

~ GEORGE HOLLIS SLATER ~

5 May 1876 – 27 April 1961

Born in Wells, Somerset, G. Hollis Slater was a farmer who emigrated to Canada with his wife, Catherine Hill (Wickham) Slater (1872-1965) and four sons, Jonathan, George, Edward, and David. Jonathan (named after Hollis's father, a *Times of India* reporter) was lost at sea on 24 July 1943, at the age of 38. The family first settled in Alberta, then relocated to Victoria, BC, in 1926. Residing first at 441 Vancouver Street and (sometime before 1943) moving around the block to 1024 Pakington Street, the family was Anglican and attended Church of our Lord on Blanchard Street. Hollis and Catherine celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at Shoreacres Road in Sydney, BC, where they had lived for twelve years.

Hollis was 50 years old and employed as a shipper when he was initiated into Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1 on 5 May 1927. He was passed on 7 July 1927 and raised on 4 August 1927. A life-long member, he never held lodge office.

John T. Marshall, in his *History of Grand Lodge of BC*, notes that Hollis "...assisted in the presentation of much of the earlier material through diligent and painstaking research into many matters of masonic history in the province...."

He was the author of :-

"Cayoosh - the first petition for a new Lodge," *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1947*, p. 140.

"British Columbia Lodge No. 1187, ER No. 5, BCR" *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1945*, p. 125.

"Robert Burnaby, District Grand Master, ER, first Past Grand Master of British Columbia," *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1944*, p. 137.

"The Imperial Navy as a factor in Freemasonry in British Columbia," " *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1942*.

"Unrecorded Proceedings of an Early Grand Lodge Meeting," manuscript in the files of the Grand Historian. noted in *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1947*.

"Victoria Lodge No. 1085, ER," *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1943*, p. 127.

"Victoria Masons and San Juan island," *Proceedings of Grand Lodge—1941*.

The City of Vancouver Archives pamphlet collection contains a copy of *Sixty-five years of Kamloops Lodge No. 10, A.F. & A.M. B.C.R. : 1886-1951* compiled by Bro. G. Hollis Slater and RW Bro. F. T. Wright. [AM1519-: PAM 1951-25].

He had at least two pieces published in the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*: "Rev. Robert John Staines: Pioneer Priest, Pedagogue, and Political Agitator." [Vol. XIV Victoria, B.C., October, 1950. No. 4, p. 187], and "New Light on Herbert Beaver," [Vol. VI, 1942. pp. 13-29]. A photograph that he took of the "H.B.C. Communion Set, with the H.B.V. crest of arms engraved on each piece and still used" is in the Anglican Church of Canada Provincial and Diocesan Synods collection [Fonds 301 series 505], as is the G. Hollis Slater Fonds, comprised of 4 cm of textual records [ANGBC-131].

An article in the *Vancouver Province* [1952/03/01, p. 45] referred to him as one of two "indefatigable British Columbia historians", naming the other as George Green of Vancouver—who "have done a great deal, of research into the genealogy of the Burnaby family."

His ashes were interred at Royal Oak Burial Park in Saanich, BC, on 29 April 1961.