death.

Mr. Doney was about sixty years of age and is survived by his wife and a brother-in-law.

Mr. Doney recently experienced a severe heart attack which necessitated a complete rest and his sudden death came as a shock to many residents of the North Shore who had entertained hopes that a rest would suffice to bring about a total recovery of health.

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon with full Masonic honors, officials of the local Duke of Connaught Lodge and Grand Lodge of B. C. being in charge of the service, which was held in the Masonic Temple. Following the service in the Masonic Temple, the cortege proceeded to the North Vancouver cemetery, where interment took place in the Masonic plot. The pall-bearers were : Past Masters D. W. Reeve, D. A. Stewart, C. R. Lane, Gideon Scott, James Carwardine and E. H. Bridgman. Honorary pall-bearers were : Past Grand Masters H. Watson, H. N. Rich, William Astley,

Dr. de Wolf Smith.

Represented at the funeral were all of the Masonic Lodges of Vancouver and surrounding cities, while officials of all three municipalities of the North Shore and of many local public organizations also attended. As a mark of respect to the late magistrate, the city hall remained closed throughout the afternoon.

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