

**History of the Establishment  
Of the Five Districts  
On Vancouver Island  
1888 to 2010**

Introduction:

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia, A.F. & A.M. was founded in Victoria on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1871, however, it was 17 years later before any districts were formed. In 1888, four districts were established: - namely Vancouver Island District No. 1, New Westminster District No. 2, Yale-Kootenay District No. 3, and Caribou District No. 4. Since Ashlar Lodge No. 3 was formed in 1873 (consolidation of Nanaimo Lodge No. 3 & Caledonia Lodge No. 6), it was obviously in District No. 1 at the time.

Furthermore, in 1877 Victoria Lodge No. 1 and British Columbia Lodge No. 5 consolidated and became Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1. Also in that year, Vancouver Lodge No. 2, and Quadra Lodge No. 8 consolidated and became Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2.

One year later, in 1889, District No. 5 was formed with only Ashlar Lodge No. 3 within its boundaries at that time. Later, as each Lodge came into existence, Hiram Lodge No. 14, Consolidated in 1894 and Cumberland Lodge No. 26 Consolidated in 1896 all became a part of District No. 5. Temple Lodge No. 33 when Consolidated in 1900, was placed in District No. 1, giving better balance of Lodges to each District.

In Summary, it appears that in 1888 when Grand Lodge decided to divide the province into Districts, there were only 3 practicing Lodges in the Vancouver Island District No. 1, namely: - Victoria – Columbia Lodge No. 1, Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2, and Ashlar Lodge No. 3.

One final comment re the Districts. In 1926 there were now 15 Districts in British Columbia, and it was becoming very difficult to identify, by number only, the area the District would henceforth be known by both a name and number. Thus, Vancouver Island District No. 1 became Victoria District No. 1 and District No. 5 became Nanaimo District No. 5.

Note: - The years referred to: 1900, 1917, 1920, etc. are only those years which there was a change in either the number of Lodges in a District or a new District was formed.

**Commencing in the year 1900**

**District No. 1: - 4 Lodges**

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33

**District No. 5: - 5 Lodges**

Ashlar No. 3 – 1873  
Hiram No. 14 – 1891  
Doric No. 18 – 1893  
St. John's Lodge No. 21 – 1894  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26 – 1896

**1917**

**District No. 1: - 7 Lodges: -**

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73

**District No. 5: - 6 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79

**1920**

**District No. 1: - 9 Lodges**

Victoria- Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89

**District No. 5: - 7 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Barclay Lodge No. 90

**1925**

**District No.1: - 10 Lodges**

Victoria- Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89  
Malahat Lodge No. 107

**District No. 5: - 8 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Barclay Lodge No. 90  
Nanaimo Lodge No. 110

## 1931

### **District No. 1: - 11 Lodges**

Victoria- Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89  
Malahat Lodge No. 107  
Confederation Lodge No. 116

### **District No. 5: - 9 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Barclay Lodge No. 90  
Nanaimo Lodge No. 110  
Chemainus Lodge No. 114

## 1952

### **District No. 1: - 12 Lodges**

Victoria- Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89  
Malahat Lodge No. 107  
Confederation Lodge No. 116  
Sidney Lodge No. 143

### **District No. 5: - 11 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Barclay Lodge No. 90  
Nanaimo Lodge No. 110  
Chemainus Lodge No. 114  
Manoah Lodge No. 141  
Coronation Lodge No. 151

By 1952 it was becoming readily apparent that the Districts were getting to large, and in that year 2 new Districts were formed. Victoria District No. 1 was divided, and a new Victoria District No. 21 was added, and District No. 5 was also divided, and a new Comox-Alberni District No. 22 was formed.

## 1953

### **District No. 1: - 6 Lodges**

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89  
Sidney Lodge No. 142

### **District No. 5: - 7 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
St. John's Lodge No. 21  
Temple Lodge No. 33  
Nanaimo Lodge No. 110  
Chemainus Lodge No. 114  
Coronation Lodge No. 151

## 1953 Continued

### **District No. 21: - 5 Lodges**

Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Malahat Lodge No. 107  
Confederation Lodge No. 116

### **District No. 22: - 6 Lodges**

Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Barclay Lodge No. 90  
Manoah Lodge No. 141  
Discovery Lodge No. 149

Over the next several years, 8 new Lodges were formed on Vancouver Island, namely: - Aurora Lodge No. 165 which was added to District No. 1 for a total of 7 Lodges, Euclid Lodge No. 158, and Rainbow Lodge No. 180 which was added to District No. 22 for a total of 8 Lodges, Mt. Shepard Lodge No. 159, Goldstream Lodge No. 161, and Haida Lodge No. 166, which were added to District No. 21 for a total of 9 Lodges, and Admiral Lodge No. 170, which was added to District No. 5 for a total of 8 Lodges.

Once again by 1979 it was evident that the size of the Districts were becoming a concern and imposing some hardships on the D.D.G.M. To make all his official visits, attend all the Installations in his District and to frequently be the Presiding Officer at same, plus attend Official functions in adjoining Districts and attend the meetings of his own Lodge, it was becoming very "time consuming." Thus, Grand Lodge again decided to re-align the Districts with a new Cowichan District No. 27 being formed.

## 1979

### **District No. 1: - 7 Lodges**

Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1  
Vancouver and Quadra Lodge No. 2  
United Service Lodge No. 24  
St. Andrew's Lodge No. 49  
Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89  
Sidney Lodge No. 142  
Aurora Lodge No. 165

### **District No. 5: - 6 Lodges**

Ashlar Lodge No. 3  
Doric Lodge No. 18  
Barclay Lodge No. 90  
Nanaimo Lodge No. 110  
Manoah Lodge No. 141  
Euclid Lodge No. 158

### **District No. 21: - 8 Lodges**

Camosun Lodge No. 60  
Britannia Lodge No. 73  
Henderson Lodge No. 84  
Malahat Lodge No. 107  
Confederation Lodge No. 116  
Mt. Shepard Lodge No. 149  
Goldstream Lodge No. 161  
Haida Lodge No. 166

### **District No. 22: - 6 Lodges**

Hiram Lodge No. 14  
Cumberland Lodge No. 26  
Concord Lodge No. 79  
Discovery Lodge No. 149  
Rainbow Lodge No. 180  
Comox Lodge No. 188

## **1979 Continued**

### **District No. 27: - 5 Lodges**

St. John's Lodge No. 21

Temple Lodge No. 33

Chemainus Lodge No. 114

Coronation Lodge No. 151

Admiral Lodge No. 170

There were no further changes in either the Districts nor the Lodges therein until 2004 when Mt. Newton Lodge No. 89 and Sidney Lodge No. 142 consolidated and became Saanich-Peninsula Lodge No. 89, thus reducing District No. 1 to 6 Lodges. Also, in the same year Temple Lodge No. 33 and Coronation Lodge No. 151 consolidated but retained the name and number of Temple Lodge No. 33. It was not until 4 years later, in 2008, when Malahat Lodge No. 107 was removed from District No. 21 (presently 7 Lodges) and became part of District No. 27, thus, restoring District No. 27 to its original 5 Lodges.

### Summary

In conclusion let me say that I believe that the 5 Districts and 30 Lodges have been divided about as equally as possible with Victoria District No. 1 with 6 Lodges, Victoria District No. 21 with 7 Lodges, Nanaimo District No. 5 with 6 Lodges, Comox-Alberni District No. 22 with 6 Lodges and Cowichan District No. 27 with 5 Lodges. However, I also suggest that Vancouver Island has reached the "saturation point" insofar as the number of members in B.C., as published in the annual proceedings by Grand Lodge, and since Freemasonry appears to be in a "no growth" mode at the present time, I do not anticipate, in the foreseeable future, any change in the number of Districts or the Lodges therein on Vancouver Island since the final adjustments in the year 2008.

W.R. (Bill) Thompson  
PDDGM, District No. 27  
May 25, 2010

