

**Transcript of the Letter Copy Ledger  
of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario  
maintained by R. III. Comp. James B. Nixon  
September 14, 1874 to February 2, 1882**

Transcribed from the Original  
by  
R. III. Comp. Michael Jenkyns, PTIM, PGCG  
September 2003



I am indebted to the efforts of Rt. Ill. Companion James Reid, Grand Historian, to locate and provide this "letter-book" for the period 1874-1882. This letter-book was compiled by Rt. Ill. Companion James Bower Nixon (GM 1922-1925) during his years as Grand Recorder of the (first) Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario, DDGM of Toronto District, Grand Superintendent of Toronto District RAMO and Grand Recorder of the Imperial Grand Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine. While it is unclear whether later letter-books existed, or whether there was more than one in use at any particular time, the copies of the letters show the early work of the (first) Grand Council and its expansion eastwards (into Quebec) and westwards (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia).

Perhaps, with time, the copies of the Cryptic Rite Proceedings, referred to in the letter book, will be located.

The letter-book measures slightly larger than the 8½ x 11 inch pages it contains. The book is bound with cardboard and a leather spine: the spine is deteriorating slowly with the passage of time. There are two parts to the book itself - the first part consisting on pages alphabetically indexed and the second obviously holding letter pages, carbons and onion skin duplicate pages for the present, existing, copy.

The alphabetical listing pages contain handwritten names of individuals and names of towns beside the names. This is followed by numbers. The purpose of this section is unknown and as the towns range across Canada, USA and England, they may indicate places of origin of the people listed. The numbers do not appear to be amounts of money or dates. The bottom line is that the use of this section is unknown at present. It has not been transcribed.

The second section contains onion-skin copies of the letters on pages which are sequentially numbered from 1 to 191 but as there are several places where pages have been torn out, it is likely the numbering reached 200 pages. When reading these letters, transcribed on the following pages, it is important to bear in mind the following:

- Dating is shown as month and day and only the last digit of the year. Thus "September 14 4" becomes "September 14, 1874".

- the Dispensation of September 17, 1874 confirms the year "4" as 1874 and that Daniel Spry was then Grand Master.

- the copies are written on pages numbered sequentially from 1 to 191.

In preparing the transcripts I have shown a "[Source: ]" listing the page in the letter-book where the original copy may be found. I have also indicated where pages are missing. In case a reader thinks the formatting to be a problem, I should note that I have tried to reflect the format and style adopted by James Bower Nixon when writing the original letters — punctuation and capitalization is often missing.

While much of the letters are mundane and deal with administration of a growing Grand Council, they provide an insight into the working of the Grand Council and I hope that readers will get some enjoyment.

Michael Jenkyns, PGCG, PTIM  
Gedelia Council, No. 32 RAMO, Ottawa

September 2003



## Summarizing the Contents of the Letter-Book

So, what does the ledger-book tell us about early life in the (new) Grand Council of Ontario? Quite a number of matters, including the following which are flagged for general interest:

1. Our Grand Recorder of the day, Right Illustrious Companion James Bower Nixon, was an active Mason and was, in 1874, First Principal of his Chapter (see transcripts of his letters on Chapter matters) and, by 187--- he was DDGM of his Craft District (see transcripts of ). On August 10, 1875, with the formation of the Imperial Grand Council of the Red Cross of Constantine of Canada, R. III. Comp. Nixon had become the first Grand Recorder and the volume of correspondence on this Order increases noticeably.
  2. The following is a brief summary of the contents of the letter-book. It should be borne in mind that the (first) Grand Council of Ontario was formed on August 8, 1871. The first Grand Recorder was R. III. Comp. Robert Ramsay of Orillia (a member of Shekinah Council No. 1) who held the office until August 1872 when R. III. Comp. Thomas Sargent (a member of Adoniram Council No. 2) occupied the office for two years. From August 1874 until the Assembly of 1879 (no firm date is known) R. III. Companion James Bower Nixon held the office. Thus the period covered by the letter-book which refers to Cryptic Rite matters is roughly the same with Craft and Royal Arch matters predominant in the last two years.
- 1874 - 41 items of which: two letters relate to the exchange of representatives with "foreign Grand Councils" (Arkansas) and 1 copy of a Commission (Kansas); 12 letters to Council Recorders requesting the names of officers and members (i.e. the annual return details) for inclusion in the Annual Proceedings; one Dispensation to install a Companion as TIM who had not served a year as Deputy Master and a Companion as DM who had not served one full year as PCW and one letter covering the transmission of the dispensation to the Council concerned; seven letters advising Councils that Grand Council Certificates were ready to be issued on receipt of payment for them; one letter agreeing to lend a Companion the "only" copy of the ritual for Super-Excellent and Red Cross degrees on the understanding that they were to be returned within a short period of one or two weeks and one letter regarding efforts to startup new Councils (Peterborough). The balance covers a range of "low-level" administrative matters of the Grand Council.
- 1875 - 87 items which begin to include correspondence dealing with the Craft (3) and Royal Arch (3). The remainder refer to the Cryptic Rite: 24 letters (slightly under one-third of correspondence) relate to the *exchange of representatives* with "foreign Grand Councils" (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alabama, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, Florida, Indiana Connecticut, Texas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Oklahoma, California) although the reply from Texas precluded any relationship as the Grand Council had subsumed itself into the Grand Chapter of Texas to which should be added 8 letters (5 sending Proceedings to other Grand Councils and 3 requesting a copy of a "foreign" Constitution to be used as reference for revisions to the Ontario Constitution). Of the balance of the two-thirds: 10 were requests for information on the officers and members of Councils for both the maintenance of the Grand Council Register and also for inclusion in the Annual Proceedings, 5 receipts for fees and dues from Councils, 3 series of letters dealing with arrangements for the institution of Cryptic Council, Peterborough, Ninevah Council, St. Thomas and Morris Council, Perth, 1 Dispensation to form a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in London, 1 Dispensation to confer four degrees on a Companion at one meeting (RM, SM, SEM and Red Cross), 3 letters dealing with the loan of his personal copy of the work (RM & SM as well as SEM), 1 letter advising a Council to have at least two of their members made honorary members of other Councils so that "three Councils" would be represented when required (eg installations), 1 letter inviting an American Council to visit Adoniram Council, Toronto, 2 Dispensations to install a Companion as DM who had not served one full year as PCW, 1 Dispensation to hold immediate election and install a new TIM as the incumbent had removed from

the Province, 1 letter re appointment as Inspector General (Manitoba), and 1 letter reports on the move to form the Council of Rites of Canada.

- 1876 - 75 items of which 2 refer to Craft matters, 2 to Grand Chapter and Royal Arch matters and 14 to the Red Cross of Constantine. The balance, 57 items, refer to the Cryptic Rite. Of these, 20 letters (slightly over one-third) relate to the exchange of representatives (England, Illinois, Minnesota, Maryland, North carolina, New Hampshire, Oregon, Nebraska, New Jersey, Rhode Island). Of the remaining two-thirds cover the largest category of action concerns letters to Councils regarding lateness in annual returns and payment of fees and dues to Grand Council (12 letters or 20%). The balance are reasonably evenly distributed: two letters refer to the form of a new Grand Council Certificate, two explain the transmission of a dispensation for the institution of Cyrus Council in Winnipeg, one set of letters concerns the formation of Morris Council, Perth, four letters acknowledge receipt of fees and dues, four advise members of the 1876 Assembly and one "permission" was issued so that a recently moved Canadian could become a member of an American Council (the one year residency not being expired). Two dispensations were issued to Winnipeg permitting the first TIM and first DM to be installed in a new Council without having filled the previous office. A special category of correspondence was initiated regarding the creation of a Canadian College of Rites (1 letter).
- 1877 - 4 items, all referring to Cryptic Rite matters: two refer to proceedings being sent to other Grand Councils and two refer to Councils.
- 1878 - nil
- 1879 - nil
- 1880 - nil
- 1881 - 25 items, none of which refer to the Cryptic Rite. By this year, R. W. Bro. Nixon had become DDGM of Toronto District and 24 refers to the Craft and 1 to Royal Arch matters.
- 1882 - 11 items of which two refer to balloting of a member of Rehoboam Lodge for exaltation into King Solomons Chapter and one refers to a Lodge.

## Craft (Grand Lodge)

1874	nil
1875	One letter of regret for inability to install officers of Naismith Lodge, one letter accepting to be WM of a new Lodge and one dealing with preparation of a petition for a new Lodge (Zetland, Toronto).
1876	2 items. One enquiry to the GIG of London District enquiring whether any member of the Cryptic Rite belonged to the abortive Grand Lodge of Ontario (see p. 49 for a brief explanation of this Grand Lodge). Even in the Craft, a shortage of ritual books required letters offering to lend a personal copy of the 2/3 degrees (but not the 1° which Nixon didn't have).
1877	nil
1878	nil
1879	nil
1880	nil
1881	R. W. Bro. Nixon had been elected as DDGM of Toronto District and the correspondence recorded for this year deals with Lodge, District and Grand Lodge matters, primarily concerning challenging difficulties between individuals.
1882	Correspondence appears to reflect a continuation of the type recorded for 1881 with the exception of the complaint against the balloting of a member of a Lodge to join King Solomons Chapter. The correspondence ends abruptly on page 191 of the letter-book.

# Royal Arch

1875	3 letters advising visitors of dates of Chapter meetings
1876	2 letters enquiring about Chapters, 1 letter regarding nomination of a Grand Superintendent,
1877	nil
1878	nil
1879	nil
1880	nil
1881	R. W. Bro. Nixon had been elected as DDGM of Toronto District and the correspondence recorded for this year deals with Lodge, District and Grand Lodge matters, primarily concerning challenging difficulties between individuals.
1882	Correspondence appears to reflect a continuation of the type recorded for 1881 with the exception of the complaint against the balloting of a member of a Lodge to join King Solomons Chapter. The correspondence ends abruptly on page 191 of the letter-book.



## Red Cross of Constantine

- 1876      This is the only year in which R. Ill. Comp. Nixon records correspondence dealing with the Red Cross of Constantine — 14 items. Two letters to the Sovereign Grand Councils (USA and London, UK) advising of the formation of the Imperial Grand Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine of Canada on August 10, 1875, 10 letters to Ontario Conclaves to obtain membership and officer lists and two letters advising Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore and T. D. Harington that they had been granted the rank of Past M. Ill. Grand Sovereign, .



1874

September 14    4
Jas. A. Stinson Esq. Jacksonport
Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.
I have this day by direction of the M. P. Grand Master forwarded to R. Ill. Comp. Thomas Parsel his credentials as our representative near your Grand Council which no doubt will arrive in due time. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of authority as the representative of the Grand Council of Arkansas near our Grand Council, and I have much pleasure in reporting to you that at the meeting of the Grand Council of Ontario held the 15 <sup>th</sup> of August I was received as your representative with the ultimate cordiality and am happy to be able to assure that the very best of feeling exists towards the Grand Council of Arkansas. I will send you a copy of our proceedings as soon as they are printed.
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 1]

September 14    4
Thomas Parsel Esq Settle Rock
Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Companion
Enclosed you will find your credentials as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario near to the Grand Council of Arkansas which the M. P. Grand Master has directed me to forward to you. I trust that this exchange of representatives may have a beneficial effect in our respective Grand Councils and that the harmony which now exists between us may never in the least degree be broken. I will send to your address a copy of our proceedings as soon as they are printed. With the best wishes for the prosperity of the Grand Council of Arkansas. I remain
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 1]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario  
Sitting in their Grand East, Toronto, Ontario

To all whom it may concern Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable certain Companions to be installed to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master and Right Illustrious Master without having served in the chairs of Right Illustrious Master and Illustrious Master respectively

Now know ye, that I **Daniel Spry** 32° M. P. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Gedeliah Council N° of Ottawa to install Illustrious Companion Wm. Kerr<sup>1</sup> to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master and Illustrious Companion W. Somerville<sup>2</sup> to the office of Right Illustrious Master of said Council.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario this seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord 1874 A.Dep. 2874

J. B. Nixon 18°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 2-3]

September 17 4

C. S. Scott Esq  
Ottawa

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Enclosed

you will find dispensation to install Ill. Comps. Kerr and Somerville as Th. Ill. M. & Rt. Ill. M. respectively. I am also directed by the M. P. Grand Master to inform you that he will reply to your note in a few days.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon  
Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 3]

**Page 4 of the letter-book has been torn out.**

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<sup>1</sup> William Kerr was a member of Carleton Chapter No. 16, Ottawa and served as First Principal in 1875 and 1876; appointed Grand Sword Bearer of Grand Chapter 1876.

<sup>2</sup> William Morrison Somerville was also a member of Carleton Chapter No. 16, Ottawa and served as First Principal in 1874; Grand Superintendent of Central District 1875-76 and 1876-77.

**Daniel Spry M. P. Grand Master**  
The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario  
Dominion of Canada

To the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas  
Greeting

**Whereas** a more intimate communion and fraternal intercourse between the Grand Council of Ontario and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas would tend to strengthen the bonds of affection and promote the Unity, Tranquility and Harmony of our Cryptic Rites and thus make still stronger that firm cement of friendship and brotherly love which marks the Companions of the secret vault.

Therefore be it known, with that object and reposing special trust and confidence in our Right Illustrious Companion **Francis Menet**, We hereby nominate constitute and appoint and by these presents do nominate constitute and appoint our said Right Illustrious Companion to be our representative at the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas with full Power, Warrant and Authority to act and appear for us in the said Grand Council in all laudable endeavours to promote the prosperity of Cryptic Masonry. And further We do hereby confer on our said representative the rank of a Past Inspector General of a Division of this Grand Council.

In Testimony whereof, we have the seal of Grand Council to be hereunder affixed and have subscribed to the same, at the City of Toronto this twenty ninth day of September A.Dep. 2874 A.D. 1874

By Command

James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 5-6]

September 19 4

Francis Menet Esq

Dear Sir and Rt. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you

will find your credentials as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario near to the Grand Council of Kansas which the M. P. Grand Master has directed me to have forwarded to you.

I sincerely hope that increased prosperity may attend each of our respective Grand Councils and that harmony which ensures prosperity may always exist amongst us.

Yours fraternally,  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 6]

Oct 24 4

James O'Connor Esq

Dear Sir and V. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you

will find copies of application for new Councils. I sincerely hope you may be successful in forming several in your part of the country. The fees will be

Dispensation to confer Degrees	2.00
Dispensations	25.00
Registration of each member	1.00
Each Grand Council certificate	2.00

I presume it is not necessary for me to give you any further information. If at any time you want anything in that line just send me word and I will answer immediately.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon,  
G. R.

[Source: Letter book, page 7]

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 4

Dear Sargant<sup>3</sup>

I have the proceeding

of the meeting of Grand Council all ready for the printer's hands except the reports of the Special (?) Recorder and the Grand Treasurer will be kind enough to supply me with those reports at your earliest convenience as I am anxious to get the proceedings printed as soon as possible.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon,  
G. R.

[Source: Letter book, page 7]

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Sargant was Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada 1875-76 and 1876-77.

<p style="text-align: center;">John Habbinck Esq Galt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir and Ill. Comp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">As I am preparing the proceedings of Grand Council for the printer I wish to get the names of the principal officers of each of the Councils. You will therefore much oblige if you sent me about (?) Your earliest convenience the names of the Th. I. Master, the R. I. Master, the I. Master and recorder of Harrington (sic) Council No. 3 also the present number of members.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon, G. R.</p> <p>PS     Harrington Council meeting presently in Galt     JBN</p>	<p>Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>     4</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 8]

<p style="text-align: center;">John H. Isaacson Esq</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; R. Ill. Comp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">As I am preparing the report of Grand Council for the Printer hands I wish to get the names of the principal officers of each of the Councils in the jurisdiction. I will therefore be obliged if you will send me the names the Th. I. Master, the R. I. Master, the I. Master and recorder of Izabud (Council) and also the present number of members.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon, G. R.</p> <p>PS     Izabud Council meeting presently in Montreal     JBN</p>	<p>Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>     4</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 8]

<p style="text-align: center;">R. Ramsey Esq Orillia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; R. Ill. Comp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">As I am preparing the proceedings of Grand Council for the printer hands I desire to get the names of the principal officers of each of the Councils I will therefore be obliged if you will by return of mail favor me with the names the Th. I. Master, the R. I. Master, the I. Master and Recorder also the present number of members of Shekinah Council No. 1. Council matters are progressing favorably and we expect to have a prosperous year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon, G. Rec.</p>	<p>Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>     4</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 9]

<p style="text-align: right;">Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 4</p> <p>Geo. C. Longley<sup>4</sup> Esq</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; R. Ill. Comp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">As I am</p> <p>preparing the proceedings of Grand Council for the printer I am anxious to get the names of the principal officers of each of the Councils. I will therefore be much obliged if you will as soon as possible send me the names the Th. I. M., the R. I. M., the I. M. and Recorder of Khurum Council No. 5 also the present no. of members.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon, G. Rec.</p>	
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[Source: Letter book, page 9]

<p style="text-align: right;">Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> 4</p> <p>R. W. Smylie Esq</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; Comp.</p> <p>As there seems</p> <p>to be no prospect at present of establishing a Council in Peterboro I would be much obliged if you send me back the papers &amp;c which I sent you, at some future I hope we may be more successful.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon</p>	
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[Source: Letter book, page 10]

<p style="text-align: right;">Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 4</p> <p>Received from the Salem Council No. 9 (per M. Ill. Comp. D. Spry) the sum of Thirty two 25/100 (\$32 25/100) Dollars in payment of fees to Grand Council.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">James B. Nixon Grand Recorder</p>	
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[Source: Letter book, page 10]

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<sup>4</sup> The life and times of George Canning Longley is detailed in *George Canning Longley and his 300 degrees* by M. W. Bro. R. V. Harris, Read at the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Canadian Masonic Research Association at Toronto, May 17, 1960 and published as Paper 54, Volume II, of the three volume collection of CMRA Papers, published by The Heritage Lodge, No. 730 GRC, 1986.



Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 4

J. W. H. Wilson Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I have much pleasure in being able to inform you that the Grand Council Certificates are now ready to be issued to the Comps. I will therefore be glad to send the Certificates to the members of your Council on receipt of the necessary funds \$2.00 for each. I must also beg to remind you that Grand Council has not received any money from Zabud Council for returns and money is an article which we are in need of just at present — “a word to the wise is sufficient”.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 11]

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 4

C. S. Scott Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

As I am preparing the report of the proceedings of the last meeting of Grand Council for the printer I am desirous of getting the names of the officers of the various Councils. Will you therefore be kind enough to send by return of mail the names of the principal officers of your Council and that of the Recorder also the present number of members. I must also beg to remind that your returns for the year have not been as yet sent in.

The Grand Council Certificates are now ready and on receipt of the necessary funds Two Dollars (\$2.00) for each they will be forwarded hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon,

G. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 11]

Gd. Rec.

Jas B. Nixon

Gr. Rec.

8

Novr. 3<sup>rd</sup> 4

J. A. Ardagh Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I am happy

to inform you that the Grand Council Certificates are now ready to be sent to the Comps. I will be glad therefore to send certificates for the Comps. of your Council on receipt of the necessary funds \$2.00 for each. On looking over the papers of Grand Council I do not find that Shekinah Council has ever made any returns or paid any fees to Grand Council. Will you be kind enough to inform me if I am correct.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 13]

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 4

Geo. C. Longley Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

According to promise

I send you by this mail my copy of the R & S Book. The Super Ex. & Red Cross degrees are not in it as they are the same as before and no doubt you have them hoping that you will receive it all safe

I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 14]

Novr. 6<sup>th</sup> 4

Dear O. Donnell

I have written to

Smylie and have got back the papers with reference to starting a new Council in Peterboro and if you think you can do anything with them I will send them to you. It ought not to be hard to get ten good active men in your enterprising town to take hold of a thing of that kind.

You will see by the enclosed circular that our Chapter meeting comes off on the Evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. Please do not fail to let me have my R.A. work before then as I will kneed (sic) it. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 14]

Novr. 9<sup>th</sup> 4

Wm. Elliott Esq

Dear Sir and Th. Ill. Comp.

Some time ago I wrote

to Ill. Comp. John Hallnick<sup>6</sup> with respect to the names of the officers of Harrington Council No. 3 but as yet have received no answer. Will you be kind enough to send me as soon as possible the names of the 3 principal officers, Recorder and present number of members as I wish to place it in the printed proceedings which are now ready for the printer. I also beg to inform you that the Grand Council Certificates are now ready for distribution and on receipt of the necessary funds I will be happy to forward them to you the amount will be \$2.00 for each.

On looking over the books and papers of Grand Council I cannot find that we have ever had any returns from your Council. We would like to hear from you on this point. Hoping to receive an early reply I remain

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 15]

Novr. 9<sup>th</sup> 4

J. G. A. Le Blanc Esq

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

I wrote to

R. Ill. Comp. J. H. Isaacson<sup>7</sup> some time ago with reference to the names of the officers of Izabud Council No. 7 but as yet have not received an answer. Will you be kind enough to send me the names of the three principal officers of your Council also that of the recorder and the present number of members as I wish to put them in the proceedings of Grand Council which are now ready for the printer. I also beg to inform you the Grand Council Certificates are now ready for the Companions and on receipt of the necessary funds \$2.00 for such they will be forwarded. I also beg to remind you the Izabud Council is somewhat behind in its returns to Grand Council.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 15]

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<sup>6</sup> The letter, dated October 26, 1874, addressed to Ill. Comp. John *Habbinck* is found on page 8 of the letter-book (page 5 of this transcript version) — Ed.

<sup>7</sup> The letter, dated October 26, 1874, addressed to Rt. Ill. Comp. John H. Isaacson is found on page 8 of the letter-book (page 5 of this transcript version) — Ed.

Novr. 10 4

James O. Connor Esq

Dear Sir and V. Ill. Comp.

I sent you

by parcel post today nine certificates for the following Comps: 21 James O Connor; 22 H. A. Baxter; 23 Joseph Pigot; 24 John Burnett; 25 H. D. McGloghlan; 26 W. R. Brown; 27 W. L. Kifner; 28 D. B. Burch; 29 Wm. Thornton which I hope you will receive in time for your meeting on Wednesday evening. Please acknowledge the receipt of them and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 16]

Novr. 9<sup>th</sup> 4

Edson Kemp Esq

Dear Sir and R. Ill. Comp.

I wrote some time

ago to Ill. Comp. T. Frank Wood who is or formerly was Recorder of Prevost Council No. 6 and as yet have not received any reply. I wished to know the names of the principal officers and the Recorder of the Council also present number of members. I would be obliged if you would favor me with the above information as I wish to have it put in the Grand Council report.

I also beg to inform you that the Grand Council certificates are now ready to be distributed to the members and on the receipt of the necessary funds I will be happy to send them for the members of your Council the amount is \$2.00 for each.

I also have to remind you that we have received no return from Prevost Council. Please have the matter looked into.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 16]

13<sup>th</sup> Novr. 4

Wm. Gibson Esq

Dear Sir and R. Ill. Comp.

I have written

two or three times to Harrington Council No. 3 Galt, through Comps who used to be officers of it, but have not received any reply whatever.

I now write to you as Inspector Gen. of the District to know if you can give me any information concerning them whether they are alive or dead or what they are doing.

Try and stir them up if you can. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 17]

Novr. 13 4

Jas. O Connor Esq

Dear Sir and V. Ill. Comp.

You will

find enclosed blank return as you request. With respect to the names of Brown & Kifner I put the names in the Certificates just the same as they were in the returns, in sending the returns please have the names written so that no mistake can be made.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 17]

13<sup>th</sup> Novr. 4

Robt. Ramsay Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Some time ago

I wrote to J. A. Ardagh the Recorder of Shekinah Council No. 1 but not having received any reply I suppose he could not have received it, and now I write to you to say that the Grand Council Certificates are now ready for distribution and I will be happy to send them to the Comps of your Council on receipt of the necessary funds 2.00 for each.

I must also beg to remind the Council through you that Grand Council has not received any returns from them for two or three years, as I am trying to get their matters into a good position I hope to receive the assistance of the Companions as much as possible.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 18]

Novr. 13<sup>th</sup> 4

Geo. O. Edwards Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I am in

receipt of a letter from Rt. Ill. Comp. Le Blanc in which he states that you have written repeatedly to Rt. Ill. Comp. Sargant for return sheets but could not get any. I now enclose one to you and I hope to hear from you before long. As I informed Comp. Le Blanc the Grand Council Certificates are now ready for the Comps and will be sent on receipt of the proper returns. I believe Grand Council has never received any funds whatever or any returns from Izabud Council. Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 18]

Novr. 14 4

W. H. Porter Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you

will find Certificates from the Grand Council which the M. Ill. Grand Master directed me to forward to you.

I also enclose some Grand Chapter paper from Rt. Ex. Comp. Spry hoping the enclosures will prove satisfactory

I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 19]

Novr. 13 4

David McWilliam Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

M. Ill. Comp.

D. Spry has just informed me that you wrote to him asking why the certificates had not been forwarded to the Hamilton Comps. In reply I beg to say that I wrote to the Th. Ill. Master of the Salem Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October stating that the certificates were ready and on the receipt of the necessary funds 2.0 for each they would be sent. Since that time I have received no reply whatever. The London Comps have received their certificates and the Hamilton Comps will also as soon as they send for them hoping that this will prove satisfactory I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 19]

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 4

Wm. Gibson Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

In registering the

returns from your Council I notice your Recorder has not given any dates for John H. Murton, Hugh A. MacKay, David McLellan, T. B. Harris and E. R. Carpenter. If they are affiliating Comps please give date when they joined your Council, their Mother Council and the Council they hail from.

How about your certificates. I thought you were in a great hurry for them. Have you anything from Galt in ----- (*indecipherable*).

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G. R.

[Source: Letter book, page 20]

Novr. 13<sup>th</sup> 4

J. G. A. Le Blanc Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> is to

hand and I am obliged for the information contained in it and I have written to the Recorder of Izabud Council and no doubt will receive a reply from him before long. I hope you will get the Council in good working in Montreal. You certainly ought to have a good field with so many Chapters. With respect to the Inspector Generalship of Quebec the M. Ill. G. M. has directed me to say that if you get the nomination from the representatives of your own and Prevost Council Dunham, he will have much pleasure in confirming the appointment. This I have no doubt you can easily do. I would like very much to have a good live man like yourself in the position as the order in Quebec wants working up and I think you could do it.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 20]

Novr. 23<sup>rd</sup> 4

S. W. H. Wilson

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I have been informed

that it is your intention before long to pay an official visit to the Shekinah Council No. 1 of Orillia. Will you be kind enough to remind them of the fact that no returns has ever reached this office from them that I do not (know) the name of a single Companion that has been initiated into that Council and in fact have no information whatever respecting them. I have written to the recorder but can not get any reply we have had no money from them for returns either. Please try and get them to work the concern up properly. How about your certificates why do you not send and get them?

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon G. R.

[Source: Letter book, page 21]

Novr. 23<sup>rd</sup> 4

Robt. Ramsay Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Inclosed you will

find a blank return which you will oblige by handing to your recorder and requesting him to fill up properly. I am writing up the register book but have not the names of any of the Comps of your Council from the beginning. By having the returns properly filled up and forwarded to me you will much oblige.

Yours truly  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 21]



		Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	4
Robt Ramsay Esq	Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.		
		Enclosed you	
will find blank returns as requested in your Post Card. I would have sent it before but I have been			
away from home for the last two weeks.			
Hoping to hear from you soon			
I remain			
		Yours fraternally	
		Jas B. Nixon	Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 22]

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 4

J. O Donnell Esq

Dear Sir & Bro.

Enclosed you

will find form to fill up for the Council degrees as requested by you. The cost will be

Dispensation to confer Deg <sup>s</sup>	2.00
Dispensation to open Council	25.00
Registering each candidate 1.00 each say	9.00
Each G <sup>d</sup> Council Certificate 2.00 each say	<u>18.00</u>
	<u>\$54.00</u>
Expenses of two Comps. to open Council say	<u>\$16.00</u>

The above is the whole expense if you can get 9 and of course you cannot start with less it will give you \$90.00 so that you see you may have a surplus on the smallest number you can take in. I send you a copy of the first proceedings of Grand Council in the back of which you will find the constitution. Wishing you every success

I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 22]

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 4

H. H. Porter

Bradford

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you will find Comp. Kelsey's Certificate as per arrangement when you were in this City. Try and get Zabud Council to send the money for theirs as Grand Council are in want of funds to meet demands which are being made on it. Tell Wilson that he will have to send me a plainer list than the last as it is impossible to make out all the names and be sure of having them correct.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon      G. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 23]

Wm. Gibson Esq	Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.	December 17 4
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosed you</p> <p>will find your Grand Council Certificate as requested in yours of the 15<sup>th</sup>. I note what you say about not desiring to pay out so much money at once as you have to buy furniture ec. The money for Certificates comes in rather slower but I suppose it will be all right after a while the way we manage in Adoniram Council is for each member to pay for his Certificate when he gets it which amount is credited to him as dues if you desire it and will become responsible personally I will send you the Certificates and you can remit the amount as soon as you conveniently can. We would not be particular if the Lithographer were not pressing us for his money.</p> <p>The next meeting of Adoniram Council will be held on Wednesday Evening Jany 6<sup>th</sup> we expect to have a light spread on that occasion will be glad to see yourself and as many of the Hurontario Comps as can attend. We expect to work the Royal deg according to our Ritual signed (<i>indecipherable</i>) at the W. (?) Convention. <u>Come and see us.</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon</p>		

[Source: Letter book, page 23]

G. C. Longley Esq	Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 4
<p style="text-align: right;">I send you</p> <p>by this mail Certificates for the Comps mentioned in your letter to M. Ill. Comp. Spry. We would be glad if you would send for the rest as soon as possible as Grand Council in want of funds. M. Ill. Comp. D. Spry requested me to inform you that he will reply to yours in a few days.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally James B. Nixon G. Rec.</p>		

[Source: Letter book, page 24]

1875

J. W. H. Wilson	Jany 4 5
Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.	
M. Ill. Comp.	
Spry handed me your letter containing 1.00 for Certificates but the letter does <u>not</u> mention anything about the time you received the degrees if you will send me the dates necessary I will forward your certificate by return of mail. I would have written sooner but I have been away from home and very busy.	
I am glad to know that you are going officially to Orillia <u>slip</u> ( <i>shape?</i> ) <u>them up</u> . Try and come down on Wednesday and bring along any Ill. Comp. That you can all will be welcome.	
Jas. B. Nixon G.R.	

[Source: Letter book, page 24]

John Ross Esq	Jany 14 5
Dear John	
I have no	
doubt you have received your <u>Chapter</u> notice and will see by it that our Banquet does not come off till Thursday evening the 21 <sup>st</sup> inst. It will not therefore be necessary for you to come down for Monday evening unless, you intimated coming on other business, but for sure and be with us on Thursday Evening.	
Yours fraternally	
Jas. B. Nixon	

[Source: Letter book, page 25]

J. W. H. Wilson	Jany 14 5
Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.	
Enclosed you	
will find your Grand Council Certificates. The official paper will be forwarded to you in a few days our printer is very busy out Grand Council & Grand Chapter reports. The annual dinner of Adoniram Council came off all right we had a very pleasant time was sorry you could not make it convenient to be present. Have heard nothing from either Brantford or Orillia as yet respecting certificates.	
Yours fraternally	
Jas. B. Nixon	
G. Rec.	

[Source: Letter book, page 25]

Page 26 of the letter-book has been torn out.

Jany 14 5

W. H. Porter

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you

will find Chapter notice of our next meeting as you will observe our installation does not come off on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. We found it necessary to defer upon account of Monday being the Election day and a larger number of members being (*line indecipherable*) He will depend on your being present with us on Thursday Evening to install the officers.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
Z

[Source: Letter book, page 27]

Jany 14 5

J. D. Stevenson Esq

Dear Sir & Comp.

As you will no

doubt see by your Chapter notice our Banquet and Installation of officers does not come off till Thursday Evening the 21<sup>st</sup> inst it will not therefore be necessary for you to be present on Monday Evening unless you happen to have business here as we will merely have a formal meeting and perhaps some work but be sure and be on hand Thursday Evening. Notify Comp. Neeling and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon Z

[Source: Letter book, page 27]

Feby 10 5

J. W. H. Wilson  
Insp. Gen. Toronto Division

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I sent you by mail

a copy of the Grand Council proceedings which I presume you received in due course - I have not as yet heard anything whatever from Orillia although I have written repeatedly to various officers of the Council. I wish you would try and get them at least to send me a return of their numbers and the time when they received their degrees as it is impossible for me to write up the Register, as I have not had a return of any kind from them nor is there anything of the kind in my possession so that I do not think either of the two previous Grand Recorders ever received anything from them either. I have neglected to comply with your request as to official paper for which I must apologize. I now send you the only kind I have which I hope will prove satisfactory. I wish you would send me a full return of the members of Zabud Council as I cannot make them out to my satisfaction. I sent you blank returns which please fill up and return as soon as possible. Send me a full list from the beginning the charter members as well as the others. Hoping to hear from you I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 28]

Febry 11<sup>th</sup> 5

H. H. Gibson Esq  
Insp. Gen. Hamilton Division

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I sent you by Mondays mail copies of the Grand Council report which no doubt you received in due course. I did not send any to the other Councils in your Division as I have heard nothing whatever from them although I have written several times to various officers of the institution. Do you know anything about them? Is the institution alive or dead? If you can tell me any person that I can possibly reach by letter so as to have a reply I will be much obliged. I am anxious to get the register properly filled up but cannot do so unless I can get a return of the members of the various Councils. Our expenses for Grand Council reports and certificates are heavy and funds come in very slowly. How are you getting along in Hamilton? London is doing splendidly.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G Rec

[Source: Letter book, page 28]

Febry 11<sup>th</sup> 5

J. G. A. Le Blanc Esq  
Insp. Gen. Quebec Division

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst came duly to hand. I would have sent you an official notice of your appointment before but I was waiting for the printing of the Grand Council reports which have been in the printers hands for the last three months. The Grand Master is out of Town at present attending the Grand Lodge Board of Gen. Purposes. You will receive an official notice soon after the returns come.

Your Division requires considerable working up as I have no returns as yet from either of the Councils. I cannot get an answer at all from Prevost Council although I have written several times to the principal officers, nor have I heard anything from Izabud Council except through yourself. The West is getting along first rate and we expect to have two or three new Councils in operation before a great while (*words missing in the letter*)

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 29]

Feby. 17<sup>th</sup> 5

C. S. Scott Esq  
Ottawa

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Some little

time ago I sent you copies of the proceedings which I suppose you received in due course. I now write to remind you of the fact that we have had no returns from Gedeliah Council for 1874 and no fees for even 1873 — have you done any work during the year — The Grand Council have been to a good deal of expense providing Certificates ec for the Companions and we think they should be more prompt in sending in returns. I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 29]

Feby 24 5

Hon (*name indecipherable*) Esq

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.

By request of

M. Ill. Comp. Joshua H. Drummond I send you by this mail copies of our Grand Council proceedings for 1872 and 1874 which I trust you will receive in due course.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 30]

Feby 24<sup>th</sup> 5

Josiah H. Drummond

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> came

duly to hand and I have this day sent the copies of our Grand Council procs: to Comps. Bower and Suel as you requested. The affairs of our Grand Council are progressing favourably and we expect to be able to present a much better report next year than we have done this year.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon G.R.

P.S. You will observe that according to the new Post Office arrangement between our respective countries letters now only cost 3 cents instead of (?) As formerly.

JBN

[Source: Letter book, page 31]

Feby 25 5

R. F. Bower Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

By request of M. Ill.

Comp. Joshua H. Drummond I send you by this mail copy of our Grand Council proceedings for 1874 which I trust you will receive in due course.

Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 30]

Feby 25<sup>th</sup> 5

Gedeliah Council N° 8

In <sup>a</sup>/o with Grand Council on Ontario

1872	To Warrant & Dispensation	27.00	
1873	To Registry of 16 members	16.00	
1873	To Annual dues of 14 members	3.50	
1874	To Registry of 5 members	5.50	
1874	To Annual dues of 18 members	4.50	
1874	To Dispensation	2.00	
1874	To 16 Gd. Cl. Certificates	<u>32.00</u>	
	Cr		\$90.00
1872	By Cash	27.00	
1873	By Cash	16.00	
1874	By Cash	<u>2.00</u>	
			<u>45.00</u>
	Balance due to G. Council		\$45.00

[Source: Letter book, page 31]

Feby 25<sup>th</sup> 5

C. S. Scott Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you will

find statement of the account of Gedeliah Council with the Grand Council the balance due Grand Council is \$45.00 which I trust you will remit at your earliest convenience as we are in want of funds. I send you the Certificates by this mail although it is quite unusual to send Certificates before the money has been forwarded for them.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 32]

Feby 27<sup>th</sup> 5

Dear O'Donnell

By this mail I send

you copy of the proceedings of the Grand Council for 18 74 which I thought you would like to have. How are you getting along with Council matters and when do you suppose you will be able to make a start. I will be glad to hear from you. I will likely be down your way before long.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 32]

Mar 9<sup>th</sup> 5

R. F. Bower 33°  
G<sup>d</sup> Treas G<sup>d</sup> Council of Iowa  
Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Your favor

of the 4<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand and I send you by this mail a copy of our Grand Council proceedings for 1872 As requested. I would take it as a favor if you would send me a copy of your Grand Council Constitution and Bye Laws as we expect to revise ours at the next meeting of Grand Council and I would like to get a copy or two for reference.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 33]

March 13<sup>th</sup> 5

C. S. Scott Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you will

(find) receipt for Forty five dollars for dues & fees to Grand Council. I sent the Certificates by last evenings mail and have no doubt but you will receive them in due time. We expect to get the Grand Council Constitution printed in proper form before long to supply to the Companions.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 33]



March 13 5

Samuel C. Perkins Esq  
 President of Commissioners for  
 Condition of the Public Buildings  
 Philadelphia

Dear Sir

I am

directed by the M. P. Grand Master of the Grand Council of Ontario to acknowledge the receipt of the proceedings at the laying of the cornerstone of the new Public Buildings in your city and to express the thanks of Grand Council for your kindness and courtesy.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir

Yours respectfully  
 James B. Nixon  
 G. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 34]

Mar 16 5

Josiah Shore  
 G<sup>d</sup> Recorder G<sup>d</sup> Council of New York

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

If it would not

be trespassing too much on your good nature I would take it as a favor if you would send me a copy of your Grand Council Constitution. We are about to revise ours and I would like to get the copies of two or three prominent Grand Councils for reference. If you will oblige me in this matter I will be happy to (*words indecipherable*) at any time it is in my power.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 34]

March 16<sup>th</sup> 5

John Haight Esq  
 G<sup>d</sup> Recorder G<sup>d</sup> Council of Massachusetts

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

If it would not be

asking too much I would take it as a favour if you sent me a copy of the Constitution, and bye laws if any, of your Grand Council. We expect to revise our own before long and I would very much like to get copies of the constitutions of two or three of the most prominent Grand Councils for reference. If you will be kind enough to attend to the above request, I shall be happy to reciprocate at any time that it may be in power.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 35]

Mar 16<sup>th</sup> 5

Chas. Meyer Esq  
 G<sup>d</sup> Recorder G<sup>d</sup> Council of Pennsylvania  
 Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

If it would not be

trespassing too much on your good nature I would take it as a favor if you would send me a copy of the Constitution of your Grand Council. We are about to revise ours and I would like to have copies of the constitutions and bye laws if any of two or three prominent Grand Councils for reference. If you will oblige us in this matter I will be happy to reciprocate at any time it is in my power.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon  
 G.Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 35]

Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> 5

J. G. A. Le Blanc  
 Inspector Gen. Quebec Division  
 Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I write to remind

you that I have had no returns of any kind from either of the two Councils in your Division since their formation and I would like very much to know whether they are dead or alive. Prevost Council, Dunham, was instituted March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1872 and Izabud Council, Montreal, on the following day March 12<sup>th</sup>, since which time we have had little or no information respecting them. On return was received from Prevost Council reporting 21 members and a balance due Grand Council of \$57.75, since which time nothing whatever has been heard from them. As for Izabud Council, we have received no returns of any kind and no fees or dues not even for the institution of the Council. I hope you will try and get them to do something so that we will not have to strike them off the roll at the next meeting of Grand Council.

Yours fraternally  
 James B. Nixon  
 G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 36]

Apl 6<sup>th</sup> 5

James O'Connor Esq      Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 2<sup>nd</sup>

came duly to hand in making enquiries about parchment suitable for the purpose you wish. I found that there were two kinds parchment costing one dollar and between costing five or six dollars and as I did not know which you wished I thought it best to write to you on the matter first. The velum of course is the best for engrossing and address on. I will attend to the matter as soon as I hear from you respecting it.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 36]

Jas. O'Connor Esq		Apl 9 <sup>th</sup> 5
	Dear Sir & V. Ill. Comp.	
		Yours of the
<p>duly received and I have sent you by parcel post the velum. It is the very best I could possibly get and the party I bought it from stated that it was the proper kind for addresses. Enclosed you will find the bill which I paid. Council matters in Toronto are progressing favorably.</p>		
	<p>Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 37]

Dear O'Donnell		April 14 5
		Soon after my arrival
<p>home I presented the petition of the Comps for degrees to the Grand Master when he informed me that it was necessary to have an application for a dispensation also signed. I thought this could be done at the time the degrees were conferred but the G. M. says not. I therefore enclose an application for a new Council. It will have to be filled up in the same manner as if the degrees had been conferred as you will see it will also be necessary to have the name of the Council and the first three officers also mentioned. It will also be necessary to remit the sum of \$25.00 for dispensation. I think we will be able to come down almost any time after receiving the inclosed document. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain</p>		
	<p>Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 37]

Jas. O'Connor		Apl 14 5
	Dear Sir & V. Ill. Comp.	
		Yours of the 13 <sup>th</sup>
<p>was duly received containing \$6.00. I regret that the parchment was damaged in going from here to London and hope that you will be able to make it answer the purpose for which it was intended. Enclosed please find blank returns as you requested. I have received this day an application for a new Council in Peterborough. Council matters East are looking up.</p>		
	<p>Yours fraternally Jas B. Nixon</p>	
		G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 38]

<p>Dear O'Donnell</p> <p>I am just in receipt of yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> and have consulted with Spry as to when we could get away. He could not manage it on either of the days mentioned by you — Friday, May the 6<sup>th</sup> would suit us first rate — but as you have a Lodge meeting that evening of course that would not do. We will understand the circumstances have to arrange for some day in the second week in May. Our Council meeting on next Wednesday evening. Hoping to see or hear from you soon. I remain</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon</p>	<p>Apl 28<sup>th</sup> 5</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 38]

<p>J. B. Marshall Esq</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; Brother</p> <p>I very much regret that I was not able to fulfil the engagement I made with you to install the officers of Naismith Lodge on last Wednesday evening. I fully anticipated being able to be with you at 9 oclock but owing to circumstances which I could not possible control was unable to manage it, had I know it before I would notified you but I expected to be able to be with you when I left home that evening — I trust that both yourself and the Lodge will accept my apology for disappointing them and will not think for a moment that it was wilful neglect or indifference on my part that caused it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally James B. Nixon</p>	<p>May 11<sup>th</sup> 5</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 39]

<p>To: B. N. G. Vicars John Haight Tho<sup>s</sup> Gormley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Brethren</p> <p>Your esteemed favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> came only to hand would have been answered before had I been home. I feel deeply indebted to the brethren for their kindness in tendering to me the chair of your proposed Lodge and have much pleasure in accepting the position at their hands. I can only say that if successful in getting a dispensation I will try to discharge the duties of the office to the best of my ability.</p> <p>I am dear brethren</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally James B. Nixon</p>	<p>Toronto May 11<sup>th</sup> 1875</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 39]

James O'Connor Esq	May 12 <sup>th</sup> 5
Dear Sir & V. Ill. Comp.	
<p style="text-align: right;">At the opening</p> <p>of the Cryptic Council Peterborough we conferred the degrees on a Companion <u>Robert William Smylie Banker</u> who I understand is about to take up his residence in your City. He requested me to convey to you the information that he had taken the degrees as above in order that he might have the opportunity of visiting your Council.</p> <p>He is well worth looking after and would be quite an acquisition to any Masonic institution he may join.</p>	
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon G.R.	

[Source: Letter book, page 40]

Benj. F. Wright Esq St. Paul Minn	June 30 <sup>th</sup> 5
Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.	
<p style="text-align: right;">I have been desired</p> <p>by the M. Ill. Grand Master to correspond with you with a view to having an exchange of representatives with your Grand Council and if it is thought desirable to do so I will be glad to have the name of some Companion who would be acceptable to your Grand Council as our representative and I would suggest the name of John W. H. Wilson, Bradford, Ontario, as a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario.</p> <p>An early reply will oblige.</p>	
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon	

[Source: Letter book, page 40]

May 17<sup>th</sup> 5

Dear Vicars

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> came

duly to hand with respect to the names of the petitioners. They should all be on the petition before it is presented to Brougham Lodge for recommendation, the petition should be the same one that is sent to the Grand Master, but the organization of Zetland Lodge we added a few names after our petition was recommended.

Non affiliated members must sign the name of their Mother Lodge, or the Lodge they were last members of. They should produce a demit to show that they were in good standing when they retired.

Those much in the States never having affiliated with a Lodge on this side may sign the petition but should also produce a demit or certificate of some kind as a proof of good standing.

Officers collars and jewells will cost about as follows - 9 pieces    Collars 20.00 or 20.00  
    Jewells 13.00 or 27.00  
    Square & Com 5.00 or 7.50

I was talking to a master of a Lodge already established in the country who said that their whole outfit cost them about \$70.00 of course with us in the City all our Lodges use the same Bible, working tools and furniture generally, so that a new City Lodge does not have to procure any of those articles.

I would have answered your letter before but that I was out of Town.

It will be very nice to see you if you could run up.

Yours very fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 41]

June 30<sup>th</sup> 5

D. B. Tracy Esq  
    Detroit

Dear Sir & Comp.

The M. Ill. Grand  
 Master, M. Ill. Comp. D. Spry has requested me to correspond with you reminding you of some conversation which occurred between you with respect to the appointing of a representative of the Grand Council of Michigan near the Grand Council of Ontario. Ill. Comp. C. D. Macdonnell of Peterboro, Ontario was the party named as one that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 42]

To the T. I. M.

Officers and members of Khurum Council No. 5 held at Maitland under the jurisdiction of our Grand Council.

Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me for power and authority to confer the degrees of Royal Master Select Master Super Excellent Master and Red Cross or Babylonish Pass on Companion

**William Moore of Ottawa**

Now know ye that we

Daniel Spry by the power in us vested do grant to you the T.I.M. Officers and members of Khurum Council No. 5 the authority to confer the said degrees on the said Companion William Moore — and for so doing this shall be sufficient warrent (*sic*).

Given under our hand and seal  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 2875 A.D. 1875

M. Ill. G. M.

James B. Nixon 18°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 43]

June 9<sup>th</sup> 5

C. D. Macdonnell<sup>8</sup> Esq

Dear Sir & Th. Ill. Comp.

I would be much

obliged if you would send me the copy of the R & S work left with you at the opening of the Cryptic Council , as soon as you possibly can. It is the only copy I have and my officers are anxious to get well posted so as to exemplify the work at the meeting of Grand Council in August. How is Cryptic Council progressing? Let me hear from you as soon as you conveniently can and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 44]

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<sup>8</sup> Charles Davis MacDonnell was Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch masons of Canada 1873-74.

June 9<sup>th</sup> 5

J. W. H. Wilson Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I would be

much obliged if you would get Ill. Comp. John O'Donnell of Cryptic Council UD Peterboro made an honorary member of your Council — they have only about 10 or twelve members yet and cannot manage to get them all present at one time and they want to have the representatives of their Councils present to make their proceedings constitutional. Comp. O'Donnell is the P.C.W. of the Council by attending to this you will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 44]

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 5

R. F. Bower Esq  
Grand H. P.  
Keokuk Iowa

Dear Sir & Comp

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. I have to thank you for the copy of your Grand Council Constitution &c. I note what you say about your library and anything that I can to enable you to add to your collection I will do most cheerfully.

The Canadian Free Mason had a very short life . I think only two numbers were published. M. L. Aldrich got into difficulties shortly after he started and consequently the publication did not go on. I can easily procure the one or two numbers they published. I have also the numbers of the Gavel that you are short of and will send them also. I can do this without the least inconvenience as they are of no value to me not having the number complete with respect to the others mentioned. I hardly know when you could get them. Alfred Piddington is the name of the (*five words indecipherable*) in Toronto.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 45]



June 25<sup>th</sup> 5

John W. Woodhall  
 Grand Recorder  
 Grand Council of Wisconsin

Dear Sir & Companion

I am in receipt of the proceedings of your Grand Council for which receive my thanks — I notice that we have no exchange of representatives with the Grand Council of Wisconsin as we have with several other Grand Councils — I am not aware whether it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with other Grand Councils or not, but if so I will be glad to hear from you suggesting the name of some Companion acceptable to your Grand Council as our representative and in return I will send you the name of a Comp. Who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Wisconsin.

Yours fraternally  
 James B. Nixon Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 45]

June 25<sup>th</sup> 5

J. H. Starnes Esq  
 Montreal

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been directed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with the idea of getting information with respect to Comp. J. G. A. Le Blanc who I understand has been suspended from at least one order of Masonry. Any information therefore that you can afford will be thankfully received respecting the conduct of that companion.

I would also like to get some information as to what Izabud Council is doing and in what condition it is at present. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
 James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 46]

June 30<sup>th</sup> 5

Daniel Sayre Esq  
 Grand Recorder G. Council Alabama

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to inform you that the credentials sent to Comp. Fred. L. Robertson as our representative have been returned to us through our dead letter office not being able to find him. Will you therefore be kind enough to send us Comp. Robertson's address in full or name some other comp that would be acceptable to your Grand Council. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
 James B. Nixon Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 46]

June 30<sup>th</sup> 5

W<sup>m</sup> B. Sangridge Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed  
by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you to ascertain if it is your custom to appoint  
representatives of your Grand Council near foreign Grand Councils and if so to mention the  
name of Comp. Hugh A. MacKay 33° as one that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of  
Ontario his residence is in Hamilton Ont. T. S. Parvisa is our representative near the Grand  
Council of Iowa. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G. R.

[Source: Letter book, page 47]

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

W. W. Gibson Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you will

find dispensation to open the new Council in St. Thomas. The fees are

Dispensation to confer degrees	2.00
Dispensation to open Council	25.00

I also send you by this mail a copy of proceedings in which you will find the installation ceremony.  
I will have to request you to return it as it is the only one I have. Wishing you every success I  
remain

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 47]

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

W. R. Bowen Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to you with a view of ascertaining whether it is your custom to appoint  
representatives of your Grand Council near foreign Grand Councils and if it is to mention the  
name of Comp. S. B. Horwean Toronto as one that would be acceptable to the Grand Council  
of Ontario. Rt. Ill. Comp. John R. Procter is our representative near the Grand Conclave of  
Nebraska.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 48]

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

Charles S. Wiggins Esq

Dear Sir & Comp.

I have been instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to correspond with you with a view of ascertaining if it is your custom to exchange representatives with foreign Grand Councils. If it is I shall be happy to hear from you suggesting the name of some Comp as our representative acceptable to your Grand Council and in return I will send you the name of a Comp. Acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 48]

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

J. Lee Knight Esq

Dear Sir & Comp.

I am instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with respect to the appointment of a representative of your Grand Council near this Grand Council and to mention the name of J. K. Kerr the present Grand master of the Grand Lodge of Canada as one that would be very acceptable to the Grand Lodge of Ontario. The resident of Comp. Kerr is Toronto.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 49]

July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

John D. Caldwell Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with to ascertain if it is your custom to appoint representatives of your Grand Council near foreign Grand Councils and if so to mention the name of Comp. J. H. Murton 33° — Hamilton, Ont as one that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario. Rt. Ill. Comp. Sheldon Sickles is our representative near the Grand Council of Ohio. Hoping to have an early reply.

I remain

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 49]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

David S. Oakley  
Montreal

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with to ascertain if it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request you to send me the name of some Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Florida as our representative. If it is thought desirable by your Grand Council to have an exchange with us I will be glad to hear from you at an early date.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 50]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

John M. Bramwell  
Grand Recorder  
Indianapolis

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been

instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with for the purpose of ascertaining if it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request that you would send me the name of some Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Indiana and I will be happy to forward his credentials and also send you the name of some Comp. That would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the Representative of the Grand Council of Indiana. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 50]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

Dear O'Donnell

I would be obliged

if you would send me the Grand Council as soon as possible as I am badly in need of it just now. Council matters are looking up. We forwarded a dispensation last week to open a new one in St. Thomas. I suppose I will see you at Grand Lodge.

Yours in haste  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 51]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

Joseph R. Wheeler  
Hartford

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you with a view of ascertaining if it is your custom to make a change of representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request you to send me the name of some Comp. who would be acceptable to your Grand Council as our representative and I will be most happy to send his credentials to you — I would mention the name of Ill. Comp. Joshua G. Burns Toronto as one that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain  
Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 51]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

Robert Brewster Esq  
Houston

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. P. Grand Master to communicate with you for the purpose of ascertaining if it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request you to send me the name of a Comp. who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Texas as our representative and in return I will send you the name of a companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon G.R.

PS We are without any copies of your proceedings and would like to have them.

JBN

[Source: Letter book, page 52]

July 5<sup>th</sup> 5

John S. Power Esq  
Jackson

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been instructed

by the M. P. Grand Master to communicate with you to ascertain if it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request you to send me the name of some Comp. that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Mississippi and in return I will send you the name of a Comp. that would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario — we are without copies of your proceedings since 1873 — will be glad to hear from you soon.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 52]

July 6<sup>th</sup> 5

Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore

Dear Sir and M. Ill. Bro.

Enclosed you will

find a dispensation to open a new Lodge of Royal Ark Masons in the City of London as you will see it has been signed by Br. Spry the Deputy Grand Commander. I have the petition in my possession if you have an appropriate seal please attach it if not we have one here which we will make do. Bro. Spry told me to request you to return it to him as soon as you possibly can.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G<sup>d</sup> Rec

[Source: Letter book, page 53]

July 6<sup>th</sup> 5

Albert F. Goodwin  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I have been

requested by the M. Ill. Comp. D. Spry the chairman of the Committee on foreign correspondence to communicate to you the fact that we have not had any copies of the proceedings of the Grand Council of New Brunswick since 1871 and as he wishes to finish up his report as soon as possible he would like to have sent the proceedings of your Grand Council since that time. We both (*take*) a more than ordinary interest in the Grand Council of New Brunswick which is our Mother Grand Council — hoping to hear from you soon. I remain

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 53]

July 7<sup>th</sup> 5

Robert Ramsay

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Notwithstanding that I have

written several times to various members of Shekinah Council I have never as yet been able to hear anything written respecting the officers of the Council. We have never had any returns in money or the numbers or names of the members therefore I cannot form any idea how the matters stand. I believe an effort will be made this year to drop those Councils who have not and will not pay up so that if the members are desirous of keeping the Council in existence it is high time they were looking after it — I write to you as you the only one that I have ever been able to get any reply from. Let me hear from you soon and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 54]

July 7<sup>th</sup> 5

Albert G. Hodges  
Frankfort

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I am directed by the

M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you to ascertain if it is your custom to make an exchange of representatives with foreign Grand Councils, and if so, and the Grand Council of Kentucky wish to have an exchange with the Grand Council of Ontario we will be happy to reciprocate — If the above proposition is thought favorably of and you send me the name of a Comp acceptable to the Grand Council of Kentucky I will be happy to forward his credentials and also forward you with the name of an Ontario Comp who would be acceptable to us as your representative. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 54]

July 10<sup>th</sup> 5

John B. Sackett Esq  
Buffalo

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I enclose (*for*) you two

letters for the Th. Ill. Master of Buffalo and Keystone Councils which if you will be kind enough to have delivered to the proper parties. I will feel much obliged — They contain an invitation to the officers and members of each of the Councils to pay us a visit on the occasion of the Meeting of our Grand Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August we will (*be*) very glad to see as many as can possibly make it convenient to be with us on that occasion.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
TIM Adoniram No. 6

[Source: Letter book, page 55]

July 17<sup>th</sup> 5

Robert Ramsay

Dear Sir and R. Ill. Comp.

Your card of the

16<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand the principal officers of Shekinah Council as per last Grand Council proceedings are T. B. Newton T.I.M. — H. G. Summers R.I.M. R. Ramsay I. M. of the Work and J. A. Ardagh Recorder — I hope that you may be successful in getting the institution into shape as I should not like to have to strike off Council No. 1. Council stock is going well we opened a new one some time ago in Peterboro and one last week in St. Thomas.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 55]

July 17<sup>th</sup> 5

Daniel Sayre Esq  
 Grand Recorder  
 Dear Sir and Companion

Yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst

came duly to hand and I have this day according to your recommendation sent a representatives commission to Companion James Milton which I trust he will receive in due course.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon  
 G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 56]

July 17<sup>th</sup> 5

James Milton Esq  
 Enfaula  
 Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Companion

Enclosed you will

find a commission as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario to the Grand Council of Oklahoma. Your name was suggested to us by Ill. Comp. Daniel Sayre your Grand Recorder. I trust you will consent to act as our representative and that the harmony and good feeling which exist at present between our respective Grand Councils may be strengthened and increased by the exchange of representatives between us. I also send you (a) copy of our last proceedings — will be glad to hear from you on receipt.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 56]

July 17<sup>th</sup> 5

Robert Brewster  
 Houston  
 Dear Sir & Comp.

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup>

inst came duly to hand. I note what you say about the Grand Chapter & Council of your State being amalgamated.

V. Em. Sir Kt. S. B. Harman is at present performing the duties of Grand Recorder of the Grand Priory of Knights Templars his address is Toronto, I have no doubt he will be glad to have communication with you.

Yours fraternally  
 Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 57]



July 17<sup>th</sup> 5

John W. Woodward                      Dear Sir & Comp

Your esteemed favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand and I have much pleasure in enclosing to you a commission for Comp. James S. Bridge which please hand to him with our kind regards.

I feel much obliged for the proposal to send me a commission as your representative and I would be most happy to act in that capacity but from the fact that I am already the representative of one Grand Council and I feel that there are other Comps. Who could represent the Grand Council of Wisconsin much more efficiently than I could, I would therefore suggest the name of Rt. Ill. Comp. W<sup>m</sup> Hay, Ottawa, Ont as one who would be gladly received by the Grand Council of Ontario and one of whom you need not be ashamed. Hoping that the above suggestion may be satisfactory, I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon    G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 57]

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 5

Hugh A. MacKay                      Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

Enclosed you will find your Credentials as the representative of the Grand Council of Iowa near the Grand Council of Ontario — We will expect to see you at the annual meeting of our Grand Council which will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August as per enclosed circular.

I think I can say on behalf of the Grand Council of Ontario that we will be most happy to receive you amongst us and also to confirm the rank which the Grand Council of Iowa has conferred upon their representative.

With best wishes I am

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon    G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 58]

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 5

D. S. Ackley Esq                      Dear Sir & Comp.

Your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. I note what you say about your Town being mainly destroyed by fire and I can assure you that we deeply sympathize with you in your misfortune.

Enclosed you will find a commission for Companion S. Pasos as our representative near the Grand Council of Florida.

I would nominate R. Ill. Comp. George C. Longley as a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Florida and if you will send a commission I will be most happy to forward it to him.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon    G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 58]

July 24<sup>th</sup> 5

Hon. Thos. Wood MLA  
Durham

Dear Sir & Comp.

I send you by

this mail the (*Hank*) forms for Prevost Council No. 6 if you would hand them to the first or any other officer of the Council I will be much obliged.

I would very much like to hear something about the affairs of Prevost Council as we intend to suspend the dispensations of those Councils who do not make any returns.

I will give any information or do anything that I possibly can to assist the Comps to get into working order if it can be effective, if it would not be imposing too much on your valuable time I would like to hear from you.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 59]

July 28<sup>th</sup> 5

Dear Chauncey

Enclosed you will

find your Grand Council certificate as you will see by it you are a member of Adoniram Council No. 2 of Toronto. Please sign it in the margin and acknowledge receipt at your earliest convenience that I may know you have received it all right. Grand Council meets in Toronto on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August (the day before the meeting of Grand Chapter) when we expect to exemplify the work. Would be glad to have you with us if you could make it convenient.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 59]

August 3<sup>rd</sup> 5

John W. Bramwell

Dear Sir & Comp.

Your esteemed

favor of July 30<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand and I enclose a commission for Comp. Rev. Thomas H. Lynch as the representative of the Grand Council on Ontario, which please hand to him with our best wishes. I am instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to give you the name of Ill. Comp. Samuel Brickenter Herman of Toronto as a suitable Companion to represent your Grand Council. Our Grand Council meets on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month. If possible I would like to have the commission for Comp. Herman before the meeting.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 60]

Toronto August 4, 1875

Adoniram Council No. 2

In a/c with the Grand Council of Ontario

1872	To Returns	6.00	
1873	" "	6.50	
1874	" "	14.00	
1874	To 6 Ctfcts	12.00	
	Balance	<u>39.18</u>	
1872	By Cash		4.68
1873	" "		7.00
1874	" "	H. B. 2.00	6.00
		G. H. 2.00	
		I. N. 2.00	
1875	" "	8 Comps	
	degrees conferred in London		<u>80.00</u>
		<u>\$97.68</u>	<u>97.68</u>
1875	To Returns and Ctfcts		

[Source: Letter book, page 61]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern      Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable a Companion to be installed to the office of Deputy Master not having occupied the office of Principal Conductor of the Work      Now know ye that I

**Daniel Spry 32°**

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Adoniram Council No. 2 of Toronto to install Illustrious Companion George Halson to the office of Deputy Master of said Council.

Given under my hand and  
seal of the Grand Council  
this fourth day of August  
A.Dep. 2875 A.D. 1875

attest

James B. Nixon 18°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 62]

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 5

John H. Woodhall

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup>

came duly to hand. The commission for Companion Bridge was sent from the office of the Grand Master by mistake to our representative near the Grand Council of Ala. I have requested him to forward it to you and I expect you will receive it before long. I have received a note from Comp. Simpre stating that he had duly received the commission for Comp. Milton. I am much obliged for your promptness in sending it on.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon

G.Rec.

[Source: Letter book, unnumbered page between pages 62 and 63]

Jas. Milton

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Aug 5 5

Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> July

came duly to hand. I am sorry that the mistake should have arisen. However I have a letter from Comp. Sayer stating that your commission has been received by him and forwarded to you. I would be obliged if you would send the commission for Comp. James L. Bridge to John H. Woodhall, Grand Recorder, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G.R.

[Source: Letter book, unnumbered page between pages 62 and 63]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern      Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable a Companion to be installed to the office of Deputy Master not having occupied the office of Principal Conductor of the Work      Now know ye that I

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Enoch Council No. 10 of London to install Illustrious Companion Henry S. Kifner to the office of Deputy Master of said Council.

Given under my hand and

seal of the Grand Council

this fourth day of August

A.Dep. 2875 A.D. 1875

attest

James B. Nixon 18°

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 63]

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 5

Robert W. Thomas Esq  
New York

Dir Sir & Comp.

Yours of the

21<sup>st</sup> came duly to hand and I send you by this mail two copies of our Grand Council proceedings for 1874, 75 are as yet (*not*) out of the hands of the printer but I will forward them to you as soon as they are finished.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 64]

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 5

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.

I send you by this mail Grand Council certificates for all the Companions named in the application except Comp. W. N. S. Kennedy who has not turned up in Toronto as yet. The dispensation has not been sent for the same reason if you desire it I will send the dispensation without Comp. Kennedy's name or you can work on without dispensation until he receives the degrees. I received the Grand Council work all safe. I will send you the work of the Super Excellent degree as soon as I can get it from the country where it was sent in my absence and the dispensation I hope to be able to forward before long. Please acknowledge receipt of the certificates and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 65]

Novr 1<sup>st</sup> 5

G. C. Longley Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Some time during the

summer I received a communication from the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Florida stating that he would send you at an early date a commission as their representative near the Grand Council of Ontario. I would like to know if you have received such commission so as to have it recorded on the books of the Grand Council and mentioned in the proceedings. How is council matters progressing in your section — I have just returned from a visit to the province of Manitoba where I succeeded in establishing a Council with the Grand master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba as its presiding officer and a membership of 14 — An early reply to the above will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 66]

Novr 1<sup>st</sup> 5

Wm. C. Clarke

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

I am instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to forward to you the enclosed certificates the Inspector General of the province of Manitoba. Your duties will correspond with those of a District Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Superintendent of the Chapter. It is not necessary for me to give you any instructions. I trust you will be able to give us a good report of the state of Cryptic masonry in your Division at the next meeting of Grand Council.

W. N. Kennedy has not as yet put in an appearance. The dispensation will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 67]

Novr 4<sup>th</sup> 5

D. S. Oakley Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

In July last I forwarded a communication to you enclosing a commission for R. Ill. Comp. S. Pasco as our representative at the same time I named R. Ill. Comp. George C. Longley as a companion who would be acceptable to our Grand Council as the representative of the Grand Council of Florida and fearing that the letter I wrote went astray I thought I would address you again on the same subject if through any miscarriage you failed to receive the credentials of Comp. Pasco I shall be happy to forward a renewal of them — as you will see by the above we are making some changes in our body but the Grand Council will remain as before we expect to complete our changes during this coming year when we will fully inform our sister Grand Councils through our representatives of the exact nature. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 68]

Novr 10<sup>th</sup> 5

Chas. L. Wiggins Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July last I wrote to you in answer to a communication, a copy of my letter I now enclose<sup>9</sup> fearing that it must have gone astray. You will see that I explain the matter with respect to Comp. Ramsay — I can only reiterate the statement made in my former letter that Comp. J. G. Burns will make a very efficient representative if entrusted with credentials from the Grand Council of California. The proceedings of the last assembly of our Grand Council are now in the hands of the printer. Copies will be forwarded to you as soon as they are finished. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 69]

Novr 15<sup>th</sup> 5

J. H. Isaacson Esq  
Grand Secy: Grand Lodge of Quebec

Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

I am in receipt of a letter from R. N. Thomas No. 25 Beaver Street New York (PO Box 2260) with whom I have had some correspondence. He would like to get the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Quebec for 1869, 1874, 1875 if you could without inconvenience to yourself forward them to him you could very much oblige —

I would very much like to hear some news from Izabud Council of Royal & Select I believe you are the presiding officer is the institution alive or dead? Any information with respect to it will be gladly received by me an early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 70]

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<sup>9</sup> The copy referred to does not appear in the Letter-book and a review of all the contents does not reveal a copy of the July 25<sup>th</sup> letter to R. Ill. Comp. Wiggins.

Novr 20<sup>th</sup> 5

Robt H. Thomas  
New York

Dear Sir & Comp

Your esteemed

favor of the 30<sup>th</sup> October was duly received also copy of the proceedings of your Grand Council for which I was much obliged — with respect to the bodies mentioned in letterhead there has as yet been no proceedings printed . The Grand Conclave was only recently formed, the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark mariners has been in operation for two years. The proceedings of all the three bodies will be included in our Grand Council proceedings for 1875. The union between the three bodies or rather the contemplated union will be fully explained in the address of our Grand Master. I have no copies of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Quebec but I have written to J. H. Isaacson Grand Secretary of that body requesting him to forward them to you. I expect our Grand Council proceedings will be out in a short time.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 71]

Novr 20<sup>th</sup> 5

Henry Kirkland Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Your favor of the

11<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand containing Six Dollars (6.00). I have by this mail sent to your address Grand Council certificates for all the Companions of Nineveh Council who require them. I would be obliged if you would send me the ages, professions and residence of all the Companions who have received degrees in your Council our return sheets are rather deficient in not requiring those particulars. I also enclose your officers sheet which please fill up and return at your earliest convenience. The proceedings of the last meeting of Grand Council will be printed in a short time and sent to all the Councils.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 72]

Novr 27<sup>th</sup> 5

John Kerr Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Your favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> came

duly to hand. I regret sir that you have lost the services of Comp. Clarke but I suppose it cannot possibly be helped; as you say. The (*words indecipherable*) of Cyrus devolves upon you will (*words indecipherable*) convene a meeting of the Council (*words indecipherable*) Companions (*words indecipherable*) I enclose a dispensation which will empower you to do this. I sent certificates for all the Companions to Comp. Clarke on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. If he had left the province before they had reached Winnipeg you will be kind enough to look (*words indecipherable*) and try and secure them for the Companions. I also sent him a commission as Inspector General for the Province. Let me know how you get along.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 73]



To all who it may concern greeting

Whereas it has come to our knowledge that Rt. Illustrious Companion William C. Clarke Th. III. M. of Cyrus Council U.D. has permanently removed from the Province of Manitoba and whereas it is necessary for the Council to be properly governed by the proper officers — and there being no Companion in the Council who having attained to the Rank of a Th. III. Master now know ye that I

**Daniel Spry 32°**

M. III. Grand Master do grant this my dispensation to empower the Companions to elect one of their number to preside over them as Th. III. Master and also to fill any vacancy that may be created by such election and for doing so this dispensation shall be their full and sufficient authority.

Given under my hand and seal of  
The Grand Council this 27<sup>th</sup> day of  
November A.Dep. 2875 A.D. 1875

James B. Nixon 18°  
Grand Recorder

M. III. Grand Master

[Source: Letter book, page 74]

Novr 29<sup>th</sup> 5

James Jardine Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours containing the sum of Thirty Dollars (for which I enclose receipt) came duly to hand also communication notifying me of the change on your night of meeting. It has been our custom to charge new Councils with the first years dues but if it is as you say in the Grand Chapter and Grand Conclave we will have to do the same. I have forwarded the certificates for the Companions to your address this morning. The Th. III. M. of Adoniram Council has placed in my hands the sum of Twenty-one (\$21.00) Dollars on the account of Cryptic Council for which amount I have given Cryptic Council credit on the books of the Grand Council. I also enclose acknowledgement for this amount. Will you be kind enough to send me a list of the officers complete for your Council. I shall be glad to hear from you as to the progress of your Council from time to time.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 75]



1876

James O'Connor Esq Grand Inspector General London Division Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp	Feby 19 <sup>th</sup> 6
Having heard that there was some considerable confusion in the ranks of the Craft throughout your Division, more particularly in the ranks of symbolic masonry I now write to you respecting the extent of the revolt &c and will be greatly indebted to you if you can furnish me with any definite information concerning it also the names of those principally involved if any of the members of <u>our Order</u> either of Grand subordinate Council have taken any part in it and any other information concerning it which you can supply me with: an early reply will very much oblige.	
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon G.R.	

[Source: Letter book, page 79]

[Note: the above letter refers to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ontario. Brethren in London, Ontario had requested dispensation to constitute themselves as Eden Lodge, and, when the request was considered in July 1875 it was not granted. However, Eden Lodge met and initiated a candidate despite Grand Lodge's refusal to issue a dispensation. Members of the Lodge later met and declared their independence as the Grand Lodge of Ontario on February 10, 1876. The Grand Lodge of Canada immediately issued suspensions for the members, which totalled some 48 in number. The malcontents were expelled and appear to have continued irregular meetings. Only the Grand Lodge of Texas recognized Eden Lodge and the new Grand Lodge of Ontario, and even that recognition was withdrawn when Texas became aware of the circumstances. Some legitimate masons who had joined the illicit Grand Lodge were welcomed back to the Grand Lodge of Canada by 1879. By 1877 most of the original members of Eden Lodge sought reinstatement in the Grand Lodge of Canada and such requests, up to 1896, were not considered by the Grand Lodge of Canada. An agreement was eventually reached and all the property of the Grand Lodge of Ontario was transferred to the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario and all members of the Grand Lodge of Ontario were then accepted with the ranks which they had attained. By 1879 the seal of the Grand Lodge of Ontario had been submitted to the Grand Lodge of Canada, delivered and destroyed, thus allowing the Grand Master M. W. Bro. Hon. James Kirkpatrick Kerr, KC, to announce that the Grand Lodge of Ontario ceased to exist. The reason for the creation of this Grand Lodge of Ontario is also the reason for its failure — the personal gain sought by its leaders. These individuals decided that they would not submit to lawful central authority of the Grand Lodge and separated (when it did not agree to warrant Eden Lodge). They could only have failed. — Ed.]

March 18<sup>th</sup> 6

Rev. H. C. Clarke D.D.                      Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp

Your favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst came

duly to hand (*words indecipherable*) I beg to say that I forwarded to your address a dispensation for Cyrus Council shortly before I sent the certificates thus ensuring that it (*words indecipherable*) I have sent a duplicate to (*words indecipherable*) E. G. Conklin (*words indecipherable*) I have no doubt it would rectify matters all right by now.

I am glad to know that the Craft favorably in the province of Manitoba is in a prosperous state and by (*words indecipherable*) your money soon. (*The last 2½ lines are indecipherable*).

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 80]

*undated*

*Address illegible*

I note which about the correct work of its Lodge I have one of my own with the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> degs but not the 1<sup>st</sup> and I will be happy to send it to you as soon as I can get it from a friend of mine who has it at present.

I am sorry to hear of the disturbance in the Chapter and hope it may soon be brought to an amicable adjustment.

With respect to old man Kennedy's request I may say that before Comp Clark left the province he was appointed to the position of Inspector General for Manitoba and the appointment cannot be altered till August when the nominee of the Council whoever he may be will be appointed. Will be glad to hear from you on receipt. I have been very busy for the two months and have had very little time to do anything else but business.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 81]

March 18<sup>th</sup> 6

E. G. Conklin Esq  
Recorder of Cyrus Council U.D.

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> of Feby

came duly to hand and in reply I beg to say that a dispensation for the Council was forwarded a short time before the Certificates it being the first thing I sent out after my return from Manitoba. I forward a duplicate Warrant of dispensation it is not the form that we use at present the present form is in the hands of the printer and as he is a slow man I thought it best to send you this one on the meeting on Grand Council in August. I have no doubt a Warrant will be granted when of course the dispensation have to be returned — I trust that you will be able to go on all right notwithstanding this interruption and that Cyrus will prove a healthy and prosperous institution.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon    G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 82]

March 18<sup>th</sup> 6

T. D. Harington Esq  
P. M. Ill. G. M.  
&c &c &c &c

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.

In reply to your

esteemed favor of Jan'y 1<sup>st</sup>, which I find that I mislaid and only discovered this morning, I beg to say that I have filled up the Grand Council register with the date you named 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1869. We are glad that you like the appearance of the certificate as M. Ill. Comp. Spry & myself who were principally concerned in getting it you value your opinion on such matters vary much. The fee for certificate to you is nil.

I remain yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 83]

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6

Frederick Bincks Esq  
Grand Recorder R & S M  
London

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Having heard of the

of your Grand Council we are desirous of having an exchange of representatives with you as we have with most of the Grand Councils with which we are in communication. If this proposal meets with the views of your chief officers I will be glad to hear from you giving the names of some Companion who would be acceptable as our representative and I will with much pleasure forward to your address a commission for him and also give you the name of a Comp. Who would be acceptable to us. Ill. Comp. Goodall was in our City last evening from whom I obtained some information with respect to your Grand Council and also your address. I will forward copies of our proceedings as soon as they are completed by the printer. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 84]

March 30<sup>th</sup> 6

W. J. Morris Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

M. Ill. Comp. Spry has instructed me to communicate with you in reference to your new Council and also to say that he would have written to you himself but for the fact that he has been very much troubled with rheumatism for a week or two past but he expects to be all right in a short time when he will communicate with you. The Council should not have been opened until a dispensation had ben procured for that purpose, but from the confidence which the G.M. reposes in you, he will, on receipt of the names and papers properly signed and the necessary amount of funds, forward to you his dispensation dating it from the time of your opening.

I hope you may have a fair field in that section for the operation of Cryptic Masonry and that Morris Council may have before it a long and prosperous career. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

Gd. Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 85]

31<sup>st</sup> March 6

A. G. Goodall Esq

M. Ill. Sov: Grand Master

Sov: Grand Council United States

Dear Sir Knight

I beg to advise you that at a convention of delegates from the several Conclaves of this order in the Dominion of Canada, Seven Conclaves being represented by their duly accredited representatives, an Imperial Grand Council was duly formed for this Dominion and the officers regularly elected and installed. Sir Knight Daniel Spry 32° of Toronto being elected Grand Sovereign and Sir Knight James B. Nixon of the same place Grand Recorder.

I beg herewith to enclose a copy of the proceedings of the said convention.

Having been notified of the formation of the Sovereign Grand Council of the United States of America we desire to enter into fraternal and Knightly correspondence with that Sovereign Grand Body and if it is thought advisable to have exchange of representatives.

If the above meets with your approval we will be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient.

With the very best wishes for the prosperity and perpetuity of the order in your jurisdiction and hoping for an early reply I remain dear Sir Knight

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 86]

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> 6

Gibson Cook Esq  
Bradford

M. Ill. Comp. Daniel Spry requested  
me to write to you respecting the dues of Zabud Council to the Grand Council: according to the  
books of Grand Council the only money we have ever received from Zabud Council was \$5.00  
for dispensations and Constitutions, so that we have never had any money at all for dues.  
The dues altogether amount to \$29.00 viz \$3.75 for 1872, \$9.00 for 1873, \$10.00 for 1874, \$6.25  
for 1876. R. Ill. Comp. Porter was about to pay me some money on account of dues at the last  
meeting of Grand Council, but for some reason did not. This matter ought certainly to be looked  
into as all Councils next year will be required to pay up or be struck off the roll. Hoping to hear  
from you at an early date with reference to this matter I remain

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 87]

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> 6

Henry Kirkland Esq

Dear Sir & Comp.

Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> March

is to hand and would have been attended to before had I not been away from home. You will  
remember that you requested me to wait until I should hear from you before sending the  
certificates as one of the parties had not received all the degrees. This is the reason I have not  
forwarded them before this with respect to the charter we have not been able to get them out yet  
on account of the proposed formation of the Grand Council of Rites. We expect however before  
long to have the whole affair arranged when the charters will be sent out.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon    Gd Rec

[Source: Letter book, page 88]

April 4<sup>th</sup> 6

W. J. Morris Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Enclosed please find

dispensation for opening the new Council. From your letter I should suppose you were starting  
under the most favorable auspices and I sincerely trust that the new institution may prove an  
unqualified success. You would no doubt be able to get the jewels at either Morrison's or Lash's  
as whichever you applied to would have to make them. The proceedings of the last meeting of  
the Grand Council are not yet out of the hands of the printer but I expect to get them in about two  
weeks when copies of them will be duly forwarded to you. I will have much pleasure in making  
out and sending to you certificates for all the Companions as soon as I receive the necessary  
funds. With the very best wishes for the prosperity of Morris Council I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 89]

April 5<sup>th</sup> 6

Robert Ramsay  
Orillia

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp

I am instructed by

the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate to you the fact that we are about to procure charters for our subordinate Councils and that two from whom we can get no returns will be struck from the roll altogether, and the balance renumbered. We have as I have no doubt you are aware received no returns whatever from Shekinah Council N<sup>o</sup> 1 since the organization of the Grand Council and unless we hear from it before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May at which time we expect to issue the charters it will be one of the Councils that will be so struck off if it is the desire of the members to keep N<sup>o</sup> 1 alive it is time something was done. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 90]

April 6<sup>th</sup> 6

C. S. Scott Esq  
Ottawa

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp

I beg to draw your

attention to the fact that Grand Council have not received any returns from Gedeliah Council for the year ending August 1875. It is important that we should have the returns complete as far as we possibly can. Lest the returns sheet should have been mislaid I herewith enclose you one. You will much oblige if you will see that it is properly filled up and forwarded.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 91]

Apl 7<sup>th</sup> 6

James Moffat Esq

Dear Sir Knight

As the Imperial Grand

Council for the Dominion of Canada was formed last August and is now in working order I am desirous of getting full information respecting the various Conclaves in the jurisdiction. You will much oblige therefore if you will send me as soon as you conveniently can the names of all the officers and members of your Conclave and also your regular night of meeting and any other information regarding the Conclave which may be useful to me in the office which I hold. An early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Gd. Rec.

[Source: Letter book, page 92]



M. III. Grand Sovereign  
Imperial Grand Council of England  
London

Dear Sir Knight

I am instructed  
by the M. III. Grand Sovereign of the Imperial Grand Council of the Red Cross of Constantine  
of the Dominion of Canada to inform you that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1875 duly appointed  
delegates from

McLeod Moore Conclave	St. John NB
Harington Conclave	Hamilton Ont
Moore Conclave	Peterboro Ont
Holy Land Conclave	Toronto Ont
Mount Calvary Conclave	Orillia Ont
Ontario Conclave	Belleville Ont
St. James Conclave	Maitland Ont

did meet in convention in the Masonic Hall, Toronto, Ontario under the sanction and with the  
approval of our esteemed I. H. & E. Sir Knight Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore Chief Superintendent  
General for the Dominion of Canada and after mature deliberation did organize the Imperial  
Grand Council of the Red Cross of Constantine for the Dominion of Canada, Adopted a  
Constitution and duly elected Sir Knight Daniel Spry 32° M. I. Grand Sovereign and Sir Knight  
James B. Nixon 30° Grand Recorder and other officers.

I am also directed to say that this action on the part of these Conclaves holding allegiance to  
your Supreme Grand Council was not intended as a slight to the Imperial Grand Council of  
England from whose officers we have always received the greatest courtesy and kindness. It  
was done, however, believing that by having a Grand Body in our midst we could better serve  
the interests of our noble order. Such being the case it is the earnest desire of the M. III. Grand  
Sovereign that a friendly and fraternal recognition should be extended to us by the Imperial  
Grand Council of England and if it is thought advisable we would be most happy to have an  
exchange of representatives between our respective Imperial Grand Councils. If the above  
proposal meets with your approval we have the greatest pleasure in naming in this connection  
our much respected V. H. & E. Sir Knight Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore 33°, than whom no one  
has done more to judiciously propagate our order in this Dominion and which doing as to  
inculcate by precept and example those principles which we as members of the order all hold  
so dear, feeling satisfied that his appointment would be eminently satisfactory to our Imperial  
Grand Council and that in him you would have a most efficient representative. Awaiting your  
early reply I have the honour to remain

Very courteously yours

James B. Nixon

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, pages 93, 94, 95]

Apr 21<sup>st</sup> 6

R. Kincaid Esq M.D.

Dear Sir Knight

I have been directed by the

the M. Ill. Grand Sovereign to request you to forward to me as soon as you conveniently can the names of the officers and members of your Conclave. We are anxious to have the order in Canada put on a good sound basis as soon as we possibly can and to this end we desire to get all the information we can from the subordinate Conclaves any information therefore in addition to the above will be thankfully received —

Can you inform me who to apply to for information respecting MacDonald Conclave Millbrook? The proceedings of our first annual assembly will soon be completed and I will forward you a copy. With kind regards to the Sir Knights in Peterboro I remain

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 96]

Apl 21<sup>st</sup> 6

S. H. Henderson

Dear Sir Knight

I have been directed

by the M. Ill. Grand Sovereign to request you to have forwarded to me as soon as convenient the names of the officers and members of Ontario Conclave. We are anxious to have the order in Canada put on a good sound basis as soon as we possibly can and to this end we wish to get all the information we can from the Subordinate Conclaves.

Can you inform me who to apply to for information respecting Harrington Conclave Trenton? The proceedings of our first annual assembly will soon be completed and copies will be duly forwarded to you.

An early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 97]

May 1<sup>st</sup> 6

Robt Wilkinson

Dear Sir Knight

I send you by this mail

copies of the proceedings of the meeting of delegates for the formation of our Imperial Grand Council for the Dominion of Canada. I am directed by the M. Ill. Grand Sovereign to request you to provide to me as soon as you conveniently can the names of the officers and members of McLeod Moore Conclave. We are desirous of getting the order into good shape as soon as we possibly can and to this end it is necessary to get all the information we can in reference to the Conclaves. I think McLeod Moore Conclave is the only one in the Lower provinces. If this in error I will gladly put it right. An early reply giving the information will very much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 98]

May 1<sup>st</sup> 6

Robert Ramsay Esq M.D.

Dear Sir Knight

As the Grand Council

for the Dominion of Canada has been duly formed we are anxious to hear from all the subordinate Conclaves as soon as we possibly can. Will you be kind enough to inform me if the Mount Calvary Conclave, Orillia and Heraclius Conclave, Newcastle are in existence at the present time and if so the names of the Chief Officers and if not who has the Charter. By attending to this matter at your earliest convenience you will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

I send by this mail a copy of the proceedings.

[Source: Letter book, page 99]

May 4<sup>th</sup> 6

William Gibson Esq

Dear Sir Knight

Will you be kind

enough to send to me as soon as you conveniently can the names of the officers and members of Hurontario Conclave as we are anxious get our officers in as good shape as we possibly can and it is completely necessary to have at least the names of the officers and members of each Conclave in the jurisdiction. Your early attention to the above will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 100]

May 4<sup>th</sup> 6

I. H. Stearns<sup>10</sup>

Dear Sir Knight

As the Grand Council

for the Dominion of Canada has been formed we are anxious to get the names of the Sir Knights belonging to the various Conclaves as soon as we possibly can. Will you therefore kindly forward to me as soon as convenient the names of the officers and members of St. Helena Conclave, Montreal. You will observe by then that you have been appointed to the office of Intendant General of the Province of Quebec. Can you tell me anything whatever respecting the Councils of Royal and Select Masters in your division? I cannot get a word from anyone respecting them. Your early attention to the above would very much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 101]

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<sup>10</sup> Isaac Henry Stearns was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec 1889-90 and 1890-91; Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec 1880-81 and 1881-82; Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite of the Dominion of Canada and Honorary Supreme Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada in 1912.

May 5<sup>th</sup> 6

Geo. C. Longley Esq

Dear Sir Knight

As an Imperial Grand Council has been formed for the Dominion of Canada we are anxious to get the affairs of that body put on a satisfactory footing as soon as we possibly can. To this end we desire to get the names of the officers and members of all the subordinate Conclaves in the jurisdiction. Will you kindly send me the names of the officers and members of St. James Conclave Maitland. The Order generally seems to be progressing quite favorable. I (will) send you by mail a copy of the proceedings of the first annual assembly of the Imperial Grand Council. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 102]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern — Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable an Illustrious Companion to be Installed to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master, he not having occupied the office of Deputy Master —

Now know ye that I

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Cryptic Council No. 11 of the Town of Peterborough, Province of Ontario, to install Very Illustrious Companion John O'Donnell to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master of the said Council.

Given under my hand and seal  
of the Grand Council of  
Ontario this eighth day of  
May A.Dep. 2876 A.D. 1876

Attest

James B. Nixon 30°

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 103]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern — Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable an Illustrious Companion to be Installed to the office of Deputy Master, he not having occupied the office of Principal Conductor of the Work —

Now know ye that I

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Cryptic Council No. 11 of the Town of Peterborough, Province of Ontario, to install Illustrious Companion James Jardine to the office of Deputy Master of the said Council.

Given under my hand and seal  
of the Grand Council of  
Ontario this eighth day of  
May A.Dep. 2876 A.D. 1876

Attest

James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 104]

May 8<sup>th</sup> 6

Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore 33°  
&c &c &c &c

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Sir Knight

I have much pleasure in informing you that at the first annual assembly of the Imperial Grand Council of the Red Cross of Constantine held in this City on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1875 it was unanimously resolved that the rank of a Past Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign be conferred upon you in consideration of the many efforts made in establishing this order in our Dominion and also in its extension up to the present time.

I feel satisfied M. Ill. Sir Knight that this action was taken by our Imperial Grand Conclave as a slight token of the very great respect the members have for yourself personally and also the high appreciation that they have for the labor you have put forth in connection with this particular branch of Masonry.

Hoping that you will be pleased to accept the honor which we desire to confer and that you may long enjoy your numerous Masonic honors.

I remain M. Ill. Sir Knight  
Yours very courteously  
James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 105]

May 8<sup>th</sup> 6

T. D. Harington 33°  
&c &c &c &c

Dear Sir and M. III. Sir Knight

I have much pleasure in informing you that at the first annual assembly of the Imperial Grand Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine for the Dominion of Canada it was unanimously resolved that the rank of Past Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign be conferred upon yourself in consideration of the many efforts made by you in extending this order in our Dominion — I feel satisfied M. III. Sir Knight that this action was taken by the Imperial Grand Council as some slight token of the very great regard the members of the Imperial Grand Council have for yourself personally and also the high appreciation that they have for the labor you have put forth in connection with this particular branch of Masonry. Hoping that you will be pleased to accept the honor which we desire to confer and that you may long enjoy your numerous Masonic honors.

I remain M. III. Sir Knight

Very courteously yours

James B. Nixon 30°

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 106]

May 15<sup>th</sup> 6

John Wright Esq

Dear Sir Knight

I am instructed by the M. III. Grand Sovereign to communicate with you in order to get information respecting Oriental Conclave formerly No. 621 on the Grand Registry of the Imperial Grand Council of England, now No. 13 on the Registry of the Imperial Grand Council for the Dominion of Canada. Will you be kind enough at your earliest convenience forward to me the names of the officers and members and also your regular night of meeting and any other information respecting the Conclave which you may deem necessary to communicate — an early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 107]

May 18<sup>th</sup> 6

H. W. Day Esq M.D.  
Trenton

Dear Sir Knight

I am instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Sovereign to communicate with you to get some information respecting Harington Conclave formerly No. 30 English Registry now No. 9 Canadian Registry of Trenton of which according to the latest information we can get from England you are Ill. P. S. Will you be kind enough therefore at your earliest convenience to forward to me as soon as you conveniently can the names of the officers and members of your Conclave your night of meeting &c. We are anxious to get our Grand Imperial Council in good working order as soon as we possibly can.

An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon 30°  
G Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 108]

May 20<sup>th</sup> 6

James N. Miles Esq  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Comp

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you for the purpose of ascertaining if it is your custom to make an exchange of Representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request that you would send me the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Illinois and I will be happy to forward his credentials to you for transmission to him and also send you the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Illinois near this Grand Council — copies of our proceedings were forwarded to you a few days ago. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 109]

May 20<sup>th</sup> 6

Theo Burkhard  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Comp

I have been instructed

by the M. Ill. Grand Master to communicate with you for the purpose of ascertaining if it is your custom to make an exchange of Representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so to request that you would send me the name of a Comp who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Minnesota and I will be happy to forward his credentials to you for transmission to him and also send you the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Minnesota near this Grand Council — copies of our proceedings were forwarded to you a few days ago. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 110]

May 20<sup>th</sup> 6

John T. Gorsuch Esq  
Baltimore

Dear Sir & Companion

As you will no doubt see

by the proceedings of the last annual assembly of the Grand Council of Ontario, a friendly and fraternal recognition was extended by the Grand Council of Maryland, and I now write by direction of the M. Ill. Grand Master to know if it is your wish to make an exchange of representatives with us, as is the case of a majority of the Grand Councils with whom we are in communication. If so I will be happy to forward a commission to the companion chosen by your Grand Council (through you) and will also forward you with the name of a companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Maryland. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 111]

[The letter on page 112, dated May 20, 1876, is almost totally illegible due to blurring of the ink but appears to be one sent to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of North Carolina enquiring about the exchange of representatives between the two Grand Councils. — Ed.]

[The letter on page 113, dated May 20, 1876, is almost totally illegible due to blurring of the ink but appears to be one sent to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of New Hampshire enquiring about the exchange of representatives between the two Grand Councils. — Ed.]



May 20 6

Benjamin F. Goodwin Esq  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Comp

I would be glad to hear you as soon as convenient if it is customary with the Grand Council of Oregon to make an exchange of Representatives with foreign Grand Councils and if so I will be happy to correspond with you for the purpose of making such an exchange. As you will see by our proceedings forwarded to your address a few days ago we have now an exchange of representatives with most of the Grand Councils with which we are in correspondence and believing that the system generally may be productive of good, we would to effect such an exchange with all. If it is thought advisable to make an exchange I will on receipt of the name of a Companion nominated by you, forward credentials to you for him and will also send you the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to us as your representative. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 114]

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 6

G. B. Noble Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

I observe by our proceedings copies of which were forwarded to your address a few days ago that while the Grand Council of Ontario has a representative in the person of R. Ill. Comp. Olliver Bourke, near the Grand Council of Michigan. The latter has no representative near the Grand Council of Ontario. I am not aware whether it is your custom to appoint representatives near foreign Grand Councils or not — but if it is customary with you I shall be happy on receipt of your reply to send you the name of a Comp who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Michigan. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

GR

[Source: Letter book, page 115]

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 6

H. R. Bowen Esq  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Comp

I observe from our proceedings copies of which were forwarded to your address a few days ago that while the Grand Council of Ontario has a representative near the Grand Council of Nebraska in the person of R. Ill. Comp. John R. Proctor, the latter has no representative near the Grand Council of Ontario. I am not aware whether it is your custom to appoint representatives near foreign Grand Councils or not — but if it is customary with you I shall be happy on receipt of your reply to send you the name of a Comp who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of Nebraska. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 116]

May 26<sup>th</sup> 6

Alex: Williams Esq  
Georgina

Dear Sir Knight

Having been informed that you were a member of Heraclius Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine I write to know if you can give me any information concerning the institution. Any information that you can give me will be thankfully received.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 117]

May 26<sup>th</sup> 6

Thomas J. Conson Esq  
Grand Recorder

Dear Sir & Comp

I would be glad to learn from you as soon as convenient if it is customary with the Grand Council of New Jersey to make an exchange of representatives with sister Grand Councils. If so I will be happy to correspond with you for the purpose of making such an exchange. As you will see by our proceedings which were sent to your address a few days ago, we have now an exchange of Representatives with most of the Grand Councils with which we are in correspondence and believing that the system generally may be productive of good we would like to effect such an exchange with all. If it is deemed advisable to make an exchange I will on receipt of the name of a Companion nominated by you provide credentials to you for him and will also send the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of New Jersey. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon GR

[Source: Letter book, page 118]

<p>Walter Blodgett Esq Grand Recorder</p>	<p>May 26<sup>th</sup> 6</p>
<p>Dear Sir &amp; Comp.</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">I would be glad to learn</p> <p>from you as soon as convenient if it is customary with the Grand Council of Rhode Island to make an exchange of representatives with sister Grand Councils. If so I will be happy to correspond with you for the purpose of making such an exchange. As you will see by our proceedings which were sent to your address a few days ago, we have now an exchange of Representatives with most of the Grand Councils with which we are in correspondence and believing that the system generally may be productive of good we would like to effect such an exchange with all. If it is deemed advisable to make an exchange I will on receipt of the name of a Companion nominated by you provide credentials to you for him and will also send the name of a Companion who would be acceptable to the Grand Council of Ontario as the representative of the Grand Council of New Jersey. An early reply will oblige.</p>	
<p>Yours fraternally James B. Nixon GR</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 119]

<p>Walter Blodgett Esq Grand Recorder</p>	<p>June 9<sup>th</sup> 6</p>
<p>Dear Sir &amp; Comp.</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Your esteemed favor of the</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand — Enclosed you will find a commission for yourself as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario — I am instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to say that the appointment of R. Ill. Comp. George C. Longley as your representative would be acceptable to us as a Grand Council — Comp. Longley's address is Maitland, Ont. You can send the commission to him direct or through me. I prefer the latter as I like to see the commissions issued by the various Grand Councils — we are comparatively a young Grand Council and have a good deal to learn — I trust that our relations as Grand Councils may always have that true masonic ring about it, that they have at the present time.</p>	
<p>Yours fraternally James B. Nixon GR</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 120]

June 9<sup>th</sup> 6

Thomas J. Conson Esq                      Dear Sir & Comp

Your esteemed favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. Enclosed you will find a commission for M. Ill. Comp. Redway as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario — I am instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to say that the appointment of R. Ill. Comp. James O'Connor as your representative would be acceptable to us as a Grand Council. Comp. O'Connor's address is London, Ont. If you will kindly send his credentials to me I will forward them to him he is at present, as you may notice by our proceedings the Inspector General of the London Division an office corresponding to that of the District Deputy Grand Master in symbolic masonry and he is noted for the zeal with which he looks after and attends to any interest committed to his care.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon      GR

[Source: Letter book, page 121]

June 14<sup>th</sup> 6

Theo Burkhard Esq                      Dear Sir & Comp

Your esteemed favor of the 10<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. Enclosed please find a commission for Comp. G. B. Cooley which kindly forward to him — The M. Ill. Grand Master has instructed me to give you the name of R. Ill. Comp. W. H. Porter as one that would be acceptable to this Grand Council as your representative. If you send his credentials to me I will forward them to him his address is Bradford, Ont. He holds the rank of Past Inspector General of the Toronto Division a similar position to that of District Deputy Grand Master in symbolic masonry. I have forwarded to you this day three copies of our proceedings as requested. The 3 copies mentioned in my former letter were sent to Comp. B. F. Wright who was I believe a former Grand Recorder of your Grand Council. I may add to what I have said above that Comp. Porter is also a past Grand Lecturer of our Grand Council and is noted for his zeal in connection with Cryptic Masonry.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon      GR

[Source: Letter book, page 122]

June 21<sup>st</sup> 6

Geo. C. Longley Esq                      Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp

Enclosed please find your credentials as the representative of the Grand Council of Rhode Island. When requested by that Grand Council to nominate a Companion for the position of representative we had much pleasure in forwarding your name by direction of the M. Ill. Grand Master. I trust the amicable relations at present existing between the Grand Council of Ontario and that of Rhode Island may be strengthened by the exchange of representatives and that you will be pleased to accept the position and be long spared to occupy it. Our representative near Rhode Island is the Grand Recorder, Walter Blodgett. Kindly inform him of the receipt of the enclosed and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon      GR

[Source: Letter book, page 123]

July 14<sup>th</sup> 6

E. G. Conklin Esq

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will

find copies of Grand Council return which please fill up and return as soon as possible. The Grand Council will meet the latter month of August. If none of your officers can come down send a proxy for some suitable companion. I would also like if you could manage it and none of the proper officers are going to get the proxy of your Chapter if you could manage this for me. I will be very much obliged.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 124]

Toronto July 17 76

Dear Stephens

Enclosed please find

note from Comp. Kirkland of St. Thomas requesting information regarding the Chapter. I thought the proper way was to refer the communication to you —

I will inform the Comp that I have forwarded his letter to you and that he may expect your reply.

Yours fraternally  
Jas B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 125]

Toronto July 17 1876

Henry Kirkland Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 14<sup>th</sup>

was duly received. I have forwarded your communication to R. Ex. Comp. Stephens who I have no doubt will reply to it at once.

I have sent you this day blank returns for the Council fill up and return with the proper fees & dues as soon as you conveniently can as Grand Council is not particularly flush.

Yours fraternally  
Jas B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 125]

July 20 6

C. G. Henderson Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> came

duly to hand and I send you by this mail one copy of the last years proceeding of the Grand Council of Ontario. I forwarded some time ago extra copies to the Grand Recorder of New York one of which I supposed he would have given to the Chairman on foreign correspondence.

I am glad you sent for a copy as we like to have a review of our proceedings from all the other Grand Councils but particularly from New York.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

GR

[Source: Letter book, page 126]

August 1<sup>st</sup> 6

C. G. Henderson Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult came duly

to hand. I entirely agree with what you say respecting the mailing of proceedings at different times with respect to the Grand Council of Rites. We have not as succeeded, nor are we likely to succeed in establishing it at the last meeting of the Grand Council. Grand Conclave and Grand Lodge of Royal Ark mariners (*word indecipherable*) were passed in each body favorable to the formation of such Grand Council of Rites (see (*word indecipherable*) on Grand Council Procs) and the same Comps were elected to the principal offices in each of the orders. But on examining the situation clearly and going into details it was found impossible to effectively coalesce the three bodies into one, from the fact that Royal Arch Masons only are taken as candidates in two of those bodies and Master Masons in the other and again was found that it would interfere in some quarters with the friendly relations already existing between our own and other Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters and also between our own and other Grand Conclaves of the Red Cross of Constantine (*three words indecipherable*) we came to the conclusion to carry on the three orders as formerly, but in order to facilitate matters as much as possible they meet at the same place and time that is the Grand Conclave is opened immediately after the Grand Council is closed and the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners immediately after the Grand Conclave is closed. The Companions who are sent as representatives, as a rule, belong to each of the orders and for this year at least the principal Grand Officers are the same. Our idea I think was good and many of our prominent members have not entirely given it up yet. Our Grand Council &c meets in this City on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month when I expect some further action will be taken and the matter definitely settled. I send you a copy of the proceedings in which you will find those of the formation of our Imperial Grand Council or as I sometimes call Grand Conclave. Hoping that the foregoing may somewhat inform you as to our present problem. I remain

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

GR

[Source: Letter book, pages 127 and 128]

August 3<sup>rd</sup> 6

(Addressee indecipherable)

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> ultimo

came duly to hand and I send you by this mail copy of our last annual proceedings. I will be glad to hear from you at any time respecting Cryptic Masonry and all communications will be promptly attended to. Our annual assembly will be held in this City on the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. A copy of the proceedings will be forwarded to you. If you are overlooked send for it and it will be immediately forwarded to your address.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon

GR

[Source: Letter book, page 129]

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 6

James Henderson Esq  
Winnipeg

Dear Sir & R. Ex. Comp.

Yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> ult

came duly to hand and would have received my attention before but that I have been absent from the City. I am much obliged for the honor of being appointed Proxy of Prince Chapter and I will try and see that her interests are not neglected at Grand Chapter and will make the nomination which you recommend for Grand Sup<sup>t</sup> of the District. I note particularly all the circumstances in connection with the unfortunate destruction which has taken place in your Chapter and I must say that I entirely agree with you that affairs seem to be considerably mixed and trust that they may be set all right at the next meeting and cannot help but think that if the Grand Z had been as well acquainted with all parties in the case as I am his decision would have been quite different. I am quite at a loss myself to know what course to advise under the circumstances but I think the one you have laid out for yourself is the best. The matter will no doubt be mentioned at the Grand Chapter and I will give it my correct attention if it comes up and I will be careful to send you an account of all the circumstances and I will then be in a much better position to give an intelligent opinion than I am now. I will acknowledge the receipt of the proxy as soon as it arrives — with the kindest *(the last two lines of writing have faded to nothingness)*

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, pages 130 and 131]

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 6

G. C. Longley Esq  
Recorder Khurum Council No

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Yours containing returns

for 1876 came duly to hand. Enclosed you will find a receipt for the amount (\$2.50).  
I wish all our Councils were as prompt as Khurum.  
If not able to be at Grand Council personally will you kindly forward your report as Grand Inspector General of the Ottawa Division.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
G.R.

[Source: Letter book, page 132]

August 12 6

Edson Kemp Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

On looking up the returns of

Prevost Council I find that it was opened in March 1872 by Rt. Ill. Comp. N. G. Bigelow since which time no returns have been made to Grand Council. The number of members in the returns is 21. I enclose a copy of the returns as received in 1872 and one for 73, 74, 75 and 76 which if you succeed in energizing the Council will have to be filled up and forwarded to this office. I hope you may prove successful in your endeavours to put Cryptic Masonry in a better condition in your Province than it has been for the last three years. I enclose 3 proxies which you can send me filled in with the name of a Companion to represent your Council at the annual assembly on the 29th.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 133]

August 12<sup>th</sup> 6

C. S. Scott

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> containing returns

of Gedaliah Council No. 8 for 1875 came duly to hand also P.O. order for \$11.50 for which you will find receipt enclosed and also Certificates for Comps Jos. Grant and Jno Sweetmans. I did not receive the money for Comp. Seymours Certificate. I did not send a Certificate for McCarthy as I notice you put his name down as a serving brother and I did not know whether you wanted a Ctft for him or not. If none of your representatives can be present at our Grand Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> be kind enough to get the officers to send proxies for some qualified Companions to represent them.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 134]



Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 6

Edson Kemp Esq

Dear Sir & Rt. Ill. Comp.

Your esteemed favor of the 15<sup>th</sup>

came duly to hand. I would have replied before had I not been absent from the City. I now enclose proxies. I am afraid they will be a little too late however you might your own by return of mail if you cannot come yourself. I hope your efforts may prove successful in bringing around Prevost Council and also the Council in Montreal. [Note: this would be Izabud Council. — Ed.] Will be glad to hear from you from time to time as to prospects &c.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 135]

Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 6

E. G. Conklin Esq

Dear Sir & Comp.

Yours enclosing proxy &c came

duly to hand. The difficulty you mention may be got over by having two of your members elected members of some of the Councils of our jurisdiction. Kindly name two Comps in your next who will always be present at the meetings of the Council and I will get them elected honorary members one of Adoniram Council Toronto and the other of one of the Country Councils. By this means you can always have a Companion or the representatives of three Councils present which covers that part of the Constitution as well as the O.B. I was at the Grand Chapter in Montreal. Nothing was mentioned about the affairs of your Chapter. If you see Henderson tell him I will write him in a day or two. Remember me to all enquiring friends.

Yours fraternally  
J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 136]

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 6

R. H. Thomas Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> came duly

to hand I send you by this post one bound copy of the proceedings of our Grand Council from its inception to the present time as I notice by your circular that your Library is without any of the proceedings of the Grand Council of Ontario. This is the only one of your wants that I can supply, our Grand Council will meet on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month and as soon as the proceedings are printed they will be forwarded to you.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 137]

Sep 15<sup>th</sup> 6

Wm. Gibson Esq

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp

Owing to the fact that no representative was present at Grand Council on the 29 of August from the Hamilton Division there was no nomination for the office of Inspector General. Will you kindly convene a meeting of the representatives who should have been present at the assembly and get them to nominate some suitable companion for the office. By attending to this matter as soon as possible you will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 138]

Sep 6<sup>th</sup> 6

E. G. Conklin Esq

Dear Sir & V. Ill. Comp.

Yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> Aug: duly received also enclosing returns. The amount received from the Council by myself was 66.00. I enclose you correct account — The Grand Council met on the 29 August the M. Ill. GM appointed Arch. McNee Grand Inspect General of the Manitoba Division. He also appointed E. G. Conklin Grand Steward, I also enclose your dispensation covering your election. I will forward the work to you as soon as I can procure it from the party who has it now in the possession. I hope under the new staff of officers that Cyrus Council may prosper and become noted among her fellows. Your charter will also be forwarded in a few days — I have made arrangements for McNee and yourself to be elected members of Ontario Councils, so that when you are both present the Council can be worked as you will have the representatives of three Councils.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 138]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern — Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable an Illustrious Companion to be Installed to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master, he not having occupied the office of Deputy Master

Now know ye that I

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Cyrus Council No. 13 of the City of Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba, to install Illustrious Companion Archibald McNee to the office of Thrice Illustrious Master of the said Council.

Given under my hand and  
seal of the Grand Council of  
Ontario this 6<sup>th</sup> day of  
September A.Dep. 2876 A.D. 1876

Attest

James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 140]

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario

To all whom it may concern — Greeting

Whereas an application has been made to me praying that a dispensation be granted to enable an Illustrious Companion to be Installed to the office of Deputy Master, he not having occupied the office of Principal Conductor of the Work

Now know ye that I

M. Ill. Grand Master of the Grand Council aforesaid by virtue of the powers in me vested do grant this my dispensation to enable Cyrus Council No. 13 of the City of Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba, to install Illustrious Companion John Borden to the office of Deputy Master of the said Council.

Given under my hand  
And seal of the Grand  
Council of Ontario this  
Sixth day of September  
A.Dep. 2876 A.D. 1876

Attest

James B. Nixon 30°  
Grand Recorder

[Source: Letter book, page 141]

			Sep 6 <sup>th</sup>	6
Cyrus Council No. 13				
In a/c with Grand Council				
1875				
Sep. 28	To Dispensation & Degrees	27.00		
" "	" 12 Reg. Certificates	36.00		
Nov. 27	" Dispensation to )			
	Elect & Install Officers )	2.00		
1876				
Sep. 6	Dispensation to			
	Install T.I.M.	2.00		
" 6	Dispensation to			
	Install D.M.	<u>2.00</u>		
		\$69.00		
1875	Cr.			
Sep. 28	By cash	66.00		
	Balance due Grand Council	<u>3.00</u>		
		69.00		
We do not charge annual dues for the part of the year in which a Council is instituted.				
JBN				

[Source: Letter book, page 141]

<p>W. J. Morris Esq</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Sir &amp; Comp</p> <p>At the meeting of the Grand Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo as you will see by the above, Menet was elected GM. If you could manage it so as to take charge of your Division Or otherwise the GM would I have no doubt appoint you to the office of Inspector General of the Division it would not be advisable to take the office unless you can make time to attend to it. How is Morris Council getting on. I have heard nothing from you or the Council since a short time after it was organized. An early reply will much oblige.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon GR</p>	<p>Sep 8<sup>th</sup> 6</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 143]

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 6

Rich<sup>d</sup> Brierley Esq

I would be obliged if you would by return mail send me a list of the officers of Salem Council for the current year. We are getting out the proceedings of the Grand Council and desire to have correct list of the officers of the various Councils if possible — I have written to Wm. Gibson respecting the nomination of a Companion for the office of Inspector General of the Hamilton Division but could not get an answer from him. Will you kindly attend to it. I would also beg to remind you that we have had no returns from Salem Council for the last two years.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 143]

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 6

C. S. Scott Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Will you kindly send me by return of mail a list of the officers of Gedaliah Council for the current year. We are printing the Grand Council proceedings and wish to put in a correct list of the principal officers of the various subordinate Councils.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 144]

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 6

J. F. Kennedy Esq

Dear Sir & Ill. Comp

Will you kindly send me by return of mail a list of the officers of Morris Council. We are getting out the proceedings of Grand Council and wish to get the names of the officers of the subordinate Councils to put in the proceedings.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 144]

Sep 29<sup>th</sup> 6

John Carlovitz Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Your esteemed favor

of the 19<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. I regret that I cannot favor you with copies of our proceedings as I am entirely out of them myself — I am instructed by the M. Ill. Grand Master to say that we will only be too happy to make an exchange of representatives with the Grand Council of Florida and in that connection I have been directed to nominate for the position Ill. Comp. Charles D. Macdonnell of Peterboro, Ont. He is a Past Grand Z (or as it is with you High Priest) of our Grand Chapter and I have no doubt will fill the position of your representative worthily. If you send his credentials to me I will forward them to him. I will also send credentials to for your nominee as soon as I receive your reply.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 145]

Sep 29<sup>th</sup> 6

W. H. Porter Esq

Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

I enclose your credentials

from the Grand Council of Minnesota as their representative near our Grand Council. The name and address of the Grand Recorder of Minnesota is Theo Burkhard, St. Paul, Minn. Will you kindly acknowledge the receipt of the enclosure to him,. I shall also be glad to hear from you on receipt.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 145]

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 6

M. Ill. Comp.  
A. N. Caulkins

Dear Sir & M. Ill. Comp.

Your esteemed favor

of the 14<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand and I have this day forwarded to Geo. S. Hallmark Grand Recorder Warrington credentials for R. Ill. Comp. C. M. Pierce as the representative of the Grand Council of Ontario near the Grand Council of Florida. We are glad thus to be able to join hands as it were with our Companions of the Sunny South and trust that the friendly and fraternal feeling now existing between our respective Grand Councils may never terminate.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 146]

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 6

Wm. M. Somerville  
Ottawa

Dear Sir & R. III. Comp.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of

September I wrote to Comp. C. S. Scott asking him to send me the names of the officers of Gedeliah Council No. 8 to which I never got a reply. Can you give me the desired information if so you will much oblige. We have had no returns from the Council for last year — Get them to work up and do something. An early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 146]

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 6

Geo. S. Hallmark Esq

Dear Sir & R. III. Comp.

Enclosed please

find credentials for R. III. Comp. Pierce as our representative near the Grand Council of Florida. Kindly hand it to Comp. Pierce and oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 147]

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 6

C. D. Macdonnell

Dear Sir & Comp

Enclosed you will

find a commission for yourself as representative of the Grand Council of Florida which we feel could not have been given to a companion who would fill the position more worthily — It is quite unnecessary to say anything to you regarding the dates of the position as from your extended experience in other Masonic bodies you are fully acquainted with them.

The address of the Grand Recorder of Florida is George S. Hallmark, Warrington, Florida. Kindly acknowledge receipt to him. I will also be glad to hear from you on receipt.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 147]

Novr 25<sup>th</sup> 6

H. Prosser Esq

Dear Sir & Comp

Yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst

came duly to hand this day. In reply the M. Ill. Grand Master requests me to say that we cheerfully grant to Monroe Council No. 1 the requested release of jurisdiction over Companion Robert M. Naught, believing that the interests of Cryptic Masonry could in no way be served by the refusal of such an act of courtesy. The Council having jurisdiction over Mount Horeb Chapter are not in a condition at present to grant or refuse the request not having made any returns to Grand Council for two years. The M. Ill. Grand Master has therefore taken the responsibility of granting your request himself.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

GR

[Source: Letter book, page 148]



1877

Robt. Ramsay Esq	Feby 10 7
Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.	
Yours of 15 <sup>th</sup> ultimo	
came duly to hand but on account of my absence from the City it was mislaid by my bookkeeper and has only just come to light. I am delighted to know that your are reviving the orders in Orillia and will only be too glad to forward to you the necessary dispensations on receipt of the required information. It will be necessary to have the names of the officers to be installed as well as time in each case. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain	
Yours fraternally	
James B. Nixon	
GR	

[Source: Letter book, page 148]

G. B. Cooler Esq Minneapolis	May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7
Dear Sir & Ill. Comp.	
Your esteemed favor	
of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Apl has just come to hand and I have forwarded to you by this mail a copy of our proceedings for 1875, those for 1876 are not yet printed and it is possible that we may not have them printed until after our annual assembly. With respect to your former letters, if I mistake not I sent a copy of the proceedings to you in answer to the first, if not I fully intended doing so. I am certain I sent three copies to your Grand Recorder one of which was of course intended for the chairman of the Committee on foreign correspondence. I regret that you have had to write so often and will see that you are not put to such trouble in the future. I observe that we have no exchange of Representatives with the Grand Council of Minnesota. Will you kindly inform if it is your custom to make an exchange, if so we will be pleased to do so. I wrote some time ago to the Grand Recorder on this point but never received any reply.	
Yours fraternally	
James B. Nixon	
GR	

[Source: Letter book, page 149]

<p>Richard W. Lambert Grand Recorder New Orleans</p>	<p>May 5<sup>th</sup> 7</p>
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Dear Sir & R. Ill. Comp.

In reply to yours

of the 26<sup>th</sup> March which by some unaccountable detection has only just come to hand, I beg to say that we have no copies of our proceedings on hand for 1871 and 72. We had a very limited number printed and they have all been disposed of. I regret that I cannot therefore supply you with them.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 150]

<p>Wm. J. Smyth Esq</p>	<p>July 31<sup>st</sup> 7</p>
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Dear Sir & Comp.

In reply to your

favor of the 30<sup>th</sup> I beg to say that I forwarded the blank returns to H. L. Kifner T.I.M. of Enoch Council and you will doubtless find them in his possession. With respect to the certificates I will forward them to you by this mail. The Councils have been so dilatory in making returns to Grand Council that we have had no funds to print proceedings, procure certificates or procure other necessary documents or they would have been forwarded as soon as they were sent for.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
GR

[Source: Letter book, page 151]

## **1878**

[There is no correspondence in the Letter-book for the year 1878 — Ed.]

## **1879**

[There is no correspondence in the Letter-book for the year 1879 — Ed.]

## **1880**

[There is no correspondence in the Letter-book for the year 1880 — Ed.]

## 1881

[The letter on page 152, dated July 18, 1881, is illegible due to fading of the ink and its contents cannot be guessed at — Ed.]

July 20 81
W. H. S. Whitcomb Esq Burlington
Dear Sir & R. Ex. Comp.
At the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada held at Hamilton on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of this month I had the pleasure of presenting my credentials to the M. Ex. The Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Vermont near to the Grand Chapter of Canada in which capacity I was received in the most cordial and fraternal manner an ardent desire being expressed that the fraternal friendship now existing between the two Grand Bodies may never be discontinued.
I have to thank you for the copy of your proceedings for 1881 received on my return from Grand Chapter. I shall be most happy at all times to do all in my power to further the interest of your Grand Chapter or any of its members in their intercourse with the Grand Chapter of Canada.
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon Representative G.C. of Vt.

[Source: Letter book, page 153]

Toronto July 30 1881
G. Gilmour Esq Acting W. M. Blackwood Lodge No. 311
Dear Sir & W. Bro.
Your favor of the 26 <sup>th</sup> inst came duly to hand through R. W. Bro. B. Saunders. In reply I would say that you cannot refuse to grant a demit to a Brother who is clear on the books of the Lodge (that is whose dues are all paid up) unless a Brother expresses his intention to prefer charges against him in which case you can withhold the demit till the next regular meeting when if he again asks for his demit it should be granted but an entry should be made on the face of it that charges (naming them) had been preferred and were now pending investigation — In the case you mention you cannot refuse to grant the demit; the Brother being clear on the books and no charges pending against him.
Yours fraternally James B. Nixon D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 154]

August 20 1881
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Leeds Richardson Esq  
W.M. Vaughan Lodge  
Maple

Dear Sir & W. Bro.

Your favor of the

10<sup>th</sup> inst came duly to hand. In reply I beg to say that it has been decided in several cases where parties have been attending the university and studying Law and Medicine in Toronto, and having resided in the City for more than one year that they were under the jurisdiction of the Lodges in this City of Toronto. In the case you mention if the Gentleman has been living in the City for more than one year you will require to get a dispensation for which the candidate must (has to) send the application for the same to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary. If you let me know when you send for it I will look to the Acting Grand Master and recommend him to grant it. It will cost \$10.00. I shall pay you a visit before very long. Please direct your secretary to send me a copy of your circulars calling your meetings.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 155]

August 20<sup>th</sup> 81

My Dear Spry

Having just received from the hands of the printer my official paper I could not resist the impact to write you a letter, besides I have one or two little matters that I want you to allow me on Zeredatha Lodge Axlord's makes a complaint against Manitoba Lodge that they (Manitoba Lodge) have initiated a man who has been living seven months in the jurisdiction of Uxbridge but formerly living in the jurisdiction of Manitoba. I fail to see where they have a grievance as I presume the party was under the jurisdiction of Manitoba Lodge until he had lived with the jurisdiction of Uxbridge for at least one year. Am I right? I met Hargrave who was formerly Grand Scy for the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario who told me he was going to apply to you to be healed and asked me if I would recommend his case to your favorable Consideration I told him I had to be very careful how I touched that kind of business and when he had his application ready to send I would write to you. I do so beforehand he claims that he was expelled by the G.L.O. for having illegal intercourse with a spurious masonic body meaning of course the G.L. of Canada probably you already know about the case — I have visited four Lodges officially and in each one have had a good time particularly in King Solomons — Everything is lovely in their City at present but business rather quiet! How do you like our letterhead? John Ross arranged it and we think it takes the shine out of anything of the kind that has come round this way. Kind regards to Mrs Spry and the Boys.

Yours fraternally

J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 156]

<p style="text-align: center;">D. H. Dow Esq          Secy: Excursion Com.          Stevenson Lodge No. 218          Dear Sir &amp; Bro</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Your Esteemed favor          of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst extending an invitation to me to be present at your Excursion to Lorne Park came          duly to hand this a.m. In reply I regret to say that a previous engagement will prevent my being          present with you.          Hoping that the occasion may be one of both pleasure and profit I remain          Yours fraternally          James B. Nixon          D.D.G.M.</p>	<p>August 22<sup>nd</sup> 81</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 157]

<p style="text-align: center;">D. M. Card Esq          W. M. Zeredatha Lodge          Uxbridge          Dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">I have received from R. W. Bro.          B. Saunders the papers in reference to the complaint made by Zeredatha Lodge against          Manitoba Lodge for receiving a petition form and initiating a person named Samuel Cruthers who          had formerly resided under the jurisdiction of Manitoba Lodge but who had for seven months          previous to the reception of his petition by Manitoba Lodge, lived in the village of Uxbridge.          I would draw your attention to the Constitution which provides that no person can be made a          Mason unless he has resided one year in the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he seeks          admission &amp;c.          There is also a clause which provides that no Lodge can initiate a candidate whose residence          is nearer the jurisdiction of another Lodge &amp;c.          I presume it was with this letter clause in view that Zeredatha Lodge preferred the complaint. I          apprehend however that the word residence in the latter clause interpreted Masonically means          residence for at least twelve months.          I therefore hold 1<sup>st</sup> That every person is under the jurisdiction of some Lodge          2<sup>nd</sup> As a person cannot be made a Mason by a Lodge until he has lived or resided at least one          year within its jurisdiction, that until the year has elapsed he must necessarily be under the          jurisdiction of the Lodge nearest to which he formerly resided          3<sup>rd</sup> That a Lodge balloting for and initiating any person who formerly lived in their jurisdiction but          who has been residing for a less time than one year (say seven months) in the jurisdiction of          another Lodge, does not commit a Masonic offence.          I therefore decide that in the case referred to me Zeredatha Lodge has no just cause of          complaint against Manitoba Lodge. I am dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.          Yours fraternally          James B. Nixon D.D.G.M.</p>	<p>August 26<sup>th</sup> 81</p>
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[Source: Letter book, pages 158 and 159]

	Sep 27 81
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<p>John Clausen Esq  D.D.G.M. Georgian District  Dear Sir &amp; Rt. W. Bro.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">The enclosed communication  was handed to me by R. W. Bro. Saunders Past D.D.G.M. I find that Kerr Lodge No. 230 is not  in the Toronto Dist. I therefore send the letter to you for your consideration.  Wishing you every success in your official actions I remain Dear Sir &amp; Rt. W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  James B. Nixon  D.D.G.M.  Toronto Dist</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 160]

<p>R. H. McCann Esq  Gilford    Dear Sir &amp; Bro</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27 Sep 81</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup>  inst was handed to me by R. W. Bro. Saunders Past D.D.G.M. I find that Kerr Lodge No. 230 is  not in the Toronto District but the Georgian District. R. W. Bro. Jno. Creasor of Owen Sound is  the D.D.G.M. I have forwarded your communication to him and I have no doubt you will hear  from him in due course. I am dear Sir and Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  James B. Nixon  D.D.G.M.  Toronto Dist</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 161]

<p>E. J. Mason Esq  Grand Secretary  Dear Sir &amp; Rt. W. Bro.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 81</p> <p style="text-align: right;">At the Regular meeting  of St. John's Lodge, No. 75 GRC, Toronto, held May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1881 by regular vote of the Lodge,  articles 2 and 3 on pages 8 and 9 of the By-Laws relating to the commutation of dues were  rescinded. I beg to recommend the proposed change to the favorable consideration of the R. W.  Acting Grand Master . I am Dear Sir &amp; R. W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  James B. Nixon  D.D.G.M.</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 162]

Nov 23 81

John Orr Esq

Secy of St. Johns Lodge No. 75

Dear Sir & Bro.

I duly received your kind invitation to be present at the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your Lodge and I desire that you will convey to the W.M. and officers of St. Johns Lodge my thanks for the same. I have very much pleasure in accepting the invitation but I fear it may be late in the evening before I can be present as I have an engagement at Zetland Lodge on the same evening — I also duly received your application for a dispensation which I have directed the District Secretary to forward to you. Hoping that the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge may be both pleasant and profitable I remain Dear Sir & Bro

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 163]

Nov 24 81

J. J. Mason Esq

Grand Secretary

Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

I am in receipt of a request from the W.M. of Vaughan Lodge No. 54, Maple, to recommend that their application for a dispensation to initiate Mr. James Armstrong of Toronto may receive the favorable consideration of the M. W. the Grand Master, and I cheerfully accede to this request Mr. Armstrong being only a temporary resident of this City (although having resided here over one year) intending to make his permanent residence within the jurisdiction of Vaughan Lodge on the completion of his studies. Hoping that the M. W. Grand Master may in his wisdom see fit to grant the dispensation I remain Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 164]



<p>Leeds Richardson Esq  W. M. Vaughan Lodge No. 54  Dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.</p>	<p>Nov 24 81</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>came duly to hand — I have written to Rt. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secy, recommending that your application for a dispensation to initiate Mr. James Armstrong may receive the favorable consideration of the M. W. Grand Master. I am dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  Jas. B. Nixon  D.D.G.M.</p> <p>P.S. Will you kindly direct your Secretary to send me a copy of your circular calling the meetings of your Lodge and oblige.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J.B.N.</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 165]

<p>My Dear Reid</p>	<p>24 Nov 81</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">On Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of</p> <p>December I expect to install the officers of Rehoboam Lodge No. 65 and I would feel very much pleasure if your could make it convenient to be present with us on that occasion. The W.M. of the Lodge desires me to say that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to have you present. If you can bring any of the "Boys" with you by all means do so and we will try and have a good time. Kindly let me know what time you will arrive.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  Jas. B. Nixon</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 166]

<p>My Dear Spry</p> <p>I have been asked to install the officers of Orient Lodge next Tuesday evening and I have been given to understand quietly that an objection will be raised to the installation of Gibb the W.M. elect on the ground that he called Bryden the S.W. elect a d<sup>d</sup> Liar in the Lodge room on the evening of the election. I am a little at a loss to know how to proceed as I have never seen any decision re objections to the installation of a Master. Should I decline to install on the objections being raised and if so should I install the other officers or should I disregard the objection and proceed with the installation. The meeting takes place on Tuesday evening next. Kindly advise me and give me any hints that your experience suggests — our Friend Josh is making things as uncomfortable for me as he possibly can but I think I can weather the storm all right — an early reply will much oblige.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally  J. B. Nixon</p>	<p>Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 81</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 167]

	<p>Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 81</p>
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My Dear Robertson

I have been invited to install the officers of one of the Lodges in the District and I understand the installation of the W.M. will be objected to on the ground that he called the S.W. elect a "Damned Liar" in the Lodge room on the evening of the election. I am at a loss & wish to know the proper way to act under the circumstances. I would like your opinion (which of course I will keep strictly to myself if you so desire) on the (*four words indecipherable*) objection is made as above, and the brotherhood (*six words indecipherable*) charge against the WM elect is it justifiable in proceeding or should I decline to install the WM elect.

In the event of declining to install the WM elect should I install the other officers elect or defer the entire ceremony.

I request your advice on the above matters and any ideas which your experience as DDGM and Chairman of Grievances and Appeals may suggest. I consider this a very great favour and an early reply shall much oblige.

Yours fraternally

J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 168]

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 81

My Dear Mason

I have been invited to install the officers of one of the Lodges in my District and I understand it is the intention of one or more of the Brethren in reply to the question "Are you satisfied with your choice" to object to the installation of the WM elect on the ground that he called the SW elect a "D<sup>d</sup> Liar" on the evening of the election. The way it came about I understand is as follows. The WM elect and the SW elect were rivals for the Masters chair and the Lodge being called off after the election the SW elect approached the WM elect and offered him his hand which the formed refused and in the course of the conversation that ensued called the SW elect a "D<sup>d</sup> Liar". On the objection being raised what course should I pursue. It is rather an awkward position to be placed in and I would like to have your advice and any hints which your experience as DDGM and Gd Secy, will qualify you to give. If desired of course any communication will be considered strictly confidential. An early reply will much oblige.

Yours fraternally

J. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 169]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 81

John Jones Esq

W.M. Orient Lodge No. 339

Dear Sir & W. Bro.

Your favor of the 30<sup>th</sup>

came duly to hand and in reply I beg to say that all being well I will in compliance with your request be present at the regular meeting of your Lodge on Tuesday evening next for the purpose of installing the officers. I am Dear Sir & W. Bro.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 170]

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 81

John Gray Esq

W. M. Alpha Lodge No. 382

Parkdale

Dear Sir & W. Bro.

In reply to your kind invitation to be present at the meeting of your Lodge on the evening of St. Johns Day, I regret to say it will be impossible for me to do so as I had accepted an invitation from Ionic Lodge, Brampton, before the receipt of yours. I regret it the more from my long personal acquaintance with the WM elect. I shall however avail myself of the very earliest opportunity I possibly can of making an official visit to your Lodge. I am Dear Sir & W. Bro.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 171]

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 81

J. J. Mason Esq

Grand Secretary

Hamilton

Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

I beg to recommend the proposed amendment as per letter enclosed to the favorable consideration of the M. W. the Grand Master *[while the balance of the letter is illegible through fading it would appear to concern the changing of the date and time of regular meetings of a Lodge whose name appears nowhere in the letter]* I am Dear Sir & W. Bro.

Yours fraternally

James B. Nixon D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 172]

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 81

D. T. Furbairn Esq

Secy Richmond Lodge

No. 23 GRC

Dear Sir & Bro

Your favor of the

5<sup>th</sup> requesting a dispensation to appear in masonic clothing at a Ball enclosing \$1.00 for fee for same came duly to hand. In reply I beg to say that a DDGM has no power to grant a dispensation to hold a Ball and I have forwarded your application and fee to the Grand Secy for the consideration of the M. W. the Grand master and I have no doubt you will hear from him in due time.

I am dear Sir & Brother

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 173]

Toronto Dec 13 1881

Dear Bro. Mason

Enclosed you will find letter from Richmond Lodge No. 23 asking for a dispensation to hold a Ball as I had no authority to grant a dispensation I forward the application to you for the consideration of the M. W. the Grand master.

I also enclose \$1.00 sent by the Lodge as the fee for the dispensation kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

Toronto Dist

[Source: Letter book, page 174]

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 81

J. J. Mason Esq

Grand Secretary

Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

I send you by this mail the revised byelaws of King Solomons for the consideration of the M. W. the Grand master and I beg to recommend that art XXIII be disallowed as I hold that no brother should or can (be) disqualified for office except by having a charge preferred against him in the ordinary course — with respect to art. LIII I think it is taking a prerogative out of the hands of the WM which belongs to him alone that of appointing the Scrutineer and would recommend that portion of this article relating to the Lodge appointing one brother as scrutineer be disallowed. I also beg to draw the attention of the M.W.G.M. to No. 8 Art LVII, The best authorities on Masonic Parliamentary held that there can be no such mention in a Masonic Lodge as the previous question and that these are for motions in order after an amendment to an amendment Viz to commit to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a certain time and to lie on the table. With these exceptions I beg to recommend the revised bye laws to the favorable consideration of the M. W. the Grand Master.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 175]

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 81

J. B. Booner Esq

Secy Ionic Lodge No. 25

Dear Sir & Bro

I herewith return your copy of amended bye laws of your Lodge approved by the M. W. the Grand master. Kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige.

Yours fraternally

Jas. B. Nixon

D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 176]

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 81

D. T. Fairbairn

<p style="text-align: center;">Secy Richmond Lodge No. 23 Dear Sir &amp; Bro</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enclosed you will find</p> <p>dispensation from the M. W. Grand master to enable you to wear Masonic Regalia at your proposed Ball. See the official receipt of the Grand Secretary for the \$1.00 sent. Kindly acknowledge receipt so that I may know you have received it. Hoping the Lodge may have a very pleasant and enjoyable event on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I remain Dear Sir &amp; Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon D.D.G.M.</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 176]

<p>J. Ross Robertson W. M. King Solomons Lodge No. 22 GRC Dear Sir &amp; V. W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">I enclose</p> <p>By Laws of King Solomons Lodge No. 22 approved as amended by the M. W. the Grand Master.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon    D.D.G.M.</p>	<p>Toronto Dec 22 81</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 174]

<p>Robert Cornish Esq WM River Park Lodge No. 356 Streetsville Dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">From notice</p> <p>and letters (<i>word illegible</i>) duly to hand I have an engagement to install the officers of Ionic Lodge Brampton on the 27<sup>th</sup> and therefore could not possibly be with you on that evening but I shall be most happy to make your Lodge an official visit whenever you are ready to install the WM and officers. I regret very much to hear of the illness of the WM Elect and hope that he may speedily recover. Will you kindly direct your Secretary to send me a copy of the circular calling your meetings as provided by the Constitution. Wishing you the compliments of the season I remain Dear Sir &amp; W. Bro.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally Jas. B. Nixon    DDGM</p> <p>Address Box 814 Toronto</p>	<p>Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 81</p>
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[Source: Letter book, page 179]

[Note: although the following copy of a letter is undated I suspect it was prepared at the end of 1881 or in the early part of 1882 and have chosen to include under the latter year as a followup is dated February 2, 1882 — Ed.]

To J. Ross Robertson, Grand Supt of the Toronto District, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada

I beg to appeal against the actions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Z of King Solomons Chapter, No. 8 GRC, in balloting on the Petition of S. Palmer of Rehoboam Lodge No. 75 GRC for the following reasons

1 As a member of the Chapter I acquainted the 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Z in conversation with the fact that I did not consider the applicant a fit and proper person to receive the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry and that I decidedly objected to his admission in King Solomons Chapter. I consider that should have been sufficient without my giving the nature of my objections which I could not do without violating the confidence reposed in me by a Brother Mason.

2 The applicant is not three months a Master Mason as provided by the Constitution having received his three degrees at an Emergent Meeting of Rehoboam Lodge held in the month of November.

3 The meeting of the Chapter at which the application was balloted for was summoned at 7 oclock and the Chapter was opened before that hour.

4 I applied for admission to the Chapter — before the Candidate was balloted for and was not admitted.

In view of the above facts I submit that the action of the 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Z was both unconstitutional and unmasonic and pray that his decision may be set aside and that he be instructed not to admit the said Brother S. Palmer as a member of King Solomons Chapter or confer upon him the degrees conferred by the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Jas. B. Nixon

P. Z. King Solomons Chapter

[Source: Letter book, pages 177 and 178]

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 82

To Bro R. L. Patterson  
and Sidney P. Palmer  
Box 848 Toronto

Dear Brethren

Your protest against

the Initiation of Mr Almon Hood who has been balloted for and accepted in Rehoboam Lodge No. 65 came duly to hand. In reply I beg to say that if you or either of you can say conscientiously that to the best of your knowledge and belief the party is of such a character as to render him an unfit and improper person to be made a Mason I will comply with your request; otherwise I must decline

I am Dear Sirs & Brethren

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
DDGM

[Source: Letter book, page 182]

Jany 12 82

James Moffat Esq  
Grand Master

Dear Sir & M. W. Bro.

Re the Instigation of charges

against the WM of Rehoboam Lodge No. 65 I beg to suggest that M. W. Bro. Kerr, R. W. Bros. Thomas Sargant and F. J. Menet be requested by you to act with me as an investigating committee. I desire this the more as my name has been mixed up with affair and my recommendation would probably be unsatisfactory to the Brethren making the complaint. I wrote a private letter to the brethren asking them to come and have an interview with me but they have not done so and I understand they decline to do it.

I think the appointment of the brethren named would satisfy all parties. If my request meets with your approval kindly instruct me by Telegraph on receipt of this.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
DDGM  
Toronto District

[Source: Letter book, page 184]

The undated two page letter on pages 180-181 of the Letter-book is largely illegible due to fading of the ink and it has not been reproduced here. From what can be read it appears that the First Principal of King Solomons Chapter convinced the Grand First Principal not to grant a dispensation for the installation of a newly elected First Principal of Orient Chapter. The addressee of the letter is again "My Dear Ross" and the author, James B. Nixon, expresses his concern that the withholding of the dispensation gives the unfavorable and unsatisfactory impression that one Chapter could interfere in the working of another one.

**Page 183 has been cut from the Letter-book leaving a scrap of about ¼ inch next to the spine.**

Jany 16<sup>th</sup> 82

J. Ross Robertson Esq  
Toronto

Dear Sir & V. W. Bro.

Yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. I accept with no little regret your resignation from a position which was solicited by yourself shortly after my election as D.D.G.M. It would have exhibited more chivalry and I may also add honor on your part to have seen your Chief through, what I have no doubt you presume to be troubled waters before taking such a step.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
DDGM

[Source: Letter book, page 191]

Jany 20<sup>th</sup> 82

Wm. Woods Esq  
Secy Ionic Lodge 229

Dear Sir & Bro

Your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup>

came duly to hand containing \$1.00 and requesting a dispensation to appear clothed as Masons at your Conversazione. I enclose (for) you the dispensation as requested. The delay was caused by the resignation of my former secretary which threw the business of my office back slightly. You have my very best wishes for the success of your proposed entertainment which will I hope prove both pleasant and profitable.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
D.D.G.M.

[Source: Letter book, page 185]

January 25<sup>th</sup> 82

E. J. Mason  
Grand Secretary  
Hamilton

Dear Sir & Rt. W. Bro.

Some time ago I recd

a letter from the M. W. The Grand Master stating that he had requested you to notify M. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, R. W. Bros. T. Sargent, F. J. Menet & B. Saunders to act with me as an investigating committee re the charges around the WM of Rehoboam Lodge by Bros. R. L. Patterson and S. P. Palmer. We are ready to go on with the investigation but the other Brethren are waiting to be notified by you. An early reply will oblige.

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon  
DDGM

[Source: Letter book, page 186]



January 27 82

Wm. Wright Esq  
Secy Jerusalem Lodge No. 31  
Bowmanville

Dear Sir & Bro.

Your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup>

came duly to hand and in reply I beg to say that I have a slight acquaintance with Bro. R. O. Dickson and as far as I can learn his character and standing is good. I understand that on leaving Bowmanville the Brother went to some part of the United States and in moving about from place to place he forgot or neglected to pay up his dues and apply for a demit. I had a conversation with Bro. Dickson some months ago when the question of his position as a suspended (Mason?) Was mentioned and I allowed him to make the proposition to his Lodge mentioned in your letter. I can only say that should Bro. Dickson be restored to good standing and make application for membership to my Lodge I would be most happy to propose him.

I am dear sir & Bro.

Yours fraternally  
James B. Nixon  
DDGM  
Toronto District

[Source: Letter book, page 188]

January 28 82

My Dear Cowan

I have had the anonymous communication sent to you signed "Your friend" and I am much obliged to you for giving me an opportunity of replying to it — I herewith send a copy of a letter I sent to the Grand master on having placed in my hands a copy of the "World" newspaper which contained an article said to be copied from the Freemason. This is the only communication that I have had with the Grand master directly or indirectly in response to the "Freemason" or yourself and I leave you to judge how much truth is contained in the letter signed "Your friend" who possibly should have signed himself "Your Friend on the Square".

Yours fraternally  
Jas. B. Nixon

[Source: Letter book, page 189]

<p>S. N. Ashton Esq          Secy Rising Sun Lodge No. 129          Dear Sir &amp; Bro</p>	<p>February 1<sup>st</sup> 82</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Yours of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult came duly</p> <p>to hand. I cannot understand how it can possibly be known that a brother intends to blackball one of the Candidates as it is not lawful for any brother to say how he intends to vote. If any brother has signified his intention to blackball a candidate on personal grounds, it would, on being proved certainly render him liable to punishment. In answer to your question I beg to say. If the Committee report unfavorably it will have precisely the same effect as if the Candidates were blackballed and his petition could not be again received for twelve months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally          Jas. B. Nixon          DDGM</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 190]

<p>J. Ross Robertson          Dear Sir &amp; Rt. Ex. Comp.</p>	<p>Toronto Feby 2 82</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Regarding the appeal</p> <p>forwarded to you some time ago by me against the decision of the Z of King Solomons Chapter in reference to the conferring of the Chapter degrees on Secretary R. Palmer, I desire to say that with your consent I wish to withdraw the appeal as circumstances which have occurred lately have altered my opinion as to the desirability of admitting the Brother to the Chapter degrees. If my action in withdrawing my objections meets with your approval kindly advise me.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yours fraternally          Jas. B. Nixon</p>	

[Source: Letter book, page 178]