

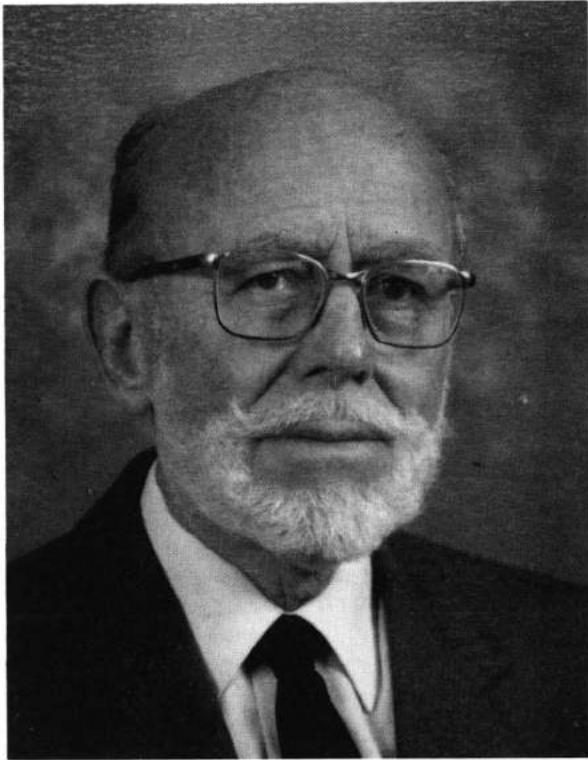


The Lodge of Research No. 2429

Leicester

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W. Bro. R.M. McCrory
Master

EDITORIAL

As Provincial Grand Master and a Past Master of the Lodge of Research, it gives me great pleasure and pride to write this Centenary Editorial, the first time it is believed that the editor has surrendered his editorial privilege. At the same time I take this opportunity to thank and pay tribute to W.Bro. H. Starmer, as he retires from the editorship, for his eighteen years of unstinting service during which he progressively raised the quality of our *Transactions*; which reach the four quarters of the World, the Universal Brotherhood, a fitting tribute to a dedicated Mason.

Masonry is a progressive science in which we are enjoined to make a daily advancement, and whilst any enterprise is exposed to the vicissitudes of outrageous fortune, 1992 is surely a year to be looked upon with pride.

Masonry Universal celebrated the 275th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Grand Lodge of England and the 25th Anniversary of the Installation of H.R.H. Edward, Duke of Kent as Grand Master.

The Province of Leicestershire and Rutland celebrated two centenaries within its ranks, that of the Lodge of Research, No. 2429 and Grace Dieu Lodge, No. 2428, the thirteenth and fourteenth lodges to be the proud possessors of that confirmation of progress, the Centenary Warrant. Likewise the Province made a further advancement by Consecrating its seventy-third lodge, the Framland Hundred Lodge No. 9453 on the 27th May.

Elsewhere in these *Transactions* will be found two papers particularly appropriate for this year. The first by W.Bro. A.N. Newman on the founders of the Lodge of Research, their hopes and aspirations; the second by our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent on that Father Figure of the Province R.W.Bro. W. Kelly. As we look back with pride on their achievements I trust that we have maintained and promulgated their ideals and tenets.

I am sure that as the Lodge of Research and its *Transactions* embark upon their second Century they will lose none of their former lustre, but will continue to progress in the ancient landmarks of our order.

Derek A. Buswell

The Lodge of Research, No. 2429
Officers 1991-92

Worshipful Master

BRO. ROBERT M. McCRORY

Bro. D. BRUCE VICKERS (P.M.)	Senior Warden
Bro. RONALD T. JACQUES (P.M.)	Junior Warden
Bro. Revd. Canon JOHN H.R. PROPHET, P.M.	Chaplain
Bro. EDWARD W. BRAMFORD (P.M.)	Treasurer
Bro. AUBREY N. NEWMAN (P.M.)	Secretary
Bro. WILLIAM V. DEAN (P.M.)	Director of Ceremonies
Bro. ARTHUR R. BUTLER (P.M.)	Senior Deacon
Bro. EDMUND A. RALPHS (P.M.)	Junior Deacon
Bro. W. JOHN BOOTON (P.M.)	Asst. Dir. of Cers.
Bro. WALTER BLEBY (P.M.)	Organist
Bro. JEREMY A. RIDGE (P.M.)	Assistant Secretary
Bro. [REDACTED] (P.M.)	Inner Guard
Bro. KENNETH G. MASON (P.M.)	Steward
Bro. DAVID L. WYKES (P.M.)	Steward
Bro. R. EDWARD HARPER (P.M.)	Tyler

Immediate Past Master

W. BRO. G. VERRALL CLARK

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Historical Note

The Lodge of Research, No.2429, was consecrated on 26th October, 1892; W.Bro. J.T. Thorp, a masonic historian of outstanding note, being installed as the first Master.

The Lodge seeks to exchange opinions with Freemasons throughout the world, and to attract and interest Brethren by means of Papers on the historical and symbolic aspects of Masonry.

(Revised By-Laws, 1962)

Membership

The membership of the Lodge is limited in number. The members will, *as a rule*, be elected from among the members of the Correspondence Circle.

Papers

The writers of Papers are alone responsible for the opinions expressed therein.

CORRESPONDENCE CIRCLE

The members of the Correspondence Circle are entitled

to have posted to them, as issued, the Summonses convoking the meetings of the Lodge,

to be supplied, gratis, with the Annual *Transactions* of the Lodge,

to attend Meetings of the Lodge,

to take part in discussions relating to any Papers which may be read, or subjects of general masonic interest which may be introduced,

to read Papers and introduce discussions on masonic subjects (by arrangement).

They are not entitled to vote, hold office, or take part in the management of the Lodge.

A Candidate for Membership of the Correspondence Circle is subject to election by the Members of the Lodge by a show of hands.

The names of Candidates will be submitted to the Permanent Committee at their next Meeting after completed application forms have been received by the Secretary.

No entrance fee is required, and the Annual Subscription is £10.00 payable in advance in the month of July. Any member whose subscription is unpaid for the current year is not entitled to a copy of the Lodge *Transactions*.

The Lodge reserves to itself the full power to exclude any Member from the Correspondence Circle whom it may deem unworthy of continued membership.

Note:-All Master Masons, in good standing, whether Members of Lodges in this Province or elsewhere, are eligible for membership of the Correspondence Circle.

The Four-hundred-and-thirty-fourth Meeting

was held on Monday 25th November, 1991

There were present W.Bro. G.V. Clark, W.M., W.Bro. R.M. McCrory, S.W., W.Bro. D.B. Vickers, J.W., twelve other officers, twelve full members, forty-five Correspondence Circle, seven visiting Brethren, a total recorded attendance of seventy eight.

Eight Brethren were elected members of the Correspondence Circle.

The Master-Elect W.Bro. R.M. McCrory was presented by the Director of Ceremonies, installed by W.Bro. G.V. Clark and proclaimed in the Three Degrees.

After the Worshipful Master had appointed and invested his Officers for the year he delivered his inaugural address entitled:

'The Province, 1813-1895

or

The Good, The Bad, and The Indifferent'

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

The Four-hundred-and-thirty-fifth Meeting

was held on Monday 27th January 1992

There were present W.Bro. R.M. McCrory, W.M., W.Bro. D.B. Vickers, S.W., W.Bro. R.T. Jacques, J.W., twelve other officers, eleven full members, forty-three Correspondence Circle, four visiting Brethren, a total recorded attendance of seventy-three.

The Secretary, W.Bro. Aubrey Newman, presented an address entitled:

'Two Hundred Years of Masonry in Leicestershire:
the Making of a Lodge History'.

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

The Four-hundred-and-thirty-sixth Meeting

was held on Monday 23rd March 1992

There were present W.Bro. R.M. McCrory, W.M., W.Bro. D.B. Vickers, S.W., W.Bro. R.T. Jacques, J.W., ten other officers, thirteen full members, forty-one Correspondence Circle, eighteen visiting Brethren, a total recorded attendance of eighty-five.

Twelve Brethren were elected members of the Correspondence Circle.

W.Bro. Maurice E. Pomerand delivered an address entitled:
'Freemasonry in Europe'.

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

THE PROVINCE, 1813-1895
or
The Good, the Bad and the Indifferent
by
W.Bro. Robert M. McCrory, M.B.E., P.J.G.D.
Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

The Second Lord Rancliffe, 1812

It was in the year 1812, with the prospect of a union between the Premier and Atholl (Antients) Grand Lodges looming large on the horizon, that the Marquess of Hastings, Acting Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge, appointed the second Lord Rancliffe to the office of Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Leicestershire. Thus Rancliffe succeeded his father who had died in 1800, since when the office had remained vacant.

Rancliffe was to rule the Province for almost forty years, which, masonically speaking, proved to be a disaster. He was first and foremost a politician and paid little attention to his masonic duties, with the result that there was very little progress in the advancement of masonry in the Province until after his death on 14th November 1850. He displayed minimal interest in the Lodges under his command and it was twenty one years before he attended a Lodge Meeting or took positive action to set up an operational Provincial Grand Lodge.

The United Grand Lodge, 1813

In December 1813 the union took place and United Grand Lodge was established. Various sources record the existence of three Lodges in the Province of Leicestershire. The oldest an unnamed Atholl Lodge, identified by its warrant number, 91, ceased to exist around 1818, and, unfortunately, it appears that any records were subsequently lost. However, it enjoys a special place in our history having provided the vast majority of the founders of the other two Lodges. St. John's, now 279, formed in Leicester in 1790, received its warrant from the Premier Grand Lodge. It was followed in 1803 by an Atholl Lodge, established in Hinckley and sponsored by the unnamed 91 Lodge. Known as Hinckley 47 until 1828 when it first used the title, Knights of Malta, today it carries the number 50.

The Province of Rutland, 1776-1813

So far as the Province of Rutland was concerned no known Lodge existed until the day of its amalgamation with Leicestershire in 1869. It is, therefore, quite clear that the title of Provincial Grand Master for Rutland, which was accorded to four Brethren between 1776 and 1813, was one of courtesy or convenience; a contention borne out by

the appointment in 1813 of Hippolyto da Costa. A Brazilian by birth, he was initiated into Freemasonry in Philadelphia, U.S.A. He had interests in Portugal where he was employed as one of the directors of the Royal Printing Office. He became closely connected with four Portuguese Lodges and on one of his rare visits to this country was accepted, by the Premier Grand Lodge, as their official representative. He was present at the Union in 1813 with the title of Provincial Grand Master for Rutland; doubtless an honorary office conferred to give him status in Grand Lodge.

Reconciliation of Brethren of the formed Premier and Atholl Grand Lodges

In the years following the formation of United Grand Lodge, a spirit of reconciliation and fraternal feeling emerged among the members of the former rival Grand Lodges, and an interchange of visits between the two Leicester Lodges - St. John's and the unnamed 91 (re-numbered 114 in 1813), frequently took place. This was in marked contrast to the uncharitable and bitter animosity which had previously existed. An example of the type of unmasonic behaviour which formerly prevailed is to be found in the Minutes of St. John's Lodge, in 1806, which graphically describes how a brother's appeal for financial assistance was rejected, solely on the grounds that on the previous day he had been seen in the company of an Atholl mason.

The Provincial Grand Lodge, 1833

We now move forward to September 1833, and the occasion of a visit by the M.W. Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, to Nottingham, where he convened a Grand Lodge, which was attended by Brethren from neighbouring Provinces, including Rancliffe, and Brethren of St. John's Lodge. The Grand Master expressed the wish to be introduced to Officers of the various Provincial Grand Lodges present. Rancliffe, having neither a Provincial Grand Lodge nor Provincial Officers, displayed commendable acumen by assembling the Brethren of St. John's Lodge in an ante room and there and then appointing them to Provincial office. It is of interest to note that he chose as his Deputy, Sir Frederick Fowke, who, eighteen years later would succeed him as Provincial Grand Master.

This rather bizarre incident certainly had a stimulating effect on Rancliffe. Within a month he convened a Provincial Grand Lodge and from that time the Provincial Grand Lodge was operational - proceedings were recorded and Provincial officers appointed. Sad to relate Rancliffe's enthusiasm was short lived, and until his death in 1850 he did little to justify his high office.

During his forty years in office, only three Lodges were Warranted, Rancliffe, Ivanhoe and John of Gaunt, of which only John of Gaunt

survived. Rancliffe Lodge, No. 608, was consecrated at Loughborough in 1835, but for want of support failed and surrendered its Warrant in 1848. It was followed by Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 631, consecrated at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1836, but apparently the Founders had a taste for expensive champagne banquets following its Meetings, and this proved its downfall; candidates did not materialise, and it expired in 1841. John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766 (now 523) was consecrated in Leicester in 1846, and prospered to become a major force in the Province, a position it has retained to this day.

The Depression and Knights of Malta, 1833

In the 1830s a general economic depression severely affected the hosiery industry, which in this area was centred on Hinckley, a small market town with a population of around 6,500. This brought its share of poverty to a number of the Brethren of the Knights of Malta Lodge, who were employed in the trade. Many either resigned or were excluded for non-payment of dues. In 1833 the membership of the Lodge fell to an all time low of just four Brethren.

The Birth of the Three Tier System of Charity, 1842

There can be little doubt that the ongoing effects of the depression was one of the factors which, in 1842, prompted the Provincial Grand Lodge to invoke a Regulation introduced in the Book of Constitutions the previous year. This empowered a Province to impose a quarterly levy on its Brethren for charitable and other Masonic purposes. Thus, for the first time, the Provincial Grand Lodge became directly involved in the relief of a distressed Brother of the Province and his dependants. A Brother could now look for assistance not only from his Lodge but also his Province, and in certain circumstances from the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence and the other Central Charities. It must be said that help at each level in the 1840s was very restricted.

The Lodge

At Lodge level there was no Charity Steward or Almoner, and until their arrival the care of the distressed Brother and his dependants would generally be shared by the Tyler and the Treasurer.

It was part of the Tyler's paid duties to deliver the Lodge Summons to the Brethren, the first Post Office was established in Granby Place shortly after the 'arrival' of the Penny Post in 1840. However, the task was not overly onerous, bearing in mind that from where the Clock Tower was erected in 1868 the town boundaries, in any direction, could be reached on foot within fifteen minutes. With his regular contact with the Brethren the Tyler was eminently suited to report to the Lodge news of a Brother who was sick or in need. Limited financial assistance was generally available from a special Lodge

fund controlled by the Treasurer, who, in this capacity, was 'overlooked' by the Senior Warden. In the event of there being insufficient funds available to meet a Brother's needs, a petition could be submitted to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Province

Frequently any grant from the Province was subject to the petitioner's Lodge contributing an equal amount, a policy still followed to a lesser degree by the Petitions Committee of the Charity Association, which anticipates that the Lodge will wish to make the first contribution to assist one of its Brethren.

The Board of Benevolence

In appropriate cases the Lodge, with the support of the Province, could submit a petition to the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence. The Board administered a fund which was maintained by an annual levy on every member of the Craft. It was governed by rules enshrined in the Book of Constitutions and was descended from various Charity Committees which had existed in the Premier Grand Lodge as far back as 1727, and indeed, was the first known combined effort for Masonic Charity. The Board not only made grants to petitioners, but also contributed to the three Institutions and gave limited support to non Masonic Charitable Organisations and appeals in times of National or International disaster. However, in total the grants were so meagre as to attract the criticism that 'Masons only looked after their own'. A criticism which continued until 1981, when the Board of Benevolence was replaced by the Grand Charity, on the recommendation of the Bagnall Committee, whose main theme was that Masonic Charity should be more 'outward looking'.

Before a petition could be submitted to the Board of Benevolence it had to be approved in open Lodge, and it is interesting to note that the manner in which this was conducted remains unchanged to this day, although of course, the Board has been replaced by the Grand Charity. It is one of the rare occasions when the Deacons discharge the duties they announce at the 'Opening' of the Lodge; taking the petition from the Master to the Wardens for signature and the Senior Deacon returning it to the Master after it has been signed.

The Institutions

A measure of relief was also available for the children of deceased or indigent Brethren, and from 1842 limited assistance was provided for the destitute elderly Mason.

(a) The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls

The Institution was founded in 1788 by the Premier Grand Lodge, due mainly to the energy and influence of Brother Ruspini, a prominent Mason and socialite of the period. There is no doubt that

the project was greatly helped the active support of the Duchess of Cumberland, wife of the Grand Master, after whom the first school was named; a rented house near to the present site of St. Pancras station. On 5th June 1789, fifteen girls between the ages of five and ten years were received into care. Such was the success of the venture that within six years the school was moved to larger premises at St. Georges Fields. By 1802 the number of girls in care had risen to sixty, at which level it remained for many years.

(b) The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys

The Boys' Institution was inaugurated by the Atholl Grand Lodge in 1798, and ten years later a similar scheme was set up by the Premier Grand Lodge. In 1817, four years after the Union the two schemes were amalgamated.

For the first sixty years the Institution did not have its own school, but worked on an 'Out education' basis, making grants for school fees, books, maintenance etc. In 1857 the first school was opened in Wood Green, to be rebuilt in 1865 to accommodate one hundred boys. At the turn of the century a new school was built at Bushey which, because of severe financial difficulties was sold in 1975, and the 'Out education' system was re-introduced.

(c) The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution

There was no positive move to provide assistance for the aged Mason on the same lines as the two educational Institutions until 1837, when Grand Lodge gave favourable consideration to a scheme to erect an Asylum for the aged Mason; master-minded by a Brother Crucefix and a Brother Ramsbottom, the Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire. However, the Grand Master the Duke of Sussex, bitterly opposed the scheme on the grounds that a third Masonic charity might prove detrimental to the educational Institutions. The scheme was shelved and in its stead a Benevolent Annuity Fund for Masons was set up in 1842. Widows were excluded from the Fund until 1849.

In the meantime despite severe opposition, Crucefix and his supporters persisted in their efforts, and in 1850 an Asylum for the Aged Mason was erected at East Croydon. In the same year both schemes amalgamated to become the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Tragically Crucefix died three months before the amalgamation took place.

The Death of Lord Rancliffe, 1850

To return to the Province, Lord Rancliffe died in November 1850, and in the nineteen years leading up to the amalgamation of Leicestershire and Rutland in 1869, he was succeeded by Sir Frederick Fowke and then Earl Howe, both of whom took an active interest in the Province and steady progress was made. This was in no small



Dr. R.T. Crucefix, J.G.D., 1836
Portrait presented to Grand Lodge and now hangs in the
Museum at Great Queen Street, London.

measure due to the dedication and enthusiasm of the legendary William Kelly, who was Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the whole of that period.

The Amalgamation, 1869

It was in the Spring of 1869 that seven Brethren living in the County of Rutland, but members of a Leicestershire Lodge meeting at Melton Mowbray, were granted a warrant to establish a Lodge at Oakham. On the 30th September that year, officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire, led by their redoubtable Deputy, William Kelly, journeyed over the border into Rutland, set up a Provincial Grand Lodge at Oakham and proceeded to consecrate the Vale of Catmose Lodge, No. 1265, the first known Masonic Lodge to be established in that Province.

On the same day that the Vale of Catmose Lodge was consecrated, the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, added the Province of Rutland to the command of Earl Howe, Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire, whose illness prevented him from attending the consecration. Hence was born the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, with a total of seven Lodges and a membership of just over two hundred and fifty Brethren. In the next thirty-five years the number of Lodges was to rise to seventeen and the membership to almost one thousand.

The Institutional Ballot System and Provincial Charities, 1876-1895

As the membership of the Craft increased, assistance for distressed Brethren and their families became more organised, and by the early 1870s the three Institutions were taking into care a limited number of children and elderly Masons or their widows. On average one child or elderly person, sponsored by this Province, was accepted by one or other of the Institutions each year. Without doubt the method of selecting petitioners to fill vacancies at the Institutions was a major factor leading to the formation in this Province of three charitable organisations in the short space of twenty years.

Every year meetings were held by each of the Institutions at which a ballot determined which of the petitioners put forward by the Province should fill the vacancies. The District of London, as it was called, was allocated a proportion of the vacancies and was not, therefore, in competition with the Provinces. Voting was, in general, restricted to Life subscribers of the Institution, that is Brethren, Ladies and Lewises who had donated a minimum of five guineas (£5.25). The number of votes allocated to each Subscriber was, in the main, determined by the amount donated, normally one vote in perpetuity for each five guineas.

In order to compete with the larger Provinces, we formed an alliance with other small Provinces in the West of England, Dorset, Somerset, Bristol, etc., and established the Western Provinces

Masonic Charity Association. Thus when sponsoring a petitioner we would 'borrow' votes from those Provinces without candidates and 'repay' when the position was reversed. It follows that the success or failure of a petitioner from this Province in those early days, with a membership of around two hundred and fifty, virtually depended on the ongoing generosity of the Brethren to produce sufficient votes with which to barter.

N.B. the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Benevolent Institution held a hundred years ago (15th May 1891) reported that 147 candidates would be competing for the thirty-six vacancies to be balloted for at that meeting.

The Provincial Charity Fund, 1876

In an endeavour to increase the voting power of the Province in support of petitioners for the Institutions, in 1876 the Provincial Grand Lodge established a Charity Fund devoted to the support of the Institutions and for Masonic relief in special cases. The fund was maintained by grants from the Provincial General Fund and a portion of the annual dues payable by every Brother in the Province. It was controlled by a committee consisting of senior Provincial officers and a representative from each Lodge who was given the title of 'Charity Steward', and was elected annually by the Brethren of his Lodge. The Committee was responsible for deciding which of the petitioners for the Institutions should be supported by the Province. It also investigated applications for grants from Brethren of the Province of their dependants. The Charity Steward was also responsible for informing the Brethren of his Lodge about the various Central Charities, collecting donations and voting papers of Life subscribers and forwarding them to the Provincial Committee Secretary.

Festivals

Every year, as its main fund raising activity, each of the Institutions held a Festival in London, and it was the custom for our Provincial Grand Lodge to appoint one of the Charity Stewards to be its representative at one of the Festivals. In this way each Institution was supported once every three years.

In 1933 the pattern changed and the Provincial Grand Master personally represented the Province. Of recent times it is normal for a Province to be invited to sponsor a Festival once every fifteen years or so, with fund raising beginning in earnest several years before the actual date of the Festival. The Festival itself takes the form of a dinner to celebrate the culmination of the appeal.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Charity Association, 1878

In 1878 the Province went a stage further in its support of the Institutions and established the Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic

Charity Association. Brethren of the Province, Ladies and Lewises, were eligible for membership, the subscription being one guinea (£1.05) a year. The sole object of the Association was to induce its members to become Life Subscribers of the three Institutions. To this end a prize draw was held twice a year and the subscriptions collected during the previous six month period became the prize money, each winner receiving not cash, but a Life Subscribership to the Institution of his or her choice.

The Kelly Memorial Fund, 1895

One of the first prize winners was a Miss Priscilla Kelly; sister of R.W.Bro. William Kelly, who died on the 23rd August 1894. Highly respected and affectionately referred to as the 'Father of the Province', of which he was a member for fifty-six years, Master of his Mother Lodge, St. John's, no less than five times. A founder of six of the early Lodges, Deputy, and then Provincial Grand Master, it is no wonder that the Province decided to perpetuate his memory. After studying various proposals, ranging from a 'stained glass window in one of the Leicester churches', to a new organ for the Temple, it was resolved that the memorial should take the form of a 'Benevolent and Educational Fund' to be known as 'The Kelly Memorial Fund'. The supporters of the fund were no doubt heartened by the comments of the Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Mason, who gave a glowing report of a similar scheme established in the Province of Dorset, which had proved successful.

The fund was set up in 1895 and had as its object, 'the relief of indigent Brethren of the Province and their widows; the education of children of deceased Brethren; and for other Masonic charitable purposes in the Province'. It was made quite clear by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Samuel Partridge, that the problem of assisting those petitioners who had failed in the ballots for entrance to the Institution, played no small part in determining the object of the fund. When supporting the proposal for it to be established, he said that it would be very useful in educating unsuccessful candidates for the Masonic schools and also assisting Brethren or their widows who had failed to obtain aid from the Benevolent Institution.

It was decided that the fund should be maintained by donations from the Brethren generally and Lodges in particular. This was yet another call on their charity which many Brethren and Lodge committees found unacceptable. Unhappily the fund received poor support for a number of years and did not make any real progress until after the First World War.

The Institutional Ballot Rejected, 1916

The system of voting by ballot, used by the Institutions to determine which petitioners should fill vacancies, had never been wholly

satisfactory and was considered repugnant by many Brethren. Constant changes in the system were made but all to no avail, and finally in 1916 it was abolished and a Petitions Committee; (appointed at each Institution) became responsible for ensuring that all qualified petitioners were received into care. In the event of their being no vacancy, financial aid was given until the petitioner could be admitted. The Petitions Committee consisted of a number of members of the Board of Management and were appointed annually.

In 1929 an attempt was made to revive election by ballot but this was rejected in view of the difference of opinion in the Craft. It will be appreciated that from 1916 with the abolition of the voting system, the Western Provinces Masonic Charity Association served little purpose and fell into disuse. The decision to abandon the ballot system also necessitated a change in the policy of the Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Charity Association whose sole object, of course, had been to garner votes in support of our petitioners. The Association now turned its attention to fund raising for the next Festival to be supported by the Province.

Conclusion

In the past twenty years or so there have been radical policy and administrative changes to the Central, Provincial and Lodge Charities, and these together with earlier events are discussed in the sequel to this Paper, which ends in 1895 with the birth of the Kelly Memorial Fund. Its predominant role has always been as the intermediate link in the three tier system of Masonic Charity for assisting the distressed Brother of this Province and his family. It augments the limited resources of the Lodge Almoner's fund, continuing that support until a petition on behalf of the distressed Brother has been accepted by the appropriate Central Charity.

This Paper has endeavoured to highlight the main events and policies which influenced life in this Province in the nineteenth century. An era which masonically speaking was not all 'brotherly love, peace and harmony', but rather an amalgam of the good, the bad and the indifferent.

Addendum

The following passages have been added in order to bring up-to-date the story of our Provincial Charities; to record the 'arrival' of the Almoner and the Charity Steward as officers of the Lodge, and to detail their respective duties.

The Lodge Almoner, 1909

In 1909 the office of Almoner was added to Rule 129 (now 104) of the Book of Constitutions. This Rule divides the officers into two categories; the Regular officers a Master shall appoint and the

Additional officers he may appoint. The classification of the Almoner was, and still is, an Additional officer, however, in June 1991 Rule 104 was amended and from that date a Master shall appoint an Almoner.

Examination of the Provincial Year Books, or Calendars as they were called until 1952, disclosed that Masters of Lodges in this Province were reluctant to appoint an Almoner, indeed by 1930 only about 50% of Lodges had done so. The reason for the delay in appointing Almoners was probably due to the presence of the Charity Steward, who although not an officer of the Lodge was its elected representative on the Provincial Charity Committee, and as such was discharging many of the duties which the Almoner would assume on his appointment.

The Provincial Charities, 1963

To revert to the progress of the three Provincial Charities. From the turn of the Century the By-laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Rules of each of the Provincial Charities were amended with what can only be described as 'monotonous regularity', and it is not surprising that in 1961 the Secretary of the Charity Committee, a Bro. Goadby, in his annual report to Provincial Grand Lodge, described the administration of the Kelly Memorial Fund and the Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Charity Association as 'cumbersome procedure'. The Provincial Grand Master, Brigadier Morley, set up an Ad Hoc Committee to review the situation.

Subsequently at the Annual Communications of Provincial Grand Lodge in 1962, new Provincial By-laws were adopted which radically changed the organisation of Charity in the Province.

a. Provincial Charity Committee

With effect from the 30th June 1963, the Provincial Charity Committee ceased to exist and the Report it had submitted to the Annual Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge since 1876 became the responsibility of the Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Charity Association; who were now also responsible for organising the Charity of the Province.

b. Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Charity Association

From 1963 the Association incorporated the Kelly Memorial Fund and the annual subscription of the Association was to include an amount for the Kelly Fund.

The object of the Association is to support the Kelly Memorial Fund, the Central Masonic Charities in general, and any Festival sponsored by this Province in particular. In addition, since 1983, in line with the Bagnall Committee recommendation that Masonic Charity should be more 'outward looking', the Association donates to local non-Masonic charitable organisations and Appeals. This year (1992) £4,000 has been set aside for that purpose.

c. *Kelly Memorial Fund*

The object of the Fund is now to 'relieve needy, aged, sick or infirm brethren of the Province and their dependants and make donations to Central Charities.

The Bagnall Committee and the Lodge Charity Steward

We now move on to the year 1971, when against the background of mounting concern for and criticism of the Central Charities, the Grand Master appointed R.W.Bro. His Honour Mr. Justice Arthur Bagnall to Chair a Committee with the brief, 'to examine the Central Charities and make recommendations for the future of Masonic Charity'. In 1973 the Committee made its recommendations, which were accepted subject to certain modifications. The recommendations were gradually implemented from 1975 and were finally completed on the 1st of January 1986.

Bagnall also recommended the reorganisation of Lodge Charity. That in addition to the Almoner a second officer, with the title of Charity Steward, be appointed in each Lodge to assist in charity matters. His duties to include the collection of all donations for Central, Provincial or Lodge Charities, and informing the brethren about these Charities. In 1975 the recommendation was implemented and the Charity Steward was added to the same category as the Almoner in the list of Officers in Rule 104 of the Book of Constitutions, and the amendment of June 1991, similarly applies to the Charity Steward, i.e. the Master shall appoint a Charity Steward as an Additional officer. The same amendment also introduced for the first time the offices of Provincial Grand Almoner and Charity Steward. The result being, from that time, the Almoner was responsible for discharging his normal 'Pastoral' duties of visiting the sick or lonely brother of the Lodge or his family, relieving any financial distress they may be suffering and maintaining a fund for that purpose. Also liaising with the Almoner to the Province in those cases where assistance is required from the Provincial or Central Charities.

Conclusion

As already stated the Central Charities have also been subject to change, and these are fully discussed in a separate Paper, which follows the mixed fortunes of the Fund of Benevolence, the Institutions, and of course, since 1919 the Royal Masonic Hospital. It also relates the successes and failures of the Bagnall Committee recommendations for re-structuring the Central Charities. Finally, it tells the story of the rise and fall of the Royal Masonic Hospital Samaritan Fund and the emergence of the New Samaritan Fund as a separate and major Central Charity.

EARLY DAYS OF THE LODGE OF RESEARCH, No. 2429

by

W.Bro. A.N. Newman, P.P.S.G.D.

The early history of the Lodge of Research is clearly the story of W.Bro. John T. Thorp, P.P.S.G.W. His interests, his knowledge, above all his great enthusiasm inspired those around him and converted what might have been merely a coterie of friends with likeminded ideas meeting together for discussion into something more elaborate, more formal, and certainly more permanent, the Lodge of Research. It is certainly clear that the whole of Thorp's circle of contacts, either through business or through Masonry, would repay a detailed examination, for on the one hand he has close links with R.W.Bro. William Kelly, P.P.G.M., through both business and Masonry, while his business connections throughout England very evidently brought him into contact with many persons who were to be significant both for his Masonic career and in the development of the Lodge of Research.

Thorp, the lynch-pin of the new Lodge, was born in 1849 and died in 1932, aged almost 83. He entered his father's elastic web business, spent some time on the continent, and then became virtually export director for the firm of Archibald Turner and Company in the elastic web industry, remaining with the firm for 44 years and eventually becoming Managing Director. At the age of 65 he retired and thereafter engrossed himself almost entirely in Masonry. He had been initiated in John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523) at the age of 21, and perhaps as a result of his travels in Europe he developed an interest in continental masonry. He progressed rapidly in the Lodge - as was the custom at that time - and within five years had become Master of the Lodge. He had also interests in both history and literature. In 1884 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and within a short time became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. His skills as an historian were also recognised by election as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Locally he involved himself in the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society and in the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

Those interested in the origins of the Lodge of Research have available not merely the immense riches of the Thorp bequest but, more significantly, the reminiscences of Thorp himself as well as the recollections of one of the Lodge's founders, delivered at a meeting of the Lodge on the occasion of its golden jubilee. In a paper delivered in 1942, W.Bro. F.W. Billson, at that time the sole surviving founder member, spoke about some of the circumstances which led to the founding of the Lodge in 1892 and some of its early years. There were

at that time only some 370 masons meeting in the town of Leicester itself, formed into five separate Lodges. These had set up a Union Lodge of Instruction and Thorp himself acted as preceptor on behalf of his own Lodge, John of Gaunt. Bro. Billson and he apparently lived next door to each other, in St Peter's Road. They became very friendly and apparently went for regular weekly walks.

One of their frequent mutual complaints was that not enough attention was being paid to the Lodge of Instruction, and it was Billson (he said) who suggested that was because the Lodge of Instruction had become largely a rehearsal meeting, of interest only to those actually in office or about to go into office but in effect of no interest to others. In consequence these two seemed to have hatched a scheme whereby Billson (as the more junior) would raise some point or other for general discussion by those brethren present to which eventually Thorp would provide an answer. Since Billson himself did not really know enough even to frame the questions Thorp would initially suggest the question, provide some idea of points to be raised on it, and of course eventually give the authoritative decision! As Billson commented: 'as there are usually two sides to every question I was to take one side and he would take the other.' It was at this time too that Thorp became Librarian of what then passed for a Library in the Halford Street Masonic Hall. Some of the books were in book cases, but others lay, uncatalogued, in the Strong Room. In the process of sorting and listing them Thorp would come across unusual and interesting materials and would discuss them with Billson. Billson for his part, perhaps almost in self-defence, suggested that three or four more junior masons might join the two of them in reading and noting such works and then discuss them in the Lodge of Instruction. Thorp did not disagree with him, but wondered if they could actually find another three or four who might also be interested. They went through the lists of Lodges, looking for likely names.

In St John's Lodge (No. 279) they came across the name of W. Bro. W. Maurice Williams, Prov. G. Reg. He was not exactly the sort of person Billson had in mind, since he was already very senior and had indeed written a history of his Lodge of its centenary. Thorp however was very anxious to involve him. Thorp was of course a member of John of Gaunt and Billson himself was a member of Commercial Lodge (No. 1391); they felt that they ought now to find someone from Albert Edward Lodge (No. 1560) and from the Lodge of the Golden Fleece (No. 2081), thus involving all the Lodges meeting inside the town of Leicester. As far as Albert Edward was concerned there was, said Billson, only one possibility; if I may quote, 'Brother Dr R. Pratt was the only brother of 1560 whom I had ever seen in the Lodge of Instruction so we decided to ask him.' The same in effect was true of Bro. William H. Staynes of Lodge 2081.

It was at this stage that what might be described as 'Higher Masonic Politics' became significant. Thorp reminded his associates that there had recently been a great deal of talk about 'irregular masonic activities' and of penalties that would be imposed by Grand Lodge on those who attended such bodies. Since there were now five persons interested in these new sorts of masonic meetings in Leicester, and of course 'Five Hold a Lodge', they were in danger of being masonically irregular. They ought to have some sort of official sanction, but since, he felt, it was hardly likely that the Union Lodge of Instruction would give official sanction to their meetings they were therefore in some difficulty. Either they would have to abandon their schemes or they would have to become more adventurous. Again to quote Bro. Billson: 'The only Masonic body doing work on the lines we had in view . . . was the Quatuor Coronati Lodge [No. 2076] . . . Brother Thorp was of opinion that the only safe course was to follow in the footsteps of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge and apply for a warrant.' That of course involved approaching at least two more persons, though Thorp felt that they needed a minimum membership of eight in order to provide for a full range of officers, and it was suggested that they should approach the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Samuel S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C., and W.Bro. Edward Holmes, soon to become Provincial Grand Secretary. The eighth name was that of Bro. the Rev. Henry Sylvanus Biggs who had been assisting Thorp to catalogue the Library. Thorp would be the first Master of the Lodge and 'would do all in his power to make the Lodge a success'.

It is always important to look again at the past, and above all to try and read the evidence of the past correctly. There must surely be some doubt as to whether Thorp was quite as disingenuous as Billson implied. Billson might not have envisaged the possibility of establishing a 'literary' Lodge but Thorp certainly knew of the activities of Quatuor Coronati and was a member of its Correspondence Circle; indeed he had close business links with W.Bro. H.W.J. Hughan P.S.G.D., a member of Quatuor Coronati, both being in the elastic web business, and he could not have been unaware that another such 'literary' Lodge, Minerva Lodge No. 2433, was being formed in Birkenhead. This Lodge received its warrant very shortly after the Lodge of Research. His insistence on the inclusion of Williams amongst the group of very junior masons would suggest that he had in mind the desirability of having one or two past masters working with them.

These founding members of the Lodge are indeed of considerable interest. Thorp himself, the first Master, had been initiated in 1870. His successor in the Chair was Williams, a solicitor, initiated into St John's in 1883. Edward Holmes, the third Master, had been initiated, also into St John's in 1883, a month after Williams. He was chief

clerk and later Superintendent of the County Constabulary and had a long and distinguished Masonic career. However something seems to have 'gone wrong' so far as Holmes and the Lodge of Research are concerned; he resigned from the Lodge in 1897, shortly after serving as its Master and thereafter his name seems to have been virtually struck from the record. He was to become Provincial Grand Master and indeed visited the Lodge on many occasions, and when he died in 1928 he was a member or an honorary member of every Lodge in the Province, except the Lodge of Research. It is not clear why there should have been this breach. It was not merely because he had resigned, because others, such as William Henry Staynes and Reginald Pratt, were to resign later but they were never excluded from the list of founders published each year in the *Transactions*; indeed Samuel Partridge another solicitor, had been initiated into John of Gaunt in 1866, and had only become the fifth Master in order to help out, resigned in 1910 and was immediately elected an honorary member. Henry Biggs was at this time Master of Divinity at Wyggeston School and Curate at St Peter's Church in Leicester. He was later to become Headmaster of Wyggeston School and Curate at St Martin's. In addition he was to involve himself in a wide range of local societies. He was initiated into John of Gaunt in 1890 at the age of 34. William Staynes was a leather merchant, initiated into the Lodge of the Golden Fleece in 1887 at the age of 40. Dr Reginald Pratt and Billson were certainly young and junior masons, Pratt having been initiated in Albert Edward Lodge in 1888 at the age of 31 and Billson, a solicitor, in Commercial Lodge in 1889 at 24. The tyler of the Lodge, Bro. J. Tanser, was a serving brother and tyler to many of the Leicester Lodges.

At all events these eight came together and found themselves broadly speaking in agreement. There was agreement about the objects of the Lodge - 'to provide a centre and bond of union for Masonic Students and Brethren of Literary tastes, to provide and encourage an exemplary rendering of the Masonic Ritual and Ceremonies, to attract and interest Brethren by means of Papers upon the History, Antiquities and Symbols of the Craft, in order to imbue them with a love for Masonic Research, - and generally to cultivate Masonic good-fellowship, and promote the Grand Principles upon which the Order is founded.' The second, 'to provide . . . an exemplary rendering of the Masonic Ritual', which might be thought surprising for what was intended as a 'literary Lodge', was included 'to meet what was thought would be the wishes of the younger founders and joining members who were advancing to the Chairs of their respective lodges'. At a series of meetings the founders made the early decisions which determined the character of the Lodge. There was some debate about the name of the Lodge; various suggestions were rejected, and even the idea of calling it the Lodge of

Masonic Research was initially not received warmly. Some other important decisions had to be made; did the Lodge intend to initiate, pass or raise candidates? Since however it was considered unlikely that Grand Lodge would permit a Lodge without powers to perform these ceremonies the same end was attained by copying the practice of Quatuor Coronati Lodge and laying down a substantial initiation fee. It was also agreed that the Lodge of Research would not in practice try to compete with the other Lodges in ordinary masonic business, and that Ritual and Ceremony came more properly within the activities of the Lodge of Instruction. It was also felt desirable to try and limit the size of the Lodge; at one stage twenty-seven was felt to be a suitable limit but it was eventually agreed to incorporate a by-law making the total membership thirty-three. Such a limitation through a by-law would not now be acceptable, and that by-law was eventually dropped. It was also agreed that each founder should lend the Lodge three guineas as a working fund; the Lodge would borrow the Lodge furniture of John of Gaunt Lodge; and the first officers had to defray the cost of their own Collars and Jewels, thereafter presenting them to the Lodge.

The warrant for the new Lodge was granted on 3rd June and the Lodge was consecrated on 26th October at the Annual General Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. It was an unusual occasion, since the Lodge of Research (as No. 2429) was junior to Grace Dieu Lodge, in Coalville, (No. 2428) but had its consecration ceremony earlier. All the twelve Lodges in the Province were well represented, and there were three other Provinces also present. In all one hundred and fourteen names were recorded. The Consecrating Officer, W.Bro. S.S. Partridge, was himself a founder member of the Lodge, but stepped down at that stage of the ceremony when Thorp was to be installed as the first Master of the Lodge which was by W.Bro. George Speth, the Secretary and a Past Master of Quatuor Coronati. Immediately afterwards George Speth was elected an honorary member of the Lodge and thereafter he played a prominent part in lists of papers delivered and printed in *Transactions*. Another prominent member of Quatuor Coronati, W.Bro. W.J. Hughan, P.G.S.D., also played a prominent part, becoming an honorary member of the Lodge of Research and eventually agreeing to sell the copyright of all his masonic writings to the Lodge for £50. Naturally, another of the first group of 'honorary members' was R.W.Bro. William Kelly.

As already stated, Thorp was the first Master of the Lodge, and thereafter served for eighteen years as its Secretary. He was the first editor of the *Transactions*; indeed it was Thorp who first put forward the idea of preserving the papers delivered, 'as it seemed a pity that there should be no permanent record of so much trouble and research'. But he was more than its editor. He was the author of many

valuable books and other papers throwing light upon an enormous variety of masonic themes. The series of Masonic Reprints which he launched made available a large number of little known eighteenth-century pamphlets and 'exposures' to masonic scholars all over the world, and many of these volumes came from his own collections or from purchases which had made their way to the Masonic Library in Leicester. The work of the Lodge was not however restricted to its members. One of the earliest decisions was to establish a 'Correspondence Circle', open to all master masons from both within the Province and outside it. The idea was mooted at a very early stage of the discussions amongst the founders, but there was some substantial opposition, and it was not until the fourth meeting, in May 1893, that the scheme was adopted by the members of the Lodge.

The Lodge achieved very quickly a reputation on a wider scale. From the very beginning Quatuor Coronati included mention of the Lodge of Research in its own publications. In 1893 it noted the consecration of the Lodge of Research and the establishment of its Correspondence Circle; 'in its general features and even in particulars this will resemble the same institution annexed to the Quatuor Coronati Lodge. The fee will be five shillings per annum.' A little later there is another notice:

It will thus be seen that this Lodge had done really good work during its first year of existence, and should prove a centre of interest to every intelligent Mason in Leicestershire. Starting with eight founders it has since been strengthened by the accession of six joining members, and enters on its second session with every prospect of continued success.

One entry commented of one paper presented at the Lodge, on 'Freemasonry: its origin and purposes', 'a very interesting one, giving an account of the various theories which had been held of the Origin of the Craft. There being no time for comment on that occasion, discussion was postponed until the next meeting of the Lodge.'

The Lodge was however not without its difficulties. One such emerged in 1909, when the new Masonic Hall in London Road was under construction. There seems to have been some reluctance to expose its members to the trials and tribulations of 'running-in' a new building. At all events the Lodge firmly recorded: 'The Lodge do not meet in the proposed New Masonic Hall for two years from the date of opening, but that as soon as the new building is consecrated the Committee will take immediate steps to obtain a home for the Lodge during the two years.' Clearly the Lodge did not intend to stay away permanently, but in 1910 the Lodge agreed to hold its meetings in Syston, only the next year to agree to meet in future at the Masonic Hall in London Road. It was at this time that W.Bro. Partridge resigned, but whether it was in connection with this decision is unclear.

In looking at these early years the question must be asked whether the Lodge has 'justified' itself, and whether the enthusiasm of these early years has been fulfilled. Although the Lodge has to some extent changed over the hundred years its aims have certainly been maintained. The establishing for example of the Lodge of Installed Masters has removed any need for the Lodge of Research to concern itself with matters of ceremonial and ritual, but that had never been considered by the founders to have been central to its activities. And although the Lodge originally met five times a year it has now restricted itself to meeting only three. On the other hand the modern historian of masonry might well feel that some of the early papers would not necessarily merit a place in more recent *Transactions*. Nonetheless these modern historians would be amongst the first to pay tribute to the achievements of these 'ancient brethren'. The record of publication by the Lodge is a tribute to W.Bro. John Thorp and his successors as Editors of *Transactions*. The wealth of masonic learning which has been passed on to others is enormous, and it would be impossible to write a history of Freemasonry, in Leicestershire itself, on the wider scale of England as a whole, or even of Masonry over the whole 'terrestrial globe' without reference to the *Transactions* of this Lodge or the series of reprints and publications which the Lodge has sponsored.

In 1942, on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the Lodge of Research, a paper was read by Bro. Walter Bunney on 'A Jubilee Record of the Lodge of Research', and in it he raised, as a conclusion, the question of the future of the Lodge.

Masonic research is not the monopoly of the few, but the Privilege of the many. Our aim is the dissemination of Masonic knowledge in its *widest* sense. It is the duty of every member to dedicate himself to the special purpose for which this Lodge stands: each one can make some contribution. The Lodge will continue to thrive only through the devotion, enthusiasm and sacrifice of its members.

We are the inheritors of a great and noble tradition, a magnificent library, and a collection of Masonic rarities of which any province might well be proud... Be worthy of the great inheritance that has provided the means whereby Masonic knowledge may be further increased, so that we in our turn may hand on the torch to those who might be inspired to pursue the great work of Research, still glowing with a shining light.

The words he used then are surely still relevant fifty years later.

A version of this paper was delivered at the Centenary Meeting of the Lodge on 26th October 1992.

My thanks are due to all those members of the Lodge who so freely gave of their advice and help, but more especially W.Bro. N.B. Ashcroft who passed on to me his extensive notes drawn from the Lodge minute books, and W.Bro's H. Starmer and J.A. Ridge who commented on early versions of this paper.

**GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS IN AND OVER
THE PROVINCE OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND**

William Kelly, F.S.A., F.R.H.S.

by

W.Bro. H.W. Tassell, P.S.G.D., M.E.G.Sup. (R.A.)

William Kelly became the Fourth Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland in 1870. He was born in 1815 but, unfortunately, very little detail has been preserved of his early life. His father, also William Kelly, known to have been descended from an Irish family, was the owner of the firm of W.P. Kelly & Co., Fancy Hosiery Manufacturers, with premises, in Market Street, and Bow Bridge, Leicester, and as late as 1846 the younger William Kelly was believed to be still living with his father at Bow Bridge House. In 1852, he was known to be residing at Rose Cottage, Hinckley Road, Leicester and in 1881, at Ivy Cottage, Alexandra Road, Stoneygate, in the Parish of Knighton, Leicester. Kelly had one sister, Priscilla, who like William, never married.

In his book, *Fifty Years Masonic Reminiscences*, William Kelly does recall two memories of his early years. He relates how, in 1823 as a boy of eight, he was 'raised up' while standing opposite the 'Bell Hotel', Leicester, to witness Lord Howe and a masonic procession pass by on its way for Lord Howe, then Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 525, Leicester, to lay with Masonic Honours, the Foundation Stone of St. George's Church in Rutland Street, Leicester. It was sixty-five years later that he was to write: 'My reminiscences of what I witnessed on that day . . . probably first implanted in my heart the germs of those enthusiastic feelings of love of our ancient Order, which have made it the great hobby of my life . . .' Also: 'An ardent desire to become a Freemason had taken possession of me at an early age. My father had been a Mason and taken the Royal Arch Degree in New York . . . (his certificate for this Degree, now carefully preserved in the Library and Museum at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, was issued by the Eagle Chapter, No. 54, New York, and proclaims that he was 'Exalted to the Seventh or Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason' and is dated 12th January, 1827) . . . and had brought home some masonic books; these, and especially Webb's *Masonic Monitor* - a standard work in America - I eagerly read, and used to 'pump' my father to get out of him all I could about Masonry. I was then a schoolboy, about thirteen years of age, and my father died when I was eighteen'.

In civic life, William Kelly was Leicester Borough Accountant from 1849 to 1863 and also in 1849, became secretary to the Highway Committee. From 1862, until 1891, he was actuary to the Leicester Savings Bank. His obituary published in the *Leicester Daily Post* describes him as an author of considerable local repute. He was

known to have 'strongly antiquarian tastes' and it has been said that 'the archaeology of Leicester has benefitted by his industry'.

A major work, published in 1884, was *Royal Progresses and Visits to Leicester* and this volume is prefaced on the fly-leaf: "To the Memory of a Beloved Sister and Life-Long Companion (at whose dying request it was prepared for publication) this Work is dedicated". (Priscilla died in 1881). Other books from his prolific pen are:

Visitations of the Plague in Leicester

The Old Guildhall of Leicester

The Great Mace of Leicester

The Drama in Leicester in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

"Anacreon" Moore in Leicestershire.

His masonic writings are *A History of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire, (to which the County of Rutland is now Annexed), including Notices of Private Lodges and Chapters in the Province* (Published in 1870, this book, a copy of which Kelly presented to H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Grand Master, was described in the *The Freemason* on 17th November, 1888, as 'one of the best histories of Freemasonry in an English Province it has been our privilege to read'), and *Fifty Year's Masonic Reminiscences*. This latter work, published at the author's own expense, is based on an Address to the Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester, given at the celebration of the author's fiftieth anniversary of his Initiation into Freemasonry and membership of that Lodge. This Address was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary as, at the time, William Kelly was said to be suffering from hoarseness. The book was for presentation only; the title page recites one of the Ancient Charges: 'May Brotherly Love Prevail, and every Moral and Social Virtue cement us,' and the Dedication: 'To the Past Masters, Wardens and Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester,' is inscribed by 'Their Father in Masonry'.

Kelly was also an ardent masonic correspondent and his many letters, together with those written to him, have been beautifully bound and preserved alongside all the other considerable Kelly memorabilia to be found in the Masonic Library and Museum, Leicester, of which, it has been asserted, he was Founder.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1868; a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1879 and was, for many years, the Honorary Secretary of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society.

It has been written of William Kelly that he was 'essentially a Leicester man'. No one better known or more respected and that in his earlier years was of a very shy and retiring nature. In his paper on *The Provincial Grand Masters of Leicestershire and Rutland*, W. Bro. F.G. Fleeman, P.M., No. 1007, P.P.A.G.D.C., said of Kelly: '... since the date of his Initiation ... he had been one of the keenest and most

active workers the Province had ever had, and it is probably not overstating the facts to say that Leicestershire Masonry owes more to him than to any other Brother . . . he really made masonry his life-long hobby, and in his later years it became his passion . . . he apparently had a lovable nature and endeared himself not only to his Masonic friends, but also to everyone with whom he came into contact'. Concluding: 'He was, indeed, a very paragon amongst Masons'. He is depicted in 'Masonic Portraits' published in 1879 as ' . . . a man of singular modesty, who would rather work all three Degrees in succession than say three words about himself.

A Life-size painting of R.W.Bro. William Kelly, resplendent in his full Craft regalia as Past Provincial Grand Master, presented to him by the Brethren of his Province in 1884, now hangs in The Holmes Temple, at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. It is in close proximity to the portraits of the two Grand Superintendents and Provincial Grand Masters to whom he had always given unqualified allegiance and ever evinced his unstinting admiration: Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke and the Earl Howe. A further portrait of W.Bro. Kelly, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, presented to him by John of Gaunt Lodge, during October, 1857, now hangs in The Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

William Kelly was exalted into The Supreme Order of The Holy Royal Arch by Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke at a meeting of the Chapter of Fortitude, No. 348, (now No. 279) Leicester, on 21st September 1841; on the same day he was appointed Principal Sojourner and, in succeeding years, filled the three Principal Chairs presiding as M.E.Z. in 1843/4. In his *Annals of the Chapter of Fortitude, No. 279 Leicester, 1796-1896*, E.Comp. J.T. Thorp, P.Z., P.P.G.J., writes: 'Comp. Kelly seems to have infused new life into the Chapter, the Meetings were more numerous attended and have been held regularly up to the present time, a period of more than fifty years; very much of this continued prosperity is due to the watchful care and devotion of Comp. Kelly . . .' An immediate innovation of Kelly's was that Z. should sign the Chapter minutes - these had previously always been signed by the two Scribes. During the many times when he was subsequently to act as M.E.Z. he would sign the minutes as 'William Kelly, pro tem'.

He assiduously attended the meetings of the Chapter, with the unexplained exception of a period between 1849 and 1851. (It is probably significant that it was during August, 1849, that the Chapter was unable to be opened since, of the three Principals, only the M.E.Z. was present). He frequently presented one or more of the Lectures and was known, on more than one occasion, to deliver all three; regularly proposed Candidates for Exaltation and in 1859, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member 'for his past services and a vote of thanks was passed for his kindness in fulfilling the duties of

the evening in so perfect a manner'. In 1861, he was elected to the office of Treasurer of the Chapter.

The minutes of the United Chapters written in April, 1858, make the first known reference to E.Comp. Kelly as being Provincial G.H. (During the four years between 1855 and 1859, the Chapter of Fortitude was to amalgamate with St. Augustine's Chapter and meet as The United Chapters of Fortitude and St. Augustine's attached to St. John's Lodge, No. 348). He deputed on many occasions for Earl Howe - and has written of himself 'as his Lordship's Deputy - but there appears to be no available evidence that he was ever actually appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent. On 17th May, 1856, he did, however, sign a Dispensation addressed to the United Chapters as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

It was on 22nd March, 1870, that E.Comp. Kelly received from Supreme Grand Chapter his Patent of Appointment as M.E. Grand Superintendent for the Province of Leicestershire and Rutlandshire. (*sic*). There is no known record of an Investiture ever being held although it would appear that immediately after receipt of the Patent a meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter was called to take place on 12th May, 1870; but, for reasons unknown, this meeting was 'unavoidably postponed'.

It is to be assumed from the lack of any information to suggest otherwise, that a Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire & Rutland was not formed or convened until 20th April, 1858, at which time, under the authority of the then Grand Superintendent, the Rt.Hon. Earl Howe, William Kelly presided at what was probably the first meeting of such a Royal Arch authority in the Province. (On the same date, the minutes of the United Chapters record that Kelly seconded a proposition 'that the expense of a set of collars for Provincial Grand Chapter, be defrayed out of the funds of this Chapter, as soon as the Treasurer should have sufficient balance in hand'). Until 1882, further meetings of the Provincial Grand Chapter were, at best, spasmodic and were held under the auspices of one of the Chapters in the Province, E.Comp. Kelly always presiding. A Masonic Calendar, not specifically dated, but presumably for the year 1871, refers to Provincial Grand Chapter as being in abeyance. From 1882, meetings were held on a more regular basis, always with the M.E. Grand Superintendent in the chair until, in the later years of his life, when illness intervened.

At the time when Kelly became Grand Superintendent three Chapters were meeting in his Province: Chapter of Fortitude, No. 279, (renumbered from 348 in 1863) Leicester; St. Augustine's Chapter, No. 779, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and De Mowbray Chapter, No. 1130, (now 523) Melton Mowbray. Prior to becoming Ruler of the Province, Kelly had been one of the Brethren of John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, (now No. 523) Leicester, who had signed the Petition

for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge and when the new Chapter, namely St. Augustine's and numbered 766 after its sponsoring Lodge, was consecrated on 24th June, 1847, he became its Founder First Principal. Over the next twelve years the Chapter was to meet at The Three Crowns Hotel, Leicester, and in the minutes of the twenty meetings spanning this period, E.Comp. Kelly was present at all but one. He acted as M.E.Z. on thirteen occasions, was the only Companion to deliver any of the Lectures and, at one meeting in 1848, presented all three. In 1859, a Warrant was granted by Supreme Grand Chapter to transfer the Chapter to the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, (then numbered 1081, now No. 779) meeting at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. A period of four years was then to elapse before St. Augustine's Chapter, now again re-numbered after its sponsoring Lodge, was to hold a Convocation. At that first meeting of the Chapter held in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, E.Comp. Kelly acted as Second Principal, again delivered the three Lectures and on the same occasion was elected First Principal for the ensuing year. At the three meetings held during June in the years 1864/5/7 he acted as M.E.Z.

He had also been one of ten Founder Members of De Mowbray Chapter, No. 1130, (now No. 523) attached to The Rutland Lodge, No. 1130, Melton Mowbray. *A History of De Mowbray Chapter, No. 1130, 1869-1969* presented by E.Comp. J.W. Page, P.Z., P.P.G.S.N., at the Chapter's Centenary Convocation relates that 'On the 28th May, 1869, Kelly not only consecrated the new Chapter on behalf of Earl Howe, M.E. Grand Superintendent, but was also Founder Third Principal . . . installed the Principals . . . occupied the J. Chair for a Ceremony of Exaltation and delivered the Symbolical and Mystical Lectures . . .' An Honorary Member of the Chapter, at a meeting held during November, 1869, he delivered all three Lectures.

During the period of twenty-four years Kelly was to be M.E. Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire & Rutland, two new Chapters were constituted and consecrated in the Province: Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, attached to the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, Loughborough, and St. George's Chapter, No. 1560, attached to Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1560, Leicester. The M.E. Grand Superintendent consecrated the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, at a convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held at The Bull's Head Hotel, Loughborough on 14th January, 1873. He had been one of the signatories of the Petition for the new Chapter and listed as Founder Third Principal. He consecrated St. George's Chapter, No. 1560, at a meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter held at Freemasons' Hall, Halford Street, Leicester, on 2nd March, 1886. E.Comp. William Kelly was named in the Warrant as Founder First Principal of the new Chapter and occupied that office.

Following his appointment as Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Kelly continued regularly to attend the meetings of Fortitude, his Mother Chapter; from time to time, act as M.E.Z., propose Brethren for Exaltation and present one or more of the Lectures. At a meeting held during 1874, he not only exalted a Candidate but then delivered the Symbolical and Mystical Lectures. He resigned as Treasurer of the Chapter in 1873 and was accorded a vote of thanks for the twelve years he had served in that office. E.Comp. J.T. Thorp has written that during the years 1875 to 1879 'the Chapter of Fortitude enjoyed the greatest prosperity; the attendance at the meetings was large and Candidates came forward at every meeting of the Chapter. Fifty-five members were added to the roll during the five years, whilst many of the Principals of the County Chapters came to Chapter of Fortitude to be installed'. During the 1880's the Grand Superintendent's attendance became much more spasmodic and was mainly confined to Installation Meetings. During 1889 he did not attend at all and his last recorded attendance was in March 1891; it was in 1893 that the Scribe E. of Chapter of Fortitude was to write to him expressing the sympathy of the Chapter upon his protracted illness.

Although during the first four years Kelly was Grand Superintendent, St. Augustine's Chapter failed to hold a single meeting, on 21st August, 1874, a meeting of the Chapter was summoned 'By Command of the Grand Superintendent' and all subsequent meetings over the next four years were convened under the same august authority. At the September meetings held in the years 1875 and 1877, E.Comp. Kelly acted as M.E.Z. and at one of those meetings exalted three Brethren. From 1877, seven years and twenty meetings were to elapse before he again attended the Chapter and this was when he and Provincial Grand Chapter were received. His last recorded visit to St. Augustine's was made in 1884.

As Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Kelly is recorded in the minutes of De Mowbray Chapter, No. 1130, as attending eight of the Chapter's meetings, usually to install the three Principals. There was a period of ten years between 1873 and 1883 when he did not appear to attend at all. This absence may possibly be partly explained by the fact that in the period between the meetings held during June, 1879, when only five members were present, and April, 1882, when only six members were in attendance, the Chapter did not meet. The Grand Superintendent's last visit to De Mowbray Chapter, of which he was an Honorary Member, was in July, 1885, and in June, 1891, he was to write to the Scribe E. expressing his regret that he could not attend because of ill-health.

In the Historical Notes written on the occasion of the Centenary Charter Festival of the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, by E.Comp. T.M.L. Walters, P.Z., P.P.G.J., it is learned that at the Chapter's first regular meeting, E.Comp. Kelly, M.E. Grand Superintendent, acted

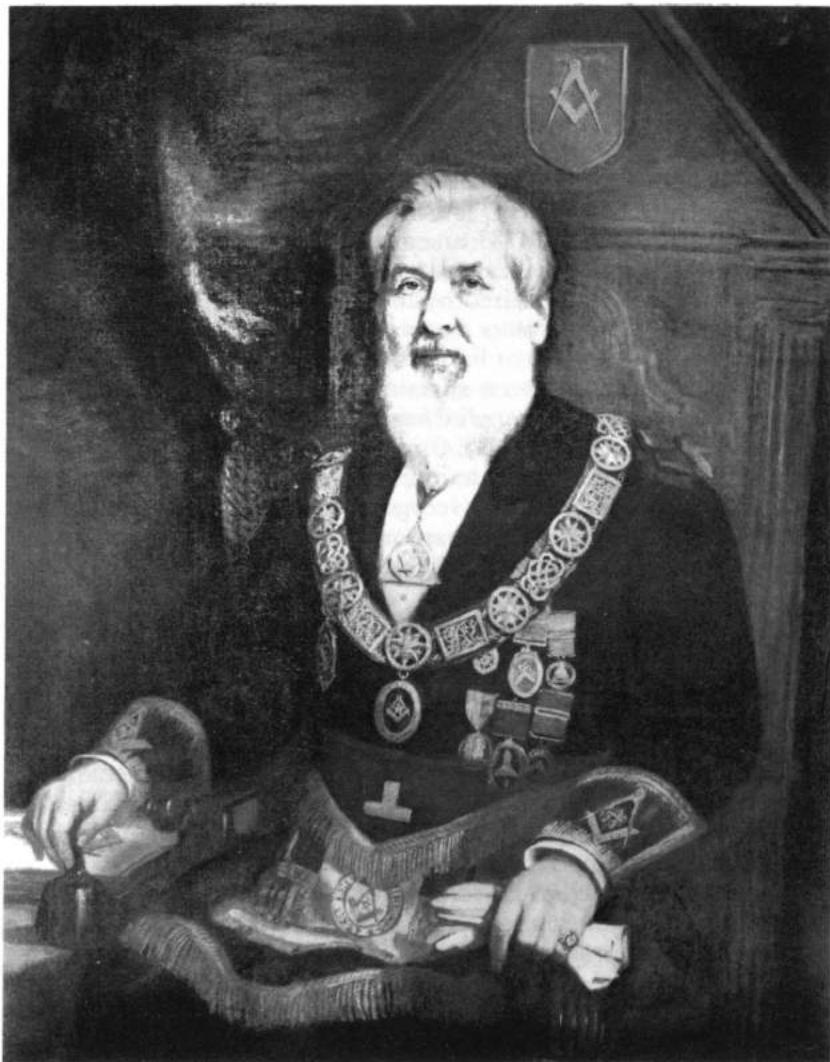
as First Principal and, it is to be assumed, as was the general practice at that time, that and his co-Principals alone opened the Chapter, after which the Companions were admitted. Later in 1873, he was proposed and elected an Honorary Member of the Chapter. E.Comp. Walters writes that around this period 'Masonry in Loughborough was at a low ebb. . . ' On 16th November, 1875, a meeting of the Chapter was attended by only five members and one visitor and from 19th January, 1876, until 1883, no meetings at all were held. Under the heading Revival the Historical Notes then read: 'On 25th June, 1883, an Emergency Chapter was held . . . William Kelly, the M.E. Grand Superintendent was present and expressed the great pleasure he felt in coming to Loughborough to assist in the resuscitation of the Chapter which he hoped would now enter upon a career of continued usefulness and prosperity'. This wish was to be confirmed by subsequent events and in 1887, an emergency Meeting of the Chapter was convened and under its auspices, a meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter was held and chaired by the Grand Superintendent.

The impetus of the years between 1875 and 1879 relating in particular to the Chapter of Fortitude to which Thorp had referred does not seem to have been sustained. E.Comp. M.D.M. Parkes-Bowen in his history *St. George's Chapter, No. 1560 - The First Hundred Years, 1886-1986* relates that E.Comp. the Rev. C. Henton Wood, Prov.G.Reg. was prompted to preface his Oration given at the Consecration Ceremony of St. George's Chapter by commenting that of the 160 subscribing Companions in the Province, 92 were members of the Chapter of Fortitude; going on to remark 'Many of these are old Masons on the retired list, whilst many more regard the Royal Arch as of no more importance than any of the other side degrees. The nett result is that the average attendance at the Chapter of Fortitude was just twenty.

E.Comp. the Rev. Wood then felt it necessary to commence his Oration by asking 'Why then is the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch in such a languishing condition, when the Mark Degree and other Masonic systems now worked in our midst are continually gaining accessions of strength and, so far as one is able to judge, prospering exceedingly?' He then answered his own question by saying, inter alia, 'A chief cause, no doubt, is novelty. To many minds the multifarious clothing, jewels and paraphernalia of these various Orders have great attraction and, whereas a principle charm of Masonry is the consciousness of secret knowledge which gives a sense of superiority over those who have it not, this feeling is intensified by the multiplicity of the Degrees taken; and the young Mason is tempted to wander off the beaten track in search of abstruse and complicated instruction before he has acquired the genuine secrets of a Master Mason.

The M.E. Grand Superintendent resigned from membership of St.

George's Chapter, No. 1560, at its Annual Festival held in June, 1891, and at the next meeting of the Chapter he was elected an Honorary Member. He was to rule over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland for almost a further three years until his death in 1894.



William Kelly, F.S.A., F.R.H.S.
(from the portrait at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester)

William Kelly had first expressed a desire to become a Freemason and a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 348, (now No. 279), Leicester when he was twenty-one years of age, but owing to 'internal dissensions' in St. John's at the time was advised to wait. He was eventually initiated at a meeting of the Lodge held on 7th November, 1838. He was then 'passed' and 'raised' in successive months, acted as Junior Deacon at the next meeting, was appointed Junior Warden in 1839, became Senior Warden in 1840 and was installed as Worshipful Master on 27th December, (St. John's Day) 1841. Fifteen brethren, including three visitors, attended and after his installation, W.Bro. Kelly promptly initiated two Candidates. During his year in the Chair, 23 meetings were held and a total of fourteen Candidates were initiated, and it was during this time that Kelly was to describe himself as 'a very shy young fellow'. Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke suggested that he should remain in office for a further year and this W.Bro. Kelly at first assented to do, only to change his mind, later writing: 'The fact was that I found some of the older Brethren were secretly working against me'.

In his *Fifty Years' Masonic Reminiscences* Kelly commented: 'During my Mastership of St. John's Lodge I had done my utmost to promote the progress of Masonry and the best interests of the Lodge, but my efforts met with little support from the old Past Masters, Bro. Cooke saying: "Brother Kelly's a good fellow, but he wants to go too fast, and to make Masonry too cheap in the town" and that at a time when, as we have seen it not infrequently happened that no Lodge could be held, seven members not being present!

'Bro. William Cooke, Provincial Grand Secretary, was the Senior Past Master of the Lodge. During my Mastership, instead of coming to the Lodge at the time of opening, and taking his proper place on the dais, his custom was not to put in an appearance until the business would be nearly over, and then to seat himself at the end of the room near the Inner Guard and whatever work I might be engaged upon - the solemn ceremony of the Third Degree, or what not, as soon as the welcome intelligence reached him that the fourth Degree was ready to be entered upon - he would start up and cry out: "Cut it short, Bro. Kelly! Cut it short! Supper's ready; Supper's ready." Highly encouraging this to a young Master in the performance of his duties! I need scarcely add that he was a great epicure'.

In 1844, W.Bro. Kelly resigned his membership of St. John's; the reason not being minuted, only to rejoin after a period of twelve months had elapsed. He was again to occupy the Chair of his Mother Lodge in 1867, at the end of which term he was presented with a pair of bronzes, a marble timepiece and a vote of thanks beautifully illuminated on vellum; again in 1868; for the fourth time, in 1888, on the occasion of his Masonic Jubilee, at which time the brethren of the Lodge presented to him a massive Silver loving cup weighing over

eighty-seven ounces as a small token of affectionate regard and esteem for the Father of the Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge acknowledged the event by giving him an illuminated address; and finally and for the fifth time in 1890, when the Lodge celebrated its centenary.

He presided over a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge for the first time in 1844. Lord Rancliffe, Provincial Grand Master, as was apparently his usual practice arrived when the business was over and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, left as soon as he opened the Lodge. Kelly recalls in his *Fifty Years' Masonic Reminiscences*: . . . that Lord Rancliffe arrived just on time to preside over the Fourth Degree in which he was highly proficient, his Lordship being a fellow of infinite jest. W.Bro. Kelly was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1841; Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 1842; Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1843 and Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1846.

On 28th April, 1852, Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, Provincial Grand Master, appointed him as his Deputy and it was on this day that W.Bro. Kelly was to attend the inauguration in Leicester of the Duke of Rutland's statue, robed in gorgeous array in the Grand Lodge Clothing of the late Duke of York, which had been loaned to him by Sir Frederick who had served under the Duke as Deputy Master of the Prince of Wales Lodge. Four years later he was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master with full powers to act as Provincial Grand Master, this being due to the P.G.M.'s failing health. On the 18th November, 1856, Kelly installed Earl Howe as Provincial Grand Master and was appointed his Lordship's Deputy. Previously, in 1854, at a meeting held at The Three Crowns Hotel, Leicester, he had accepted the appointment of Provincial Grand Secretary, an office he was to occupy for two years.

Over many years Kelly had been actively promoting the idea that a Masonic Hall should be erected in Leicester and on the 15th February, 1859, together with other Brethren, he had the great satisfaction of assisting Lord Howe in laying, with Masonic honours, the first stone of this building on a site at No. 22-24, Halford Street.

It was in 1866, that for the first time, the Province decided to support a Masonic Charity and the one chosen was the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys. W.Bro. Kelly undertook the Stewardship for the Province and such was his zeal that his figure of approximately £200 was the highest submitted by any other Provincial Steward. Later, in 1878, at the inauguration of the Leicestershire and Rutland Charity Association, R.W.Bro. Kelly was elected a Vice-President and chaired the first meeting.

Upon the resignation of Lord Howe, W.Bro. William Kelly was by patent appointed Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and

Rutland on 3rd January, 1870, and on the 10th February, 1870, was installed in office. Howe was then to present to him the gold chain and jewels his Lordship had worn as Deputy Grand Master of England and Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, together with the whole of his Masonic clothing and jewels and, also, a bust of the late Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland.

His first public act after installation was to assist in laying with 'Masonic Ceremonies' the Foundation Stones of St. Paul and St. Mark Churches in Leicester. His last public act as P.G.M. was to take part in a similar ceremony on the site of the proposed new Church of St. Peter to be erected as a public memorial in honour of Earl Howe.

At the Annual General Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, held on 14th November, 1872, R.W.Bro. Kelly announced that having completed three years in the office, he had decided to retire as P.G.M. as from 3rd January, 1873. In his Farewell Address he provided two reasons for this decision. Firstly, that he had always looked upon his tenure of office as merely temporary, in fact, as a "stop-gap" 'until some more eligible Brother of rank and opulence could be found to succeed me - one whose elevated position and influence in the County would add to the prestige of the Order in popular estimation'. Secondly, he gave his strongest reason as 'owing to the failure of my health during last winter, I no longer feel myself physically able to discharge the overall and important duties of the office with the regularity, zeal and efficiency which I trust I have hitherto done'.

On the 18th April, 1873, R.W.Bro. Kelly duly installed the Rt.Hon. Earl Ferrers as his successor and Grand Lodge was to confer upon him the rank of Past Provincial Grand Master although the normal tenure of office as P.G.M. was five years in order to entitle the holder to Past Rank. The Province presented to their P.P.G.M. an illuminated address in book form and a purse of 150 guineas. During August, 1874, Kelly was to deputise for Lord Ferrers in assisting the Mayor to lay with 'Masonic Ceremonies' the Memorial Stone of the New Town Hall, Leicester, and he was presented with the ebony mallet, suitably inscribed on silver plate, which he had used during the ceremony. He was to write of the following year: 'I may safely assert that the grandest sight I ever saw in my life was the ever memorable Installation of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Most Worshipful Grand Master at the Albert Hall, on 28th April, 1875, when I was fortunate enough to have a seat assigned to me on the dais, not far from the Prince, where I was immortalised by my portrait appearing in the picture of the scene, since engraved. The Prince exclaimed: "I shall never forget this day, brethren, never!" and certainly no one present could ever do so'.

Of those many years when Kelly was a member of the Craft and of St. John's Lodge, he has written: 'It is impossible for me to say how many Candidates I have brought to the light of Masonry during my career, but they may certainly be counted by the hundred!' *The Freemason* was to comment in a lengthy article: 'Of the Lodges that have been since established . . . (from the time of Kelly's initiation) . . . 'he is among the founders of six and was installed W.M. of two of them'. Of the occasion of the Centenary Meeting of St. John's Lodge, W.Bro. W. Maurice Williams, P.M., Prov. Grand Registrar, was to write in his *Historical Account of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester, 1790-1890*: 'With the assistance of the Worshipful D.P.G.M., Bro. Partridge, I had the enviable privilege of installing Bro. Kelly as W.M. of this Lodge . . . He has today reached the zenith of his Masonic aspirations, having borne all the honours conferred upon him with perfect modesty and becoming dignity, having earnestly and religiously inculcated and consistently practised the ennobling principles which should guide and strengthen each one of us in our masonic life, and which in his case have undergone no variability or shadow of change during the long period of his connection with the Lodge he loves so dearly'.

In the Mark Master Masons' Degree, Bro. Kelly was advanced in the Newstead Lodge of the Ancients, (T.I.) Nottingham, on 2nd February, 1858. A few weeks later he was one of the signatories of Petitions submitted to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for two Mark Lodges to be founded in Leicester. Warrants were subsequently granted for the Fowke Lodge, No. 19 and the Howe Lodge, No. 21, and William Kelly was installed as the first Worshipful Master of the Fowke Lodge of Mark Masters upon its inauguration on 9th September, 1858; he occupied this office for two years. He was again to serve as Master in 1868 and became Founder Master of the Knight of Malta Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 30, Hinckley, in 1870.

He was appointed R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Mark Master Masons for the Province of Leicestershire on 23rd June, 1858, and in 1859, the Earls Howe and Ferrers served under him as his Provincial Grand Wardens. 'A compliment,' Kelly was to write, 'probably without parallel in the Order'. In 1879, R.W.Bro. Kelly had the Counties of Northamptonshire, Derbyshire and Rutland added to his Province and, in 1884, a new M.M.M. Lodge was formed at Winhill, near Burton-on-Trent, named the William Kelly Lodge, No. 339. Two years previously the first Royal Ark Mariner Lodge had been consecrated in the Province and had been named the William Kelly Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No. 19, Leicester, (attached to the Fowke Lodge of Mark Masters). R.W.Bro. Kelly was to remain Provincial Grand Master until his death - a period of thirty-six years - and was to become the senior Provincial Grand Mark Master in England.

Together with eight other Brethren he was installed as a Knight Companion in the Imperial Ecclesiastical and Military Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, the Invincible Order of K.H.S. and the Holy Order of St. John, at the Consecration Meeting of the Byzantine Conclave, No. 44, Leicester, held on 2nd March, 1871. At the same meeting he was admitted as Viceroy, enthroned as Sovereign of the Conclave, and on the same day received his Patent of Appointment as Intendent General for the Division of Leicestershire and Rutland. Later, he was to be promoted one of the ten Chief Intendent-Generals of the Order.

Kelly was to write in his *Fifty Years' Masonic Reminiscences*: 'I was perfected as a member of the 18th Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, on the opening day of St. Margaret's Chapter, No. 92, on the 28th March, 1882. Served the office of M.W.S. in 1884; two years later I received the 30th Degree, and in April last the Supreme Grand Council 33rd Degree did me the honour of offering for my acceptance advancement to the 31st Degree (limited to 72 members), an honour which, however, I declined for the present.

Having been installed as a Sir Knight of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, in the Mount Calvary Encampment, London, Kelly was to become one of the seven Founders of the Rothley Temple Preceptory, No. 152, Leicester, and at the Preceptory's Consecration Meeting, held on 5th February, 1885, was installed as its first Eminent Preceptor. He attained the Provincial Rank of Constable.

After his death it was surely well-written of R.W.Bro. Kelly in the *Transactions - Lodge of Research, No. 2429*: 'As Founder, Consecrating Officer or Member (subscribing or Honorary) he was connected with nearly every Masonic body in the Province'. While in 1888, *The Freemason* commented: 'During the whole of his long career, he has been Masonry's chief and strongest pillar in Leicestershire, and there is hardly a Masonic institution in that favoured Province in the establishment, revival, or improvement of which he has not taken a leading part . . .'

He joined the Correspondence Circle of the Quator Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, became a full member of the Lodge on the 8th November, 1887, and was the subject of an Address given by Bro. G.W. Speth at a meeting of the Lodge held at Freemasons' Hall, London. Bro. Speth spoke of visiting his friend for the last time in April, 1893, ' . . . when Kelly was then unable to attend his Lodge although was still in the habit of taking the air in a wheelchair, but his increasing infirmity and the attacks of an incurable disease had so far weakened his powers that although still able to move about his sitting-room, he could no longer get out of bed unaided. He received me with all his old geniality and evinced an unabated interest in matters masonic.

On 23rd February, 1894, William Kelly's photograph was featured on the front page of *The Wyvern* which was published in Leicester and described itself as 'A Topical, Critical and Humorous Journal'. An article appearing in the inner pages and headed 'The Father of Local Freemasonry' reported: '... Mr. Kelly is an old man now - soon he will be entering his eightieth year - and what is worse, his health fails him a great deal; but he still keeps up absorbing interest in the affairs of the town and particularly in Masonic affairs. He is a most interesting man to converse with, full of reminiscences of the past, though he declares his memory to be not as good as it was. His name is honoured a good deal by all the old residents of the town, and we hope that this brief sketch will help to interest the younger generations in the labours of a gentleman who has done so much good work in all the directions in which he has turned his attention. Young masons, above all, will be pleased to have their attention called to the promoter and fosterer of almost all the vigorous advancement of the Craft in Leicester during the past half century.'

William Kelly died suddenly on Thursday evening, 23rd August, 1894, in the eightieth year of his life, at this home in Alexandra Road, Leicester. Up to a few days prior to his death, which occurred while preparing to retire for the night, he was still just able to get about his house. He was buried in the Churchyard of St. Mary's Knighton, Leicester, in a joint grave with his sister, Priscilla, who had died thirteen years previously. The inscription on the gravestone reads:

This stone was
erected by her
sorrowing brother
WILLIAM KELLY, F.S.A.
Now here interred
He died
23rd August, 1894,
in the 80th year of
His Age.
In conjunction with the
deceased sister he founded
the Keley Charity in
connection with Trinity
Hospital, Leicester.
Widely known as a Dis-
tinguished Freemason
He attained High Rank
in the various branches

of the Order, and was
sometimes Grand Master
of the Province of
Leicestershire and Rutland.

No masonic symbols are discernible on the stone and an error was obviously made in the spelling of Kelly Charity.

One of the provisions of the Will of William Kelly relates to the Kelly Charity in connection with the Trinity Hospital, Leicester. With the exception of a life interest of an annual sum not exceeding £100 to Laura Baxter, the bulk of his estate was bequeathed to the Hospital and the income was to be applied in payment of weekly sums to poor, aged men and women. It was William Kelly's wish that recipients should preferably have been subscribing members, or the widows of subscribing members, of any of the Lodges of Freemasons in Leicester. Men so appointed were to be called William Kelly Almsmen and women, Priscilla Kelly Almswomen.

Within two months of Kelly's death, under the authority of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire & Rutland, a meeting of the Committee of General Purposes was convened with only one item on the agenda:

BUSINESS

Pursuant to a resolution passed at the Provincial Grand Lodge, held on the 4th inst., - To consider and determine the form of Memorial to be raised to the memory of R.W.Bro. William Kelly, P.P.G.M., etc., etc.,

The Committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons were to meet at the same time and place, so that the two Committees may act in concert in promoting the Memorial.

By unanimous resolution the meeting submitted for the consideration of Provincial Grand Lodge a detailed scheme, Item 1 of which stated:

'That in order to perpetuate the memory of the late esteemed Brother, William Kelly, Right Worshipful Past Provincial Grand Master, a Benevolent and Educational Fund, to be called The Kelly Memorial Fund, be formed for the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, such a fund to be applied to the relief of indigent brethren, and widows of deceased brethren, and to the maintenance and education of the children of deceased brethren belonging to the Province, and also for other Masonic Charitable purposes'.

A Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was called to consider the recommendation and resulted in a meeting of the representatives appointed by the various Lodges, Chapters and other masonic bodies in the Province for the framing of the Rules and Regulations of the Fund. The Objects of the Fund broadly embraced the recommendations of the Committee of General Purposes and have survived the stringent test of time – The Kelly Memorial Fund remains the Province's principle Charity and continues to honour the memory of one who contributed so much to Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasonry for over half-a-century.

BEHIND THE SHIELD

by

Bro. W.W. Glover

Following the union of the two Grand Lodges of England in 1813, a new coat of arms was designed, exhibited, approved and came into use in 1815. This design incorporated the arms of the premier Grand Lodge which was based on the arms granted to the London Company of Masons in 1472 and the arms of the Antients' Grand Lodge which had been in use from 1764.

In 1919 an application to the College of Heralds was granted for the recognition of the shield of arms then in use, and, with the permission of King George V, the addition of a wide border bearing eight lions, suggesting the arms of England, to mark the long association with the craft of King Edward VII and other members of the Royal Family.

The province of Leicestershire, later Leicestershire and Rutland, adopted and made use of the original arms of the United Grand Lodge until 1953 when Grand Lodge informed the Province that this practice was forbidden. Consequently a new Coat of Arms had to be devised without delay. The device chosen comprised of three shields; the arms of the City of Leicester, the County of Leicestershire and the County of Rutland.



Although these three regional arms have no direct link with masonry, they do tell us much about the heritage of Leicestershire & Rutland, representing certain important and powerful men whose lives have shaped the destiny of the county and, in some cases, influenced the history of the nation.

The Coat of Arms of the City of Leicester is a cinquefoil, that is a five-petaled white flower with an ermine tail on each petal, on a red background. This device was adopted by Robert De Bellomonte (or Beaumont), who was created First Earl of Leicester by Henry I about 1103.

Robert rebuilt Leicester Castle and added a great hall which later, towards the end of the 13th century, became the seat of the Assize Court and which still continues today. Records show that the first case recorded at this Court was 'Geoffrey the Mason, who stole vestments, books and ornaments from St. Leonard's Church'. He stood trial on 22 February 1298 before Judge, Sir Hugh de Braunston, convicted of the offence and hanged. St. Mary de Castro, the Castle Church, was also restored and partly rebuilt by Earl Robert. His son, Robert de Bossu (the Hunchback), the second Earl, built the Abbey of St. Mary de Pratis, where nearly 400 years later Cardinal Wolsey died and was buried.

Robert's great-grandson, the Fourth Earl, called Robert Fitz Parnell used the cinquefoil device on his shield during the Crusades with Richard I, whom he is reputed to have served with great distinction.

The Shield of Arms of Leicestershire is made up of four separate devices, the first quarter is the cinquefoil representing the line of the Beaumont Earls of Leicester and as such appears on the arms of the City of Leicester. The second quarter is a double-tailed rampant lion representing the arms of the two Simons de Montfort (father and son).



On the death of Robert Fitz Parnell in 1204, the Earldom of Leicester through his sister Amicia to her husband Simon de Montfort. His son was the famous Simon de Montfort who, at the age of eight, on the death of his father, entered into the Earldom.

Among the many titles and honours, he also held by hereditary right the office of Lord High Steward of England and Barony of Hinckley, this being represented by a coat of arms of a white and red shield divided vertically by an indented line.

This design was later adopted as the arms of Hinckley Town, and it is reflected in the Leicestershire arms by the white and red quartered backgrounds divided horizontally by indentations.



Following the death of Simon de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham, (1265) Henry III conferred the Earldom of Leicester on his own son, Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster. Leicester prospered under the Lancastrian Earls, who enlarged the castle where they entertained lavishly. Henry the 3rd Earl founded the Trinity Hospital in 1331 for fifty infirm old men and five women as nurses, under the management of a Master, four chaplains and two clerks. Twenty-three years later his son, the 4th Earl, Henry Wryneck enlarged the original foundation by adding 50 more pensioners and five nurses and also engrafted on it a Collegiate Church.

In this church were buried Henry, who founded it, Constance, wife of John of Gaunt and Mary de Bohun, first wife of Henry IV (then only Earl of Derby) and the mother of Henry V. The church was demolished after the Reformation, but the effigy from the tomb of Mary de Bohun was removed to the Trinity Hospital where it still remains. It was to this same Trinity Hospital that William Kelly (P.G.M. 1870-1873) bequeathed (in 1894) a sum for the welfare and support of "a number of poor and aged men and women as such income may permit. Preference to be given to subscribing members of any Lodge in Leicester or widows of former members".

The Fourth Earl (Henry Wryneck), was created First Duke of Lancaster and having no son, his son-in-law the illustrious John of Gaunt, younger son of Edward III succeeded him.

John of Gaunt is represented in the third quarter of the County Arms by an ostrich feather with ermine tails, which was one of his personal badges. The use of this device was granted to Leicestershire by Henry V, as the Leicester earldom had become merged with the Crown on the accession of Henry IV, John of Gaunt's son.

The fourth quarter of the County Arms depicts a black 'maunch' or sleeve, the arms of the Hastings family. Ladies of fashion at the time of Henry I wore sleeves that were separate items from the gown and had a long streamer hanging from the cuff. This device probably originated as a lady's favour and later became a charge in heraldry carried by the De Hastings.

The Hastings family played an active and important part in both local and national affairs over very many years. Probably the best known member was William, First Lord Hastings, who loyally served Edward IV and received many honours including the Barony of Ashby and the Manor and Lordship of Loughborough. In 1474 he obtained licence to erect 'fortified houses' at Ashby, Kirby, Donington and Belvoir. The building at Kirby is the earliest example of red brick extant in Leicestershire and is reputed to have been for the benefit of Jane Shore, his mistress and previously mistress of Edward IV. In style it is similar to Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire. In fact one of the master masons was John Cowper of Tattershall who was employed at the rate of 8 old pennies per day. Unfortunately the building was never completed owing to William's execution for treason in 1483 on the orders of Richard of Gloucester, later Richard III.

Additionally, it may be claimed that Lord Robert Dudley, created Earl of Leicester by Elizabeth I, is represented, as his arms was also a double tailed lion.

The third shield of arms, that of Rutland, depicts a horseshoe on a green background scattered with acorns. The horseshoe is traditionally associated with Rutland by an old custom of uncertain origin which required that every peer of the realm, no matter what his rank, pay the forfeit of a horseshoe to the Lord of the Manor of Oakham, on his first passing through the county.



There is now a unique collection hanging in the Castle Hall at Oakham, of horseshoes varying in size and ornamentation presented by Royalty and nobility. The earliest identified one is a very large and elaborately worked shoe contributed by Edward IV (1461-83).

The green background of the shield represents the county's agriculture, especially its rich pasture land, while the acorns exemplify the former forest land which once covered much of the county.

Regrettably there is no record in the Provincial archives of the reasons why this particular design was adopted for the Provincial Grand Lodge Coat of Arms.

Nevertheless, it may be justly claimed that the three shields of arms when combined identify the whole of the area within the Province, and bringing them together onto one comprehensive device epitomises the unity and close co-operation of all the lodges of the Province.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF MASONRY IN LEICESTERSHIRE: the making of a Lodge History

by

W.Bro. A.N. Newman, P.P.S.G.D.

In the year when this Lodge reaches its centenary it is appropriate that it should receive a study of a Lodge in the Province which has reached its bicentenary. It is also appropriate that such a study should rehearse some of the problems facing an historian of freemasonry in trying to produce such a history and illuminate indeed the ways in which a modern historian tries to deal with this problem.

During the years since St John's Lodge was founded in 1790 there have been a number of works published to commemorate some stage or other of its development. There was a history published on the occasion of its centenary, and at various periods of time thereafter supplementary volumes appeared, so that in theory there was a gap of only some twenty-five or so years which needed to be bridged. Such a procedure was not desirable. These earlier volumes had been closely based upon the minutes of the Lodge, and had sought to describe the development of St John's on a year-to-year pattern.¹ Unfortunately over the years the Minutes had become increasingly formalised, so that there was little different to be found in each separate year save for the different names involved in the ceremonies. Over and over again the culminating feature of the Lodge's year had been the installation of the new Master of the Lodge, and there are only a limited number of variations to the ways in which such a ceremony can be described; 'installation into the Chair of King Solomon', having 'the highest honour which the Lodge can bestow', or merely the straightforward statement that he had been 'installed as Master of the Lodge' tend eventually to pall.

An even more important problem is that the way in which the historian regards his task has also changed over the last two hundred years, and even over the past hundred. What interests an historian in 1990 is different from what interested his predecessor in 1890 and no doubt the historian of 2090 will have a different perspective from that of his predecessors. The historian of the late twentieth century is interested in a range of questions very different from the past. How has freemasonry fared in Leicester over the last two hundred years, how has the ordinary life of the Lodge changed, what sort of individuals joined the Lodge, how far indeed has the Lodge itself changed? But the professional historian of masonry has also to bear in mind that his audience is not necessarily composed of his own profession; they may well be very experienced masons, but be unfamiliar with current historical concerns, unfamiliar perhaps with the general background but willing and indeed anxious to be

informed. As a result, though there have already appeared in earlier volumes of the *Transactions* of this Lodge of Research a number of articles on some early aspects of St John's Lodge even that work had to be re-examined and re-interpreted.² Indeed the historian is faced with a 'difficulty' from the beginning, in that he may not be sure precisely what he is discussing. St John's Lodge, as is quite common with Lodges of long-standing, has been subjected to a plethora of renumbering. Founded originally as No. 562 in 1790, it was renumbered in 1792 as 471. Following the 'Grand Union' of 1813 it was given the number 525; in consequence of 'closing-up' in 1832 it was renumbered 348 before, in 1863, receiving its present number of 279.

The history of Freemasonry must be based upon those who wanted to become masons as well as upon some understanding of their place in society, not merely their own society with or without secrets but also the wider society of which they are part. It follows that a study of St John's Lodge must look not only at the individuals who formed it and joined it but also at the ways in which that membership mirrors the Borough, then later the City, of Leicester and the extent to which it is a cross-section as distinct from merely a segment of its social, political, and economic life.

There are however some fundamental difficulties in trying to discover who actually became freemasons in Leicester. On the face of it there ought to have been a series of membership lists in London in the offices of the Grand Secretary. Time and time again there are references in Lodge Minutes to letters requesting contributions to the Grand Charity as well as Registration Fees: 'Annexed you have a blank form, to be returned to me, which you will fill up with the names of Masons made and Members admitted in your Lodge since your last return.'³ While secretaries are not necessarily always punctilious about making returns, it is equally likely that returns were made without being preserved in Grand Lodge records. But for the first four decades of the Lodge there are only ten returns to be found in Grand Lodge archives, and there are considerable discrepancies between the numbers recorded there and those to be deduced from the minutes themselves. Another potential source of lists of members ought to have been the records of the local Clerk of the Peace. During the years of the French Revolution there had been various fears about revolutionary and secret societies aiming at the overthrow of the Government and the introduction into Britain of 'revolutionary excesses'. An Act of Parliament in 1799 banned 'secret' societies but exempted Masonic organisations on condition that each Lodge sent for registration a list of the names, addresses, and occupations of all its members together with details of times and places of its meetings. Thus, the minutes of the Lodge for 26 August 1799 state very clearly:

The Secretary be ordered to transmit to every member an especial summons at least three days previous to the next Lodge night informing them that in consequence of the operation of the said Act a registry of brethren is necessary to be laid before the Grand Lodge and to be left with the Clerk of the Peace for the Borough of Leicester and that every brother who does not attend to have his name registered, or if not possible to attend does send his apology and request that it may be done in his absence, must be unavoidably left out of the said register.

The requirement that such lists be submitted continued until 1967, when the Act was repealed. However there is no mention of any such lists in Quarter Sessions records before 1850, and what still survive are incomplete and seem to be inaccurate. Such lists for St John's Lodge as are still extant only survive between 1875 and 1889.

At all events if the details of individual freemasons are difficult to ascertain there is much more available for the early history of the institution. The origins of modern Freemasonry are to be found in the eighteenth century with the establishment in London of a Grand Lodge, composed originally of four London Lodges but gradually attracting to itself the allegiance of other Lodges, both in London and the Provinces, which seem to have come into some sort of independent existence. Only gradually did it become accepted that it was necessary to secure an 'originating' warrant from London, but by the middle of the eighteenth century there had developed a fairly considerable element of organisation in the Craft at either a national or a provincial level, with some sort of hierarchy and a system of reports from individual 'private' lodges as well as regular payments. There had also developed a very intense public interest in Masonic affairs, and as a result of a number of 'Exposures' there were fears that non-Masons might secure admission to Lodge meetings or even access to Masonic charitable donations. The decision was taken to change certain key words of the ritual, but it was in part as a result of these changes that in 1751 a second Grand Lodge appeared. This 'new' Grand Lodge called itself the 'Antients', since it claimed to be conforming to the truly ancient practices of Freemasonry while the other was termed that of the 'Moderns'. Each recognised various lodges in the Provinces, even though it was only that of the 'Moderns' who appointed a hierarchy of Provincial officers. Thus during the eighteenth century there were successive Provincial Grand Masters for Leicestershire, and even for Rutland, though these latter had no Lodges at all under their jurisdiction.

It was during the eighteenth century that Leicester underwent a transformation as a county town, and became a centre of the hosiery trade as well as a centre for the growth of the county's society. Shopkeepers became more prominent, and with the development of

Leicester as a consumers' market some of the most prominent members of the community were engaged as inn-keepers. There was a considerable rebuilding of the town, as well as geographical expansion. At the same time Leicester, as elsewhere, attracted a growing number of the local gentry who found their entertainment in the borough. The appearance of local newspapers, 'musical meetings', and the theatre points to such developments in the field of consumer demand, as does the appearance of local clubs and societies. The appearance of the first Freemasons in the town is part of this pattern. In 1739 and in 1754 the 'Moderns' had recognised Lodges at the Wheat Sheaf and The Pelican Inns but these had been excluded, presumably for failure to make payments and returns, in 1744 and 1768 respectively. However in 1761 the 'Antients' warranted two Lodges, one with the number 87 and associated with the Leicestershire Militia and the other with the number 91. It was this Lodge which should be regarded as the mother of Freemasonry in Leicester, for it was as the result of some disputes within it some thirty years after its foundation that there emerged St John's Lodge, warranted by the 'Modern' Grand Lodge on 31 August 1790 as Lodge No. 562 to meet at The Crown and Thistle. All the founders of this new Lodge had been members of 91, and many of the officers of the old Lodge seem to have transferred their allegiance to the new body and to the rival Grand Lodge. Relations between the new Lodge and Lodge 91 varied between the acrimonious and downright hostility. There were for example a series of furious arguments over the warrant of Lodge 91 which had remained in the possession of its former officers. They not merely refused to surrender it, but even denied knowledge of its whereabouts. And yet at other times members moved quite easily between membership of one Lodge to the other, and several members originally initiated in 562 ended their masonic careers by becoming officers of 91.

What sort of members were attracted to this Lodge? Some mention has already been made of the difficulties in discovering who joined the Lodge, but analysis of what is available indicates a number of hosiers and other representatives of local industry and trades, as well as a number whose self-descriptions would indicate their origins as lower down the scale. Not all came from Leicester; Ashby, Lutterworth, Derby, or even Nottingham are given as addresses for some. There were also some unusual members, such as the officers of the Royal Horse Guards and the Light Dragoons who seem to have joined when their regiments were stationed nearby, but who left when their regiments were posted away. When they left the Lodge they presented the Lodge with a new banner. But over the years there is a wide range of professional and non-professional classes represented, not least of all the Governor of Welford Road prison who took his masonry so seriously as to name his son Hiram Abiff and secure his

initiation into St John's Lodge.

Almost as interesting as who became masons is the question what did they do. The early summonses give little idea, for some of the oldest are blank, so that all that can be determined is that there were summonses and that all matters for discussion had to have been placed formally on the summons. The Minutes do show however that there were problems in maintaining the Lodge. Many were fined for non-attendance, even the Master whose fine was eight times that of a warden for a similar offence; meetings had to be cancelled because there were fewer than five present. Splits within the Lodge led to expulsion and counter-expulsion, so that between 1824 and 1842 there were only sixty initiates or joining members. One of these admittedly was William Kelly who was to become one of the most eminent of Leicester Masons, but even he encountered considerable opposition from within the Lodge. 'Brother Kelly's a good fellow, but he wants to go too fast, and to make masonry cheap in the town.'⁴ It was this antagonism which was to lead directly to the establishment of the first daughter Lodge of St John's, John of Gaunt, in 1846.

The nineteenth century saw substantial changes in Leicester - the growth of new industries, an increasing population, an expansion in the boundaries of the borough. The changes were reflected in the number of masons and masonic lodges in Leicester, as well as in the facilities available. An examination of the various new masons coming forward in these years indicates that as in the past Masonry was attracting persons prominent in the life of Leicester. Lists of Mayors and Lord Mayors of Leicester who were Masons underline this feature of local life, and St John's continued to provide a due quota of such eminence. The growth in numbers of lodges and in their members made it possible for new departures, so that a new Masonic Hall in Halford Street replaced the previous dependence upon local inns as meeting places, and could thus lead to such further embellishments as a masonic library. And despite some initial animosity the various Lodges were to be found in co-operation for a variety of activities, theatrical performances or a 'Masonic Ball', to say nothing of Patriotic Funds established in time of war for 'the relief of the widows and orphans of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines'. By the time that St John's came to celebrate its centenary there were twelve lodges to participate in the celebrations.

Much could be said about the work of the Lodge. The first known summons specifically for St John's is dated 1842, when the Lodge was to meet at 2.00 pm to pass a brother and then install the Master. The Secretary added in pen at the bottom that there was to be a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at 11.00 am and a meeting of Royal Arch Chapter at 1.00 pm. Dinner was to be put on the table at 5.00 pm, and the cost for dinner and dessert was to be five shillings (25p). There have been a number of times when Masons have been criticised as

being 'knife and fork' brethren. Certainly some of the early menus suggest that they were good trencher-men. At the centenary dinner the menu was 'most sumptuous', with a choice for each course.

SOUP

Clear Mock Turtle

FISH

Turbot Filleted Soles

ENTREES

Braised Fillet of Beef Creamée of Rabbit
Mutton Cutlets a la Soubise

REMOVES

Saddle of Mutton Roast Beef Ham
Boiled Turkeys Boiled Chickens

GAME

Pheasants Black Game

SWEETS

Plum Pudding Mince Pies Ice Pudding
Lemon Creams Punch Jelly Orange Jelly

SAVOURIES

Roe on Toast Kippered Toast Cheese and Salad

DESSERT

Tea and Coffee

The Lodge's catering committee agreed the menu with the caterer, laying down that the banquet should be provided for 10s. 6d. (52.5p) a head and that 'the table decorations, oysters, and dessert should be of the best obtainable quality'. Tickets were sold for one guinea (£1.05p) a head, and the costings were so fine tuned that when it was reported that the caterer had made a loss on the evening the committee agreed to vote him an additional £5.

The writing of this history was possible only because the Lodge itself had made its records fully available, but also because its secretary, W.Bro. Don Moore, and another of its members, W.Bro. Peter Neaverson, had given great help and freely with their time. It proved to be of value for a number of reasons. There is the natural pride amongst the members of the Lodge that their history should be brought to the attention of their own members and those of other Lodges as well. It was also important to try to understand how such a body could have kept itself going over such a long period of time. At a time when there is a vast amount of publicity and external criticism of masonry it is important that masons themselves take the opportunity of showing what they themselves have been doing and trying to show why it is during the past two hundred years this

particular organisation has managed to prosper, unlike a number of other organisations.

More especially, the presentation of such a paper ought to encourage other masons, not least those who are full members of the Lodge of Research and those who are members of its Correspondence Circle, to examine their own lodges and histories, and above all to understand that historical research is not something either esoteric or even difficult, that it can be a matter of amusement to themselves and to others, that the process of making a daily advancement in knowledge can be not merely a matter of duty but a matter of supreme pleasure.

Footnotes.

1. W. Maurice Williams, *Historical Account of St John's Lodge, No. 279, 1790-1890*, 1890; John Butcher, *A History of St John's Lodge, 1890-1913*, 1914; A. Pelham Hanford, *The History of St John's Lodge, 1913-1928*, 1928; S. Butherway and S.B. Porter, *The History of St John's Lodge, 1928-1952*, 1952; H.C. West, *The History of St John's Lodge, 1953-1977*, 1977; A.N. Newman, *St John's Lodge, 1790-1990: a bicentenary history*, 1990.

2. O. Farrant, 'Early Minutes of St John's Lodge, No. 279', *Transactions of the Lodge of Research*, 1964-65, pp. 77-91; *ibid.* 1965-66, pp. 72-80; *ibid.* 1966-67, pp.71-76.

3. Lodge Minutes, 5 October 1808.

4. William Kelly, *Fifty Years of Masonic Reminiscences*, 1888, p.12.

PRO FIDE - PRO UTILITATE HOMINUM

by

W.Bro. [REDACTED], P.P.J.G.D.

For the Faith - for the Service of All Mankind was a worthy motto for the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John of Jerusalem - and would, I believe, be a similar inspiration to our own Masonic Order. Although there is no connection, whatever with Speculative Masonry and the Knights of St. John, many of us who are members of the Order and also Freemasons find such inspiration in the ideals of both great organisations with such similar goals.

The Origin and Foundation of the Order

The history of the Order can be traced back so far that it is difficult to name an exact date for its beginning. Early in the Christian era pilgrims began to visit the Holy Places in Jerusalem. About the year A.D. 600 Abbot Probus was bidden by Pope Gregory the Great to set up a hostel for pilgrims in the Holy City. This hostel was allowed to continue after the followers of Mahomet had overrun the Holy Lane; and about A.D. 800 the Emperor Charlemagne was allowed by Haroun al Raschid, the famous Caliph of the Arabian Nights, to rebuild and enlarge it, and to add a library. Some 200 years later the fanatical Caliph El Hakim, in spite of the fact that his mother was a Christian, began a ruthless campaign of persecution. His selfish pride amounted to madness, and finally he demanded to be worshipped as a God. Under his merciless rule all christian buildings were raised to the ground, among them the church of the Holy Sepulchre and Charlemagne's hospital and library. For a time the pilgrims had no place of shelter or refuge.

Trade still continued between the western Mediterranean and the Levant. After the death of El Hakim the merchants of Amalfi, a small republic on the Italian coast south of Naples, were allowed to buy the site of Charlemagne's hostel, and to build a church and a new hospital for Christian pilgrims. The eight-pointed white cross was the badge of the Republic of Amalfi and was adopted by the Benedictine monks who served in this new hospital. This is the origin of the famous emblem which has descended to the Order of St. John.

The persecution of the Christians never entirely ceased, but rather varied in severity according to the will of the reigning Caliph. The journey to Jerusalem was at all times fraught with danger from pirates by sea and robbers on land. In 1095, an appeal by the Pope, and the fiery preaching of Peter the Hermit, roused the forces of Christendom to begin a Holy War. This was the first of those great religious expeditions known as the Crusades. In the summer of 1099, after suffering countless hardships and delays on the march, the Crusaders reached Jerusalem and captured the city. At that time the

Warden of the hospital was a certain Gerard from Martigues in Provence, whose saintly life and untiring care for the sick and suffering earned him the title of the Blessed Gerard. The story is told of Gerard standing on the battlements during the siege and throwing down loaves of bread to the Christian soldiers, while pretending to the Moslems that he was pelting them with stones. Encouraged and supported, the Blessed Gerard was able to reorganise the Brotherhood of the Hospital and to found a new Order of Hospitallers. The Brethren continued to be monks and took the three solemn vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty, but their rule or way of life was now based on that of the Augustinians, which was less strict than that of the Benedictines. The new Order acquired the ancient monastery of St. John the Baptist, formerly the property of the Greek Church in Jerusalem, and in consequence the Baptist became the patron saint of the Order. In 1113 the Hospitallers were formally recognised and taken under the direct protection of the Pope.

The Hospitallers in the Holy Land

Moslem brigands continued to molest the pilgrims on their journey from the coast of Palestine up to Jerusalem. In 1119 two French knights undertook the task of protecting travellers on that route. Other knights soon joined them and in a few years time they formed a military order. King Baldwin II of Jerusalem granted them part of the royal palace lying next to the Temple of Solomon, and so they became known as the Order of Templars. Grand Master, Raymond du Puy, true to the military traditions of his noble birth, was eager to give active help to the Knights Templar. After earnest prayer, he called together the brethren of the Hospital and proposed that some of their number should always be ready to repel the attacks of the infidel. The proposal was accepted with enthusiasm and a body of military brethren was formed forthwith. Unlike the Templars, however, the Hospitallers never became a purely military order.

The membership of the Order was divided into three main classes, the Knights, the Chaplains, and the Serving Brothers. The banner of the Knights bore a plain white cross on a red ground, and over their mail, and later armour, they wore a red tunic or "supravest" with a plain white cross on the front. In the Convent, as their monastery with its church and hospital was called, they wore a black robe with the eight-pointed white cross on the left breast. At the ceremonial admission of a new member to the Order, he was told by the Master, that the four arms of the white cross represented the Christian virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude, and the points represented the eight beatitudes which spring from these virtues; and that its whiteness is the symbol of the purity of life required of those who fight for the defence of the Faith, and live for the service of the poor and suffering.

The numbers, wealth, and power of the Hospitallers and the Templars grew rapidly. They built and garrisoned numerous castles to guard the borders of the Holy Land. During this period also many estates were given, or bequeathed by will, to the Order by pious benefactors in the countries of Europe from which they drew their recruits. For example, in England, about the middle of the twelfth century, Jordan of Bricett in Suffolk made a gift of land at Clerkenwell to the Hospitallers. There the great Priory was built, the gate house of which is still the headquarters of the Order, well known as St John's Gate.

Meanwhile, in the Convent of Jerusalem another important division of the Order was gradually taking place. The Knights and other brethren, who came from the same country and spoke the same language began to form separate groups which were called "Langues", or "tongues"; of these there were seven, Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Spain, England and Germany. Provence and Auvergne are now provinces of France, but in those times they were independent of the French King.

Some eighty years after the first Crusade, Saladin, the great and chivalrous Moslem Sultan celebrated in Sir Walter Scott's novel "The Talisman", succeeded in uniting Syria and Egypt. He thus encircled the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

In 1187 Saladin proclaimed a holy war and crossed the Jordan to lay siege to Tiberias in Galilee. The Christian army which advanced to its relief was surrounded and completely destroyed at the battle of Hattin. There 230 Knights of the Hospital and the Temple were taken prisoner and condemned to death. Two days later all were executed and won the glorious crown of martyrdom on the slopes of Kurn Hattin, where eleven centuries before Christ had preached the Sermon on the Mount.

Although the fortunes of war swayed to and fro for the next hundred years the balance was always in favour of the Moslems. In the spring of the year 1291 the last great siege in the Holy Land began. Again it was at Acre, but this time the Christians were defending the city against an overwhelming Saracen host. In the harbour a panic-stricken mob were trying to get away in boats. The tragic fall of Acre was the end of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, where for nearly two centuries the Hospitallers had proudly raised the banner of the White Cross.

The Knights of Rhodes

After his escape from Acre with a remnant of the Knights, the Master John de Villiers, established the Convent of the Order at Limassol, the principal port of Cyprus.

For the next 500 years the Order was destined to be an island power. In Cyprus for only 19 years, then in Rhodes for more than 200.

and finally for nearly three centuries in Malta. In those days the Mediterranean was infested with pirates, and it was evident that for the protection of pilgrims and traders, and also for its own security, the Order must have a fleet. A squadron of galleys was, therefore, formed soon after the arrival in Cyprus and before long the Hospitallers became one of the principal naval powers in the Mediterranean.

The island of Rhodes near the coast of Asia Minor attracted the Knights because of its fine harbours. In the year 1310, led by their Master, Fulk de Villaret, the Knights made a sudden assault and captured the island without serious loss. The resident pirates were driven out and for the next two hundred years Rhodes became the main bulwark of Christendom in the eastern Mediterranean. From its harbours the galleys of the Order patrolled the trade routes from Europe to the east, and now the banner of St John became the terror of pirates and marauders by sea as it had formerly been of brigands and robbers on land.

While the power and fame of the Hospitallers was steadily increasing, the Templars, their great comrades in arms, suffered a sad eclipse. The Templars had always been a purely military order and lacked the great ideal of charitable works, which was the guiding light of the Order of St John through its darkest misfortunes. In 1312, two years after the Hospitallers had taken Rhodes, the Order of the Temple was dissolved by a decree of the Pope, and the whole of its property was transferred to the Order of St John.

In those days a young man could enter the Order at the age of sixteen. He was not, however, sent out to the Convent at Rhodes until he was twenty years old, and was then required to pay dues, known as 'Passages', to defray the expense of the journey. The amount varied from time to time, but in the sixteenth century was £100, a very large sum in those days, equal to over £10,000 today.

The order was administered by the Grand Master, assisted by the Prior of the Church, who was responsible for the Chaplains, and by certain other principal officers, such as the Grand Commander, the Marshall, and the Hospitaller.

In Rhodes, the Knights not only made the city the strongest fortress in existence at that time, but also beautified it with many fine buildings. The Grand Master's palace, the churches, and above all the hospital, won the admiration of all Europe.

During the fifteenth Century the Turks were advancing in the Balkans and south-eastern Europe where they captured Belgrade, occupied the greater part of modern Yugoslavia, and penetrated into Hungary. Then, in 1522, their forces were once more concentrated for an attack of Rhodes. The Sultan Suleiman I, known as 'The Magnificent', resolved that this outlying bastion of Christendom so near the heart of his empire, must be finally exterminated. In order to

save the civil population from massacre Grand Master L'Isle Adam was persuaded to surrender, after holding out for six months against overwhelming forces. The name of L'Isle Adam will ever rank among the great heroes of the Order. Even the Sultan, when receiving the surrender said 'It is not without regret that I force this brave man from his home in his old age'. Suleiman chivalrously granted the most honourable terms. The Knights, and as many of the citizens as wished to accompany them, were granted twelve days in which to leave the island with their arms and property in their own galleys.

The Knights of Malta

For seven years after the fall of Rhodes the Hospitallers had no settled home. The survivors first went to Crete and thence to various towns in the south of Italy. Meanwhile the Grand Master, L'Isle Adams, visited the courts of Europe hoping to raise support for an expedition to recover Rhodes. But all his efforts were in vain until in 1530 the Emperor Charles V, the ruler of Austria, Spain, Sicily and many other territories in Europe, was persuaded to grant to the Order the Island of Malta, on condition that it also undertook the defence of Tripoli in North Africa.

When the Knights sailed into the harbour in the autumn of 1530 their fleet was led by the mighty *Santa Anna*, under the command of Sir William Weston, the Grand Prior of England. This great ship merits description as the first armour-plated vessel recorded in history.

At that time Malta was a very different place from what it is now. It was described as a mere barren rock, where about 12,000 inhabitants eked out a miserable existence on their naked lands and were constantly exposed to raids by Barbary corsairs. The Grand Master wisely insisted that the protection of the island was of the first importance. The Ottoman empire was still expanding westwards, and Suleiman was not likely to look kindly on this new base from which the Christians could threaten his sea communications. The Knights, therefore, decided to fortify the fine harbour on the north east coast, divided into two parts by the promontory of Mt. Scėbarras on which the city of Valetta was later built.

In the spring of 1565 Suleiman the Magnificent, the conqueror of Rhodes, decided that he must expel the Hospitallers from their new island stronghold, and so the last of the great sieges in the history of the Order began. The Turkish forces on this occasion vastly outnumbered their opponents. They consisted of some 180 ships and a landing force of 30,000 supported by numerous cannon and other siege engines. The defenders numbered 541 Religious, 5,000 Maltese militia and 3,000 other troops, including a picked body of Spanish infantry. The Grand Master of that time was John de la Valette, the last and perhaps the greatest of the military heroes of the Order. The

Hospitallers were indeed fortunate to have had such a man to lead them through this terrible ordeal. He was then 71 years old, but combined the fighting energy of a young man with the wisdom and experience of age.

The Turks first concentrated their attack on the fort of St. Elmo at the outer end of Mt. Scerbarras. This fort commanded both arms of the harbour, and until it was captured they could not safely use the western arm as an anchorage for their fleet. In the defence of St. Elmo 130 Knights and many supporting troops were killed, while the Turks lost 8,000 of their best fighting men.

Enraged by his losses, or perhaps in a final attempt to dismay the defenders, the Turkish commander cut off the heads of the dead knights and set them up on a line of stakes facing Fort St. Angelo. Their bodies he nailed to planks, slashed great crosses on their chests, and let the tide carry them across the harbour to float beneath the walls of the city. This gruesome insult so angered the Grand Master that, by way of reprisal, he ordered the principal Turkish prisoners to be beheaded and fired their heads from his guns into the Turkish camp. From that day onwards no quarter was given on either side.

The Turks now began to set up their batteries against the Borgo and the neighbouring settlement of Senglea, which was protected by yet another fort named St. Michael. Throughout July the Turks directed their main bombardment and attacks against Senglea and Fort St. Michael, but all were repulsed at heavy cost to both sides. Then news came that a relieving force was assembling in Sicily and would soon be ready to sail. The besiegers realised that time was against them and redoubled their efforts. They exploded a mine under the Bastion of Castile, part of the fortifications of the Borgo, and were pouring in over the breach; La Valette, without even waiting to put on his armour led the Knights of his household in a furious counter-attack and drove the enemy out. What other commander in the whole course of history has shown such amazing vitality at the age of three score and ten! At last, on September 7th, when the garrison was all but exhausted, the relief came. The Viceroy of Sicily landed with 8,500 men, and the next day the Turks made all speed to embark their guns and stores. They made one feeble attempt to attack the relieving force, but their men were utterly dispirited and broke and fled to the ships. So the last great siege ended in victory, and the Borgo won the glorious name of Vittoriosa, which it has borne ever since that day.

The repulse of the Turks was followed by a long period of increasing wealth and splendour in Malta. La Valette decided to refortify St. Elmo and to build a new city on the promontory of Mt. Scerbarras, which was named Valetta after its illustrious founder. Huge walls rose all round the new city. Some measure 150 feet or

more from their foundation to the parapet and resemble cliffs rather than the work of human hands. Even the heavy bombarding during the last war could only make a small impression on them.

For nearly two and a half centuries after the siege the Order held sway in Malta. Throughout this period its service to the sick was always maintained at the highest standards known to medical science in those days. For many years its fleet also continued to render valuable service in protecting trade in the Mediterranean against piracy. Gradually, however, increasing luxury and the absence of any real need for arduous duties led to a slackening of discipline.

In 1789 the French Revolution broke out. The Republic set up by the revolutionaries was hardly likely to allow an exclusive aristocratic body, such as the Order, to draw large revenues from France. Consequently, a few years later the French Langues of Provence, Auvergne, and France were dissolved and all their property confiscated. In the summer of 1798 the French fleet anchored off Malta and Napoleon demanded the immediate surrender of the Island. He carried off most of the treasures of the Order in his flagship *L'Orient*, which was sunk by Nelson soon afterwards at the Battle of the Nile. Three banners, however, were recaptured from a French frigate and now hang in the Chapter Hall at St. John's Gate. Many of the Knights abandoned their vows and returned to their own countries. A remnant sought refuge in Russia, where for some years the Order was taken under the protection of the Czars. Such was the sad ending of the great days of wealth and splendour in Malta, but the Order still lived on. The parent stem of the Order, known as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, is an exclusively Roman Catholic body and still has its headquarters in Rome today. It has Priors in Italy, Austria and Spain, and Associations of Knights of Malta in Great Britain and in many other countries, where its representatives maintain hospitals and carry on other charitable works. The Grand Priory of England, which had been in abeyance since the time of Elizabeth I. was revived in 1831.

The Order in England in the Middle Ages and the Priory of Clerkenwell

English Brethren went out to join the Order of Hospitallers in the Holy Land very soon after it was founded, and at home in England the Order had become firmly established and was granted many estates. The most important of these has already been mentioned. It was a gift of five acres near the Well of the Parish Clerks of the City of London, granted to the Order in or about the year 1144 by Jordan de Bricett and Muriel his wife. There the Priory of Clerkenwell was built and became the headquarters of the Order in England and the scene of countless historic events during the next four hundred years. In

England, as in the Holy Land, there were also Sisters of the Order.

The great Gate House, rebuilt by Grand Prior Thomas Docwra and finished in 1504, still survives and is the headquarters of the Order to this day. But far older is the ancient crypt which formed the foundations of part of the original twelfth Century Church, and in which is to be found the Order's Memorial Chapel.

The Order in England was fortunate in having many men of great distinction as its Grand Priors. In the fourteenth century there was Prior Philip Thame, who held the office for 28 years and finally established the Order's claim to the lands of the Templars. He was succeeded by Sir John Paveley, who is remembered mainly, perhaps because he helped Richard Whittington, the famous Lord Mayor of London. In 1368 Dick Whittington, then a poor young lad, came to London from Gloucestershire to seek his fortune, and having no money or work on his arrival applied for help at the Priory of Clerkenwell. He proved a lively and willing servant. Probably he did not remain for long, but his work there was the first rung on the ladder of success. History does not relate whether his famous cat was also made welcome and perhaps gave good service in keeping down rats and mice!

Sir John Paveley died three years later and was succeeded by Sir Robert Hales, one of the most distinguished of all the Grand Priors of England, whose tragic end will never be forgotten in the annals of the Order. When he returned to England he found the country seething with discontent because of low wages, and the imposition of an unpopular new tax, known as a Poll Tax, levied on every man's property. Nevertheless, at the request of the King and Parliament, Robert Hales, agreed to accept the office of Lord High Treasurer and so became responsible for seeing that the tax was paid. In the summer of 1381 rebellion broke out. Wat Tyler, leading the men of Kent, and Thomas Farringdon, with another body of rebels from Essex, converged on London. Thomas Farringdon, who is reputed to have had a private grudge against Robert Hales, led them to the Priory at Clerkenwell. There they broke down the massive entrance gates and set fire to the church, the hospital, and all the principal buildings. Meanwhile the Prior and the Archbishop had taken refuge in the Tower of London, but on the next day the rebels succeeded in forcing their way even into that stronghold. The mob burst into the chapel of the Tower and dragged the Archbishop and the Prior out onto Tower Hill. There both were brutally executed.

In 1528 Sir William Weston had succeeded Sir Thomas Docwra as Grand Prior. Weston had fought at the final siege of Rhodes and commanded the 'Santa Anna'. Soon after he entered upon his office the quarrel arose between Henry VIII and the Pope about the dissolution of the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, who had

failed to bear him a son and heir. This led to a complete break between the English Church and Rome, and was followed by the dissolving of the monasteries and the confiscation of their lands by the Crown. The nunnery of the Sisters of the Order at Buckland Abbey was one of the last religious houses to suffer this fate. Even then Henry was reluctant to proceed against the Knights of the Order, but he dared not tolerate such a powerful institution whose members remained the loyal servants of the Pope. He wrote to the Grand Master demanding that the papal supremacy should no longer be recognised in England, but the Chapter-General decided that this was impossible; and so, in April 1540, the Order of St John in England was dissolved by Act of Parliament and all its estates were forfeited to the Crown.

The dissolution put an end to the Order in England as an effective organisation for nearly 300 years. The Royal Letters Patent issued by Queen Mary was never revoked and, from a purely legal point of view, the Order in England may be said to have continued to exist in a dormant condition until it was revived in 1831.

I have had the privilege and pleasure to meet Brethren in two Lodges in this country formed originally by the enthusiasm and vision of the Order of St John Members who were themselves active Freemasons. The first of these is Prior Walter Lodge No. 8687, London whose foundation history on its Summons reads:

Prior Walter Lodge No. 8687 was founded by Brethren all of whom are members of the Order of St John, at the suggestion of four brethren who met at a Lodge meeting in Bromley, Kent in 1974 and first discussed the possibility of its formation. The name is taken from Prior Walter who was responsible for building the Priory in about the year 1140, on the site of the Order's present Headquarters at St John's Gate.

The other Lodge, meeting in Keynsham, is Gerard Lodge No. 8999, whose foundation history reads:

Gerard Lodge No. 8999 was founded at the suggestion of W.Bro. L.E. Burden for members of the Order of St John and those wishing to support the aims of St John.

The name Gerard was taken from the founder of the Order of St John. The Honours in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem are all approved by Her Majesty The Queen as Sovereign Head of the Order.

It has been my privilege to belong to both the Order of St John for 40 years and a brother in Freemasonry for over 25 years.

ORATION
on the Consecration of
The Framland Hundred Lodge, No. 9453
by
W.Bro. Rev. Canon M. Wilson, Prov. G.Ch.

The names of the Hundreds of Leicestershire, with the exception of Framland, are perpetuated in the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. East Goscote Lodge No. 2865 meets at Syston within its Hundred, Guthlaxton Lodge No. 7717 and Gartree Lodge No. 7778 meet in Leicester, and Sparkenhoe Lodge No. 8063 meets within its wapentake at Hinckley. Regular use of the names of the Leicestershire Hundreds has occurred in the ecclesiastical designation of rural deaneries in the diocese of Leicester. There have been recent attempts in church circles to try to replace the ancient feudal names with the modern local government town names - a trend deplored by those who humbly pride themselves in knowing which part of the county Guthlaxton II and Sparkenhoe III are!

So, in forming this new Lodge, testimony is being paid to many centuries of history, and of local community formation, before and after the Hundred of Framland was granted to Roger Beler by King Edward II in 1283.

It is generally thought that 'Framland' means 'firm' or 'stiff' land. Certainly, from the lowly position of the City of Leicester, the Framland Hundred is perceived as an unalterable landscape - lofty in terms of Leicestershire's modest geology. Slightly more than two thirds of the boundary of Framland Hundred defines north east Leicestershire from Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. Borderlands such as Framland tend to be independent in temperament and assertive of their local characteristics. Let Framland prove to be no exception and, true to its name, remain firm.

There is a very real sense in which Freemasonry universal is, or should be, wedded to the particular locality. The members of the Framland Hundred Lodge will spring from the very area the Lodge claims to represent and serve. W.Bro. Paul F. Raymond, the Secretary of this new Lodge, listed the excellent demographic reasons for our work together this evening. The population of the Melton Mowbray area has doubled since the last Craft Lodge, St. Mary's Lodge No. 7164, was formed forty years ago today. Also the members of existing Lodges are to be congratulated on stimulating the healthy interest in Freemasonry within the local communities to the extent that membership is large, thus warranting a third Craft Lodge in Melton Mowbray. Adding further substance to the name is the fact that the Freemasons' Hall in Melton Mowbray was converted from the stables of Wicklow Lodge, a house formerly known as 'The Framlands'.

Members of this Framland Hundred Lodge No. 9453 should be sensitively conscious of their God given centuries of history and of community formation. Freemasonry is a world-wide order of God-fearing men, founded on the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. These principles can only be embodied and expressed in each particular locality. Our brotherhood's main objective is to create a focus of union, harmony and friendship between those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance - and this starts locally, too. It might be claimed that the principles and ideals of community formation are enacted and taught in our ceremonies. What we are privileged to learn and discover within the security and harmony of the Lodge we are enjoined honourably and unpretentiously to practice outside in the rough and tumble of the world around us, in terms of social cohesion and community formation.

I rejoice to speak to you at the Consecration of a Lodge that immortalises the Stilton Cheese (first made, it is claimed, at Withcote) and the pork pie. And may there never be lacking a sufficiency of sleek, athletic lowland foxes. Based on the firmest foundation true to the name Framland, may the G. A. O. T. U. bless and inspire every founder and future member of this new Craft Lodge to be faithful in the duties we owe to God, to our neighbours and to ourselves.

LODGE TRANSACTIONS

Surplus copies of the Lodge Transactions are available for disposal as follows:

Years

1928/29 to 1930/31

1932/33

1934/35

1942/43 to 1961/62

1963/64 to 1967/68

1969/70 to 1970/71

1972/73 onwards

at £5.00 per yearly issue — inc. postage

PUBLICATIONS

1. 'MASONIC ORATIONS'

by W.Bro. Revd. Canon J.R.H. Prophet, B.A., L.Th.,
A.L.C.D., P.A.G.Ch.

Provincial Grand Chaplain, Leicestershire and Rutland

This booklet contains the transcript of seven Orations delivered at the Consecration of Lodges and two at the Dedication of new Lodge Rooms in this Province from 1966 to 1972.

Not only has the Provincial Grand Chaplain dealt wisely with "the nature and principles of the Institution", but his Orations have also much literary merit; and this collection of them will be a valuable addition to a Brother's masonic Library. 50p per copy. (plus postage)

(By the generosity of W.Bro. Harold Cave, P.P.S.G.W., the proceeds will be devoted to the Leicester Freemasons' Hall Fund).

2. 'BUILDERS IN STONE'

by R.W.Bro. Brig. C.B.S. Morley, Provincial Grand Master

(A history of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland from 1739 to 1961, with epilogue to 1971, with explanations of the symbolism in the decoration of the Lodge Rooms at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester) 40p per copy. (plus postage)

3. 'MORE MASONRY IN MEN'

by W.Bro. H. Rayne, 40p per copy. (plus postage)

Application for any of the above should be made to the Hon. Librarian, Freemasons' Hall, 80 London Road, Leicester LE2 0RA.

Cheques etc. for Nos. 1, 2, 3 to be made payable to the Provincial Grand Treasurer.

NOTE ON TRANSACTIONS

Each year we try to include in Transactions, in addition to the three addresses at the regular meetings, articles on topics of general masonic interest; and from time to time we have been able to add the title of Miscellanea a section dealing with answers to questions submitted by the Brethren, short news items, and so on.

It will be appreciated that the continuation of this policy depends on the good will and enthusiasm of the members of the Lodge and of the Correspondence Circle, and we appeal for the co-operation of the Brethren in helping us to create a pool of material for future consideration.

While we cannot promise to publish every contribution, we have no doubt that any effort in this direction must add to a Brother's delight in engaging in lines of masonic research for which our Lodge was established, and possibly provide both pleasure and instruction for his fellow-members.

MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

Foister, J.E., P.S.G.D., P.M. 3091, 5682, 7896, P.M.
Kay, S., P.M. 779, P.M.
Westmoreland, K.G., P.M. 1256, 8033, P.M.
Smith, R.G., P.M. 1782, 7778, 7896, P.M.
Jackson, V. Revd. L., A.K.C., O.C.F., P.A.G.Chap., P.M. 7801
Prophet, Revd. Canon J.R.H., B.A., L.T., P.Dep.G.Chap., P.M. 4852, P.M.
Walters, T.M., LL., M.B.E., P.M. 7007, 8765, P.M.
Donald, B.G.S., P.M. 4227, 8033
Starmer, H., B.Sc., P.M. 4711, P.M.
Thorpe, F.A., O.B.E., J.P., P.M. 2028
Tompkin, J.E.R., P.A.G.Supt.Wks., P.M. 6514, 8320, P.M.
Ashcroft, N.B., P.M. 8276, 8481, P.M.
Brown, A.F., P.M. 6514, P.M.
Stops, T.G.N., P.G.Supt.Wks., P.M. 4088
Taylor, Gayton C., P.P.G.M., P.M. 2028
Buswell, D.A., Prov.G.Master, P.M. 4874, 7896, P.M.
Sturges, J., P.M. 4835, 7767.
Hurwood, D.S., P.S.G.D., P.M. 1464, 8320
Warburton, F.W., P.M. 6514, P.M.
Ridge, J.A., P.M. 7841
McCrorry, R.M., M.B.E., P.J.G.D., P.M. 7762, 7896, 8013, W.M.
Clark, G.V., P.A.G.D.C., P.M. 3919, 8478, P.M.
Lockley, H.R., P.M. 8729
Jacobs, C., J.P., P.A.G.D.C., P.M. 523, 9176
Bleby, W.H., J.P., B.A., M.Ed., P.M. 6541
Vickers, D.B., P.M. 1772, 4711.
Jacques, R.T., M.Ed., P.M. 1330, 8350.
Butler, A.R., P.M. 3919, 7896
Ralphs, E.A., P.M. 5061
Dean, W.V., P.M. 8320, 7736
Booton, W.J.S., P.M. 8276
Bramford, E.W., P.M. 523, 8729
Newman, A.N., M.A., D.Phil., P.M. 523
██████████, P.M. 8679
Mason, K.G., P.M. 5208, 8312, 8429
Wykes, D.L., B.Sc., Ph.D., P.M. 1560
Harper, R.E., P.M. 7762
██████████, J.P., C.St.J., P.M. 6514
Simpson, A., P.M. 7744

HONORARY MEMBERS

R.W.Bro. Cyril Robinson, D.L., P.Prov. Grand Master for Bedfordshire
R.W.Bro. Sir Gilbert Inglefield, P.Prov. Grand Master for Bedfordshire
**R.W.Bro. V.Rev. Canon R.T. Warburton, M.B.E., T.D., Prov. Grand Master
for Nottinghamshire**
**R.W.Bro. R.S.E. Sandbach, P.Prov. Grand Master for Northamptonshire and
Huntingdonshire**
R.W.Bro. C.C. Wilson, P.Prov. Grand Master for Derbyshire
R.W.Bro. G.M. Cooper, Prov. Grand Master for Lincolnshire
W.Bro. A.R. Hewitt, P.J.G.D.
W.Bro. T.O. Haunch, P.D.G.Supt.Wks.
W.Bro. Cyril N. Batham, O.St.J., P.J.G.D.

REGISTER

Revised 1992

FOUNDERS

- W.Bro. S.S. Partridge, P.M. 523, 1560, P.A.G.D.C., D.P.G.M.
W.Bro. J.T. Thorp, F.R.HIST.S., P.M. 523, P.P.S.G.W.
W.Bro. W.M. Williams, P.M. 279, Prov.G.Reg.
W.Bro. E. Holmes, W.M. 279.
Bro. W.H. Staynes, 2081.
Bro. R. Pratt, M.D., 1560.
Bro. F.W. Billson, L.L.B., 1391.
Bro. Revd. H.S. Biggs, B.A. 523.

PAST MASTERS OF THE LODGE

*W.Bro. J.T. Thorp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1892-93
*W.Bro. W.M. Williams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1893-94
*W.Bro. E. Holmes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1894-95
*W.Bro. W.H. Staynes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1895-96
*W.Bro. S.S. Partridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1896-97
*W.Bro. R. Pratt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1897-98
*W.Bro. F.W. Billson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1898-99
*W.Bro. Revd. H.S. Biggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1899-00
*W.Bro. Revd. H.J. Mason	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1900-01
*W.Bro. J.J. Knowles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1901-02
*W.Bro. H. Howe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1902-03
*W.Bro. G. Neighbour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1903-04
*W.Bro. R.B. Starkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1904-05
*W.Bro. L. Staines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1905-06
*W.Bro. W.A. Lea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-07
*W.Bro. J.R. Frears	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1907-08
*W.Bro. H.J. Grace	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908-09
*W.Bro. G.D. Potts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-10
*W.Bro. G. Bonner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910-11
*W.Bro. G. Bonner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-12
*W.Bro. Rev. C.T. Moore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912-13
*W.Bro. A. Lole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1913-14
*W.Bro. T.G. Hunt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1914-15
*W.Bro. G.W. Hunt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1915-16
*W.Bro. J.E. Pickard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1916-17
*W.Bro. F.H. Pochin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1917-18
*W.Bro. J.D. Johnson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1918-19
*W.Bro. A.H. Hampson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1919-20
*W.Bro. F.H. Doughty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920-21

*Obit

*W.Bro. F. Haines	1921-22
*W.Bro. W.J. Bunny	1922-23
*W.Bro. J.H. Hawthorn	1923-24
*W.Bro. C.F. Oliver	1924-25
*W.Bro. N.K. Lee	1925-26
*W.Bro. A.H. Hind	1926-27
*W.Bro. C.S. Bigg	1927-28
*W.Bro. Revd. E.R.J. Biggs	1928-29
*W.Bro. H. Hyde	1929-30
*W.Bro. H.D.M. Barnett	1930-31
*W.Bro. M.D.R. Richardson	1931-32
*W.Bro. W.H. Riley	1932-33
*W.Bro. G.B. Ellwood	1933-34
*W.Bro. A.J.S. Cannon	1934-35
*W.Bro. A. L. Macleod	1935-36
*W.Bro. W.H. Cotton	1936-37
*W.Bro. W.R. Bridger	1937-38
*W.Bro. J.T. Cooper	1938-39
*W.Bro. G.E. Phipps...	1939-40
*W.Bro. F.G. Fleeman	1940-41
*W.Bro. E.H. Stork	1941-42
*W.Bro. J.C. Burton	1942-43
*W.Bro. T.O. Judge	1943-44
*W.Bro. G.W. Wilkes	1944-45
*R.W.Bro. Sir John Corah	1945-46
*W.Bro. P.M. Webster	1946-47
*W.Bro. S.F. Herbert	1947-48
*W.Bro. W. Tomlinson	1948-49
*W.Bro. A.T. Shorthose-Smith	1949-50
*W.Bro. W.H. Wood	1950-51
*W.Bro. F.W. Heaton	1951-52
*W.Bro. C.C.H. Binns	1952-53
*W.Bro. C.E. Haines	1953-54
*W.Bro. E. Murray	1954-55
*W.Bro. A.G. Kilner	1955-56
W.Bro. J.E. Foister	1956-57
*W.Bro. R.H. Dilworth	1957-58
*W.Bro. J. Lees Smith	1958-59
W.Bro. S. Kay	1959-60
*W.Bro. W.E. Boulter	1960-61
*R.W.Bro. C.B.S. Morley	1961-62
*W.Bro. G.H. Fox	1962-63

*Obit

*W.Bro. H. Carr	1963-64
V.W.Bro. W.G. Fox	1964-65
*W.Bro. E. Muddimer	1965-66
*W.Bro. T.W. Haird	1966-68
*W.Bro. W.H. Russell	1968-69
*W.Bro. E. Thomas	1969-70
*W.Bro. O. Farrant	1970-71
*W.Bro. H.L. Wheatcroft	1971-72
*W.Bro. C.E. Neale	1972-73
W.Bro. K.G. Westmoreland	1973-74
*W.Bro. L.J. King	1974-75
W.Bro. R.G. Smith	1975-76
W.Bro. W. Steele	1976-77
W.Bro. T.M. Ll. Walters	1977-78
W.Bro. Revd. Canon J.R.H. Prophet	1978-79
W.Bro. H. Startner	1979-80
W.Bro. J.E.R. Tompkin	1980-81
W.Bro. A.F. Brown	1981-82
*W.Bro. E.V. Hazell	1982-83
*W.Bro. L. Starmer	1983-84
*W.Bro. S. Brown	1984-85
*W.Bro. F.A. Stafford	1985-86
W.Bro. N.B. Ashcroft	1986-87
W.Bro. D.A. Buswell	1987-88
W.Bro. J. Sturges	1988-89
W.Bro. F.W. Warburton	1989-90
W.Bro. G.V. Clark	1990-91
W.Bro. R.M. McCrory	1991-92

*Obit