

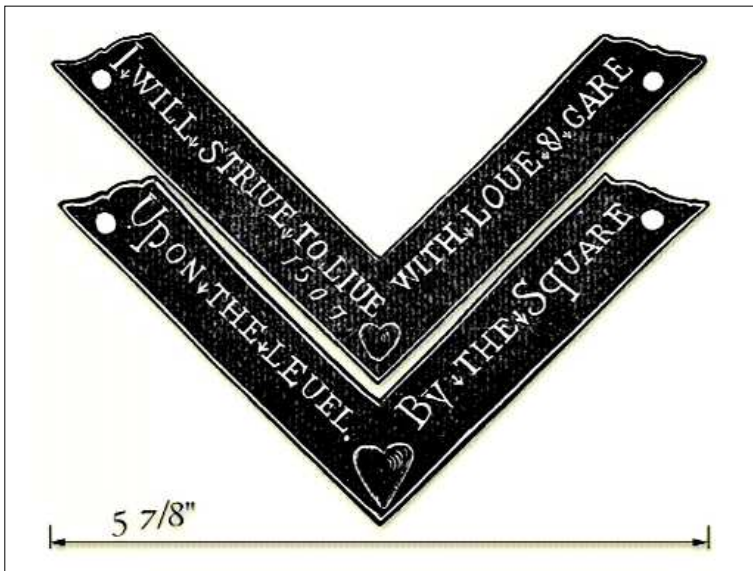
# A LITTLE MASONIC TIME CAPSULE

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Seen above is a painting of Baal's Bridge in the City of Limerick, Ireland, built in the early 1500s. When the foundations of the bridge were excavated in 1830, the square illustrated was found in the clay. The square shows the date 1507, so this is likely when the bridge was constructed. The square is inscribed on both sides with a little poem as shown below.



For certain what we see is a true stone mason's square because it does not have little measurement graduations. Such were not needed to simply square a stone. If measurements were needed, then one used his 24-inch gauge. However, I doubt that a square used "on the job" would be engraved with a little poem. This was obviously done intentionally for the purpose of a little time capsule..

If you look closely at the square (third image for clarity) you will see that the spacing between the words has a little downward arrowhead. What such PROBABLY mean is associated with the life of Sir William Wallace (died 1305) a Scottish knight who became one of the main leaders during the Wars of Scottish Independence. In a book by Gabriel Alexander entitled *Wallace the Hero of Scotland* (1860), there is the following statement made by Wallace:

Yet it well go hard with me, if to each of my arrows there do not one of the array come kneeling down to lick the dust.

Alexander's book is essentially a novel, but certainly based on the life of Wallace, and he likely said something like that.

What the statement means is that one hopes that the things he does in life are remembered in some way by future generations.

I firmly believe that the little square was purposely engraved and buried by an early stone mason who was a Freemason for the purpose of being remembered. As you read this paper, I am sure you imagined a man working on the bridge foundation and at one point quietly reaching into his pocket, taking out the square, and tapping it point first into the clay (hardpan), then placing a large square stone (ashlar) on the spot. He likely said a little prayer in the process and then carried on with his work. He thought about the square every time he looked at the bridge in the years to come. So, yes, ancient Brother we remember you; one of your arrows found the dust.



William Wallace, better known as "Braveheart."

My thanks to The Masonic Philatelic Club (Great Britain) for bringing the little square to my attention in their magazine (Issue 144, April 2014, pages 7, 8).