



## The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland

Vol. 5 No. 1

News Letter

1-07-2023

Brethren,

A warm welcome to the 7th edition of the NQ Compass for 2023.

I hope that you and your families remain in good health as we move into the second half of the masonic calendar for 2023.

You all realise that CV19 is still in our community so please be vigilant and take action if your not feeling well.

June was another busy month for the DGLNQ Team following on from our successful DGLNQ Proclamation Ceremony that was held on Sat 20 May 2023.

We commenced June with our DGLNQ Teams committed to two meetings on **Sat 3 June 2023**.

It was a privilege as Dist GM to visit Ingham with a DGLNQ Team for the installation of Wor Bro Ron Rowe as WM(for the 8th time) of Hinchinbrook Cordelia (HC) Lodge. We had a team of 13 DGL Officers incl 3 Past Dist GM's and the Lodge

room was almost full with 13 members and 8 visitors on hand for the excellent ceremony. About 50 persons were seated for an excellent banquet at the Ingham RSL Club. I was honoured to present a widows masonic pin to Mrs. Jeanette Potter on the night! We wish WM Ron all the best for his term and congratulate the brethren of HC Lodge and their ladies for a great day out! DGLNQ received an invitation to attend and support our overseas brethren at Ashlar Magnetic Lodge for a 1st Degree Ceremony for Bro Elser Mengo. RW Bro Lyle McGrath PAGM agreed to represent the Dist GM and he was supported by RW Bro Morrie Bligh as DC and also VW Bro Joel Coleman, our Dep Dist GM as well. The meeting was well attended with 14 Ashlar Magnetic brethren plus the DGLNQ team.

On **Wed 7 June 2023**, I attended the UGLQ Qtrly Communication and was privileged to present the GM MW Bro Jeff Harper AFSM with a DGLNQ Cent Jewel on behalf of Freemasons NQ on the floor of the Lodge. The QC was well attended and we adjourned to a festive board in the supper room. The GM's wife Dorothy organised a great Bingo Night for the ladies, which was a hit!

DGLNQ held their mid year Qtrly Communication at 50 Ingham Rd on **Sat 10 June 2023**. The communication was well attended with approx 30 members in the Lodge room and a similar number attended the informal luncheon and then the afternoon tea provided by our hard working ladies. Some special presentations were made and the DGL brethren received their Certificates and a couple of brethren were congratulated after receiving Conferred Grand Rank by our Grand Master.

On **Sat 24 June 2023**, it was a honour as Dist GM to attend Freshwater Masonic Centre in Cairns for the 2nd Proclamation of RW Bro Rajah Chohan as Dist GM of the DGL of Carpentaria. The Lodge bus was full with 9 on board and included 7 DGLNQ Team members and 2 partners. It was a long but very enjoyable and fun day and after a great ceremony, we adjourned to the Jade Chinese Restaurant at Freshwater for a harmonious and enjoyable festive board. The DGLNQ Team did well in the raffles and we wish RW Bro Rajah and his team all the best. My special thanks to the support from the DGLNQ brethren and their ladies for a great day! At this stage it is of note that we have **Installations in July 2023** as follows: **Kennedy Lodge (Sat 8)**, **Unity Lodge (Sat 22 July)** and **Corinthian Lodge (Sat 29 July)** and as mentioned previously, a special trip is being planned to support **the 2023 installation for the Muttaborra Lodge on 26 August** and further details will follow. I ask that you attend the upcoming installations, if possible, and thank you all for your continued support!

Fraternally John.

John Playford Dist GM / DGLNQ

### Aims of The N.Q. Compass.

- To promote those values and virtues we as Freemasons profess.
- To provide articles of interest to Members.
- To promote discussion and debate amongst Brethren.
- To highlight the activities of the Lodges in this district.
- To recognise individual achievements.
- To inform

# North Queensland Preceptory No. 2

## Knights Templar Information Evening.

07 July 2023

7:00 p.m.

Brethren are cordially invited to join the Venerable Preceptor, Officers and Knights of the North Queensland Preceptory No. 2 at their Knights Templar Information evening on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 7 p.m., with light refreshment post presentation to continue discussions. Dress for the occasion is smart casual.

Whereas in the Craft we use the Ashlar as a tangible metaphor as we journey from the rough to the perfect whilst seeking the lost secrets of the Master Mason. Then in the Holy Royal Arch, we are exposed to the colour and depth of Freemasonry, the discovery of certain words and the rebuilding of the temple. In the Knights Templar, we further advance our intrigue and knowledge into the integrity, honour and standing of the templars and the metal of the Grand Master Jacque De Morley.

It is an Order of global renown combined with a history that is tangible, in that it can be touched and admired from the Levant to Scotland and all that is in between and beyond.



### North Queensland Preceptory No. 2

Preceptor/ Prior: Ven. Kt. Ian Reid

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# “London Fire”



In England, and particularly in London, when celebrating anything of importance, there is a discharge of musketry, and this is recorded as early as 1682. On special occasions, such as the King's birthday, a procession halted, a barrel of nappy ale\* was broached and the King's health drunk to the discharge of firearms.

Often several toasts would be honoured, each in the same manner, and eventually it became customary to recognize any important toast with this firing. When toasts were given at night, and it was impossible to celebrate the toast with a discharge, those drinking the toast always banged their glasses on the table in time with the Chairman thus making a very loud bang, symbolizing the firing of a discharge. To make this possible special glasses were made with very solid bottoms, which became known as firing glasses. As the glass in those days was used for drinking, the instruction of no heel taps (that is leaving a portion of the drink in the glass) was given, because if the glass was banged hard any liquor left over would be splashed over all present, and if the glass was not emptied, then the drinker only gently tapped the glass on the table, so as not to spill its contents. To give only a light tap (a heel tap) was considered as not honouring a toast to the full, hence the expression “No heel taps.”

This custom was not observed originally other than in London, hence the expression “London Fire,” but slowly it spread further afield, but the further north one travels the less use is made of “Fire.”

Fire has become individual in many parts, and numerous Lodges have their own individual fire, and many of these are most interesting and it would be impossible to explain them here. The difficulty with many of these fires is that they are hard to explain, and can only be given by demonstration. Many “Service” Lodges have adopted fire particular to their service and Townsville A.I.F. Memorial Lodge is one of these where a toast may be honoured by fire.

This, Brethren, is one of the advantages of visiting—you may see something different to what you have become accustomed to in your own Lodge.

I know that several Brethren in Townsville are in possession of old Lodge shot glasses and in some cases the glasses were manufactured and engraved to mark a particular event in a Lodge's history. Most Australian shot glasses are about 30mls.

\* Nappy in relation to ale or beer is first recorded in the Dictionary of the Scots Language at the beginning of the eighteenth century, where it is used as an adjective meaning ‘foaming, brisk, strong, rich, heady’. It seems to have been used in Scots as a noun for ‘(strong) ale, beer’ from the late 1700's, with Burns himself as the earliest recorded witness.

# Widow's Brooch Presentation.



There was a solemn occasion during the happy festivities of Hinchinbrook– Cordelia Lodge's Installation Festive Board held at the R.S.L. Club in Ingham on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June when the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. John Playford, presented Janette Potter with a widow's brooch on behalf of the Members of Hinchinbrook– Cordelia Lodge.

Wor. Bro. Mervyn Potter was initiated into Jondaryan Lodge No. 350 on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1982 and served as Master from 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 until 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. He served as a Grand Herald from 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. On relocating to Halifax to be near family he served as District Herald for The District Grand Lodge of North Queensland for one term from 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

It was while serving as Worshipful Master of Hinchinbrook Cordelia Lodge that he was called to 'The Grand Lodge Above'.



The Masonic Widow's Brooch symbolizes, in part, an obligation that all Masons have taken to always come to the aid of a worthy Master Mason's widow in her time of need in the absence of our departed Brother.

The pin consists of a broken column in the center surrounded by a wreath of leaves of an ever green. The broken column represents the loss of a Brother in the breaking and closing of his Freemason's life journey, while the ever green is a symbol of everlasting life.

The pin can be worn at any occasion and should be recognized by Master Masons and should signify to them the loss sustained by the widow, and remind them to extend all courtesies to her.

Brethren, Janette is entitled to wear this token with honour and pride knowing that Wor. Bro. Potter is not forgotten.



# *Order of The Secret Monitor*

## *Grand Installation.*

The Caloundra Masonic Centre in Third Avenue, Caloundra was on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 the venue for the Order of the Secret Monitor for Northern Australia and Papua New Guinea to hold their Installation of Right Worthy Wayne Smith as Grand Supreme Ruler and the Investiture of Grand Conclave Officers.

The weekend's events commenced on the Friday evening with a Meet and Greet at the Caloundra R.S.L. Club in West Terrace, Caloundra which commenced at 5:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. on Saturday saw a business meeting conducted which was followed by the Grand Installation at 4:00 p.m.



Deputy Grand Supreme Rulers R. Worthy Brothers Iain Carnegie and Morrie Bligh with Most Wor. Supreme ruler in centre.



Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies Worthy Bro. Bob. Griffiths is flanked by R. Worthy Brothers Carnegie and Bligh.

At 7:00 p.m. the Grand Installation dinner was held in the Sapphire Room at the Caloundra R.S.L. Club. On Sunday a bus trip through the Sunshine Coast hinterland had been organized for those wishing to participate. The trip departed around 9:00 a.m. from the Caloundra bus station returning around 4:00 p.m.

Our congratulations to our local Brethren who have accepted a position on Grand Conclave and who have received an elevation in rank.

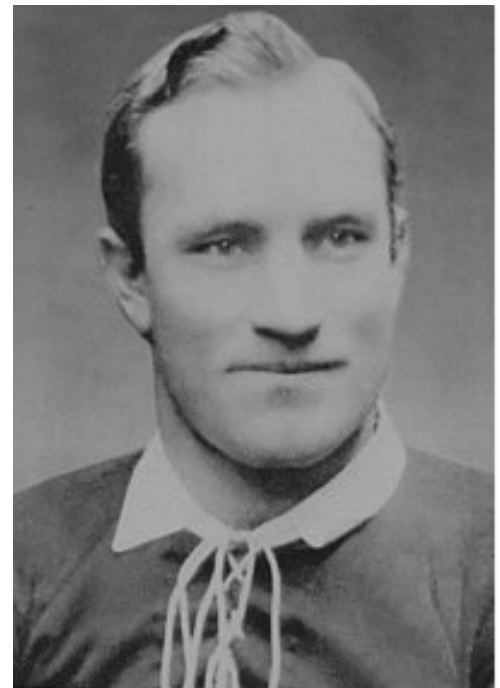
A Famous Australian Freemason.



## Henry "Dally" Messenger.

**Herbert Henry Messenger**, nicknamed "Dally" and sometimes "The Master" (12 April 1883 – 24 November 1959) was one of Australasia's first professional rugby footballers, recognised as one of the greatest-ever players in either code. He played for New South Wales in the first match run by the newly created New South Wales Rugby Football League, which had just split away from the established New South Wales Rugby Football Union.

Messenger had a stocky build, and while standing only about 172 centimetres (5 ft 8 in) in height, he was a powerful runner of the ball and a solid defender. According to his peers, the center's greatest attributes were his unpredictability and astonishing physical co-ordination, coupled with a freakish ability to kick goals from almost any part of the ground. He was a teetotaler and non-smoker during his career and other than breakfast, Messenger would rarely eat before a match.



Messenger in 1907

Messenger was born in the Sydney waterfront suburb of Balmain, New South Wales, and grew up in another of Sydney's waterfront suburbs, Double Bay, where his father, Charles Amos Messenger, a champion sculler, owned a boat shed. He also spent some time living with an aunt in South Melbourne, Victoria, where he attended the Albert Park Public School. It was there he recalled playing Victorian rules football. He credited skills he learned at Albert Park as contributing to his later success at Rugby Union and Rugby League. Dally was one of eight children. His younger brother by seven years, Walter (Wally) also became an Australian representative footballer.

In Sydney, Messenger attended Double Bay Public School in the city's eastern suburbs. It was here that he initially honed his rugby skills, while also playing cricket and indulging in his other great sporting love, sailing. Messenger worked, too, at his father's boat shed. By this juncture, he had gained the nickname of "Dally". It derived from a prominent politician of the 1880s, the then Attorney-General of New South Wales, William Bede Dalley, whose most conspicuous physical feature was a splendid pot belly – an anatomical augmentation that Herbert Henry Messenger happened to boast, too, when he was a small child. Fortunately, little Herbert Henry shed his pot belly as he grew older, together with the "e" from the spelling of his nickname.

Messenger first took up competitive rugby in 1900, playing for a local rugby union club called the Warrigals in a semi-social club competition. Over the next few years Messenger continued to play with the Warrigals, persistently rejecting calls by officials of the Eastern Suburbs RUFC to move up to the higher standard of Sydney's grade competition. In 1904, aged 21, Messenger played no football at all. He decided to spend this year working for the Messenger family boatbuilding business in Double Bay.

In 1905 Messenger began playing for Easts in the club's second-grade team, but showed sufficient promise to earn promotion to the first-grade side on two occasions that season. In that same season, he also purportedly played Australian rules football club in a number of first-grade matches in the Sydney competition.

Messenger began the 1906 season in first grade with Easts as a 'standoff' (five-eighth). He swiftly won a following amongst the club's supporters due to his mesmeric ball skills, cheeky tricks, blistering acceleration and accurate short- and long-kicking game off either foot. Messenger moved to what would become his customary position of centre following his selection there for the New South Wales team in 1906. By the time of his Wallaby debut in 1907, he had made that position his own.

In his book *Viewless Winds*, the 1906 representative footballer Paddy Moran wrote that Messenger's play "was full of surprises, unorthodox, flash" and "directed largely by the unconscious mind". He said that Messenger "never became a slave to copybook practices" because his "instinct enabled him to see and take an opening in that operative second which is all-important". Moran compared him to Bradman in terms of their mutual ability to instantaneously co-ordinate their bodies into the right position in apparently ample time before the ball would arrive.

When talk of a professional rugby competition, or a *Rugby League*, was being aired, Messenger was instantly interested by the development. He was approached by a consortium that included Test cricketer, Victor Trumper with friend J.J. Giltinan, who knew getting Messenger on board would be a major boost for the new code. He signed on with the new professional code on Sunday 11 August 1907.<sup>1</sup> As the premier rugby footballer of the time, Messenger's signing is considered an integral moment in the foundation of rugby league. After he became a professional rugby league footballer, Messenger's rugby games were struck from the record books of the New South Wales Rugby Union and not restored for 100 years.

Messenger played in the rebel series against a professional New Zealand team, the 'All Golds' as they were referred to, and was invited to tour England with the New Zealand professional side. It remains unclear whether this was a result of the form he showed in the series or if it had been agreed on as part of his sign-on fee with the new code. It was said, and believed as Messenger family folklore for years, that the signing of Messenger to rugby league was negotiated with Messenger's mother Annie, and the promised amount for playing, at first, in three All Golds' games, was 50 pounds (based on increases in average earnings, this would be approximately £18,210 in 2015).

It was in the North of England that Messenger became more acquainted with the new game. By the completion of the tour Messenger had topped the tour aggregates by more than 100 points.

On arrival back in Australia, Messenger played with the Eastern Suburbs club of the

newly formed New South Wales Rugby Football League (NSWRFL), although a heavy representative schedule saw him play only a handful of matches for the club. Messenger's popularity helped showcase the new game and the NSWRFL took full advantage of this. He was selected to play in the first ever trans-Tasman test, which was the debut match of the Australia national rugby league team. In rugby league's first year, besides playing for his club, Messenger made representative appearances for Metropolis (Sydney), New South Wales and Australia as well as for New Zealand and, in one case, Queensland, he also represented Australasia. Following two heavy defeats, Messenger agreed to play for Queensland in a third match against New Zealand. The match ended in a 22–22 draw, with Messenger scoring nine of the 22 points.

The 1908 Interstate rugby league series saw the first ever match between New South Wales and Queensland and Messenger scored a goal for the Blues in their 43-0 victory over the Maroons in Sydney. During the 1908 New Zealand Māori rugby league tour of Australia Messenger was selected to play for New South Wales and Sydney against the tourists.

Towards the end of the 1908 season Messenger was again selected to tour England, this time with the first Kangaroos, or 'Pioneers'. He is listed on the Australian Players Register as Kangaroo No. 10.

Having toured with the New Zealand professional team the previous year, Messenger was well known in the North of England and on arrival attained celebrity status. Placards bearing the words 'Messenger Will Play' were erected outside of grounds. Messenger was offered contracts by leading soccer clubs, including Glasgow Celtic, Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, but refused them.

Messenger captained Australia in the first two tests of the tour, missing the third through a knee injury incurred after regular field goal attempts. On tour Messenger was credited with numerous goals from the other side of half way, including one from the side-line on his own 25-yard line that appeared in earlier versions of the 'Guinness Book of World Records' as measuring over 80 yards (73m). Another from over 75 yards is mentioned in an English newspaper under the heading 'A Wonderful Kick' ".

" Quite a sensation was caused at last Saturday's football match when

Mr Messenger kicked the ball from the 75 yards' mark and secured a goal....."

In the second test Messenger is said to have scored one of the greatest individual tries ever witnessed in Test rugby league. At the end of the tour Messenger had again topped the aggregates, this time by just under 100 points.

Returning home from the tour with injury and following a hectic schedule over the past few years, he elected to sit out most of the 1909 NSWRFL season, playing in just a few representative matches towards the end of the year. Messenger also rejected an offer to play with English club, Warrington, during the Australian off-season that year. Messenger was captain of Australia when they hosted the 1910 Great Britain Lions tourists.

The 1911 season has been acclaimed as Messenger's greatest. In 21 matches played



Messenger in Bramley, England, during the 1907-08 All Blacks (All Golds) tour



he amassed a then record total of 270 points. In one interstate match for NSW he scored 32 points (from four tries and 10 goals). That record has only been equaled in recent years, with tries now being worth 4 points as opposed to 3. He amassed a total of 72 points for the three match series.

The Coronation of King George V took place on Thursday, June 22, 1911. There were festivities all around Australia. The prevailing mood at the time was one of kindness, and the Sydney Cricket Ground hosted the first Rugby League match there between New South Wales and New Zealand. Dally became the first captain to lead a Rugby League side onto the SGC as he led his team onto this holy ground.

Recently married Messenger stood down from the 1911–12 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain, leading his club Eastern Suburbs to its first premiership. In the semi-final that year against South Sydney Messenger scored 20 of Easts' 23 points. For each of the three consecutive seasons 1910, 1911 and 1912, he was the NSWRL's top point scorer. In 1911 he overtook Arthur Conlin's record for the most points scored in an NSWRL (101); Messenger's eventual total of 379 stood as the new career record until it was bettered by Harold Horder in 1918.

After retirement from representative football, he led his side to a second premiership in 1912 and followed that with a third consecutive premiership in 1913. Easts were given permanent possession of the NSWRL's first trophy, the Royal Agricultural Society Shield. On announcement of his retirement, the Eastern Suburbs club presented the shield to Messenger in appreciation.

He was awarded Life Membership of the New South Wales Rugby League in 1914.

In July 1914, just before the World War I began, Dally was persuaded to come out of retirement to enter "The Kicking championship of the Commonwealth" sponsored by the Australian Rules administrators. This was knockout competition from all states ending in a final between Dally and Herbert Lim. Kicks between the posts from 45 yards out along the touchline and a fifty yard kick from the centre. Dally won this accuracy section.

In the longest kick section Dally was up against the giant champion, Dave McNamara, from the Essendon and St Kilda teams in Melbourne. McNamara kicked 67 yards (61 + meters) from boot to landing point. Dally, although he had kicked many longer distances in his playing career could not quite make it on the day.

In addition to his rugby prowess, Messenger was a talented cricketer, canoeist and sailor. After the end of his rugby league career, he ran a couple of hotels in Sydney and Manilla, New South Wales and a banana plantation in Mount Buderim, Queensland. He later worked as a carpenter in the NSW Department of Public Works.

The Dally M. Medal is awarded annually to Australian rugby league's best player, as judged by an expert panel of commentators, whose votes are tallied at the conclusion of each regular playing season. In 2007, a century after he was shunned by rugby union for switching to rugby league for 180 pounds, his playing record was formally reinstated.

**Henry Messenger was initiated into Freemasonry at Lodge Thespian 265**



Messenger inside Dan Frawley  
in action for NSW v Qld 1912

# Annual Books Donation to The Brighter Lives Townsville Hospital Foundation.



Your N.Q. Compass has in the past, such as the October 2020 issue, featured the work done by local Freemasons in collecting, correlating and delivering good quality used books to The Brighter Lives Townsville Hospital Foundation. These books are then sold by the foundation at their book fair by their volunteers and the proceeds used for :-

- Redeveloping the Children's Ward and playground to create a welcoming space for young patients.
- Refurbishing spaces such as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to create a comforting environment for stressed parents and carers.
- Providing equipment for facilities across our region – for example, renal dialysis machines, a laser to treat burns, and furniture for patients and visitors.

Providing materials for projects – art supplies for long-term patients, care packs for patients who arrive unexpectedly and with no belongings, bubbles, and activity kits for children in emergency departments.

The N.Q. Compass is happy to report that on Monday, 19th. June the team of V.W. Bros. Norm Souter-Smith, Noel LeRoy and R.W. Bro Beresford Whyte once again marshalled to load , transport and unload over 50 cartons of books to a holding facility at Carmichael Ford on Charters Towers Road.



More photos can be viewed on Facebook on The N.Q. Compass



A full load.

Part of the load of stored books.



# Historic Past Master's Jewell Presentation.

The evening of Thursday, 29th. June marked an historic occasion which was nearly not recorded when the Master of Hibernian and Albion Star No.15 (Lodge of Research) Wor. Bro. Iain Carnegie presented the Immediate Past Master with his I.P.M.'s Jewel.



**Wor. Bro. Iain Carnegie presents V.W. Bro. Lee 'Beau' Sankey  
with his I.P.M.'s Jewel under the watchful eye of  
Lodge Director of Ceremonies V.W. Bro. Brennan Long.  
Photograph from V.W. Bro. Erick Hegh's i-phone.**

Hibernia & Albion Star Lodge No.15 was the oldest Freemasons Lodge in Townsville, being consecrated on the 5th June 1866. However, in 2018 the Members of the Lodge moved unanimously to close. An approach was made to the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Les. Keane that the Warrant not be returned but be transferred as a Lodge of Research On 27th. May, 2019 the Grand Master provided dispensation, under Article 229, for the Hibernian Albion Star No.15 to convert to a Craft Lodge of Research which will:-

- Not confer degrees, and membership is restricted to U.G.L.Q. Master Masons.
- Would incorporate the W.H. Green Masonic Study Circle.
- Would maintain a Masonic Library.
- Meet at least by-yearly at the Townsville Masonic Centre or elsewhere in the district with appropriate dispensation from the District Grand Master.

As V.W. Bro. Lee 'Beau' Sankey was the inaugural Master of the Lodge after reforming the presentation may be regarded as both historic and unique—Congratulations.

Prior to the presentation the Master had given an interesting and informative lecture on displaying differing V.S.L.'s on the altar.

Six further applications for affiliation were received after the Lodge was closed.



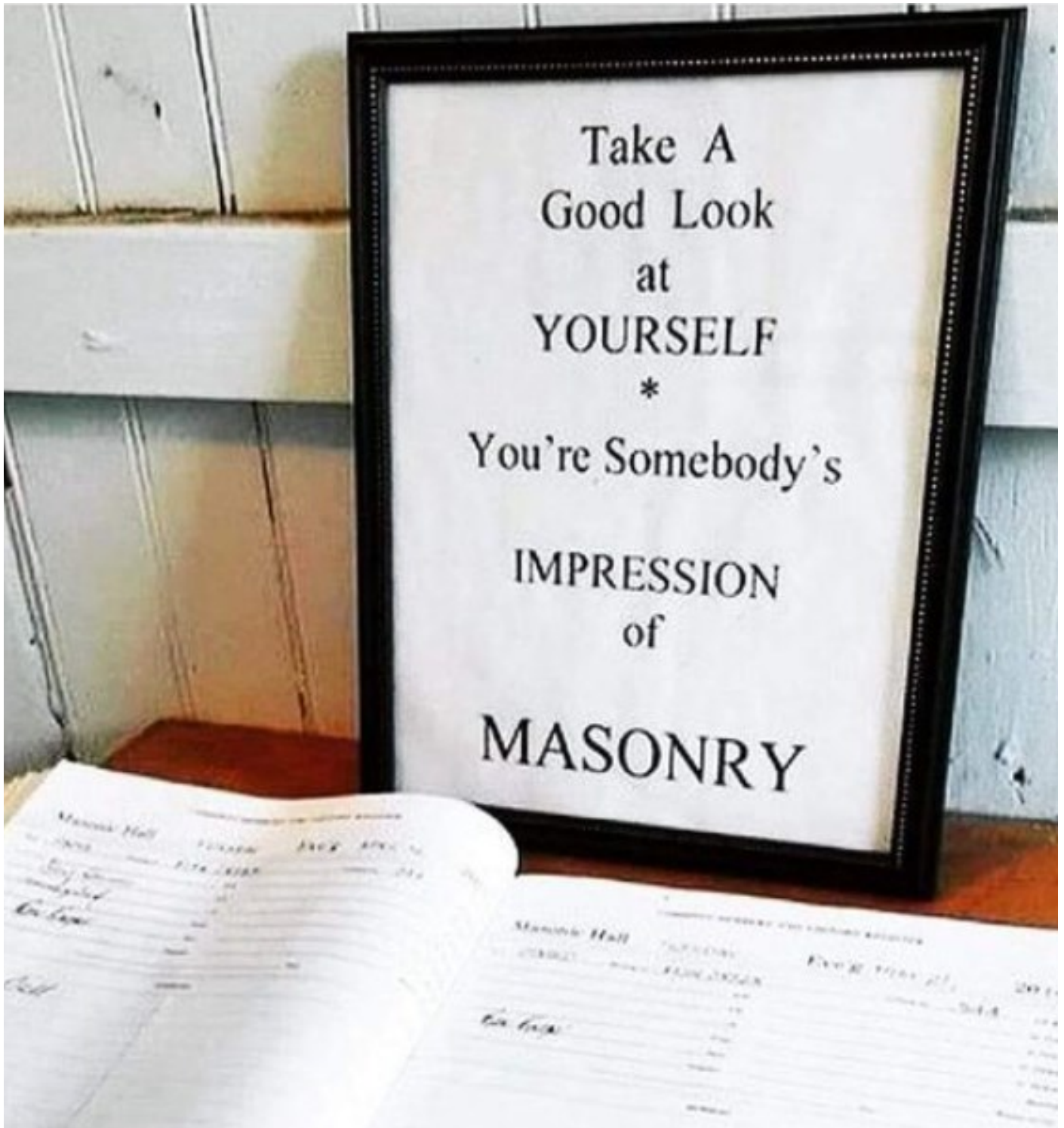
**The N. Q. Compass welcomes the following member  
to the Craft during June .**

**Name**

MENGO, Esler

**Lodge**

Ashlar—Magnetic No. 509



**Brethren "The N.Q. Compass" is a newsletter for YOUR enjoyment  
Please help to popularise it.**