

The Charles A. Sankey Lecture in Masonic Studies Held at Brock University



R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey
2019 Marks 10 Years

2019 – March 24th

Lecture - Democracy, Freedom and the beginnings of Black Freemasonry



Prof. Chernoh Sesay Jr., DePaul University

Scholars have only recently begun to look past the seemingly opaque and exclusive origins of African American Freemasonry to recognize its historical and contemporary importance. Prince Hall, a former slave, organized African Lodge No. 459, the first recognized black lodge in the world, and he led black abolitionist petitioners in Massachusetts during the American colonial rebellion. Moreover, the African Lodge initiated the radical southerner, David Walker, and helped to facilitate the 1829 publication of his famous and controversial *Walker's Appeal, in Four Articles; Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World, but in Particular, and Very Expressly, to Those of the United States of America*. Not only do the origins of black Freemasonry reveal the complex fashioning of African American leadership, identity and community, but its beginnings also reflect the problems and possibility of democracy in America.

2018

Lecture - Catechism, Spectacle, Burlesque: American Fraternal Ritual Performance, 1733-1933

Fraternal organizations like to espouse an ideology of timelessness, asserting that they stretch back unchanging to the mists of antiquity. While the ritual inculcation of identity has been central to North American fraternalism since lodges first appeared in the British colonies, the manner in which rituals are performed has transformed over time. By examining material evidence, this illustrated lecture will argue that North American fraternal ritual practices can be divided into three historically situated modes characterized by catechism, spectacle, and burlesque. Catechism describes the largely oral communication of esoteric ideas which took place in the first century of North American fraternalism, from the establishment of the first Masonic lodges in the British colonies until the anti-Masonic period. Spectacle refers to the increasingly theatrical, visual, and material presentation of fraternalism which coincides with industrial expansion and concomitant prosperity in the century between 1830 and 1933. Finally, burlesque refers to behaviour parodying or commenting upon earlier fraternal forms which developed around the advent of the twentieth century.

William D. Moore

Associate Professor
American Material Culture, Boston University



William D. Moore is Associate Professor of American Material Culture within the Department of the History of Art & Architecture at Boston University where he also serves as the Director of the American & New England Studies Program. He is the author of *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* and the editor, with Mark Tabbert, of *Secret Societies in America: Foundational Studies in Fraternalism*. He served as the Director of the Livingston Masonic Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of the State of New York from 1992 to 1999. In 2017 he received the Thomas W. Jackson Masonic Education Award. He serves on the editorial boards of the *Encyclopedia of American Studies*, *Winterthur Portfolio*, *Buildings & Landscapes*, and the *Journal for Research into Freemasonry & Fraternalism*.

2017

Lecture – The Badge of a Freemason: New Stories from Old Aprons

Called the “badge of a Freemason” in Masonic ritual, the fraternity’s apron was adapted from the protective aprons worn by working stonemasons during the 1600s and 1700s. Over the next 200 hundred years, Masonic aprons evolved in shape and style, with influence from men’s fashions and decorative preferences. This talk will highlight several examples of American aprons from the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library collection, exploring the stories of their makers and users. By looking at early aprons, we find patterns and trends in their use and design that not only differ from today but teach us new things about Freemasonry of the past.

Dr. Aimee E. Newell

Director of Collections
Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library



Aimee E. Newell is the Executive Director at the Luzerne County Historical Society in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. For 10 years she was the Curator and Director of Collections at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, Mass. She has also worked at Old Sturbridge Village and the Nantucket Historical Association. She holds a PhD. in History from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, an MA in History from Northeastern University and a BA in American Studies from Amherst College. Newell is the current president of the Masonic Library and Museum Association. She is the co-author of *Curiosities of the Craft: Treasures from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Collection* and the author of *The Badge of a Freemason: Masonic Aprons from the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library*. She co-curated the 2016 exhibition, “Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art from the Kendra and Allan Daniel Collection,” at the American Folk-Art Museum in New York City. She has written and spoken widely about Freemasonry and fraternalism.

2016

Lecture – Searching for the Apple Tree: What Happened in 1716?

Covent Garden in the early 18th century was one of the most exciting, creative and dangerous places in Europe, where fashionable venues stood cheek by jowl with brothels and dangerous taverns, a magnet for writers, artists, freethinkers, courtesans and criminals. The historian Vic Gatrell has recently claimed that Covent Garden was the first bohemian quarter

whose achievements make the Left Bank, Montmartre or Greenwich Village look pallid. It was here, according to the traditional account, that the initial steps were taken which led to the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Freemasons in London, the event which is usually seen as marking the birth of Freemasonry in its modern form. James Anderson, author and editor of the Constitutions of the Free-Masons, claimed that in 1716 four Masonic lodges from London met together at the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles Street, close to the centre of Covent Garden, and agreed to revive the annual feast. As a result, according to Anderson, these lodges held a feast at the Goose and Gridiron, near St Paul's Cathedral in London, on June 24, 1717 and elected a grand master.

Given its significance in the history of Freemasonry, we know remarkably little about the Apple Tree in Charles Street or its role in the bohemian world of Covent Garden. Anderson's account of the Masonic meetings of 1716-17 was written 20 years later and included in the second edition of his Constitutions. The account is not substantiated elsewhere, but we do have many records and reports relating to Covent Garden and Charles Street. This lecture will discuss what information we can assemble about the Apple Tree and consider how far it supports Anderson's story about the formation of the Grand Lodge.

Andrew Prescott

Professor of Digital Humanities, University of Glasgow



Andrew Prescott is Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Glasgow. He is also Theme Leader Fellow for the 'Digital Transformations' strategic theme of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the major funder of advanced research in the humanities in the UK. Andrew trained as a medieval historian, completing a doctoral thesis in 1984 on the records of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. He was a curator in the Department of Manuscripts of the British Library from 1979 to 2000, where, among other responsibilities, he was the lead curator for the pioneering digitisation project Electronic Beowulf edited by Kevin Kiernan, and took a major role in the move of the Manuscript Collections from the British Museum to St Pancras. From 2000 to 2007, Andrew served as the founding Director of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at the University of Sheffield. He has also been Librarian of the University of Wales Lampeter and Head of the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London. Andrew is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Royal Historical Society.

Andrew's Sankey lecture has been prepared jointly with the 2015 Sankey Lecturer, Dr. Susan Mitchell Sommers of St Vincent's College. Andrew and Susan have previously collaborated on a number of studies, including an analysis of Thomas Dunckerley's interest in female masonry.

2015

Lecture - The Masonic Empire of Thomas Dunckerley: England to Quebec and the Broad Oceans In Between

The subject of this lecture, Thomas Dunckerley (c. 1720-1795), cuts a swath through late 18th-century English Freemasonry. As the very active Provincial Grand Master of eight Masonic Provinces in southern England, he set an important example by building up the provincial organization of the Grand Lodge, establishing a model of local governance that has influenced provincial Freemasonry to the present day. Dunckerley was also a great Masonic innovator, taking a leading part in the integration of the Royal Arch into the activities of the Moderns Grand Lodge, and presiding over Royal Arch Masonry in 11 counties.

Dunckerley enthusiastically promoted the English Knights Templar and Royal Ark Masons, serving as the first Grand Master (or its equivalent) of both organizations. In the 1760s Dunckerley pioneered "sea" Masonry, establishing a number of lodges on ships at sea, using his personal warrants. There is

evidence he even toyed with the idea of establishing an English Adoptive Rite for women, to be headed by his wife, "Sister" Hannah Dunckerley. What all this activity points to is the creation of a Masonic "empire" of sorts, one that crossed rites and degrees, and reached from the Mediterranean to Quebec. The lecture explores Dunckerley's innovations, and highlights his ongoing involvement with Freemasonry in Canada, which had as its focal point the bitter rivalry between the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges of England.

Dr. Susan Mitchell Sommers

Professor of History, Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania



Dr. Sommers earned a B.A. and M.A. in history at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Washington University in St. Louis. Her fields of specialization include the Enlightenment, Early Modern and Modern Britain, the Age of Empire, Historical Method, and the History of Fraternalism. She is the author of *Parliamentary Politics of a County and its Town: General Elections in Suffolk and Ipswich in the Eighteenth Century* (Greenwood Press, 2002) and *Thomas Dunckerley and English Freemasonry* (Pickering & Chatto, 2012). Her current book projects include: *Dr. Ebenezer Sibly and his Circle: A Family's Life in Books in Georgian London*, and *The Radical Brotherhood: The Society of the Gentlemen Supporters of the Bill of Rights*. Both projects involve placing Freemasonry and Freemasons into a larger contemporary context.

Dr. Sommers' most recent articles include, "Robert Thomas Crucefix, Redux," *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*, (September, 2013), "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Order of the Eastern Star in the Historiography of American Women's Associations," *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*, "Marranos, Masons, and the Case of the Mislaid Text," *Heredom*, Vol. 20, (2013). Thomas Dunckerley: A True Son of Adam," *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, Vol. 124, (2012). Dr. Sommers recently contributed an article on Thomas Dunckerley to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, a fundamental resource for British historians since 1885.

In January 2015 Sommers will assume a General Editorship of the *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*. She is a significant contributor to the recently published *Le Monde Maçonnique au XVIIIe siècle*, edited by Cecile Révauger and Charles Porcet. This publication, nearly 3,000 pages, contains the biographies of nearly 1,100 eighteenth century Freemasons from Europe, Britain and the Colonies.

2014

Lecture - Brothers in Arms: Freemasons and the War of 1812

North American Freemasonry at the turn of the 19th century was a self-consciously international fraternity. Its members claimed the bonds of brotherhood as essential for maintaining a brand of friendship and understanding, which deliberately transcended boundaries of nation, race and religious belief. Lodges in both the rudely-built villages and the growing cities of the continent promised to hone the moral and spiritual sensibilities of their members and, as Quebec Brother Alexander Spark reflected, help them to "lay aside the fierceness of a hostile disposition" and "to embrace one another like Brethren." The fraternity's ability to transcend boundaries between all men, however, was sorely tested by the outbreak of war between Britain and the United States in June of 1812. For nearly three years, Freemasonry, a brotherhood of peace, was at war.

This year's Sankey lecture seeks to demonstrate how Masonic tenets helped the fighting men face the extraordinary physical and moral challenges of violent conflict. Reflecting, reinforcing and sometimes defining the boundaries of honourable manhood, courage and loyalty, Freemasons at war had a formidable reserve of ideals to draw upon as they fought on behalf of their respective nations. The troubling reality, however, was that these principles were practised on both sides of the conflict. In a gruesome number of bloody confrontations, Masons found themselves fighting to the death against

men who, in peacetime, they would call brothers. How this particular war affected North American Freemasonry — and how Masons themselves sometimes affected the war by setting the brotherhood above the demands of nation — are fundamental questions for understanding both the history of Masonry and the War of 1812. For the former, the conflict exposes the lived experience of Masonry, outside of the lodge room. For the latter, it forces us to reconsider the boundaries of citizenship that this war ultimately defined, and the narrowly defined sense of treason and honour which attended it.

Dr. Renée Lafferty

Assistant Professor of History and Canadian Studies, Brock University



Dr. Renée N. Lafferty is associate professor of History at Brock University and a relative newcomer to the study of Freemasonry. Her graduate work at Dalhousie University examined the world of denominational children's institutions in Nova Scotia, culminating in her first book, *The Guardianship of Best Interests* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013). Maintaining an abiding interest in religious history — or, more accurately, in the history of sin — she has recently turned her attention to the social and cultural world of the War of 1812, where sin of all description abounded. In this domain, alcohol, prayer, sex, treason and desertion among the fighting men, have become the mainstay of her research.

2013

Lecture - Native American Freemasonry: Joseph Brant to the 21st Century

Freemasonry has played a significant role in the history of Native Americans since the colonial era — a role whose extent and meaning are fully explored for the first time. Her work's overarching concern is with how Masonry met specific social and personal needs, a theme developed across three significant periods of membership: the revolutionary era, the last third of the nineteenth century, and the years following the First World War. Joy Porter places Freemasonry into historical context, revealing its social and political impact as a transatlantic phenomenon at the heart of the colonizing process. She then explores its meaning for many of the key Native leaders over time, for the ethnic groups who sought to make connections with it, and for the bulk of its American membership—the white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant middle class.

Porter contends that Freemasonry offered special access to Native Americans through its performance of ritual, an assertion borne out by a wealth of contemporary manuscripts, newspapers, pamphlets, Masonic sermons, orations, and lodge records and writings by Masonic historians and antiquarians gleaned from archives in New York, Philadelphia, Oklahoma, California, and London. Through these documents, she demonstrates that over time, Freemasonry became a significant avenue for the exchange, and perhaps even cocreation, of cultural forms by Indians and non-Indians.

Dr. Joy Porter

Professor of Indigenous History, Hull University



Dr. Joy Porter is Professor of Indigenous History and joined the Department in October 2012. Previously, she was Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean for the College of Arts & Humanities at the University of Swansea. She gained her M.A. and PhD from the University of Nottingham in 1990 and 1993 respectively. She has over 20 publications including 6 books, has organized two externally funded major international conferences and has held Visiting Professorships at the University of Paris, Diderot and at The Clinton Institute, Dublin. She has also delivered invited lectures across Europe and

North America. The research underpinning her monograph *Native American Freemasonry: Associationalism and Performance in America* (University of Nebraska Press, 2011) was funded by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. Other aspects of her work have benefited from a number of awards (AHRC, British Academy, British Association of Canadian Studies, Association of Canadian Studies in the U.S., Canadian Government Research Award). She is currently a member of the AHRC Peer Review College (History, Thought & Culture).

2012

Lecture - The Heart of Masonry: Upstate New York and the New Nation, 1776 – 1826

In the fifty years after 1776, American Freemasonry grew dramatically – and upstate New York lay at its center. Upstate brothers did more than help the fraternity grow. They also transformed it, leading the way as Masons reshaped their rituals, developed new degrees, and shaped a growing belief that their fraternity had deep religious significance. Having helped remake the post-Revolutionary fraternity, upstate brothers also set off the incidents that led to its downfall. In 1826, when Americans were celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their independence, rogue Freemasons kidnapped William Morgan, a man who had planned to publish the fraternity's rituals. The results of this relatively small event were remarkable, a dramatic (if only temporary) decline in the fraternity and an equally extraordinary shift in American culture and public life – changes that brought an end to the period when upstate New York stood at the center of the fraternity.

Dr. Steven C. Bullock

Professor of History, Humanities & Arts, Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Steven C. Bullock is Professor of History, Humanities & Arts at [Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#). A prize-winning author, he has published [Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840](#), [The American Revolution: A History in Documents](#), and numerous articles. He has also commented on Masonry and other subjects on ABC, CNN, and NPR, and appeared in documentaries aired on PBS, the History Channel, and elsewhere.

2011

Lecture - Global Fraternalism: Canadian Freemasons, the British Empire, and the World

This lecture opens with a call for using broad categories of analysis, including empire and world, in our studies of fraternalism and Canadian history. Doing so allows us to appreciate the extent and impact of Freemasonry, especially the significant role it played in the history of globalization and empire building. The lecture is divided into three parts: first, a general discussion of globalization and its relationship to imperialism; second, an examination of Freemasonry's contribution to the history of globalization in the period between the 1730s and the 1820s; and third, an exploration of several aspects of Freemasons engagement with the British Empire during the modern period. While adopting a macro-level perspective, the talk uses examples from Canadian Masonic history, particularly Upper Canada, to illustrate its central claims and to demonstrate the complex ways fraternal organizations operate at the intersection of the local and the global.

Dr. Jessica Harland-Jacobs

Associate Professor
Department of History, University of Florida



Jessica Harland-Jacobs is an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. After an international upbringing, she attended Cornell University, where she received her BA in history in 1992. She received her MA and PhD (2000) from Duke University, where she studied British, Imperial, and Canadian history and historical geography. Her first book, [*Builders of Empire: Freemasonry and British Imperialism, 1717-1927*](#), was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2007. She has published articles in *The Journal of British Studies*, *The Geographical Review* and *Atlantic Studies*, and a new article will appear in the forthcoming volume of the *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*.

While she continues to devote much of her time to researching, writing, and speaking about the history of Freemasonry, she is also working on a project investigating Catholics in the British Isles and British Empire in the decades after the Seven Years War. She is examining policies and attitudes on the part of the British toward Catholics, as well as the experiences of Catholics in old colonies like Ireland and ceded territories such as Grenada and Quebec.

Harland-Jacobs teaches courses on modern Britain and the British Empire, Ireland, Imperialism and the Atlantic world. She has won department, college, and university teaching awards and has served in several administrative positions including, currently, as Associate Chair of the Department of History.

2010

Lecture - Perceptions of Freemasonry from the 18th Century to the Internet

Since its modern establishment in urban London of the late 1710s, Freemasonry was covered extensively in the press. One of the first steps of the fraternity was to publish its mythological history and charges, the famous Constitutions of Anderson of 1723. Books and pamphlets attacking and defending Freemasonry almost immediately appeared on the market. These dynamics accelerated in connection with events such as the papal condemnations of Freemasonry and peaked early around the years of the French revolution. Since then, anti-Masonry, in different colors on the spectrum, has influenced the image of Freemasonry both in political ideologies and conspiracy theories of various kinds, as recently demonstrated in popular culture by Dan Brown's new novel *The Lost Key*. Freemasonry itself has reacted modestly upon this development of an image over time with few successful exceptions that also will be addressed by the lecture. The presence of a seemingly secret society in media begs also the question how private Freemasonry really was and is. It is legitimate to ask if public perceptions of Freemasonry even constitute a major element of the impact of Freemasonry upon society itself. This lecture aims at to map the main lines of these perceptions from the first press articles to the presence of Freemasonry in the main media of the twenty-first century, the Internet.

Dr. Andreas Önnorfors

Director, Centre for Research into Freemasonry,
University of Sheffield



Andreas Önnorfors was raised in Germany in a Swedish-German family. After a period of extensive travel and some initial studies, he served in the Swedish Army between 1993 and 1996, interrupted by studies in History of Sciences and Ideas. In 1997 he took up his undergraduate studies in the History of Sciences and Ideas at the University of Lund in Sweden where he completed his BA and MA, starting his PhD training in 1999. In 2000, he also was admitted to a German PhD scheme at the University of Greifswald at the Baltic shore. Since then, Andreas has undertaken postdoctoral research on Swedish 18th Century Freemasonry and has taught courses mainly within European

Studies. He also has a large interest in press history and the history of sciences. Önnersfors has published about 40 papers and articles in various languages, a majority of them on Freemasonry.

Videos & Other Information

If you are interested in more information on the Sankey Lecture Series, Dr. Sankey himself and M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels, PGM, who was instrumental in establishing this lecture series, use the following link to access the Sankey Lecture Series website. <http://sankeylectures.ca/>