



Fraternal Greetings from Scotland

I thought that I had shared the last of my masonic adventures in Scotland with you, before my return to Indiana in September. But then I discovered this amazing cemetery. I went looking for the Brechin Round Tower, which is one of only two such round towers in Scotland (there are remains of over 100 in Ireland).



While trying to find a good spot to stand in the cemetery to shoot a photo of the tower, I realized that I was amongst a series of highly decoratively carved tombstones – some of which had some very interesting masonic carvings and inscriptions.





The one below, with a square and compass, hammer and chisel, carved at the top, had the following inscription: *"The jewels that are placed above are emblems of real mutual love, but none save brethren of the light can comprehend their power and might. If they are applied diligently, they will give joy when death draws nigh."*



The next two both contain not only emblems of freemasonry, but also the Latin words *"memento mori."* This refers to a portion of the Scottish Third Degree ritual, in which a brother is admonished to remember that life in this earthly realm has an inevitable end, and that after our demise, we hope to ascend to that Grand Lodge above, where the Great Architect lives, and reigns, forever.

The last one bears the familiar emblems and the words: *"This stone was erected by the brethren of St James Lodge of freemasons, to the memory of John Smith, who was their officer for 41 years. He had the esteem of all, for his faithful and diligent discharge of his duties."*

It was a moving experience to read these memorials, in the peace and quiet of the churchyard,

and to bring about the end of my seven years living and working in Scotland and enjoying the fellowship of brethren across the UK and bits of Europe. I hope to renew my friendship with my Indiana brethren upon my return to the Hoosier state in just a few weeks.



"Did not strong connections draw me elsewhere, I believe Scotland would be the country I would choose to end my days in."Bro. Benjamin Franklin