

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS AND ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF DURHAM

DURHAM Centenary Year 1920 – 2020



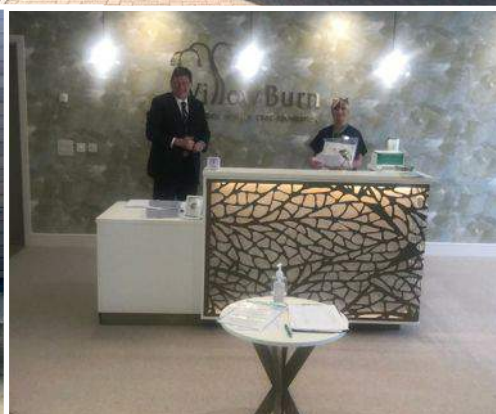
PGM of DURHAM - RW.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON



PPE FROM THE MARK GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND FAITHFULLY APPLIED

“ Thanks to the ingenuity and benevolence of a member of the Mark Province of Kent, Grand Lodge is supporting an initiative to provide Provinces, wishing to participate, with a reasonable supply of re-usable full-face visors for onward distribution to those in need locally. The member’s manufacturing business has designed a plastic injection mould capable of producing up to 2,500 visors per week and our Provincial Grand Master has received a first batch of 100 visors with the hope that more will follow.

The Chairman of the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, W.Bro. David Hanson, has undertaken the task of organising delivery of 20 visors each to Scarborough Court and 4 Hospices in our Province. The offer of these visors has been enthusiastically welcomed by all the recipients and is a wonderful example of the Mark working in the community without necessarily any financial commitment. “



Some recent Mark Benevolent Fund activity....

“ Durham gives neighbourly support “

“ A recent request delivered to the Province of Northumberland was for computer Fire sticks for a group of care homes. Since it transpired that of the 9 homes involved, 3 were in the Province of Durham, the PGM of Northumberland suggested that we may like to join them in a joint initiative. The Chairman of the Durham Benevolent Fund and our Provincial Grand Master are keen to maintain and foster a close relationship with our friends in the North and readily agreed with the proposal. At a cost of £50 each and therefore a total Durham contribution of £150, this has proved to be a most satisfactory project. “



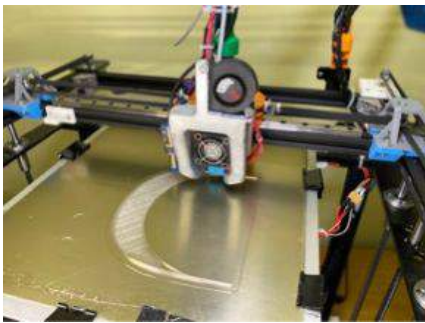
Bill Finkle

W.Bro. Bill Finkle and his daughter Ann-Marie must be congratulated on their magnificent contribution in assisting front line staff who are every day are at risk from the Covid - 19 virus while they attend to their patients in hospital and care-home.

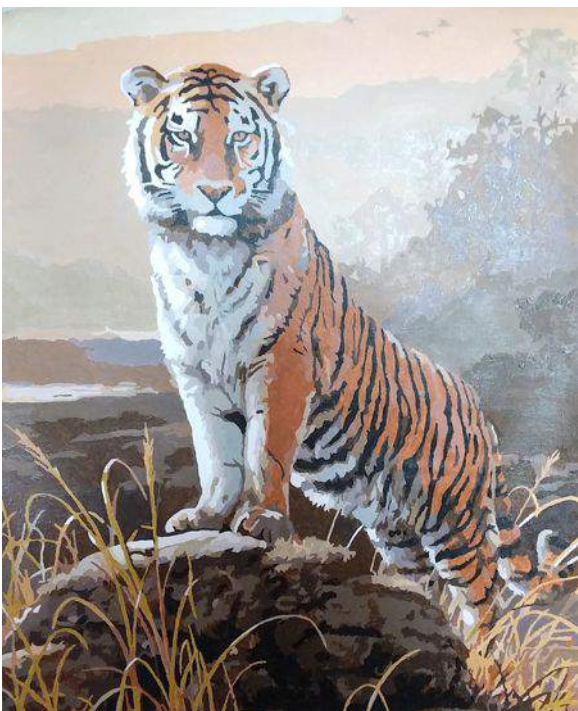
In his own words Bill explains what has been achieved thus far;
 " I have kept myself busy printing 3D face shields. After searching on the internet, I decided to use printing design files from Czechoslovakia and Spain. A few test runs were needed to set up the printer, which is now heavily modified from the original design. The only part left is the metal framework and now I have made over 80 Face shields, in various colours depending upon the filament I was able to buy. The shields are easy to adjust for each wearer and easy to clean after use. My daughter, Ann-Marie, cut the transparent acetate and assembled them using elastic to make them adjustable for the wearer.

I started out intending to make some for family and friends to keep them safe. Then my niece asked if I could make some for her friends who were nurses and it snowballed from there. Now over 70 have been donated to nurses who work in local hospitals and care homes, with a few going to a local Optician. As each shield takes over 2 hours printing time it has been a

fairly long process. Now I am just waiting for more filament to arrive to make anymore that are required. I am happy to help my local community." *Bill.*



Ann-Marie and newly made visor



Magnificent Tiger awakens the Artistic Talents of David Brown.

David Brown, who is a member of the Walton Mark Lodge No. 1106 at Crook, has not been idle during the lock-down. He took the opportunity to try his hand at painting. You might think this would involve something like a redecorating project instigated by his wife Joan, but you would be wrong. It was in fact more artistic, involving some intricate and delicate use of colour palette and paint brushes. His practiced talents culminating in a finished portrait of one of nature's finest animals, the 'Tiger'.

It all started after David was browsing the internet he discovered an American Company, 'Masterpiece by Numbers'. The company provides all the guidance and equipment required to complete the painting but this did not include the copious glasses of wine and whisky which instead were provided by his wife, Joan, (Supportive measure only). This artistic project tested his patience as he tackled some minute and intricate touches of the paint brush which required a steady hand and a keen eye. David stated that it took him some four weeks to complete, working up to two or three hours daily. Although it had been some fifty years or more, when he

had first attempted any form of picture painting at school, he was rightly proud of his finished 'master' piece. He added, that he found painting both absorbing and satisfying, recommending it as a great hobby to take up. Further motivated by his success David has ordered yet another picture, called the 'Red Rooster'.

Both he and Joan are now anxious to get out and about to look for a frame for the said painting and once hung above the mantelpiece it may help to keep the grandchildren stay away from the fire. *M. W.*



FAWCETT LODGE NO. 661 - 13th MAY 2020



SW - Ted Bear Snr.



WM - Old Wise Owl



JW- Ted Bear Jnr.

This being a Regular Meeting, the Lodge was opened at 10-30am by the WM, **W.Bro. Allan Gurney**. For the purposes of the evening's ceremony **W.Bro. Ted Bear Snr. PPGReg** acted as SW; **Bro. Ted Bear Jnr.** acted as JW. All other Chairs were filled by the Officers appointed for the current year.

The Summons convening the meeting was read by the Secretary. The Minutes of the last Regular Meeting, held on Wednesday 11th March 2020, having been distributed to all subscribing members, were confirmed by the Brethren, and signed by the WM and his Wardens as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

The secretary then read out the Dispensation from the PGM permitting the meeting to be held at an earlier time than usual, and in the back garden of the WM's house.

Mr. Little Polar Bear, the candidate for the evening, was admitted, and after the benefit of a Masonic Prayer, was initiated into the Mysteries and Privileges of Antient Freemasonry by the WM, W.Bro. Allan Gurney, PPJGW. The Lesser Lights, the Antient Penalty of the Degree, and the Signs and Secrets of an EAF were communicated by the WM. **Bro. Little Polar Bear** was then presented to the Wardens, and invested with the D.Badge of an EAF by the SW, **W.Bro. Ted Bear Snr.**, addressed by the WM, and placed in the NE part of the Lodge. The Address in the NE Corner was given by **Bro. Ted Bear Jnr.**



The Candidate,
Mr. Little Polar Bear

Bro. Little Polar Bear was then placed before the JW, **Bro. Ted Bear Jnr.**, who presented and explained the Working Tools of an EAF, and then delivered the Antient Charge.

Finally, **Bro. Little Polar Bear** was placed before the pedestal, where the WM presented him with: -

The Warrant of the Lodge, The Centenary Warrant of the Lodge, The Book of Constitutions, The Lodge By-laws, a Durham Masonic Calendar, and a booklet for EAFs from the Durham Masonic Training Committee, and other useful Masonic booklets. **Bro. Little Polar Bear** then saluted the WM, and retired from the Lodge to

recover his personal comforts.

A collection was taken, which raised the sum of **£48-00 and 2 jars of honey**. The candidate was re-admitted to the Lodge.

W.Bro. K.Daisy, PGStB, PPJGW proposed, and **W.Bro. G.Violet** seconded the motion that **W.Bro. Seven Tulips, and W.Bro. Five Tulips** be re-elected as Auditors for the ensuing year. This proposal was carried. The Almoner then gave his report as follows:

W.Bro. John Petunia was not present because his wife had lost a leaf

W.Bro. Rose's wife had a thorny problem

W.Bro. Peony had had an operation on his stem, but was present this evening

At the First Rising.



DC- Do This & ADC- Do That

The Secretary had no communications to report from UGLE. Greetings on behalf of UGLE were tendered by **W.Bro. K.Bibby, PAGDC**.

At the Second Rising.

The Secretary acknowledged receipt of:

A letter from PGL with reference to the suspension of **W.Bro. Poison Ivy**.

Greetings on behalf of the Officers of PGL were tendered by **W.Bro. Dark Blue Petunia, PPAGReg**

At the Third Rising.

The Secretary announced that the next Committee Meeting would be on 28th January 2021.

The Secretary reminded Brethren that the next Fraternal Visit was on 27th January 2021 (Virus permitting) to Bedic Lodge, starting at 6-45pm. The Secretary reminded PMs that the Board of Installed Masters

would be held on Friday 12th February 2021.

The Secretary pointed out that there would be another Candidate at our next meeting, and asked members to turn up to support him.

Apologies for absence were received.

Before closing the Lodge, the WM thanked all the acting officers, and those Brethren who had done work in the garden during the ceremony.

Before he closed the Lodge, The Secretary announced that it was the WM's 69th Birthday today. At which, the assembled throng broke out into a spontaneous rendition of *'Why was he born so beautiful?'* This, of course, brought the Lodge to a fitting conclusion, and the Lodge was closed in due form and by solemn prayer at 12-05pm.

The festivities continued on to the Festive Board, where the Bear family were treated to Honey and Bread, the Owl family had Mice (correct spelling!) and Dumplings; and everyone one else had caulifLOWER Cheese. Confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed as such..... AG



Candidate and Deacons



Secretary, Neil Owl
Treasurer, Ian Owl



Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Ryan A Williams



' See & Hear Grand Secretary's Talk!'

There was recently a circulated invitation by Grand Mark Lodge, via our Provincial Office, to join a Zoom meeting on the 12th May 2020, and hear our Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Ryan A Williams deliver a talk, **“Our Progressive Orders attract Freemasons from all walks of life, faith & Cultures...**

Almost 600 individuals took up that invitation' including members from Israel, Malta, Italy and Spain, to name just a few and certainly several members from the Durham Province, which included Tony Craven. In turn Tony shared his thoughts on the content and delivery of the Grand Secretary's talk.

The researched content and delivery of the subject matter by V.W. Bro. Ryan was excellent. He was able to explain the structure, regalia and membership requirements of the ten Progressive and appended Orders that are administered by Mark Masons Hall in London. That in itself is really interesting and informative but also gives some indication of the origins and values attached to each. Once the talk was completed there was Question & Answer Session by the Grand Secretary. What was enlightening during that session were his considered views on Freemasonry and Mark Masonry. The current and future relationship between UGLE and Mark Masons Hall following the recent historic joint communication by UGLE & Mark. He also alluded to opportunities our association has in addressing the future needs of our current and future membership.



If like myself you missed the opportunity to listen and participate at the time of delivery, then don't fret, all is not lost. Thankfully, with the assistance of our Provincial Secretary, Allan Gurney and Grand Mark Lodge we have acquired the following link; <https://we.tl/t-4HYLIOEBqR> -

but it's recommended to visit the - <https://durhammarkmasons.org/mark/zoom-in-on-progressive-orders/> website to get to the link.

This will enable you to listen to the recording of that talk. It will last some fifty-three minutes. I would encourage you use the Link to listen to the whole broadcast. At the very least the content will be a daily advancement in your knowledge of Freemasonry in general and certainly of the Mark Mason Hall.

Michael Wilkinson





Phil Heaviside, a past master of the Lodge of Progress saw an appeal for volunteer drivers on the Lodge Facebook page. The sister of one of the members works for the NE Ambulance service and had asked him to share it. Phil’s past work history and driving experience, prompted him to contact the service and volunteer straight away.

Due to the weight of the ambulance stock, a category ‘C1’ on a clean driver’s license is required, which was already on Phil’s licence. A half day driver assessment and some training on the GPS / comms system and hydraulic lift, and then a drive out with an examiner to check the standard of driving was then undertaken. The required paperwork was submitted for an enhanced DBS and also a driver medical at the occupational health section for eyesight and blood pressure, etc.

Phil and Joanne



The last step was a two day training course. Confidentiality, Safeguarding, Correct use of PPE including face mask seal testing and a full day of moving patients and securing wheelchairs in ambulances. He was finally signed off and ready to start helping out and is at present waiting for his first placement. The only downside is that he will probably have to stop delivering meals on wheels to the elderly and self-isolating residents in his village.

The ambulance service have done a great job so far. They have had 2000 volunteers and in a month, they have designed and implemented a training courses for the first group of 200 volunteers. Phil has been contacted by NEAS who will now send him a text message every Thursday with shifts requiring cover. He can then let them know when he is available and where he can work.



Good news..

“ A Story to Warm the Heart “

“ The Durham Mark Benevolent Fund has been contacted by W Bro Michael Jordan, Almoner of Dunelm Lodge of Mark Master Masons, following an approach by Natalie Maughan, the Head Teacher of **Silver Tree Primary School in Ushaw Moor, Durham**. Since the start of the lockdown, Natalie and her staff have been engaged in a school project to shop for and deliver food parcels to between 40 and 50 homes on a fortnightly basis. Many emotional expressions of gratitude have been received from families who have lost their jobs and have little income, those who are self-isolating and elderly and other disadvantaged local residents.

The idea of a school for the very young participating in such a valuable and thoughtful project to assist the elderly and those less fortunate than themselves is a shining example of care in the community and the Executive of our Fund has been pleased to make a grant of £500. Natalie has expressed her appreciation and although difficult at the moment, has promised some publicity when circumstances permit. “



More good news...

“ St John Ambulance wins support “

“ We have probably all seen the appeal on TV by **St. John Ambulance** which is struggling under the strain of the extra burden put on its resources by the virus pandemic. This wonderful organisation always steps up when its vital services are required and we sometimes forget that it is a Charity and not part of the NHS.

A senior administrator in the Charity, W.Bro. Brian Hays of Eclectic Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 39, has asked if there is anything we can do to help and the Chairman of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, W.Bro. David Hanson, with the full support of our Provincial Grand Master, has authorised a grant of £500. A cheque in this amount has been sent to W.Bro. Brian in the certain knowledge that it will be put to very good use and with the best wishes of all Mark Master Masons in the Province. “



Blood Bikes - MBF makes wonderful Communication Donation of £23.500

Recently there have been numerous remarks about the importance of communication in our daily lives. For those responsible for delivering

our emergency services clear communication is vital. Support services include the 'Blood Bikes'. The volunteer run charity which started here in the Northeast in 2014 and the Northumbria Blood Bikes services cover all of Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Co. Durham and Darlington. From its humble origins the Northumbria Blood Bikes now has some eleven modern and well equipped motor cycles and five motor vehicles. Several of these have been funded by Freemasonry and the Mark Degree, this is in addition to a number of Masons who work as volunteer riders.

Over recent times the radio communications use was severally limited and outdated. **Jeff Ormiston** a Mark Mason in the Province of Northumberland and a volunteer rider for the Blood Bikes recognising the enormity of the Communication problem the service faced. He then instigated and made an application to the **Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF)** outlying the issues.



The MBF received that message loud and clear responding accordingly by awarding a grant of £23,500. This enabled the Blood Bike service to purchase a new updated communications system. Their capability included some fifteen Motorola Radios, back office control equipment and five years' service agreement.

Former Police Officer, current Blood Bike volunteer and Mark Mason, **John Watts** knows at first hand the practical impact this equipment means for the operations and volunteers. Both **John** and **Tom Steward**

(Northumberland MM) took the opportunity to use Facebook to communicate with enthusiasm, their sincere appreciation to the Mark Benevolent Fund and importantly to all Mark Masons who made this amazing donation possible.

You can use the link below to view their comments:

<https://www.facebook.com/john.watts.773776/videos/10158518160143793/?d=n>



W.Bro.. **JIM STUBBINS** – WARDEN OF REGALIA.

11 Marwell Drive, The Glade, Usworth Hall, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3LH.
Tel: 0191- 4166764
Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net



Lots of Regalia in stock, please ring or call in to see what is available.

OBITUARIES



- 30 / 03 / 2020 – W.Bro. Sidney Pattison, PAGDC, PPGJW, DOB: 28 / 10 / 1923 – M1271, R925.
- 10 / 05 / 2020 – W.Bro. Ronald Stobbart, PPGStB, DOB: 31 / 10 / 1952 – M701.
- 20 / 05 / 202 – W.Bro. Philip Terry Errington, DOB: 02 / 06 / 1945, M1560.

“THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS AND THEIR GOOD WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM, THANKS BE TO GOD THEY HAVE MARKED WELL”



REJECTED THREE TIMES, THREE TIMES A HERO.

I have extended appreciation to Peter Beale for sharing his amazing family story about Captain George Burdon McKean, VC, MC, MM who could rightly be hailed a hero and in fact has been so recognised. However, his amazing life followed feelings of rejection three times.

The discovery of his life story commenced after Peters wife's mother, Mrs

Enid Makinson, discovered that George was her Great Uncle and by invitation attended the unveiling of a memorial to him as part of the family in Willington, Co. Durham.

George was born in Willington on 4th of July 1888 to James and Jane Ann McKean being described as an extremely delicate baby. His father was a furniture dealer who died when he was young followed by a move to Bishop Auckland with his mother and sister.

He attended Bishop Barrington School leaving at 13 years of age when he became an apprentice cabinet maker to T. Thompson in Newgate Street Bishop Auckland.

After his mother died aged just 14 in September 1902, he sailed from Liverpool to Montreal on the SS Tunisia to join his brother on a cattle ranch in Edmonton Canada. Later he attended Alberta University studying arts when the 1st World War broke out.

He applied to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force but was turned down 3 times on the grounds of poor physique. His personal details read; age -26 years 6 months height 5ft 6ins Girth 37 in expansion 2inch, complexion natural, dark blue eyes dark brown hair and Presbyterian?

Then fourth time lucky and on the 23rd January 1915 he enlisted with the 14th Infantry Battalion the Royal Montreal Regiment. After completing basic training, 436568 Private McKean arrived back in Britain on April 1916 and found himself on the Western Front in June 1916.

He was subsequently promoted to Corporal. On the night of 1st/2nd March 1917 near Cologne he was a patrol leader,

probably because of his small physique, the citation reads as follows:-

Military Medal

As patrol leader he made continuous reconnaissance's of the enemy's positions & wire prior to the raid on the enemy's trenches on the night of 1st/2nd March 1917 near Cologne. The information proved most accurate & was obtained at great personal risk. This NCO was recommended for gallantry during the operations on the Somme. For this action he received the Military Medal and promoted to Lieutenant which was a fantastic achievement of its own.

More was to come on the 27/28th April 1918 his battalion was near Gavrelle when McKean was leading a party of Scouts against a German trench that was being staunchly defended, his men then hesitated.

Victoria Cross The citation reads:-

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during a raid on the enemy's trenches. Lieutenant McKean's party, which was operating on the right flank, was held up at a block in the communication trench by most intense fire from hand grenades and machine guns. This block which was too close to our trenches to have been engaged by preliminary bombardment, was well protected by wire and covered by a well-protected machine gun thirty yards behind it.

Realising that if this block was not destroyed, the success of the whole operation might be marred. He ran into the open on the right flank of the block, and with utter disregard of danger leaped over the block head first on top of the enemy.

Whilst lying on top of one of the enemy another rushed at him with fixed bayonet. Lt .McKean shot him through the body and then shot the enemy underneath him who was struggling violently. This very gallant action enabled this position to be captured. Lt .Mc Keans supply of bombs ran out at this time and sent back to our front line for a fresh supply. Whilst waiting for them he engaged the enemy single handed. When the bombs arrived he fearlessly rushed the second block killing 2 enemy and capturing 4 others and drove the remaining garrison including a hostile machine gun section into a dug out. The dug out with it's occupants and machine gun was destroyed. This officers splendid bravery and dash undoubtedly saved many lives, for had not this position been captured the whole of the raiding party would have been exposed to dangerous enfilading fire during the withdrawal. His leadership at all times has been beyond praise.

You would have thought that's it keep your head down but no. At a village called Cagincourt in September 1918, he found himself with 3 other Canadians several minutes ahead of their troop. With great bravado he began waving his arms and guns and bellowing out orders.....

Continues on page 8.



The Jasper National Park, Rocky Mountains, one of the 9000ft peaks is named Mount McKean in honour of George B. McKean, VC, MC, MM

Military Cross citation reads;

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack near Cagincourt on September 1st/2nd 1918. As scout officer during two days of heavy fighting he with his scouts led the battalion forward and sent in accurate reports and rallied men who had lost their officers. He was wounded early but pressed forward and entered Cagincourt with three men and observing a party of enemy over a hundred strong retiring from the village, he dashed to the flank, heading them off and caused them all to surrender. Had these enemy troops been allowed to take the high ground east of the village, they would have inflicted heavy casualties on our troops. He continued to send in reports until exhausted by loss of blood. His conduct throughout was magnificent. This action was reported to honour him with a VC Bar but for some reason he got the MC

He left the army in July 1919 with the rank of Captain, married Constance Hilton in Brighton and was employed running a saw mill in Hertfordshire. It was in November 1926 aged just 38 tragedy struck. In the local newspaper reported; Captain Mc Kean was sawing logs at his mill in Cuffley when the blade broke and his head came into contact with the revolving saw. Terrible injuries were inflicted and died a few days later. The tragedy was compounded when two days later his wife gave birth to their daughter Patricia.

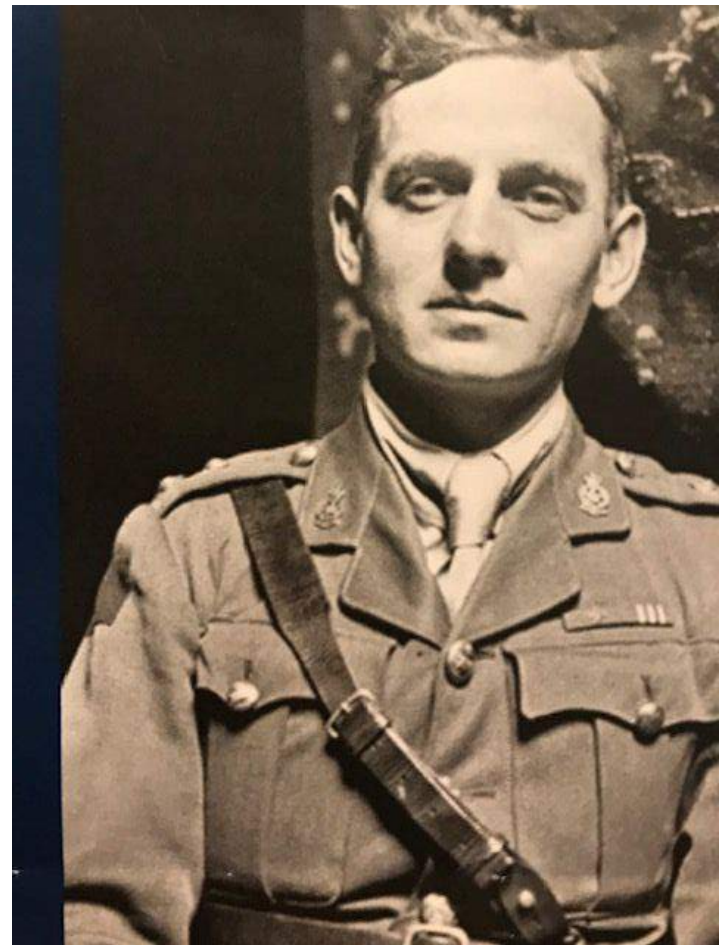
The Canadians felt they had lost one of their Great War hero's and named a 9000ft mountain in the Jasper National Park, Rocky Mountains, Mount McKean, he is also remembered in Cagincourt where after being rebuilt after the war named the church square 'La Place du George Burdon McKean'. His name is also present in a Memorial wall in the University of Alberta where he had studied before the war.

Such a sad end to a distinguished life and military service, his name is still revered amongst Canadian Military circles. He is buried in Brighton Cemetery.

Reflecting on his story, we may wonder if those times of rejection felt by George were in fact the inspiration he required for those deeds of gallantry he showed fearlessly which ultimately saved the lives of so many.



Peter Beale and his wife



Captain George Burdon McKean, VC, MC, MM

M W