



My Grandfather was a Grand Master

Frequently in discussing Freemasonry with a member of the public one hears the comment 'my grandfather was a Grand Master' or something similar.

How does one react to that statement?

While an immediate reaction might be 'I bet he wasn't', it is better to use the comment as an opportunity to talk about freemasonry.

Too often we, as freemasons, are reluctant/shy/uncertain to talk openly about our Craft fearing perhaps ridicule or embarrassment by discussing with strangers something which we love and enjoy.

So, if an opportunity presents itself to talk freemasonry to a non-mason, we should grab the chance.

Should we talk about how it has changed since his days, being more open, more public, with many more community based activities? Inquire whether other members of the family followed in his footsteps and participated in the Craft? Invite the family back to the lodge rooms to see freemasonry in action today? Ask if they have obtained their grandfathers records from our archives, to flesh out the family history? Ask if their family have any old photographs of their family, the town, the lodge, and other masons?

The right response will depend upon the individual asking the questions, the context of the discussion, and the nature of the family member. What is certain however, is that this is a wonderful opportunity to break the ice with a non-mason and start a dialogue about freemasonry!

