

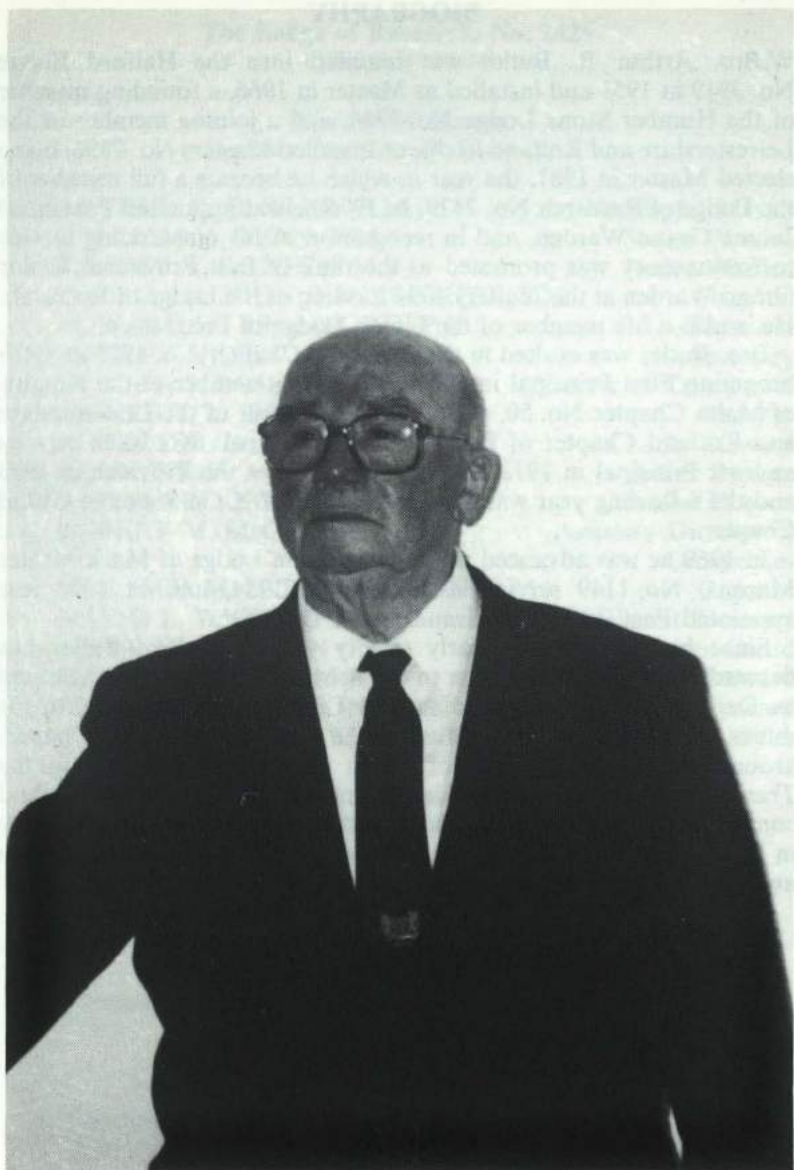
CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Editorial	2
Portrait of the Master (W.Bro. A.R. Butler)	3
List of Officers. 1993-94	4
Historical Note. Membership and Objects of the Lodge	5
Lodge Meetings... ..	9
'Landmarks' by W.Bro. A.R. Butler, P.P.S.G.W., Worshipful Master, 1993-94... ..	9
A Symposium on Masonic Research - 24 January 1994	
'The Origin, History and Personalities of the Halford Lodge. No. 3919, 1919-1939' by W.Bro. G.V. Clark, P.A.G.D.C.	14
'The Early Freemasons' by W.Bro. D.G. Letts, P.P.J.G.W... ..	18
'Lord Moira: an Aristocratic Freemason' by W.Bro. P.A. Neaverson, P.P.A.G.D.C..	22
'A Final Tribute, a Masonic Funeral in 1842' by W.Bro. W.W. Glover... ..	32
'Grand Superintendents in and over the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland' by W.Bro. H.W. Tassell, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., M.E.G.Sup.(R.A.)	
'Edward Holmes, O.B.E.'	47
'Colonel Sir Charles Frederick Oliver, T.D., D.L., J.P.:	57
'The Names of the Masonic Units of Leicestershire and Rutland other than Craft Lodges' by W.Bro. A. Selby, P.P.G.Swd.B.	75
Copies of Transactions and Other Publications for sale	81
Note on Transactions	82
Members of the Lodge	83
Register of the Lodge	84

EDITORIAL

With the publication of the *Transactions* for the year 1933-34 commenced the custom of publishing a portrait of the master of the year, as 'It has been suggested that Brethren overseas might wish to view the counterfeit presentments of some of the living officers, who at present, are names and nothing more'. Over the last sixty years has been assembled a gallery of many worthy and distinguished brethren, who are now, alas, no more than titled images. It is therefore considered appropriate that a Masonic Biography should accompany the portrait of each master, so that the readers of today and tomorrow may have some knowledge of those who constitute and constituted *The Lodge of Research No. 2429*

The M.E. The Grand Superintendent continues his account of the Grand Superintendents in the over the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, with two of his predecessors who were in their turn Provincial Grand Master of this Province and brings the story down to 1939. Gratified by the reception of 'The Lodge Names of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland', W.Bro. A. Selby has extended his researches and has now covered all the Masonic Orders which meet in this Province.



W. Bro. A.R. Butler
Master

BIOGRAPHY

W.Bro. Arthur R. Butler was initiated into the Halford Lodge No. 3919 in 1951 and installed as Master in 1966, a founding member of the Humber Stone Lodge No. 7744, and a joining member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No. 7896, being elected Master in 1981, the year in which he became a full member of the Lodge of Research No. 2429. In 1976 he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden, and in recognition of his outstanding service to freemasonry was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden at the January 1994 meeting of the Lodge of Research. He is also a life member of the Union Lodge of Instruction.

Bro. Butler was exalted in the Knighton Chapter No. 4711 in 1957, becoming First Principal in 1969, a founding member of the Knights of Malta Chapter No. 50, and a joining member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter of Installed First Principals No. 7896, serving as First Principal in 1978. He was Scribe N. of the Province in 1983 and the following year was appointed P.A.G.D.C. in Supreme Grand Chapter.

In 1969 he was advanced in the Wyggeston Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 1149 serving as Master in 1984, and in 1990 was appointed Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer.

Since his 'retirement' nearly twenty years ago Bro. Butler has devoted his time and attention to the Provincial Library and Museum as Deputy Honorary Custodian and Librarian. In addition to his duties in the Library and Museum he has delivered many papers around the Province, some of which have been published in the *Transactions*. He has also guided many Brethren in the writing and compilation of their papers, and his advice has been sought not only in this Province but also by correspondents from Australia, America and South Africa where some of his writings have been published.

The Lodge of Research, No. 2429
Officers 1993-94

Worshipful Master
BRO. ARTHUR R. BUTLER

Bro. ARTHUR R. BUTLER (P.M.)	Worshipful Master
Bro. WILLIAM V. DEAN (P.M.)	Senior Warden
Bro. JEREMY A. RIDGE (P.M.)	Junior Warden
Bro. Revd. Canon JOHN R.H. PROPHET, P.M.	Chaplain
Bro. EDWARD W. BRAMFORD (P.M.)	Treasurer
Bro. AUBREY N. NEWMAN (P.M.)	Secretary
Bro. W. JOHN S. BOOTON (P.M.)	Director of Ceremonies
Bro. HERBERT W. TASSELL (P.M.)	Almoner
Bro. ROBERT M. McCRORY, P.M.	Charity Steward
Bro. KENNETH G. MASON (P.M.)	Senior Deacon
Bro. R. EDWARD HARPER (P.M.)	Junior Deacon
Bro. ROBERT M. McCRORY, P.M.	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
Bro. M. DAVID M. PARKES BOWEN (P.M.)	Organist
Bro. DAVID L. WYKES (P.M.)	Assistant Secretary
Bro. [REDACTED] (P.M.)	Inner Guard
Bro. ALAN SIMPSON (P.M.)	Steward
Bro. PETER A. NEAVERSON (P.M.)	Steward
Bro. JOHN M. CAPPIN (P.M.)	Tyler

Immediate Past Master
W.BRO. RONALD T. JACQUES

Master Elect
W.BRO. WILLIAM V. DEAN

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Secretary's Address
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W.BRO. J.A. RIDGE

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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 fortieth Meeting
was held on Monday 22nd November 1993

There were present W.Bro. R.T. Jacques, W.M., W.Bro. A.R. Butler, S.W., W.Bro. W.V. Dean, J.W., nine other officers, ten full members, thirty-five correspondence circle and two visitors, a total recorded attendance of fifty-nine.

Four Brethren

W.Bro. M.D.M. Parkes Bowen P.A.G.D.C.
W.Bro. P.A. Neaverson
W.Bro. W.W. Glover
W.Bro. J.M. Cappin

were elected to full membership.

The Master-Elect W. Bro. A.R. Butler was presented by the Director of Ceremonies, installed by W.Bro. R.T. Jacques 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
'Land marks'

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

The Four-hundred-and-forty-first Meeting
was held on Monday 24th January 1994

There were present W.Bro. A.R. Butler, W.M., W.Bro. W.V. Dean, S.W., W.Bro. J.A. Ridge, J.W., twelve other officers, twelve full members, forty-three correspondence circle and two visitors, a total recorded attendance of eighty-three.

Five Brethren were elected members of the Correspondence Circle.

The W.M. then introduced the subject for the evening.

To Conduct a Symposium on Masonic research:

W.Bro. G.V. Clark — The Origin, History and Personalities of
the Halford Lodge No. 3919, 1919-1939
W.Bro. D.G. Letts — The Early Freemasons
W.Bro. P.A. Neaverson— Lord Moira; Aristocratic Freemason

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

The Four-hundred-and-forty-second Meeting
was held on Monday 28th March 1994

There were present W.Bro. A.R. Butler, W.M., W.Bro. W.V. Dean, S.W., W.Bro. J.A. Ridge, J.W., eight other officers, eight full members,

twenty six correspondence circle and ten visitors, a total recorded attendance of fifty five.

Ten Brethren were elected members of the Correspondence Circle.

The annual elections resulted as follows:

Master Elect — W.Bro. W.V. Dean

Treasurer — W.Bro. E. W. Bramford

W.Bro. W. W. Glover delivered his paper:

‘A Final Tribute, a Masonic Funeral in 1842’

The Brethren afterwards met together for refreshment and conversation.

LANDMARKS

by

W.Bro. Arthur R. Butler, P.P.S.G.W.

When I commenced to study this subject, I first turned to the dictionary definition for some base on which to build any conclusions, genuine or hypothetical. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines Landmarks (there is no separate entry) as objects marking the boundary of country, estate, etc., conspicuous objects in districts etc., object, event or change marking stake in process or turning point in history.

It was at this point I began to realise that Landmarks as defined had little or nothing to do with the Landmarks of the Order. Throughout our Masonic life, we are charged, obligated, and frequently urged to maintain the Ancient Landmarks, the Old Landmarks and the Genuine Landmarks etc., some sort of confusion appears to manifest itself. At our Initiation we were charged to 'adhere to the Ancient Landmarks of the Order', but did anyone tell you what they were? They may have done, but I am absolutely sure that no one ever told me! So, do the various interpretations mean the same, and if not how do they differ?

It then occurred to me that perhaps some light could be obtained from an examination of the 'Articles of Union' of 1813 between the two Grand Lodges. In the preamble to the Articles agreed, *inter alia*, it was declared on behalf of the Grand Lodge of England 'according to the Old Institutions'. Do we here detect something of a difference of interpretation? Some confusion would appear to still exist.

Article III says:- 'There shall be the most perfect unity of obligation, of discipline of working the Lodges, of making, passing and raising, instructing and clothing, so that one pure unsullied system according to the *Genuine* Landmarks, laws and traditions of the Craft shall be maintained, upheld and practised throughout the Masonic World from the day and date of the said Union until time shall be no more'.

Article IV in many ways re-affirms Article III in somewhat extended form, but with a very different addition in brackets '(and particularly in matters which can neither be expressed nor described in writing).'

This appeared to me a completely new extension to the mystery.

It now appears that our research must go further back into our history so may we now turn to Andersons Constitutions of 1723. They clearly state under the heading *Constitutions*:- The History, Laws, Charges, Orders, Regulations and usages, and that the old Landmarks be carefully preserved. Much other matter is subject to comment, some little different from our present constitutions and regulations so that our real objective must be before the declaration by Anderson, and the certain knowledge that records before that time were mostly non-existent.

There can be little doubt that our country at this time was to a very great extent agricultural and Masons taking part in the great buildings of the time, our Cathedrals, Churches, and other great edifices, would be outstanding on the landscape and were easily identifiable and quite obviously Landmarks according to the general usage of the present definition, so it must be that the Ancient Landmarks as generally understood by Freemasons are an allegory only.

At this point I think we should clearly understand the difference between Landmarks and Customs. Customs are mostly those local innovations which can be altered at anytime without reference to other bodies. Constitutions, By-laws etc., I think also come within this category, but not Landmarks. I have made an intensive study of a great many records of Grand Lodge, and the writings of a large number of Masonic Historians, and personally I like the definition generally accepted that they must be Immemorial, Immutable, Axiomatic and Universal, it follows therefore, if we apply this test, that many of the so called Masonic Landmarks are in grave doubt!

Dr. Albert Mackay, the great American Masonic Historian, listed a large number of Landmarks but in his view only a few would stand up to our accepted definition, but we must always remember that his approach to the subject must have been altogether different from ours, apart from differing from other Grand Lodges, and attached bodies in a comparatively new country.

I instance Dr. Mackey, because as far as I can gather he was the first, or at least one of the first, to commit his ideas to paper in the mid-nineteenth Century, and those eminent Masons who followed seem to me to have largely followed his thoughts with perhaps some difference of emphasis, some duplication, and certainly a pattern where almost every aspect of Freemasonry is described as a Landmark, differing I suspect because of different interpretations and thought, but may I return to this later.

Let us take one or two examples:- In the Holy Bible, that great light in Freemasonry, most Brethren would I am sure consider this a Landmark – but is it? It is open always in our Lodges and we are obligated on it, but does it conform to being Universal? We must always remember that it is an essential to a Christian, but it is not Universal. I have been told that in another part of the world there are several books of law as they are deemed, always open in the Lodge, however, I would like to return to this item later.

Modes of Recognition – I cannot see that these are of themselves Landmarks as they vary in different ways in different workings and often from Province to Province. We must never forget that pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of three degrees only, including that of the Holy Royal Arch, and on visiting a Chapter in another part of the country recently I saw 'Modes of Recognition' by signs, that I had never seen before.

The Equality of all Masons – This seems to me to be a highly debatable point. I doubt if many Masons would regard this as a Landmark today although it does have connotations with the past.

No Lodge to interfere with the Business of another Lodge – I doubt whether this example conforms to any of the accepted definitions of Landmarks, but I must say that a study of old records, such as they are, would seem to disprove this particular point.

Mackey listed twenty-five Landmarks of which the three quoted are examples, but as far as I can see, most have been challenged in some way by other Historians. I must say however, that many of the challenges have been of a somewhat academic nature, i.e. the meaning of words in perhaps particular circumstances.

At this point I recalled a short conversation I had with the late Harry Carr on his last visit to this Lodge, and I asked him if he could tell me what the Ancient Landmarks were. I shall never forget his answer, with a twinkle in his eye, he said, 'You tell me'. I think this particular conversation with such a distinguished Masonic Historian of world-wide reputation, made me decide, when circumstances permitted to try and elucidate this absorbing great mystery on which such emphasis is placed and on which so little appears to be known. Indeed, so little effort is made to make us aware, and never forget our promise to maintain them were taken on the Volume of the Sacred Laws. Is this not some sort of paradox, some indefinable, as yet to be discovered aspect of our great order! Surely it cannot be so.

At a recent lecture in this building, we were told that the Masonic Charities were probably recognised as one of the Landmarks of the Order, but could these really pass the test of our aforementioned definitions, or should we really mean Charity. I think we now begin to see a small ray of light on our study of this subject. Landmarks and their original meaning have changed so much that the intermixture of fact and the ever changing meaning of words, pronunciation and many other relevant circumstances have changed so much that the original meaning as regards Free-masonry has almost disappeared into the mists of time excepting for two principle facets – Character and Allegory.

Character as applied to Freemasonry can never ever alter, it would be unthinkable for it so to do for we take our obligations in the profound knowledge that they will be kept till time with us shall be no more. At this point, to stray from our subject for the moment, we must always be sure that any change in ritual or outlook, real or intended, does not deviate from that great teaching contained in our various books of guidance. I have just studied the Emulation Ritual (1969 edition) on which our own ceremonies are based, and I must confess I felt saddened by reading once again the magnificent

Masonic prose as it was contained in the Charges after Passing and Raising which I personally have not heard in any Lodge I have visited for a very long time. The concluding sentence of the Charge after Passing really sums up our reference to the legacy of Character, and I quote, 'And these duties are bound by the most sacred of ties to observe'. In the course of the Charge after Raising, there appears a very significant phrase, and again I quote, 'The Ancient Landmarks of the order which are here entrusted to your care, you are to preserve, Sacred and Inviolable and never suffer an infringement of our rites or a deviation from our established usage and custom'. It concludes with these words 'Merit has been your title to our privileges, and that on you our favours have not been undeservedly bestowed'. The same or similar teachings are also contained in the various lectures delivered at our Union Lodges of Instruction, which are again thriving and proving a valuable asset to our Province. Time forbids me further explanations, but I hope I have sufficiently aroused your curiosity to besiege the Library for further elucidation of our mysteries. In this great bewildering array of thought from Historians from all over the world, it perhaps comes of no surprise to you that as far as I can gather, no Prestonian lecturer so far has chosen the subject of this paper for the annual presentation.

May we now return to the subject of Allegory bequeathed to us from beyond the mists of time. Were these perhaps the elusive Landmarks for which we are seeking? In the Charges of a Freemason, it clearly states under the heading 'of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices', 'And no Master should take an apprentice unless he has sufficient work for him and, unless he be a perfect youth having no maims or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art or serving his Masters Lord, and of being made a Brother'. Surely the analogy is that we should not take into our order any man who is not considered capable of absorbing and practising the high principles of our ancient order. Could this not perhaps be one of the Ancient Landmarks of the Order.

Likewise, 'All Masons employed shall meekly receive their wages without murmuring or mutiny, and not desert the Master till the work be finished'. The analogy of this must be that in our Lodges, all Brethren accept an office or work in the Lodge without question, well knowing that he has been selected by the Master of his Lodge for the competence of his work, and his progress towards the ultimate goal. This is an absorbing topic, and perhaps more attention to this aspect of our study could lead us to a solution of at least some of our thoughts regarding the subject of this paper.

There is perhaps one further illustration, to my mind a most important one, perhaps the greatest lesson of Allegory that we have, in those far off days, you could not just be a Mason, you had to be interviewed, tested, and if thought fit, you were chosen to serve under

a Master – but never forget, you first had to apply, as per our ritual, humbly soliciting to be admitted to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Does this not demonstrate most clearly the reference in our rituals regarding ‘intruders and cowans to Masonry’?

Perhaps we now begin to see our Landmarks in a new light, and may I now return to article IV of the Articles of Union where it clearly states, and particularly in matters which can neither be expressed or described in writing. Could this not be the key for which we are seeking? Freemasonry extends over most of the world, different languages, religions, customs, forms of government, ideals, and indeed a great variety of circumstances and life in general. It therefore seems to me that there can never be Landmarks that can be applied to each and every facet of our order. This is amply illustrated in this short paper by the writings and views of so many eminent historians. There must be a personal aspect to any conclusions we may make, so why have we not been able to absorb the allegory of our ancient heritage and clarify our searches?

I said earlier that I would return to the Bible at a later stage and I do so now, in the context of what I believe are the Ancient Landmarks of the order. In my opinion they are unbelievably obvious to every true Freemason. They are contained in the Book of Constitutions given to every candidate of every Lodge on the night of his Initiation and again and again as he progresses through his Masonic life. They are numbered 1 to 6 and cover every aspect of Freemasonry handed down to us by those men who were unique Masters of the Craft. Read them carefully, always acknowledging that the Landmarks are in many ways personal to the individual, and perhaps refresh ourselves as to our duties. During the past few weeks, I have been convinced in my own mind that the Charges of a Freemason as listed and practised:-

1. Of God and Religion
2. Of the Civil Magistrate, supreme and subordinate
3. Of Lodges
4. Of Master Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices
5. Of the Management of the Craft in working
6. Of behaviour

are the Ancient Landmarks of the Order and I commend them to all Freemasons.

I have greatly enjoyed my Masonic life of nearly forty three years, twenty of which I have had the privilege of serving in our Library – which could well be described as a Provincial Landmark, and as I am not likely to be able to express my personal opinions in a paper again, I want to conclude by declaring a great and unswerving belief in the Principles of Freemasonry and in particular THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS OF THE ORDER.

**THE ORIGIN, HISTORY AND PERSONALITIES OF
THE HALFORD LODGE. NO. 3919, 1919–1939**

by

W.Bro. G.V. Clark, P.A.G.D.C.

I was prompted to present this paper for two especial reasons. In the first place it is the Mother Lodge of W.Bro. Arthur Butler, presently the Master of this Lodge, and secondly, because I, too, was initiated into the Halford Lodge at a slightly later date than Bro. Butler. So let me introduce the subject, by outlining how the Halford Lodge came into existence. It was at the instigation of members of the Commercial Lodge, No. 1391, notably the Master, W.Bro. A.M. Warner, that a petition was submitted to Grand Lodge on 27 December 1918 for a new Lodge to perpetuate the memory of a very distinguished descendant of a Leicestershire family, whose antecedent was sometime physician to King George III, namely Sir Henry Halford.

Henry Halford was born in 1828, at the village of Maidwell in Northamptonshire, his family later moving to Leicestershire. At the age of seven, he was sent to Market Bosworth Grammar School. His education continued at Eton, to be followed later by admission to Merton College, Oxford, from which he graduated with a First Class Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics. The year 1853 saw his marriage to Ursula Bagshawe a Derbyshire girl, and they initially lived at Newton Harcourt. Joining the Leicestershire Volunteers in 1860, the young Halford became a major in that regiment in 1868, when he succeeded to the baronetcy. He was made a C.B. in 1886, and became Colonel of the Regiment in 1891.

His interest in Freemasonry started in 1870 when he was initiated into the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523, and such was his enthusiasm for the Craft, that he became a founder of St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1330 in the same year, and was second Master of that Lodge. His rapid progress was even further advanced when he was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, and very soon afterwards was promoted to Provincial Senior Grand Warden at a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Town Hall, Loughborough, on 24th November 1871, when he was recorded as being 'unavoidably absent'. The year 1873 saw Sir Henry installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, an office which he held until 1880, during which time he was involved in the Royal Arch and Mark degrees.

In civic life, Sir Henry was prominent both at city and county level, and although he was pressed to become a Parliamentary Candidate, he is reported to have refused on the grounds of expense! A keen sportsman, he was a skilled oarsman, and an outstanding marksman,

he also rode to hounds with the Quorn Hunt, and enjoyed angling. The family motto of the Halford family, 'MUTAS INGLORIUS ARTES', liberally translated 'To exercise unambitious glory of the silent Arts', was adopted, with the Crest, by the Lodge which took his name. The armorial bearing depicts, and I quote, 'A greyhound gorged with coronet of crosses pattée and fleur-de-lys, surmounted by a staff entwined by a serpent and crowned with a coronet'. In 1827, under Royal Warrant, the arms were further enhanced by the addition of 'Two Emus as Supporters', a reminder of the Halford family's association with Australia.

Thus far, I have concentrated attention on the personage of Sir Henry Halford, and now enlarge a little upon the events following the consecration of the Halford Lodge on 21 October 1919. This took place at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester, by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt.W.Bro. Edward Holmes. The first Master was W.Bro. F.H. Doughty, with Bros. A.H. Chamberlain and T.S. Hurley as Senior and Junior Warden respectively. The Director of Ceremonies was W.Bro. G. A. Cook, the Chaplain, W.Bro. H.W. Gibson, and W.Bros. W.E. Wilson as Treasurer and F.H. Rowlett as Secretary. Two candidates for initiation were proposed at the Consecration meeting along with Bro. G.E. Phipps as a joining member. The first initiate was Mr. Frederick Merton George, and he was admitted on 18 November 1919.

Remembering that we are now looking at events immediately following the cessation of hostilities of the Great War 1914-18, it is perhaps not surprising to find there was no shortage of candidates, and this is evinced by the number of 'double' Ceremonies performed in these early days. 'Calling on' and 'Calling off' was a regular feature at this time, which enabled the Lodge to keep abreast of the situation, but even so, emergency meetings were held quite frequently in these formative years. Reading the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 1920, I detected a technical irregularity in the presentation of a Grand Lodge certificate, which was not included on the agenda for that meeting. The excuse recorded was that as the brother concerned had been absent on two previous occasions when it was intended to present the certificate, there could be little harm in taking advantage of his presence to make the presentation. A very sensible decision, I think you will agree, albeit not strictly in conformity with regulations.

The original Lodge banner purchased out of lodge funds, was dedicated at the meeting on 13 December 1922 by the Chaplain, W.Bro. Rev. F.R.C. Payne, who later became Rector of Market Bosworth. In 1922 the initiation fee was £22 1s. 0d, and the annual subscription 3 guineas, Clergy members being charged half the fees quoted. There was a custom in these early years to reward service to the Lodge by the presentation of a special jewel, and one such

occasion was at the Thirty-fourth meeting in November 1923, when the Secretary, W.Bro. Rowlett, received a Secretary's Jewel in recognition of his services as Secretary of the Lodge. Some four years after the Halford Lodge was consecrated, a solid silver Loving Cup, the generous gift of W.Bro. Samson Smith, was presented to commemorate his year as Master of the Lodge, and this superb piece of silverware has continued to adorn the dining table since that time and continues to occupy the pre-eminent position opposite the Worshipful Master at the Festive Board.

The first Master of the Halford Lodge, W.Bro. F.H. Doughty, was accorded Grand Rank Status on his appointment as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1925, in recognition of his immense contribution to Freemasonry, both as a Founder of the Halford Lodge, a Past Master of the Lodge of the Golden Fleece, No. 2081, and the Lodge of Research, No. 2429. He was also Secretary of the Leicestershire and Rutland Charity Association, as well as being engaged daily in numerous other masonic duties at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester in those days.

The Lodge minutes record attendances in the early 1920's very much higher than is the case nowadays, being well in excess of one hundred brethren at most meetings and numbers were even greater at Installation Festivals, which started at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Some idea of the relative value of money in those days will be appreciated, when it is noted that the Charity collection on 9 January 1924 amounted to £1 16s. 0d. Similarly, 25 shillings per head was the cost for the First Ladies Evening of the Halford Lodge which took place on 28 February 1922. On the wider question of official visits, it was customary for the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master frequently to attend lodges for degree ceremonies, and their apologies were tendered whenever circumstances precluded their attendance. There were, of course, many fewer lodges in the Province in those early years; twenty-one including the Lodge of Research.

The diligence and courtesy shown by brethren towards Freemasonry, is exemplified by one Brother who sent a telegram to the Worshipful Master apologising for his inability to attend a meeting on 9 September 1925 ('on Doctor's Orders', it is recorded), in response to which a resolution of sympathy was recorded and conveyed to the patient by the Lodge Secretary. Records also show that there were regular visits to local Churches for Divine Service by lodges and Sunday, 6 December 1925, was the occasion when the Halford Lodge visited Dunton Bassett Church, whose Vicar, the Rev. W. Whitworth, was the lodge Chaplain. The minutes of the Lodge meeting on 9 December 1925 record the Church Offertory as 'More than £8', to be devoted to the New Pulpit Fund. National Events were also the subject of mention in lodge minutes, and an example of this referred to the 'termination of

the National Strike' recorded with 'heartfelt gratitude for the glorious news' on 12 May 1926, which was marked by the singing of the National Anthem.

A handsomely bound folio containing original letters, documents and other literature relative to the founding of the lodge, was presented to the Worshipful Master at the meeting on 12 May 1926 for 'preservation in perpetuity in the Archives of the lodge', so the minutes record. At the same time the Lodge presented to the Master a bound copy of all the Summonses, menu cards, toast lists etc. covering his year of office, a custom which has continued ever since, and I am the proud possessor of the edition for 1971-72.

The Halford Lodge numbered amongst its members many well known figures in the Boot and Shoe and allied industries, and Harry Norton Beal was one such, (later a Turf Accountant), who became a joining member from the Brownrigg Lodge of Unity, No. 1424, in Chatham, Bro. Beal was Director of Ceremonies for very many years, and is remembered as a competent and kindly man who knew the Craft ritual in its entirety and could prompt anyone whenever the occasion demanded. W.Bro. Ernest Thomas Brown, A director of 'International Findings' and Bro. Charles Gray, a leather representative, were also connected with the Boot and Shoe Industry, and were esteemed members of the Lodge. 'Muddimer' is a name almost synonymous with Freemasonry in Leicester, and Ernest Muddimer was initiated into the Halford Lodge on 14 March 1923, later becoming Master, and subsequently was made a Grand Officer. Two of his nephews are well known Freemasons at the present time, one in the Grey Friars Lodge, No. 6803, the other a member of St. Martin's Lodge, No. 3431, and Saint James No. 8478. The diligence of the Charity Steward at the time of my initiation in 1956, was exemplified by W.Bro. Reg Allen, a joining member from Prince Edward Lodge, No. 125, Hythe, Kent, who never failed to recruit subscribers to the Masonic Charities, and would have been an invaluable member of any lodge at the present time as we look for support for the 2001 Grand Charity appeal! He, too, has relatives who are currently members of various lodges in this Province.

Time will not permit on this occasion, to recount further details, but I have endeavoured to highlight interesting events and personalities associated with the Halford Lodge from its very earliest days, and hope that this brief review will serve to remind us all of an era very different in many respects from today, and at the same time encourage brethren to give their full support to the lodges of which they currently have membership.

THE EARLY FREEMASONS

by

W. Bro. D.G. Letts, P.P.J.G.W.

Worshipful Master, when you asked me to give a short paper on this occasion, I was at a loss for a subject but, as I had comparatively recently given a paper in Chapter entitled 'The Holy Royal Arch in Earlier Times' I began to think about the early days of Freemasonry, hence the title of this paper 'The Early Freemasons'. How far back could I go to trace our roots? I could not go back to the year 975 B.C. when the building of the Temple was started but then my thoughts went back to my last trip to India.

Whilst in Delhi I visited a small Museum where, to my astonishment, I saw a woven rug, found in China, which was reputed to be approximately two thousand years old and there, very distinctly woven in the pattern were the square and compasses or probably, to be more precise I should say the square and callipers - the latter being so designed to be used both as callipers and compasses.

Coincidentally, soon after my return home, I acquired a copy of a book called 'The Modern Craftsman' and in it I read that in the oldest of Chinese classics, 'The Book of History' (reputed to date back to many centuries before Christ) it says - 'A Master Mason, in teaching apprentices makes use of the compasses and square - Ye who are engaged in the pursuit of wisdom must also make use of the square and compasses.'

How similar were those thoughts, thousands of years ago, to today's teaching in Craft masonry.

Alas, Worshipful Master, I cannot carry on from that time. So I shall have to cut out a few thousand years, leave the mysteries of the East and come down to earth in this country and some parts of Europe some eight hundred or so years ago and try to discover who were the early Freemasons.

We find that, in what might be called the Middle Ages, the word 'Mason' was generally used to mean a Builder, but in practice this included men engaged in any one of many crafts relating to architecture and building. Over the years this was gradually narrowed down to mean only those who worked in stone, bricks or tiles. In turn these workers became specialists such as quarrymen, stone cutters, workers in rough stone, workers in free stone sculpture, tilers, wallers and servants, or in modern parlance, labourers.

In those Medieval times each and everyone of those types of Masons were organised in their own particular Guild or Fraternity which then came under the general laws which applied everywhere to these Guilds. This meant that in any district the men in any particular branch of his craft had an organisation, with rules and regulations and officers. Officers who admitted members on oath, tried members on violation

of the rules, trained apprentices and held a monopoly of their own particular branch of Masonry.

However at that time there was no central organisation for these Guilds and therefore when a particular building was completed the workmen had to move on from one town to another and even to the Continent. Remember that at that time there were no such things as written or printed cards or documents, for few could write or read. Therefore the only way a man could identify himself as a regular Mason in good standing in his particular Guild was by secret ways of identification which had been entrusted to him on completion of his apprenticeship.

Among the various Guilds of Masons, it appears that one stood way apart and above the others – they were more respected and honoured than the others, they received higher wages and retained certain peculiar privileges to themselves. The members of this particular Guild were called 'Freemasons'. Whether they were called this because they worked in Free stone, which could be carved or sculptured, whether they were free to move about without regard to any restrictions or because they possessed a Royal Charter empowering them to work anywhere in the Kingdom, or even on the Continent, no one really knows. What is known however is that this Guild of Freemasons were highly skilled and educated men and it is no exaggeration to say that they were the ablest men that the Middle ages produced during a period of approximately two hundred years.

During that time they were reputed to be responsible for the design and building of between fifteen hundred and two thousand Cathedrals, Chapels and Monasteries, in addition to Castles, Fortresses and Halls. To enable them to do this, they incorporated architects, artists and engineers and were educated in geometry, chemistry, physics and mechanics. Whilst few could read and write, their apprenticeships were so long and so thorough that collectively they had so great a knowledge of their trade that a Master Freemason was considered to be a far better educated man than a Bishop or even a Prince.

They were responsible for the discovery and development of the Gothic principles of architecture which had only been previously surpassed by the Greeks and as the first Gothic building was the Church of Saint Denis' Monastery near to Paris in about the mid 1100s we can say that the Fraternity of Freemasons is about eight hundred and fifty years old.

The Building of a Cathedral, or any other Great Work followed a set pattern or procedure – Initially an administrative authority was set up to furnish the money and to act as an employer. This authority in turn selected a chief Master Mason – I suppose that he would be the equivalent to a Grand Master today. He in turn, sent out a call for craftsmen and in many instances it was first necessary to build

a village of houses to accommodate them, and their families, before work could commence on the major project.

A building called the Lodge was also constructed – this was the Head Quarters of the Master and was also used by the men engaged in making the plans and drawings – whilst these Craftsmen and helpers and servants etc. and local Guilds of other branches of the Builders' Craft were called in, none of these were permitted to enter or were admitted to membership in the Lodge, nor were they permitted to learn the secrets of the Freemason's art or receive the same pay or privileges.

When the major project was completed and accepted by the Administrative Authority, the Lodge dissolved itself. The Lodge building was dismantled or put to other uses – in some Cathedrals they were incorporated in the main building – and the Craftsmen disbanded to seek work elsewhere.

This pattern of seeking employment continued for some one hundred and fifty or so years but in the Prestonian Lecture, given in 1967, we are told, and I quote, 'Whereas the travelling Masons assembled in Lodges near their work, the London Company was an established and settled Guild of Craftsmen founded in the City before the year 1375 and some masonic scholars believe that much of the framework of our Masonry of today was inherited from that Company.'

Between that first permanent Lodge and today's Lodges of Speculative Masons is a continuity that has never been broken.

In the early days of the first permanent Lodges, Civil Law required that such a corporation should have a charter empowering its existence, where upon the members declared that in 926 their Craft had been granted a Royal Charter at York by Prince Edwin. They entered this as a claim to their authorisation and appended it to a statement of their purposes and a set of their rules and regulations. The original of that document was prepared about 1350. The oldest existing copy called The Regius Manuscript, written between 1350 and 1410, is the oldest of Masonic documents. It is now in the British Museum – copies have since been found and are called the 'Old Charges' and it is on these charges that the constitutions of Grand Lodges were based.

However as often happens, things began to change, whereas the temporary Lodges had existed as a means to an end for the construction work that was to be done the structure of the permanent Lodge began to change – men were allowed to join it for the sake of fellowship, its teachings, its ritual, its symbols and philosophy and whilst the majority of its members long continued to be Operative Masons they accepted into membership a limited number of men who were not working masons but deemed to be speculative but who found a fellowship and a new teaching they could not find elsewhere.

Needless to say that whilst the London Company was the first established or settled Lodge, other such Lodges became established

at various centres throughout England – each independent of the others – some still having a membership comprised of operative or working masons, others now composed of speculatives and some of mixed membership.

By the beginning of the Eighteenth Century it is probable that there were in the vicinity of two hundred such Lodges in existence and in the year 1717 a few of them, set up a Grand Lodge in London to be centre of union and it is from this union that each and every regular and duly constituted Grand Lodge in the world has descended.

From the time that the various Guilds were established until the Sixteenth Century, Freemasons were men of religion belonging to the Catholic Church, which at that time denoted Christianity in general, but from the Reformation onwards both Roman Catholics and Protestants were admitted.

However, since the formation of Grand Lodge in 1717 the Fraternity has become universal in its membership with Lodges throughout the world and now admits members of all religions that have a belief in God, strongly emphasising that the subject of religion, theology, sect or creed is not discussed during Lodge assemblies – each new initiate being free to take his obligation of the Volume of the Sacred Law pertaining to his particular faith. I had a particular experience of this as I was initiated in the Golconda Lodge (No. 3249 E.C.) in India and when I first saw light in Freemasonry I saw that in the Lodge were not only Christians but also Mohammedans, Hindus and Sikhs.

I feel that there is much more information that could be found about the early Freemasons but, Worshipful Master, with time being limited, that is my brief history of the Early Freemasons and why we are able to meet together this evening in this lovely old Masonic Building hopefully making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

LORD MOIRA: AN ARISTOCRATIC FREEMASON

by

Peter A. Neaverson, P.P.A.G.D.C.

This contribution can only serve as a very brief portrait of Lord Moira and the author hopes that with further research it will form the basis of a longer paper to be delivered at some future date. Lord Moira, was born in Ireland as Francis, Lord Rawdon, in 1754. He was the first son of the first Earl of Moira in the Irish peerage and Lady Elizabeth Hastings, whom he had married in 1752. She was the sister of Francis Hastings the 10th Earl of Huntingdon. Francis Rawdon was created Lord Rawdon in the English peerage in 1783, and succeeded to the earldom of Moira on the death of his father in 1793. He was subsequently created the first Marquis of Hastings in 1816. Throughout this paper he will be referred to as Lord Moira, by which title he was known for most of his masonic and political life, in order to avoid confusion.

The author's interest in Lord Moira was kindled through his connection with Leicestershire. It began in the 1970s with an artefact of industrial archaeology, an old blast furnace for producing iron. This had been built for Lord Moira in the early 1800s on the recently enclosed Ashby Woulds, complete with a newly-founded village west of Ashby-de-la-Zouch named after him. The blast furnace has subsequently been restored and is now a scheduled Ancient Monument. In 1976, the first of three papers about Lord Moira by Brothers P.J. and W.R.C. Dawson were published in the *Transactions* of this Lodge and the author came to realise that the Lord Moira of the furnace was also a prominent freemason.¹ In fact he was appointed the Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England from 1790 to 1813. These three papers, a further one delivered in 1980 to the Quatuor Coronati Lodge in London by Bro. John Hamill,² and a publication on the Moira Lodges,³ so named after Lord Moira, seemed to have exhausted the records of his masonic career. As Lord Moira was eventually to spend a lot of his time at Donington Hall in Leicestershire, it could be supposed that he had taken part in freemasonry in Leicester, or Derby or Nottingham, as well as in London. This the author set out to look into, searching through the various published histories of the lodges then at work in this and the adjacent province, in the Masonic Hall libraries in Leicester and London, using Lane as a guide.⁴ There were no records of Lord Moira having attended any of the lodges then operating although there were mentions of him in the minute books of St John's Lodge in Leicester, formed in 1790 and this matter will be discussed below.

In an endeavour to ascertain more information, searches were made in non-masonic sources, in particular the collected correspondence of George, Prince of Wales, who became Grand Master in 1790 and

continued to hold that office until 1813. He subsequently became the Prince Regent and later King George IV.⁵ The manuscripts of the Hastings family, whose mantle Lord Moira was eventually to take up, are distributed in three main repositories. Some are held in the Leicestershire Record Office, others are still held by the descendants of the second Marquess of Bute to whom Lord Moira's daughter Sophia Francis Christina was married.⁶ The bulk of the Hastings family papers were sold by the family in the 1920s and are held at the Huntington library in California USA, although facsimiles are available on microfilm at Loughborough University.⁷ The author is indebted to Dr Marilyn Palmer, Senior Lecturer in History and Archaeology at Leicester University, for her assistance in tracing some of these sources and her work on Lord Moira.⁸ Some new evidence has been found but really nothing so far of great importance to add to the work of the previous authors on Lord Moira's masonic activities.

Lord Moira was educated at Harrow and went to university at Oxford in 1771. He and his younger brother John spent much of their childhood and youth in England with their uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon, at Donington Park. A long period of army service by Lord Moira began with the purchase by his uncle of a commission for him as ensign in the 15th Regiment of Foot whilst he was at Oxford. Upon leaving Oxford without a degree in 1774, he was posted to America at the age of twenty and was to serve with great bravery and distinction in the War of Independence. Lord Moira's activities in America are chronicled through his regular correspondence with his uncle.⁹ He was invalided home from America in 1781, his health having suffered from the rigours of the climate in the southern states. The ship carrying him home was captured by the French and he was taken to Brest, being later released under an exchange of prisoners.¹⁰

On his return to Ireland he found that, in his absence, he had been elected M.P. for Randalstown, Co. Antrim, in the Irish House of Commons. He took little active part in its proceedings, spending most of his time in England. He remained in the army and was promoted to Colonel and appointed an ADC to King George III in 1782. This began an active association with the King, his brother the Duke of Cumberland, and Strathern, and the royal princes. His friendship with the royal family probably began his connection with freemasonry. The Duke of Cumberland and Strathern had been elected Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England in April 1782,¹¹ the Prince of Wales was initiated into freemasonry in 1787¹² and his younger brothers also later became freemasons. Lord Moira was exceedingly generous towards the royal princes, supporting their extravagant behaviour and advancing loans, some of which were never repaid. The Prince of Wales wrote to Lord Moira in 1792: 'My Dear Lord, You have long taught me what friendship really is, to make me hesitate in making perhaps

the most impudent request that you have had made to you this long time, or perhaps ever had made to you in the whole course of yr life.¹³ This generosity was ultimately to lead to Lord Moira's own serious financial embarrassment. His army services in America were rewarded by an English peerage in 1783, when he was created Baron Rawdon of Rawdon in the County of York, an area where there were still family estates and where his father had formerly resided. Lord Moira began to take an active role in the House of Lords as a Whig politician in opposition to William Pitt's government.

In 1789, Lord Moira inherited the estates of his uncle, the 10th Earl of Huntingdon, having been made his legitimate heir with the proviso that he change his name to Rawdon-Hastings.¹⁴ The earl was unmarried but had a natural son Charles by a French danseuse in the Paris Opera. The Huntingdon estates included the manors of Loughborough and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, property at Melbourne and large holdings of land on the Ashby Wolds, then unenclosed and mainly wasteland. Lord Moira immediately raised money on some of the unmortgaged properties and commenced the rebuilding of Donington Hall and the improvement of the estate there. He employed the architect William Wilkins and the work was completed around 1793.¹⁵ The hall still exists, substantially unaltered, and is now the headquarters of British Midland Airways.

Lord Moira's generosity was also extended towards the exiled French Bourbon royal family who came to England to escape the Revolution. According to one writer, he placed his house at Donington at the disposal of the Bourbon princes and he left in each bedroom a signed cheque book which the occupant could fill up at leisure.¹⁶ Through his generosity to the royal princes, the exiled French royal family and the expenditure on the estate, Lord Moira soon found himself in continuous financial embarrassment and was forced to sell off some of his properties to pay debts. As a way towards improving his financial situation he commenced prospecting for coal and minerals on his Irish estates and also on the Hastings estates, in particular on the newly enclosed Ashby Wolds.¹⁷ By 1805 he had coal mines at work on the Wolds and in a letter to Charles Hastings Lord Moira wrote: 'Thank you for your congratulations on the colliery; my sturdy perseverance is rewarded at last. The seam of coal is fifteen feet thick and it is of the best quality of the Oakthorpe, that is to say the first in England!'¹⁸ Iron ore was also found, along with fire clay, in the coal measures and Lord Moira commissioned the blast furnace which stands beside the Ashby Canal, which he also helped to promote, in the village of Moira. In 1810 he wrote to William Adam who managed his Scottish affairs: 'the works is going on beyond the most sanguine expectations, a Shropshire iron smelter has now been engaged at a large salary and the furnace is now yielding iron as good as that purchased from Shropshire . . . they are quite intoxicated with

triumph at the works.¹⁹ The furnace eventually proved a failure, a fact which probably ensured its survival.

It is interesting that among his promotions of bills in the House of Lords were Acts for the Relief of Debtors. A series of debates on this subject began in 1792, but no legislation reached the statute book until 1801. No doubt Lord Moira felt a personal sympathy with debtors, knowing in his heart of his own desperate situation.²⁰ He was also aware that the Prince of Wales and his brothers had been awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Parliament to pay off their gambling debts, and in particular for the building of the Prince of Wales' own Carlton House. Lord Moira was also a regular contributor to debates on the Regency, the Prince of Wales' establishment, public finance, Catholic emancipation and Irish matters, following general Whig principles.

Lord Moira's active army service was not over, however. He commanded an army of ten thousand men which was sent in 1794 to relieve the Duke of York who was surrounded by hostile forces in Flanders after the battle of Fleurus. Moira's army made a very long fast march from Ostend through enemy country to relieve the Duke and his public image was considerably enhanced. His opposition to William Pitt and his friendship with the Prince of Wales, however, prevented his appointment to other military commands which his experience would normally have ensured. He was appointed to command the army containing foreign emigrés for a descent on Brittany, a project with which he was never wholeheartedly in agreement. His expenses connected with his army commands were a further drain on his finances and he began to sell off his own family's property in Ireland.²¹

Turning to Lord Moira's masonic activities, the first notice of them is his appointment as Acting Grand Master by the then Grand Master, the Duke of Cumberland and Strathern, in May 1790. The Duke was to die some six months later and the Prince of Wales was appointed in his stead. Lord Moira continued to serve as Acting Grand Master, being reappointed annually until 1813. He regularly corresponded with the Prince on masonic matters requesting his approval for his various actions and appointments.²² When was Lord Moira made a mason? No actual record has yet been found. Previous authors have speculated on Moira's admission into freemasonry.²³ R.F. Gould in his book *Military Lodges, 1732-1899*²⁴ suggests that he may have been made a mason in a military lodge attached to one of his regiments which were under the Irish Grand Lodge. Brother Hamill prefers to think that he was made a mason by the Duke of Cumberland and Strathern when he appointed him his Acting Grand Master in 1790, a case of very rapid promotion! This was not an uncommon practice at that time.²⁵ One of the royal princes, Prince Ernest Augustus was later to be initiated by Lord Moira at his private house in 1796 into

the *Britannic Lodge*.²⁶ Lord Moira does not seem to have been a member of any Lodge before 1790 when he was on the roll of the *Britannic Lodge*, now Number 33, founded in London in 1730, of which the Prince of Wales became perpetual master. He became a joining member of the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, also in London, in 1803.²⁷ The author has searched through the various histories of lodges active in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in the 1790s and early 1800s and can find no mention of Moira ever visiting any of them. He certainly never signed as a visitor to St John's Lodge in Leicester.²⁸

The 1790s were difficult times. The crown and government were mindful of the French Revolution and the possibility of conspiracies and uprisings in Britain, and, consequently the Seditious Meetings Act was introduced. In Grand Lodge, as Acting Grand Master, Moira was concerned with the effects on freemasonry of the legislation. He made representations to Pitt in 1799 and achieved some relief from its requirements for freemasonry.²⁹ This involved exemption from provisions under the new Act for existing lodges meeting under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, provided that an annual return of members of each lodge should be submitted to the Clerk of the Peace. This requirement was not repealed until 1966, but unfortunately many of these returns, potentially valuable research tools, do not survive.

With the rank of General, Lord Moira was appointed Commander-in-Chief of North Britain in 1803 and was based in Edinburgh. During this time, at the age of fifty, he met and married Flora Mure Campbell, a grand daughter of the 4th Earl of Loudon who had been Grand Master of England in 1736. She was twenty-six years younger than Moira but an heiress in her own right as the Countess of Loudon. They commenced some rebuilding at her family home, Loudon Castle.³⁰ This work and the purchase of Essex House was expenditure which they could ill afford. Lord Moira's financial affairs were administered by Charles James, who wrote in August 1805: 'I find the balance against you [with Mr Templer, a banker] is £91,856 3s. 4d. including interest', and again in August 1806: 'deeds for Essex House, expected tomorrow, a Banker will advance £10,000 at seven per cent less than the trust loan. In the meantime, my Lord, we are dreadfully pushed'.³¹ His new wife brought to Moira some wealth and a possible means of alleviating his financial distress by exchanging the entail on their estates, so that more lands could be disposed of. This required parliamentary consent which was obtained in 1808, following which most of the property in the Ashby and Loughborough manors was sold. The sales in Loughborough alone realised over £63,000.³²

Lord Moira had been appointed Acting Grand Master of Scotland for his period of service in Edinburgh, thus beginning a dialogue of co-operation between the Scottish Grand Lodge and the Moderns in England.³³ In this capacity Lord Moira conveyed the wishes of the

Craft for the Prince of Wales to be nominated as Grand Master of the Scotch Masons in 1805.³⁴ He was also active in preparations for the Union of the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges in England in 1813 but he was not in London when it took effect.³⁵ During his period as Acting Grand Master, several lodges were consecrated bearing his name. One of them, the Moira Lodge of Honour, No. 326, in Bristol, was formed in 1809, and in 1813 this lodge adopted a distinctive apron, known as 'The Moira Apron'. It was of white satin, lined and edged with red and trimmed with gold fringe.³⁶

For some thirteen months from February 1806 Lord Moira served as master of Ordnance in Lord Grenville's cabinet, known as the 'Ministry of all the Talents'. Following this he declined a re-appointment to Scotland, writing to the Prince of Wales in 1807: 'My past carelessness with regard to money makes it necessary for me now to adopt a severe economy. The command in Scotland, to which I might be appointed again, would be a very expensive one to me, & it would remove me too far at present'.³⁷ He was later asked by the King in 1809 and again by the Prince Regent in 1812 to form a Government, each time unsuccessfully. He was made a Knight of the Garter by the Prince Regent for his efforts.

The Prince Regent offered him the post of Commander-in-Chief and Governor-General in India. At first he refused, but finally accepted it, leaving for India in April 1813.³⁸ This was an appointment carrying a salary of £25,000 per year which he, and the Prince, hoped would restore his financial position: some of his predecessors had indeed made fortunes from the India post.³⁹ Before his departure for India, a special meeting of the Grand Lodge was convened on 27 January 1813 at which a special jewel was presented to Lord Moira by HRH the Duke of Sussex, the Deputy Grand Master. The jewel, subscribed to by lodges nationally, commemorated his service of over twenty-one years as Acting Grand Master.⁴⁰ In India, he lived in some style, with his wife who had accompanied him which was then a precedent. He enlarged the government house at Barrackpore, built a new house by the Hoogli River and a special yacht to convey him along the river to Calcutta.⁴¹ He left behind him in England a mass of debts, indeed even on the eve of his departure from Portsmouth he had signed notes for debts of £2,333 in respect of carriages he had ordered for shipment to India.⁴² During his service there, he subdued several of the warring states in central India and greatly increased the financial returns of the East India Company. For this he received a special grant in 1819 of £60,000 which was to provide for the purchase of an estate for the benefit of his family and not for his creditors.⁴³

He was appointed Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England over the whole of India and the Islands in the Indian Seas. One of his first acts on arriving in Calcutta was to warrant a Lodge there, The Moira Lodge, Freedom and Fidelity.⁴⁴ Following

his arduous but successful campaigns in central India, Lord Moira's health was worsening. His wife and family had returned to England and by 1820 he was ready to relinquish his post. He wrote to Benjamin Bloomfield, who was close to the King, in November of that year: 'I am thence anxious to quit the government of India . . . I have added to the Company's income between three and four millions sterling of annual revenue, from solid permanent sources, it may be thought that I have discharged my duty to the Company no less attentively than I must have performed it towards the King'.⁴⁵ Not until January 1822 did the East India Company contemplate his replacement.⁴⁶ Lord Moira did not learn of his resignation being accepted until May 1822. His impending return to England from India was marked by numerous demands from his unpaid creditors. He sailed for Genoa following a special reception on 20 December 1822 at Government House in Calcutta when a loyal address was presented to him. Because of his enormous financial problems and on account of his health he had resolved to live abroad in Italy.

Lord Moira's business affairs in north-west Leicestershire had been judiciously managed in his absence by Edward Mammatt, an Ashby solicitor, who was under constant pressure from demanding creditors. He had maintained the collieries in production and had expanded the enterprises with the building of the Ivanhoe Baths and the Hastings (now Royal) Hotel in Ashby which accommodated visitors.⁴⁷ No doubt these two stylish buildings influenced the Midland Railway to construct their fine station in the town.

Lord Moira did, however, return to England for a short while in 1823, during which visit our St John's Lodge presented him with loyal address. Even then he did not attend lodge in Leicester, a deputation waiting upon him at 9 o'clock in the morning at the Three Crowns Inn to deliver it.⁴⁸ Lord Moira's conduct of the East India Company's affairs in India came under scrutiny on the proposal of Douglas Kinnaird but following a twelve month investigation, an amendment of the chairman was passed in the Company Court of Directors which stated: 'there was no ground for imputing corrupt motives to the late Governor-General', although his actions concerning a banking company's loans to the Indian princes were not condoned.⁴⁹

The Prince Regent, by then King, rewarded him again with another official appointment, as Governor of Malta, where he went in 1824.⁵⁰ He returned once more to England late in 1825 when he presided instead of the Duke of York at a special dinner which the Craft gave to honour the birthday of the Duke of Sussex, then Grand Master.⁵¹ Returning to Malta on 31 March 1826, Lord Moira and the Marchioness began a regular correspondence with their son George, Earl of Rawdon, who was then at Oxford. His father counselled him regularly concerning the correct company for him to keep and in

particular advising him not to visit his relatives in Ireland.⁵² Lord Moira died at sea off Naples, in November 1826, aged seventy-two. In a letter to be opened on his death, he wrote 'I desire that my right hand be cut off and preserved, so that it might be put with her [his wife's] body into the coffin when it shall please the Almighty to decree the reunion of our spirits'.⁵³ His body was taken back to Malta where he was buried in a vault in the Hastings Gardens in Valetta.

His eldest son George Augustus Francis, then aged eighteen, inherited the title of Marquis of Hastings. A further grant of £20,000, in respect of his father's services in India, was made by the East India Company in 1827 for his benefit. Fortunately through the loyal service and diligent management of Lord Moira's agents in Ashby the coal and clay bearing estates on Ashby Woulds had been kept intact to provide an income for Moira's descendants.⁵⁴ The second Marquess died in 1844 and his two sons respectively became the third and fourth marquesses. The latter, Lord Moira's grandson, died in 1868 and the title became extinct.

So, in conclusion, Lord Moira was a man of many facets, possessed of considerable intellectual faculties but perhaps rather gullible. He was generous to a fault, a loyal friend and servant of the Prince of Wales, a distinguished soldier, politician and statesman. He was disappointed at never receiving the ultimate honour of a Dukedom from the King, which he had confidently expected in 1821. His contribution to freemasonry, in the formative years of the United Grand Lodge of England was considerable, even though he may never have been made a mason in open lodge assembled. His name is commemorated in Freemasonry by the five Moira Lodges named after him which still operate.

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**A FINAL TRIBUTE
A MASONIC FUNERAL IN 1842**

by

W.Bro. W.W. Glover

'Last Night was inter'd in Bunhill Fields the corpse of Dr. Anderson, A Dissenting Teacher, in a very remarkable deep grave. His pall was supported by five Dissenting teachers, and the Rev. Dr. Desaguliers. It was followed by about a Dozen of Free-Masons, who encircled the Grave; and after Dr. Earle had harangued on the Uncertainty of Life, and so on, without one word of the Deceased, the Brethren, in a most solemn dismal Posture, lifted up their Hands, sigh'd and struck their Aprons three times in Honour to the Deceased.'

That is how the *London Daily Post* reported the interment of Dr. James Anderson, author, compiler and publisher of the first Book of Constitutions, and who died on 28 May 1739.

Neither his Constitutions of 1723 nor indeed any subsequent edition contained any guidance or instructions for a Masonic funeral procession or burial service; not can it be determined when they first became accepted rituals in the Craft. However, it is on record that the medieval Fraternities, Guild Companies and some Operative Masonic Lodges all paid special attention to the custom of paying a final tribute to fraternal affection by attending the funeral of a deceased member. Indeed attendance was often made compulsory, and a fine imposed for non-attendance. Speculative Lodges, especially in their early period, tended to maintain and preserve the Guild customs and traditions. But it was not until 1772 that a form of ceremony was published by William Preston in the Appendix to his *Illustrations of Masonry*, entitled 'The Ceremony Observed at Funerals, According to Ancient Custom: With the Service used on those occasions'. This treatise detailed who could be interred with the formalities of the Order; the requirements for a dispensation to wear Masonic regalia in public and the proper formation of a procession; and the form of service both at the place where the body of the deceased lay and subsequently by the side of the grave. Preston's *Illustrations of Masonry* was revised and republished several times, the thirteenth edition appearing in 1821, with the Funeral Service undergoing only minor changes from the original, and this later text with a few certain adjustments, due no doubt, to local ancient usages and established customs, was the form compiled for a Masonic Funeral Service in Leicester in 1842.

This sad but memorable occasion was due to the death on the 22nd November 1842 of Brother Christopher Musson, a senior member of St. John's Lodge, (No. 279) then number 348. His funeral and the events preceding it are well documented in the Lodge Minutes, and by W.Bro. Maurice Williams in his *Historical Account of*

St. John's Lodge. W. Bro. Williams commences his account by stating, 'In November 1842, occurred an event absolutely unique in the history of Masonry in Leicestershire – the burial of a Brother with the solemn ceremonies of our order. Bro. Christopher Musson, Prov. G. Treasurer, the Governor of the County Goal, and a Senior member of the Lodge, who had twice occupied the Chair, and who had often times expressed a desire to be buried with Masonic rites, died on the 22nd of November, and the difficult duty of arranging the funeral service devolved upon Bro. Kelly as the master of the Lodge. (And) With characteristic promptitude he summoned a meeting of the Brethren.'

The Minutes of an Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, November 23rd record that –

'The W.M. reported that himself and the S.W. had just returned from Lowesby Hall where they had had an interview with the Rt.W. Sir F.G. Fowke, Baronet, D.P.G.M., who had granted a Dispensation for holding a Lodge and procession, and which was produced – and he further stated that the Rt.W.D.P.G.M. had promised to attend.

The W.M. and S.W. were requested to obtain an interview with the Rev. Mr. Paget at Evington, and get his sanction for the performance of the Masonic Funeral Service.

It was ordered that 20 Crêpe Hatbands be got ready by Bro. Angrave.

The W.M. was requested to arrange the Form of the Masonic Ceremony to be used at the Funeral, and that 150 copies of the same be printed for the use of the members and visitors.

The Lodge of Emergency was adjourned to Sunday evening next at 6 O'clock.'

The Minutes of the adjourned Lodge of Emergency, Sunday Evening, 27 November 1842, continue:–

'The W.M. reported that agreeably to the request of the Lodge he and the S.W. had had an interview with the Rev. Mr. Paget at Evington, and obtained his consent for the Funeral Service to be performed over the grave of Bro. Musson. Subsequently, however, Mr. Paget had called upon him, and retracted his consent for the performance of the ceremony in the Churchyard, but was agreeable for the procession to take place, and the Service to be performed in a piece of ground adjoining the Churchyard.

About half an hour after having made this arrangement, the Rev. Paget again called on him (the W.M.) accompanied by the Revd. Gimson Davis

and requested him to go with them to the office of Mr. Stockdale Hardy—where after a great deal of discussion as to the legality of the service being performed over the grave, a (so called) decisive arrangement was made, as follows, to which both parties distinctly pledged themselves, viz, that the Brethren should attend in procession clothed as Masons, precede the Body into the Church and accompany it to the grave. The Masonic Service to be performed on the return of the Brethren to their Lodge room.

On the following day (Saturday) in the afternoon, two Gentlemen, calling themselves Churchwardens of Evington, waited on Mr. Wm. Musson and holding out the threat that if he did not comply the body of his father should not be interred there, compelled him to sign a paper, that there should be no Masonic procession whatever. They afterwards compelled him to destroy the Brick grave which they had previously allowed him to build.

On being acquainted with these circumstances, he (the W.M.) accompanied by Bros. Cooke, Martin and L. Hermitte waited on Mr. William Musson, who agreed, could the necessary arrangements be made that the Funeral should take place at Knighton. These having been effected and the Vicar of the Parish the Rev. A. Irvine, M.A. having most liberally done all in his power to promote the wishes of the Lodge, the Funeral was fixed to take place at Knighton on the following morning. The Masonic Funeral Service having been rehearsed the Lodge was closed in harmony.'

'W.Bro. Williams writes, *The Masonic Funeral Service* which Bro. Kelly had been requested to draw up was at the same evening rehearsed by Sir Frederick Fowke (whose extraordinary gifts enabled him to undertake the duty on very short notice) and by the Brethren who had been selected to assist him. The sacred task which Sir Frederick imposed upon himself, was admirably and reverently performed, and afforded "great relief" to Bro. Kelly, because as he relates in his *Fifty Years Masonic Reminiscences*, "he was a very shy young fellow in those days".'

'The Vicar of Evington having withdrew his consent to the burial of Bro. Musson in Evington Churchyard, unless the Masonic ceremony was performed in the adjoining field (a condition unfortunate and degrading, which the Brethren could not, without sacrificing their respect for our Order, submit to; a condition, moreover, which could only have emanated from the mind of a man wholly mistaken in his conception as to the form of the Masonic Burial Service, and the tenets of our Order, founded as they are upon the purest principles of piety and virtue) it was decided that the funeral should take place at Knighton on the 28th Nov.'

The Minutes of the Emergency Lodge on Monday 28 November 1842, record:

'The W.M. stated that the Lodge had been summoned in order to attend with the usual ceremonies of the Order, the remains of our late Bro Christopher Musson to their last resting place, under the authority of Dispensation from the Rt. W. Sir F.G. Fowke, Baronet, D.P.G.M.

The Dispensation was then read by the Secretary.

The Rt. W. D.P.G.M. stated that as he was present in person the Dispensation was strictly speaking, unnecessary, still he thought it better to have it read and preserved as it would be a precedent for any similar occasion in future.'

The Dispensation is preserved in the Provincial Library and Museum and it is interesting to note that the original place of burial, 'Evington', has been crossed through and 'Knighton' superscribed.

Reading from the printed Form of Masonic Service to be used at the Funeral of Brother Musson:

'the Lodge having been opened at the Bell Hotel, Humberstone Gate, the Brethren will proceed in procession up the Humberstone Gate, through the Market Place, along Market Street, and down the Welford Road to the County Goal, where the duties of the Lodge will be resumed. The procession having reached the residence of the deceased, the body is placed on a platform in the centre of the Temporary Lodge, and the Master takes his place at the head of the corpse.'

The Service begins with the Master, (on this occasion Sir Frederick Fowke), saying *'What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?'* The Brethren respond, *'Man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.'*

The Master then says, *'When he dieth, he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him'.*

And the response *'Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord'.*

The grand honours are then given. The grand honours referred to were most probably the same as the Grand or Royal sign known to all Master Masons. Solemn music is introduced, during which the Master strews herbs or flowers over the body; and taking the Sacred

Roll in his hand, he says *'Let us die the death of the righteous, and let our last end be like his!'*

The Brethren answer *'God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death!'*

The Master then holds the Roll over the coffin, and says, *'Almighty Father! into thy hands, we commend the soul of our loving Brother'*. The Brethren answer, *'the will of God is accomplished. So be it!'* This response is said three times, giving the grand honours each time.

The term *'Sacred Roll'* is rather confusing, but research into various sources indicates that generally it was a *'sheet of parchment or paper prepared for the purpose, on which have been inscribed the name, age, date of initiation, date of death, and any matter that may be interesting to the Brethren.'* The Service continues with a prayer, after which the Lodge is adjourned and the Brethren proceed to the place of interment. At the conclusion of the church Service, the Officers of the Lodge take their stations at the head of the Grave, and the mourners at the foot and then an exhortation is given. The exhortation given by Sir Frederick, is a fine example of late Eighteenth Century prose, dwelling on the uncertainty of life, the mortality of man, and a supplication for mercy and the hope of everlasting bliss. Then follows three invocations to which the Brethren reply *'So mote it be'* giving the *'usual honours'* each time. The *'usual honours'* given at this point would have been a mode of salutation known as *'Public Grand Honours'*, often practised in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and differ from the Grand Honours given in open Lodge. *An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry* by Wm Mackey describes *'Public Grand Honours'* at funerals thus:-

'Both arms are crossed on the breast, the left uppermost, and the open palms of the hands sharply striking the shoulders, they are then raised above the head, the palms striking each other, and then made to fall smartly upon the thighs. This is repeated three times.' This description bears some resemblance to the actions of the masons attending Dr. Anderson's graveside.

The service continues with the Secretary of the Lodge advancing to the grave, breaking his Wand as a traditional gesture of the termination of office and throwing it, together with the Roll, into the grave; while the Master repeats, *'Glory be to God on high! on earth peace! good will towards men!'* The ceremony is concluded at the grave by a further oration explaining that *'from time immemorial it has been a custom among Masons, at the request of a Brother, to accompany his corpse to the place of interment, and there to deposit his remains with the usual formalities. To offer up to his memory this final tribute of*

our fraternal affection, thereby demonstrating the sincerity of our past esteem, and our inviolable attachment to the principles of the Order.' The Service being ended, the procession returned in the same order, to the Bell Hotel, after which the charges for regulating the conduct of the brethren were rehearsed, and the Lodge closed in the Third Degree with a blessing.

The Press gave good coverage of Bro. Musson's funeral; although mainly repeating extracts from the Form of Service, some of the additional comments are worthy of note:-

The Freemasons' Quarterly Review of December 1842, reported that 'though the state of the weather was exceedingly unfavourable, the attendance of the Brethren was both numerous and highly respectable being attended by visiting Brethren from Coventry, Northampton, Loughborough, Hinckley and other Lodges.' *The Leicester Journal* reported: 'One circumstance in these proceedings must have excited feelings of approbation in the minds of the spectators for the order of Freemasonry, when they saw men of various ranks in society, and of all shades of political feeling, extending the right hand of fraternal regard to each other, and mingled together to pay to the memory of one of their body, the greatest mark of respect which, as Masons, it is in their power to bestow.' *The Leicester Advertiser* informs us: 'It was the wish of the deceased to be buried at Evington, and a vault was consequently prepared but the scruples of the clergyman of that parish were such, that it was found impossible to carry the wish of the deceased into effect. The Rev. A. Irvine, Vicar of St. Margaret's, Leicester, and Knighton, however, deeming such scruples to be caused entirely by mistake as to the religion of the Order kindly volunteered his Church, and in the night of Sunday the bricks were removed from Evington to Knighton, and the last resting place was immediately formed.'

Sadly, this was not to be. Bro. Musson's brick-lined grave no longer exists. Enquiries as to its location in Knighton churchyard have found that records identifying burial plots filled during the 1840s have been lost. Moreover, the section of the churchyard being used at that time was extensively disturbed by builders engaged in the enlargement of the church in more recent times. It seems likely that Bro. Musson's remains were re-interred together with many others in an unidentified part of the churchyard, leaving no trace of Bro. Musson ever having been put to rest there with the solemnity and dignity of a Masonic ceremony and service, demonstrating the sincerity of the esteem in which he was held by this final tribute of fraternal affection.

FORM OF
MASONIC SERVICE,
TO BE USED
AT THE FUNERAL
OF
BROTHER MUSSON, P. M. P. G. T.
&c. &c.
AT LEICESTER,
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1842.

THE LODGE having been opened at the Bell Hotel, the Brethren will proceed in procession up the Humberstone-Gate, through the Market-Place, along Market-Street, and down the Welford Road to the County Gaol, where the duties of the Lodge will be resumed.

Form of Procession.

The Tyler with drawn Sword.
Visiting Lodges, according to Seniority—Juniors first.
ST. JOHN'S LODGE,
in the following order, the Members having evergreens
in their hands:

Tyler with Sword.
Steward with Wand.
The Members of the Lodge not in office.
The Senior and Junior Deacons.
The Secretary and Treasurer.
The Senior and Junior Wardens.
The Past Masters.
The Bible, on a cushion, covered with black cloth.
The Worshipful Master.
The Provincial Grand Master, Sir F. G. Fowke, Bart.
Steward with Wand.
Tyler.

Stewards with Wands.

Stewards with Wands.

The procession having reached the residence of the deceased, the body being placed on a platform in the centre of the Temporary Lodge, and the Master having taken his place at the head of the corpse, the Service begins:—

MASTER. 'What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave ?

RESPONSE. *'Man walketh in a vain shadow, he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.*

M. 'When he dieth, he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.

R. *'Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord !'*

The grand honours are then given, and certain forms used, which cannot be here explained. Solemn music is introduced, during which the Master strews herbs or flowers over the body; and taking the SACRED ROLL in his hand, he says,

'Let us die the death of the righteous, and let our last end be like his !'

The Brethren answer,

'God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death !'

The Master then holds the ROLL over the coffin, and says,

'Almighty Father ! into thy hands we commend the soul of our loving Brother !'

The Brethren answer three times, giving the grand honours each time,

'The will of God is accomplished! So be it!'

The Master then repeats the following prayer:

'Most glorious God! Author of all good, and
'Giver of all mercy! pour down thy blessings
'upon us, and strengthen all our solemn engage-
'ments with the ties of fraternal affection! May
'the present instance of mortality remind us of
'our approaching fate; and draw our attention to
'Thee, the only refuge in time of need! that when
'the awful moment shall arrive that we are about
'to quit this transitory scene, the enlivening pros-
'pect of thy mercy may dispel the gloom of death;
'and that, after our departure hence in peace, and
'in thy favour, we may be received into thine
'everlasting kingdom, and there enjoy, in union
'with the souls of our departed friends, the just
'reward of a pious and virtuous life!' *Amen.*

The Master recommending love and unity, the Brethren join hands, and renew to each other their pledged vows. The lodge is then adjourned, and the procession to the place of interment is formed:

At the conclusion of the Church Service, the Officers of the Lodge taking their stations at the head of the Grave, and the mourners at the foot, the following exhortation is given.

'Here we view a striking instance of the uncer-
'tainty of life, and the vanity of all human pur-
'suits. The last offices paid to the dead are only
'useful as lectures to the living; from them we
'are to derive instruction, and consider every
'solemnity of this kind, as a summons to prepare
'for our approaching dissolution.

‘Notwithstanding the various mementos of
‘mortality with which we daily meet, notwith-
‘standing Death has established his empire over
‘all the works of Nature, yet, through some
‘unaccountable infatuation, we are apt to forget
‘that we are born to die. We go on from one
‘design to another, add hope to hope, and lay out
‘plans for the employment of many years, till we
‘are suddenly alarmed with the approach of Death
‘when we least expect him, and at an hour which,
‘amidst the gaieties of life, we probably conclude
‘to be the meridian of our existence.

‘What are all the externals of majesty, the
‘pride of wealth, or charms of beauty, when
‘Nature has paid her just debt? Fix your eyes
‘on the last scene; view life stript of her orna-
‘ments, and exposed in her natural meanness;
‘you will then be convinced of the futility of those
‘empty delusions. In the grave all fallacies are
‘detected, all ranks levelled, and all distinctions
‘done away.

‘While we drop the sympathetic tear over the
‘grave of our deceased friend, let charity incline
‘us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they
‘may have been, and not withhold from his
‘memory the praise which his virtues may have
‘claimed. Suffer the apologies of human nature
‘to plead in his behalf. Perfection on earth has
‘never been attained; the wisest, as well as the
‘best of men, have erred. His meritorious actions
‘it is our duty to imitate, and from his weaknesses
‘we are to derive instruction.

‘Let the present example excite our most

'serious thoughts, and strengthen our resolution
'of amendment. Life being uncertain, and all
'earthly pursuits vain, let us no longer postpone
'the important concern of preparing for eternity ;
'but embrace the happy moment, while time and
'opportunity offer, to provide against that great
'change, when all the pleasures of the world shall
'cease to delight, and the reflections of a virtuous
'conduct yield the only comfort and consolation.
'Our expectations will not then be frustrated, nor
'shall we be hurried, unprepared, into the pre-
'sence of an all-wise and powerful Judge, to
'whom the secrets of all hearts are known, and
'from whose dread tribunal no culprit can escape.

'Let us, while in this stage of existence, support
'with propriety the character of our profession,
'advert to the nature of our solemn ties, and pur-
'sue with assiduity the sacred tenets of the Order:
'with becoming reverence, let us supplicate the
'Divine protection, and ensure the favour of that
'eternal Being, whose goodness and power know
'no bounds ; and when the awful moment arrives,
'that we are about to take our departure, be it
'soon or late, may we be enabled to prosecute our
'journey, without dread or apprehension, to that
'far distant country from which no traveller re-
'turns. By the light of the Divine countenance,
'we may pass, without trembling, through those
'gloomy mansions where all things are forgotten ;
'and at the great and tremendous day of trial and
'retribution, when arraigned at the bar of Divine
'Justice, we may hope that judgment will be pro-
'nounced in our favour, and that we shall receive

'our reward, in the possession of an immortal inheritance, where joy flows in one continued stream, and no mound can check its course.'

The following invocations are then made, the usual honours accompanying each.

M. 'May we be true and faithful; and may we live and die in love!

R. *'So mote it be.'*

M. 'May we profess what is good, and always act agreeably to our profession!'

R. *'So mote it be.'*

M. 'May the Lord bless us and prosper us; and may all our good intentions be crowned with success!'

A. *'So mote it be.'*

The Secretary then advances, and breaking his Wand, throws it and the Roll into the grave, with the usual forms, while the Master repeats, with an audible voice,

'Glory be to God on high! on earth peace! good will towards men!'

A. *'So mote it be, now, from henceforth, and for evermore.'*

The Master then concludes the ceremony at the grave in the following words:

'From time immemorial it has been a custom among the Fraternity of free and accepted Masons, at the request of a Brother on his death-bed, to accompany his corpse to the place of interment; and there to deposit his remains with the usual formalities.

'In conformity to this usage, and at the special request of our deceased Brother, whose memory

'we revere, and whose loss we now deplore, we
'are here assembled in the character of Masons, to
'resign his body to the earth whence it came, and
'to offer up to his memory, before the world, the
'last tribute of our fraternal affection; thereby
'demonstrating the sincerity of our past esteem,
'and our inviolable attachment to the principles
'of the Order.

'With all proper respect to the established
'customs of the country in which we live, with
'due deference to our superiors in church and
'state, and with unlimited good-will to all man-
'kind, we here appear clothed as Masons, and
'publicly express our submission to order and
'good government, and our wish to promote the
'general interests of mankind. Invested with the
'badge of innocence, we humbly bow to the uni-
'versal Parent, implore his blessing on all our
'zealous endeavours to extend peace and good-
'will, and earnestly pray for his grace to enable
'us to persevere in the principles of piety and
'virtue.

'The great Creator having been pleased, out of
'his mercy, to remove our worthy Brother from
'the cares and troubles of this transitory life to a
'state of eternal duration, and thereby to weaken
'the chains by which we are united, man to man;
'may we, who survive him, anticipating our ap-
'proaching fate, be more strongly cemented in
'the ties of union and friendship; and during
'the short space which is allotted to our present
'existence, wisely and usefully employ our time
'in the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly

'acts, and mutually promote the welfare and
'happiness of each other.

'Unto the grave we have resigned the body of
'our deceased friend, there to remain until the
'general resurrection; in favourable expectation
'that his immortal soul will then partake of the
'joys which have been prepared for the righteous
'from the beginning of the world: and may
'Almighty God, of his infinite goodness, at the
'grand tribunal of unbiassed justice, extend his
'mercy towards him, and all of us, and crown our
'hope with everlasting bliss, in the expanded
'realms of a bounded eternity! This we beg for
'the honour of his Name, to whom be glory now
'and for ever. *Amen.*

The Service being ended, the Procession will then return in the same order, to the Bell Hotel, after which the charges for regulating the conduct of the Brethren are rehearsed, and the lodge is closed in the Third Degree with a blessing.

LEICESTER:

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GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS IN AND OVER THE PROVINCE OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

by

W.Bro. H.W. Tassell, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., M.E.G. Sup. (R.A.)

EDWARD HOLMES, O.B.E.

Edward Holmes was appointed the seventh Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland on the 11 May 1920, but he did not act and was not installed. The Report of the Committee of General Purposes dated 23 April 1921, and presented to the Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on the 31 May 1921, was to state: 'The Committee is pleased to be able to report that a Grand Superintendent has now been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of our late much respected M.E. Companion S.S. Partridge. In a letter addressed to the Provincial Grand Scribe E. dated the 4 June 1920, the Grand Scribe E. announced that the M.E. the First Grand Principal had appointed E.Comp. Edward Holmes, Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland . . .' The Report continued ' . . . It was very gratifying to know that a local Companion had been selected and the Companions hastened to congratulate E.Comp. Holmes on the high honour conferred upon him. Steps were taken for his early Installation but, after mature consideration and on receiving imperative medical advice, E.Comp. Holmes felt constrained to relinquish the appointment. In a further letter dated the 16 March 1921, the Grand Scribe E. announced that owing to ill-health E.Comp. Holmes had sent in his resignation as Grand Superintendent of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland to the M.E. First Grand Principal who had appointed E.Comp. Lt.Col. C. F. Oliver as his successor . . .'

The minutes of the Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on the 2 June 1919, record E.Comp. J. Hassall, J.P., P.Z. 779, P.A.G.D.C., Second Provincial Grand Principal-in-Charge, as stating in his Address to the Companions: 'He himself had in the earlier course of the proceedings referred to the great loss the Province had sustained by the death of the Grand Superintendent and he had already moved a resolution on that subject. The decease, however, of the Grand Superintendent involved the appointment of a successor . . .' After explaining why he could not entertain the idea of ever occupying the position, he went on to say: ' . . . They had, however, a Companion, their Prov.G.S.E.' (E.Comp. F. W. Billson, LL.B., P.P.G.J.) 'who commanded the confidence, respect and esteem of every Companion in the Province and who was in every way qualified for the position. His appointment would give great satisfaction throughout the Province. If the matter had rested with the

Companions his election would have been assured. The appointment, however, was in the hands of the Grand Master, who would have the advice of his Council. He, the Second Grand Principal-in-Charge, had, after consultation with and at the request of Companions who held, or had held, important offices in the Province, made a representation to the proper quarter. He hoped to soon see the Prov.G.S.E. installed as Grand Superintendent. He had every confidence that he would be a worthy successor to their late M.E.Comp. S.S. Partridge'.

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes which was presented to the Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on the 14 May 1920, stated: 'A year has passed since the death of our late much respected Grand Superintendent and the Committee had entertained hopes of being enabled in this report to communicate to the Companions the name of his successor and to convey to him an expression of the respect and loyalty of the Province. At present, however, no intimation has been received of the pleasure of the M.E. the First Grand principal, with whom alone the appointment rests . . .' At this Convocation, when knowledge of E.Comp. Holmes' appointment would surely be known within days, E.Comp. Hassell was again acting as Second Provincial Grand Principal-in-Charge but he does not appear to have addressed the Companions and the minutes record that after appointing and investing the Provincial Grand Officers of the year, he then vacated the First Principal's Chair, having a pressing public engagement.

E.Comp. Holmes was present when his successor was Installed at the Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Leicestershire and Rutland held on the 31 May, 1921, as was E.Comp. Billson, who was re-appointed Prov.G.S.E. Later in the proceedings, the newly-Installed M.E. Grand Superintendent congratulated E.Comp. Billson on his recent appointment as a Grand Standard Bearer in Supreme Grand Chapter and on behalf of all the Companions of the Chapter of Fortitude, No. 279, (his Mother Chapter), presented him with the clothing and Jewel of his new Grand Rank.

Edward Holmes was born on the 18 October 1847, while his parents, Thomas and Sophia (nee Wheatley), were living at Goodriche Street, (since demolished and the site is now occupied by St. John's Court Retirement Flats), Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. On the birth certificate Thomas is classified as being a labourer. It has been suggested that Edward's grandfather was a farmer and that Thomas may have worked on his father's farm; certainly it has been written that Edward spent most of his early life on a farm. Thomas and Sophia had two children and Edward's brother, Samuel, who was born in 1850, died at the age of five months. The brothers were christened on the same day at St. Mary's Parish Church, Melton Mowbray. Samuel was

buried at Freeby, a village nearby, as were both his parents; Sophia dying on Christmas Day 1894, aged eighty-one years, and Thomas on the 20 August 1898, aged seventy-two years.

Edward attended the Church School and the British School at Melton Mowbray and at the age of nineteen years obtained a position as a clerk at the Leicester Post Office. In 1875 he joined the Leicestershire County Police as a clerk and Inspector. In the following year he was promoted to Superintendent: in 1885, he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable and became Chief Constable in 1889 – a post he was to hold for thirty-nine years. For twenty-eight years ending in 1919 when he became President. Chief Constable Holmes was Chairman of the Police Mutual Assurance Society, which had a membership of about eighteen hundred from various forces in England, Scotland and Wales.

In Paget & Irvine's '*Leicestershire*' published by Robert Hale, Ltd. in their County Book series there is the following paragraph:

Chief Constable Holmes ruled the police as a completely autocratic patriarch. He bred his men as another man breeds a pack of hounds. He picked out most of their fathers and mothers and brought in carefully selected drafts when necessary, otherwise 'my boys' were all home-bred.

Cricket was the life-long passion of Edward Holmes. The *Victoria County History of Leicester*, Volume 3, reveals '... that Edward Holmes was a member of the Association Committee in July 1872, which organised a United South of England touring Cricket Club XI match including the famous W.G. Grace, his brother Fred and John Lillywhite against 22 of Leicester and District on Victoria Park, Leicester. Young Edward Holmes, he was then 25 and a Leicester Post Office Clerk, played for the 22 and although a good batsman was promptly bowled for one by Galpin...'. A member of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club he was, for many years, President and also Chairman of the General Committee. For a time he was also President of the Leicester Elementary Schools Cricket League and also of the Leicester and County Cricket Association.

Edward and his wife, Elizabeth, had two children and lived at Portland Lodge, London Road, Knighton, Leicester. The son, Dr Thomas Edward Holmes, M.A., M.B., B.C., (Cantab Honours) was initiated in Lodge Semper Eadem, No. 3091, Leicester, in 1908; in 1914, when living in Nottingham, he became its Secretary. In 1922, he became W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 402, Nottingham, and was last listed as being a subscribing member of his Mother Lodge in the 1925 Calendar. Ethel, the daughter, in 1907, became Mrs. J. Salamon. It was in 1924 that H.M. King George V invested Edward Holmes, with the Order of the British Empire and it is from his obituary published in *The Melton Times* that it is learned that

both his parents were buried at Freeby, near Melton Mowbray. A portrait of R.W. Bro. Edward Holmes, painted in oils by R.G. Eves, was presented to him by the Brethren of the Province in 1919 at an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, as a testimony of 'their affectionate regard and admiration' and now hangs on the North Wall of The Holmes Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. At the same time, a replica was also given to him to hang in his home. His portrait, together with a written appreciation of his masonic achievements, appeared in the 1900 and 1914 edition of the *Masonic Calendar of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland* and his photograph also hangs in the Lodge Room at the Masonic Hall, Syston.

The 1914 edition of the *Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic Calendar* states that W.Bro. Edward Holmes, then R.W.P.G.M., was exalted into Royal Arch masonry in 1896. The minutes of St. George's Chapter, No. 1560, Leicester, reveal, however, that on Tuesday, 1 January 1895, he was unanimously elected as a Candidate for Exaltation and, being in attendance, was admitted and exalted to the Supreme Degree in ancient and solemn form. He was appointed and invested as 2nd Asst. Sojr. in April 1899, and at the same meeting was presented with his Grand Chapter Certificate. In April 1900, the relevant minute records that he was invested 'by proxy' as 1st Asst. Sojr.; in April, 1901, as Prin. Sojr.; in April 1902, as Scribe N. In April 1903, he was installed as J. and the following year became H.

The Chapter was meeting in the months of April, October, and January, and during the five years Companion Holmes was occupying the above offices he was apparently unable to be present at any of the October meetings. In January 1901, it is interesting to note that the Chapter minutes relate: 'After waiting long beyond the usual time of meeting, the M.E.Z. announced that it would not be possible to open the Chapter this evening because of a sufficient number of Principals were not present'. Companion Holmes was to submit his apologies for being unable to attend the subsequent Emergency meeting. It was at the Chapter meeting when he was installed as J. that immediately after the Investiture of the Officers, two Companions were exalted and the First Principal was to announce 'that as time was getting short he would only give that portions of the Ceremony that was absolutely necessary for the exaltation and would give the rest at the next Convocation of the Chapter'.

On the 25 April 1905, E.Comp. Holmes was installed as First Principal. It would not appear that during his year in this office that an exaltation ceremony took place. At the October meeting H. was installed and then the Chapter received Provincial Grand Chapter. The minutes of the January meeting are very brief and the only business recorded is that the minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed, the Officers for the ensuing year were elected and that a 'slight discussion' took place regarding an urgent

appeal for the Girl's School. The Chapter had been summoned to open at 6.30 p.m. with dinner to be served at 7.00 p.m. precisely. In the event the Scribe E. was to write that the Chapter opened at 6.45 p.m. and closed at 6.55 p.m.

Having installed his successor in April 1906, E.Comp. Holmes acted as Z. at the October meeting which was opened at 6.30 p.m. and closed at 7.00 p.m. At the 1908 Installation Convocation, he acted as J. and installed Z.; again, in the following year, he installed the First Principal. In January 1913, he was elected to serve in the office of 2nd. Asst. Sojr. and was duly invested at the April meeting.

The minutes of St. George's Chapter do not reveal whether or not he ever presented any of the Lectures and do not record him as being present at any of the Convocations held in 1914/15/16, having for many previous years been assiduous in his attendance. After January 1920, the minutes contain no record of his name, either as attending the Convocations or as submitting an apology for absence. In October 1928, they refer to his death and to a resolution that was moved 'recording the great loss sustained. . . ' the Companions signalling their assent by standing to Order. (It should be observed that no Attendance Register is available to verify attendance and also that the Scribes E. of the time did not always record a full list of apologies.)

In Provincial Grand Chapter, E.Comp. Holmes was appointed Grand Registrar in October 1905; no Provincial Convocation was held in 1906, but at the January 1907, Convocation he presented The Grand Registrar's Report which is printed in the minutes as being signed by 'E.Holmes, Provincial Grand Treasurer' and this title must be assumed as being applied in error as, at the time, this office was held by E.Comp. Bullen, P.Z. 779, and never, it would seem, by E.Comp. Holmes. In 1910 he was appointed to the rank of Provincial Grand J. The appropriate records suggest that he was never regular in his attendance at the Convocations of Provincial Grand Chapter and, following his appointment as Third Provincial Grand Principal, is not again recorded as being present until the 1914 Convocation when E.Comp. S.S. Partridge was installed as Grand Superintendent, nor did he attend again until 1918, he was present in the three succeeding years, but the minutes do not show that he was ever present again. In 1907, he was appointed P.A.G.D.C. in Supreme Grand Chapter of England and, on the 1 November 1922, he was among the Companions who received promotion in Supreme Grand Chapter in commemoration of the investiture of V.W.Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as S.W. in Grand Lodge and became Past Grand Sojourner.

In the Report of the Committee of General Purposes dated 13 April 1929, which was presented at the Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter of that year and which was the first to be held after his death, it is written of E.Comp. Holmes that ' . . . He

was much beloved by all who knew him, and his kindly manner and disposition had endeared him to the hearts of all Masons, whilst the great ideals he set forth as a Freemason won the love and admiration of all his listeners'.

In the Craft, Edward Holmes was initiated in St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester, on the 7 March 1883. His first office was that of Junior Deacon in 1887, he was appointed Junior Warden in 1888 and retained the office for the following two years, becoming Senior Warden in 1891 and the next year was installed as Master. He was a Founder and First Junior Warden and later Master of the Lodge of Research, No. 2429, Leicester, and also a Founder and First Senior Warden and later Master of the East Goscote Lodge, No. 2865, Syston. From 1894 to 1906, as the elected representative of his Mother Lodge, he was Joint Preceptor in The Union Lodge of Instruction and also assisted in the formation of a Lodge of Instruction meeting at Melton Mowbray under the sanction of the Rutland Lodge, No. 1130.

In 1887, he was appointed a Steward in Provincial Grand Lodge and became Provincial Grand Secretary in 1892, an office he was to hold for fourteen years. At the Annual General Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held at Hinckley on the 8 October 1896, pursuant to Special Authority from Grand Lodge given in commemoration of the twenty-one years as M.W. Grand Master of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, he was appointed to the rank of P.P.S.G.W. At the same meeting he was also to become Charity Steward of the Province for the ensuing year. In 1906, the R.W.P.G.M. the Rt.Hon. Lord Ferrers appointed him as his Deputy and it was during this same year that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, M.W.G.M., was to honour him with the appointment of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Grand Lodge of England. Many years later, W.Bro. Lt.Col. C.F. Oliver, D.L., T.D., PGD., then Deputy to R.W. Bro. Holmes, P.G.M., was to comment on this Grand Rank as 'a somewhat tardy recognition of his long years of work in the Province'. (At the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held immediately subsequent to his preferment in Grand Lodge, W.Bro. Holmes was presented with a complete set of Grand Lodge clothing, three inscribed Silver Bowls and a diamond pendant to be given to his wife.) As Deputy P.G.M. one of W.Bro. Holmes's duties was to chair a Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge which had been convened 'To consider a report from the Freemasons' Hall Committee with respect to a scheme for a new Masonic Hall in Leicester' and he was present on the 25 April 1910, when the new Hall having been erected in London Road, Leicester, was dedicated by the M.W. the Pro Grand Master of England, the Rt. Hon. Arthur, 2nd Baron Amptill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Upon the death on the 26 July 1912, of Lord Ferrers, he became Deputy P.G.M.-in-Charge and W.Bro. Henry John Brinsley, 8th

Duke of Rutland, accepted the office of P.G.M. (his Patent of Appointment is dated 10th September, 1912) only to eventually forego the appointment owing to ill-health. W.Bro. Holmes was then offered and accepted the appointment and it was on Tuesday, 3 February 1914, at an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Temperance Hall, Granby Street, Leicester, at 5.15 p.m. that he was installed as R.W.P.G.M. of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland by the M.W. Pro Grand Master of England, the Rt. Hon. Arthur, 2nd Baron Ampthill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., who, earlier that day, at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester, had installed E.Comp. Samuel Steads Partridge, P.G.Swd.B., Prov.G.H. as Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Ever interested in charities, in 1917, R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes, P.G.M. was to represent his Province in person at the Festival of the Royal Masonic School for Girls and he was to comment at the Annual Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge of that year '... To take up a list of £3,209 5s. 6d. from a Province of 1,200 members was an honour and a privilege which would be one of his most inspiring memories for the rest of his life ...' In February, 1919, at the first meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge since the signing of the Armistice, the R.W.P.G.M. introduced a Report of the Committee of General Purposes which stated that the Freemasons of the Province should 'provide some public token of their gratitude for the happy deliverance of the Nation from a period of great peril and should also set-up amongst themselves a worthy Memorial to those Brethren who have served their King and Country during the Great War'. The Committee then recommended that a dual appeal be made to the Brethren for such generous subscriptions as would provide a substantial sum for the benefit of the Leicester Royal Infirmary and also for a Memorial to be placed in the Masonic Temple.

The Appeal realised over £5,600 and on Monday, 28 July 1919, an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Leicester Royal Infirmary for the purpose of laying in Masonic Form the Memorial Foundation Stone of the New Orthopaedic Department, toward the building of which the Province subscribed £5,000. After Provincial Grand Lodge had been opened 'in due form' the Brethren formed a procession and accompanied their P.G.M. to the site. In a cavity, beneath where the Foundation Stone was to lay. The Provincial Grand Treasurer deposited a phial which contained, among others papers, a copy of the Order of Proceedings on vellum and a copy of the Circular summoning the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. R.W.Bro. Holmes then spread cement beneath the stone, which was then lowered upon its bed and tested by the two Wardens and the Deputy P.G.M. according to ancient custom. The inscription on the stone read:

This Stone was laid by
Edward Holmes,

Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire and Rutland
on behalf of the Freemasons of the Province, who
in loving memory of the Freemasons who fell in the
Great War, subscribed the sum of £5000 towards the
erection of this building.

28th July, 1919.

The R.W.P.G.M. was presented by the builders with the ebony and silver-mounted mallet he had used and by the architects with the silver trowel. Following an Oration by the Senior Prov. Grand Chaplain and a speech by R.W.Bro. Holmes, Mr. T. Fielding Johnson, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, in returning thanks for the gift said, *inter alia*: '... Their Order had never advertised, but it had done good work, as even the uninitiated knew, since the time of Solomon, and Leicestershire and Rutland would be proud to have a lasting memorial of their generosity ...' The Mayor also tendered thanks for their gift.

At the Annual General Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held on 27 October 1921, the aims of the War Memorial Appeal were completed when the Leicestershire and Rutland War Memorial Tablet was unveiled in the Temple at Freemasons' Hall. The Tablet is dedicated to the loving memory of the seven Brethren of the Province who fell in the War and also records the names of all the Brethren who served with H.M. Regular or Territorial Forces.

It was at the previous meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge that R.W.Bro. Holmes, P.G.M., referred to 'the personal appeal from the M.W. the Grand Master for the raising of one million pounds to provide a Memorial of our Brethren who fought and fell in the Great War, also to include a central home in London for the Order ...' This appeal, which became known as the Masonic Million Memorial Fund, received the full support of the R.W.P.G.M. and a committee was appointed to further its aims. Every Lodge in the Province elected a Steward to collect donations and the contribution made was finally to be in excess of £4,600.

On the 25 February 1927, the R.W.P.G.M. and his Deputy led a procession of Brethren of his Province from the Alderman Newton Girls School to the Leicester Cathedral to attend a Service for Freemasons in connection with the octave of Hallowing Services which marked the restoration of the Diocese and the enthronement of the Bishop. Masonic clothing was worn, but no jewels. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Bristol, V.W. Bro. George Nickson, D.D. and during the service the R.W.P.G.M. presented to the Bishop of Leicester a cheque for

£1,200, this being a gift from the Brethren of Leicestershire for the building and furnishing of a Sacristy for the Cathedral. At a later date this sum was increased to £1,380. On the 25 May, of the same year, R.W.Bro. Holmes, assisted by his Deputy and Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, laid the Foundation Stone of a new Masonic Hall to be erected at Coalville. The ceremony was attended by the W.M., Officers and Brethren of the Grace Dieu Lodge (No. 2428) and a large number of visitors and it has been recorded that it was 'conducted with smoothness and precision'.

During the time R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes was to rule over the Craft Province, six new Lodges were added, all of which he consecrated. One was to be named the Holmes Lodge, No. 4656, Leicester, and in 1945, the Lodge was to sponsor a Chapter to be named the Holmes Chapter, No. 4656, Leicester. In 1928, he was a subscribing or Honorary member of every Lodge in the Province, except the Lodge of Research, No. 2429, from which he had resigned. R.W.Bro. Holmes was a Life governor of all three central Masonic Charities and also a Trustee and Life Governor of the William Kelly Memorial Fund.

On the 2 November 1899, in the United Religious and Military Orders of The Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and the Dependencies thereof W.Bro. Holmes was installed as a Sir Kt. in the Rothley Temple Preceptory, No. 152, Leicester., in the then Provincial Priory of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. He was Eminent Preceptor in 1901 and again in 1913 and 1914. He was appointed Provincial Warden of Regalia in 1901 and Provincial Chancellor in 1913 and 1914.

R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes, O.B.E., P.G.M., died at 6.10 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 May 1928. He was in his eighty-first year and had been confined to his bed for the previous week having contracted a chill. The *Leicester Evening Mail* in reporting the funeral which took place on the 26 May 1928 was to comment: '... The body was borne from Portland Lodge, Knighton, via London Road, Granville Road, Regent Road, King Street, Market Street and Hotel Street to the Cathedral. At many points along this route citizens gathered and reverently stood while the procession of hearse and coaches passed.' 'The press of people in St. Martin's was greatest, but there was no undue crowding as the coffin ... was met at the Cathedral gates and raised to the shoulders of eight of the oldest members of the several ranks of the County Police Force ... In the Cathedral had gathered representatives of the public life of the city and county and of neighbouring towns in such numbers that they practically filled the building ...'

The Bishop of Leicester, Dr. Bardsley, in a glowing eulogy delivered from the chancel steps said, inter alia: '... As provincial Grand

Master of Leicestershire and Rutland he was held in high honour and very largely through him the Freemasons recently made a most generous offering to the Cathedral Church by the building of the Sacristy. His gentleness and perfect courtesy were an attraction. His very looks inspired confidence. The work he accomplished, the trust he won, the place he filled in their hearts, were the result of his personal character. There was nothing more beautiful and honourable than a golden age and in their brother's life they saw that beauty. His heart's desire was that he should die at his work. His record was of a life's service finely done. He had a devout heart and a humble trust in God'. The chief mourners were his widow, son and daughter, daughter-in-law, and son-in-law. The *Leicester Mail* reported that Col. C.F. Oliver, Ald. J.R. Frears, Rev. H.S. Biggs, and many other Freemasons attended, 'some wearing sprigs of acacia in their button-holes'. The interment took place at Oadby Cemetery.

At the Annual General Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held on the 31 October 1928, W.Bro. Lt. Col. C.F. Oliver, T.D., D.L., D.P. Grand Master-in-Charge said '... in the passing of their Grand Master the Province had lost a great and trusted Leader. They would all rejoice in the memory of a life spent in the service of Masonry and the greatest tribute they could pay to his memory would be to follow the ideals he constantly put before the brethren ...' The Report of the Committee of General Purposes (Craft), dated 13 October 1928, commented: 'Bro. Edward Holmes, who was in his 81st year, had for thirty-six years ... been the guiding spirit in everything that had helped to make Freemasonry a living force for good.'

'Outside his public avocation he gave all his life and energy to the service of the brethren, gaining their affection and confidence to a degree rarely equalled. He was the revered Father of the Province, accessible to the humblest Brother and ready with wise counsel for those who sought his advice.'

Unassuming and without ostentation, he nevertheless maintained the dignity of his high office on all occasions, while the earnest and impressive words in which he set forth the great ideals of Freemasonry made a lasting impression on those who heard them.

It was a privilege to all who were under his rule to be associated with a personality so single minded, so sincere and so intensely devoted to the highest good of our Order ...

Eight years after the death of R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes, when a second Temple was added to Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, and was named the Oliver Temple, the Hall Committee decided to name what was then to be described as the 'old Temple' as the Holmes Temple and this Temple, widely acknowledged to be one of most magnificent outside of Great Queen Street, London, remains an abiding memorial to his life and work.

COLONEL SIR CHARLES FREDERICK OLIVER, T.D., D.L., J.P.

Colonel Sir Charles Frederick Oliver was the eighth Grand Superintendent to be appointed to rule in and over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. His Patent of Appointment is dated the 23 February 1921. He was born on the 1 February 1868, it is written in Wolverhpton, the second son of George Oliver and his wife Eliza, who was the daughter of Mr Munsey, a boot retailer with two shops in Merthyr Tydfil. He had three brothers and five sisters and, after his mother's death and his father's re-marriage, a half brother.

Educated at Rugby School, Frederick, as he was always known, studied Law and for a short time practised as a Solicitor in Leicester before joining his father's business which claimed to be 'the largest retailers of boots and shoes in the world'. Upon his father's death in 1896, Frederick, together with his elder brother, George Carter, inherited the business and, in 1936, when the firm, George Oliver, was converted into a Private Limited Liability Company, Sir Frederick was to become Joint Managing Director until his death. He married Mary Louise Danolds of Northampton who, later, as Lady Oliver, was a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Magistrate, County Commandant of the St. John's Ambulance Service and Divisional Commissioner of Leicester Girl Guides. From the marriage there were three sons and a daughter and the family home was The Firs, London Road, Leicester.

A military man of considerable distinction, an obituary published in *The Leicester Evening Mail* referred to Sir Frederick's army career which began in 1892 when he joined the 1st Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment, and was gazetted as 2nd Lieutenant on the 11 June of the same year, stating: 'On the formation of the Territorial Army, this unit became the 4th City Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment. 'In 1909, he succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel E.C. Atkins as Commanding Officer of the battalion and was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel. He commanded the battalion until 1913. 'At the outbreak of war in 1914, he raised and commanded the 2/4 Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment, and saw service with it in Ireland during the 1916 risings and in France. Later he helped to raise and commanded the 3rd Battalion of the Leicester Volunteer Training Corps which was engaged in home defence measures.' 'In recognition of his work for the Territorial Army Sir Frederick was awarded the Territorial Decoration.'

Sir Frederick was President of the South Leicester Conservative Association, Vice-President of the Knighton Ward Association, Treasurer of the Leicestershire County Conservative Association, represented the county on the East Midlands Provincial Conservative Association and was on the council of the National Union of

Conservative Associations. For many years he was leader of the Conservative Party in Leicester and, at the time of his death was President of the Leicester Central Conservative Association. He was a Deputy Lieutenant for Leicestershire; High Sheriff for the County in 1934; served as a Justice of the Peace and, in 1933, was knighted for his public and political services. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Leicester Royal Infirmary for thirty years and he and his two brothers gave 'C Ward' in memory of their father, whose picture still hangs in that Ward. At the time of his death, Sir Frederick was both Treasurer and Deputy Chairman of the Board. He was a Lay Canon of the Leicester Cathedral and among the many tributes published in *The Leicester Mercury* after his death was one from The Provost of the Cathedral: '... He took a great interest in the transformation of St. Martin's Church into the Cathedral of the diocese and we owe much to his generosity.'

'He and Lady Oliver presented our beautiful Processional Cross and as Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order he unveiled and presented the Coronation bell in honour of the Coronation of King George VI.

Sir Frederick was one of the original Lay Canons of the Cathedral, and we shall miss his presence and advice on the Cathedral Council...

Sir Frederick was President of 'The Leicester Evening Mail Never-Seen-the-Sea Fund'; for many years Chairman of the Leicester and District Employment Committee and Vice-Chairman of the City's National Service Committee. He was also a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters of the Cities of London and Westminster and the Kingdom of England and Dominion of Wales, being elected Master in 1920. A keen sportsman, he was Chairman and then President of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club and also President of the Leicester Rugby ('Tigers') Football Club. Among his other interests were photography, amateur dramatics and miniature rifle shooting and when the City Club was formed was elected President. It has been suggested that in his earlier years motoring was his favourite recreation.

His obituary, published in *The Leicester Evening Mail* on the 8 August 1939, quotes the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Alderman T.J. Gooding, as saying: 'He was a true British gentleman, and one of the finest men I have had the privilege to be associated with during a long period of public service, Masonically, socially and politically, I want to say, on behalf of the Lady Mayoress and myself, that we shall always hold his memory in the highest esteem as a citizen who has undoubtedly, in his time and generation, helped to enhance the prestige of Leicester'. On the same date, the *Leicester Mercury* published further tributes from the Lord Mayor: '... He was

a most lovable man. I had known him for more than twenty-years and had always looked upon him as a guide, philosopher and friend., You could always rest assured if you went to him for advice, that you would find it. His wonderful disposition endeared him to everyone. As Lord Mayor I would like to say that Sir Frederick was a great citizen and interested himself in so many causes – for instance, the Infirmary. The city will be much poorer for his death. His integrity, humanity and his willingness to serve made him what he was. He was the highest mason in the Province and last September he presented me with the high honour – the Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden of Leicestershire and Rutland. I shall always remember his beautiful words when he installed me in this office . . .’ Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, was moved to say: ‘He was an outstanding figure in both the city and county and was one of the most valuable of the Deputy Lieutenants. . . . Then in the world of Charity and so on – well, really, I don’t know if there is any body or organisation in which he and Lady Oliver have not been interested. They have been wonderful . . .’ A portrait in oils of Sir Frederick in his regalia as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, which was presented to him by the Brethren of the province in 1927 now hangs on the North Wall of The Holmes Temple at Freemasons’ Hall, London Road, Leicester. His photograph, together with certain biographical details, was published in the 1915 edition of the Province’s *Freemasons’ Calendar*.

For many generations, Sir Frederick’s forebears had lived and worked in the Leicestershire village of Barrow-on-Soar and it was here, at an early age, that his father, George Oliver, was apprenticed to a shoemaker. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship, George was to leave his native village and, at the age of twenty-four, to open a retail boot shop at Willenhall in Staffordshire. In 1869, he started to manufacture hob-nailed boots in a factory he had acquired in Wolverhampton and so successful was this enterprise that, six years later, the business was moved to Leicester in specially built premises on the corner of Free Lane and Charles Street. Within a few years it became necessary to erect still larger premises which were situated on the opposite side of Charles Street, on the corner of Yeoman Lane. In 1984, the Company, which had now become The Oliver Group PLC, moved to its new Head Office and Warehouse at Castle Acres, Narborough, Leicestershire.

George Oliver became a prominent Leicester citizen and was appointed a J.P. of the Borough in 1885. A staunch Conservative – *The Wyvern*, a Leicester newspaper of the time, was to describe him as ‘a hot politician’ – for many years he represented the East St. Mary’s Ward (now the de Montfort) on the Leicester Town Council. For a time he lived at 7, Highfield Street, Leicester, and when he built his new house in Knighton Park Road, where Sir Frederick for some

years was also to live, he named it Hughenden, after Disraeli's (Earl of Beaconsfield and Viscount Hughenden of Hughenden) home.

A keen Freemason, he was initiated in the Commercial Lodge, No. 1391, Leicester, on the 26 May 1879. In 1881, he joined the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, Loughborough, became its Master in 1882 and, from 1885 until his death, served as Treasurer. In 1890, he became a Joining Member of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester. He was appointed Provincial Grand Pursuivant in 1882 and was elected Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1891, an office he was to hold until his death. In The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch, he was a member of the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, Loughborough, and was First Principal in 1888. In Provincial Grand Chapter he held the rank of P.P.G.Swd.B. His portrait, together with brief information on his masonic attainment, was featured in the Province's *Freemasons's Calendar* of 1897. When Sir Frederick's portrait was included in the 1915 edition it became the first instance of both a father and son being so honoured.) George Oliver died at the age of sixty on the 15 April 1896.

Charles Oliver, George's brother and Sir Frederick's uncle, living at Abertawe Villa, Evington Road, Leicester, who assisted George in building his business, was also a Freemason. He was initiated in the Commercial Lodge, No. 1391, at the same time as his brother and likewise, became a Joining Member of the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, occupying the Master's Chair in 1884. In Provincial Grand Lodge he held the rank of P.P.G.Std.B. He was First Principal of the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, in 1889 and was to be invested P.P.A.G.Soj. in Provincial Grand Chapter. He died in 1897.

Sir Frederick's elder brother, George Carter Oliver, was initiated in 1884 in the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, was Worshipful Master in 1888 and succeeded his father as Treasurer of the Lodge in 1896. In the same year he was elected to succeed his father as Provincial Grand Treasurer. In 1911, he was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden. In the Royal Arch, he was installed as First Principal of the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, in 1894 and was later to be appointed P.P.G.S.N. in Provincial Grand Chapter. He retired to Angmering-on-Sea where he died in April, 1934.

Ernest Victor Oliver, one of Sir Frederick's younger brothers, (Claude, the youngest, was to die at the age of twenty-one) together with Charles Llwellyn, the son of Charles Oliver, was initiated in the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, in April 1894. The cousins served together as Stewards of the Lodge; Ernest progressed through the various offices and was appointed Senior Warden and would, doubtless, have been elected Master in November, 1900, but for his death in March of that year. Charles Ll. was Junior Deacon of the Lodge in 1898, did not progress any further and resigned in November 1901. Both were exalted at the same time, together

with one other Candidate, in the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, in September 1895. (Thus, six of the Oliver family were then members of the Chapter.) Companion Ernest Victor progressed through the various offices and was elected Scribe E. but died before he could be invested. Companion Charles Ll. was elected as 1st. Asst. Sojourner in November, 1898, but was not present to be invested at the subsequent Installation Convocation and, in November, 1899, he withdrew his resignation which he had submitted to the Chapter but stated that he did not propose to continue in office after that session.

* * *

On the 25 November 1890, at a Convocation of the Charnwood Chapter, No. 1007, held at the Bull's Head Hotel, Loughborough, Bro. Charles Frederick Oliver, age twenty-two years, Solicitor, of 53 Hagley Road, Birmingham, raised in the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, on the 22 October 1889, was one of six brethren proposed by E.Comp. J. Herbert Marshall, M.E.Z. and seconded by E.Comp. Charles Oliver, P.Z. as Candidates for Exaltation. The ballot took place on the 23 February 1891, at what is minuted as a 'Chapter of Emergency' and having proved to be favourable to all the Candidates, five, including Bro. C.F. Oliver, were duly exalted. Companion George Carter Oliver, Scribe N., was present but it does not appear that Bro. Frederick's father or his seconder attended. Companion C. Frederick Oliver was invested as 2nd Assistant Sojourner on the 26 April 1892, and the following year became Principal Sojourner. On the 24 April 1894, at the same Convocation as his elder brother, E. Comp. George Carter, was installed as First Principal, he was invested as Scribe N. In successive years he then served in the offices of Scribe E., Third and Second Principal and was installed as First Principal on the 26 April 1898.

At this time, when it was customary for the Chapter to be opened only by the Principals, Companions below that rank being afterwards admitted, proceedings could start as early as 1.30 p.m. on a Tuesday and attendances were often small. On the 28 June 1898, at the first Convocation after his installation, E.Comp. Oliver was to preside over a total of seven Companions; both H. and J. were absent, there was no exaltation ceremony and after the minutes of the previous Convocation had been read, confirmed and signed and the Risings effected, the Chapter was closed. At the following meeting held on the 27 September, again there was no ceremony and but ten members of the Chapter were present, together with one visitor. On the 29 November, the main item on the Agenda was to ballot for the officers for the ensuing year - again, no ceremony - and thirteen members of the Chapter were in attendance. (It is worthy of note that

after June 1897, until June 1900, no brethren would appear to have been exalted in the Chapter.)

In the period following his year as First Principal of the Charnwood Chapter, E.Comp. C.F. Oliver, P.Z., served the Chapter as Treasurer from 1902 until 1907, and during those early years always attended at least two and sometimes three of the four annual Convocations, sometimes acting as M.E.Z., H., J. or Scribe E. After 1907, until the 20 April 1920, which was the date of his last visit to the Chapter before his Installation as Ruler of the Province, the chapter Attendance Register records there were to be seven complete, but not consecutive, years when he did not attend at all, five years when he attended once each session and one year when he attended twice.

On the 25 April 1905, at the same Convocation that E.Comp. Edward Holmes was installed as First Principal, he was elected a Joining Member of St. George's Chapter, No. 1560, Leicester. On the 5 January 1909, he was elected 2nd Assistant Sojourner and was invested at the April meeting of the Chapter. The Chapter minutes record that at each of the January Chapter meetings held in 1910, 1911 and 1912, he was elected to serve in the office of Scribe N. Over those three years, nine Regular and one Emergency meeting were held and E.Comp. Oliver apologised for his absence at six and there is no record to show he attended the remaining four or was ever invested in office. On the 7 January 1913, he was elected Third Principal and was invested at the April meeting. In January 1914, he was elected as Second Principal, but there is no reference in the relevant minutes that he was ever invested or acted in that office; on the 5 January 1915, he was elected M.E.Z. but was unable to attend the subsequent Installation Meeting due to being away on military duties. With the possible exception of two occasions he did not (presumably for the same cogent reason) attend the Chapter again until January 1919. He was one of the Founders of the East Goscote Chapter, No. 2865, Syston, and was present on the 29 November 1917, when the Chapter was consecrated by the M.E. Grand Superintendent. E.Comp. S.S. Partridge, at the Masonic Hall, Syston, Leicestershire. He did not take office in the Chapter and on the 31 May 1938, submitted his resignation and was immediately elected to be the Chapter's first Honorary Member.

In Provincial Grand Chapter he was appointed Grand Registrar in 1902 and, in the absence of Earl Ferrers, M.E. Grand Superintendent, was invested by E.Comp. S.S. Partridge, Prov.G.H. In 1915, he was appointed Prov.G.H. but was apparently not invested at the Annual Convocation as his apology for absence was recorded: nor was he present to act in the office at the 1916 Convocation and it must surely be correctly assumed that, at this time, he was urgently engaged elsewhere with his Regiment. In The Supreme Grand Chapter of England, he was appointed Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in 1911

and, in 1915, was promoted to past Assistant Grand Sojourner. It would appear from the Provincial Grand Chapter records of the time that he attended his first Annual General Convocation in 1898, but that his attendances at such meetings until he became Grand Superintendent were to be but few. He was present, however, at the Special Convocation convened in 1895 for the Installation of the Rt.Hon. Lord Ferrers as M.E. Grand Superintendent and again in 1914 when E.Comp. Samuel Steads Partridge was installed as Ruler of the Royal Arch Province.

E.Comp. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Frederick Oliver, T.D., D.L. P.A.G.Soj., was installed as M.E. Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Leicestershire and Rutland by the M.E. Pro First Grand Principal, The Rt.Hon. Arthur, 2nd Baron Amptill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., at a Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on the 31 May 1921, at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester. A large number of Companions were present and tickets for the subsequent banquet were priced at 10s. 6d.

The first Provincial Grand Registrar's Report to be completed after the Installation and dated 1 November 1921, recorded the total number of subscribing members in the Province as being 475. The strengths of the individual Chapters were: Fortitude, No. 279: 163; St. Augustine's, No. 779: 37; Charnwood, No. 1007: 50; De Mowbray, No. 1130: 126; St. George's, 1560: 31; and East Goscote, No. 2865: 68. During his reign as Grand Superintendent, Sir Frederick chaired every meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter and would usually move the adoption of The Report of the Committee of General Purposes, which he would sign on behalf of the Committee. It was customary for him to address the Companions prior to this or before investing his Officers of the year. It was at his first Convocation as Grand Superintendent in 1922 that he referred to the fact that only one Chapter had been consecrated in the previous thirty-six years, remarking that he thought it too much to expect that each Craft Lodge should have a Chapter attached to it, but that two or more Lodges could unite to support a Chapter between them and that he sincerely hoped that there would shortly be an increase in the number of Chapters.

In the event, on the 1 June 1923, he was to consecrate the St. Martin's Chapter, No. 3431, Leicester, attached to St. Martin's Lodge of the same number. The Petition for the Warrant had been signed by thirty-seven Companions and on the 5 July, of the same year, he consecrated the Vale of Catmos Chapter, No. 1265, Oakham, attached to the Vale of Catmos Lodge, No. 1265, Oakham, and this was to be the first known Chapter to meet in the County of Rutland. Of the thirty-eight Founders, twenty-three had not previously been members of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. The increase in the number of Chapters in the Province to eight enabled the Grand Superintendent for the first time to confer Past Provincial

Grand Rank on one Companion. This he celebrated by appointing E.Comp. F.W. Billson, LL.B., P.G.St.B., Prov.G.S.E. as P.P.G.H.

The Reports of Proceedings of the Annual General Convocations of the time often provide an interesting insight in the thoughts of the M.E. Grand Superintendent and also reveal the progress of the Province as is probably illustrated in some of the following paragraphs.

At the 1925 Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter, the Grand Superintendent in addressing the Companions, stated that as far as the Province was concerned, the proportion of brethren seeking exaltation was greater than it had ever been, continuing: '... It is, of course, not permitted to ask any of the outside world to join the Craft, but there can be no objection to informing a Brother who is eligible to join our Order that the Royal Arch is an integral part of Freemasonry, that it is so designated officially, and that no brother should remain content with merely substituted secrets and an incomplete knowledge of our mysteries ...'

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes which the Grand Superintendent had signed and had proposed for adoption at the 1929 Provincial Convocation contained the following comments under the heading 'Limiting The Number Of Exaltees': 'It having come to the knowledge of the Committee of General Purposes that in some Chapters a large number of candidates had been exalted at the same time, the Committee had expressed the opinion that this is undesirable and suggests that not more than three candidates should be exalted at the same ceremony. It further recommends that this limitation should be adopted for the future in all Private Chapters. This is only a recommendation and does not operate as a Regulation, but your Committee earnestly hopes that it will not only be adopted but observed in all Private Chapters.

Your Committee suggests that, in order to make the Royal Arch more popular, it would be well if Masters of Lodges to which Chapters are attached would take suitable opportunity of drawing the attention of the members to the existence of the Royal Arch Degree and to the desirability of joining a Chapter ...'

At the 1931 Provincial Convocation, the Grand Superintendent was to tender his thanks to E.Comp. F.W. Billson, P.G.St.B., for his work in compiling an Installation Ritual which was almost universally followed in the Province. The Report of the Committee of General Purposes stated: 'In days gone by there was no printed ritual for the Installation of Principals in this Province, all ceremonies being in manuscript and handed down from one Principal to another. Thanks are due to E.Comp. Billson who supplied a long-felt want by having printed a ritual of the Leicestershire Working which has helped considerably to create the enthusiasm now existing in the Province'.

A few weeks prior to the 1934 Provincial Convocation, on the 26 October, at the Town Hall, Lutterworth, the Grand Superintendent

consecrated a further Chapter to be named the Wiclif Chapter. No. 3078, Lutterworth, which was attached to the Wiclif Lodge, No. 3078, meeting at Lutterworth. There were thirty-one Founder Members.

The Report of The Committee of General Purposes dated 29 March, 1934, contained the item: '... that the M.E. The First Grand Principal at the Quarterly Convocation held on the 1 November 1933, signified his pleasure that, in celebration of the Dedication of the Masonic Peace Memorial, Grand Superintendents should be empowered to confer upon Companions of ability in their respective Provinces, who have rendered Special Service to Royal Arch Masonry, the rank of Past Provincial Grand Officers, in the proportion of one Provincial Grand Collar for each complete seven Chapters in the Province ...' Accordingly, at the Annual General Convocation of that year, E.Comp. C.F. Oliver is recorded as conferring 'Brevet Rank' upon two Companions.

In 1935, the Grand Superintendent again referred to the question of the strength of the Order as compared with that of the Craft Lodges, putting the former as about one-third of the latter and suggested that Craft Lodges should impress upon their members that the Royal Arch was the completion of the Craft Degrees, as he was of the opinion that if Brothers realised there was something more to learn they would evince more interest in the matter.

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes presented to the 1936 Provincial Convocation was to state: 'It is natural and proper that our Report this year should commence with a reference to the great loss sustained by the Nation and Empire in the death of His late Majesty King George V. He was not a mason, but during his reign Masonry flourished under his patronage and, as in the past, has been deeply indebted to members of the Royal House. The association of the Royal family with Freemasonry has always been close and never more helpful and beneficial than at present. Grand Chapter and all subordinate Chapters have been placed in mourning for three months from 21 January 1936.' When introducing the Report the Grand Superintendent said that it was a record of severe losses, as it also referred to the deaths of the Pro First Grand Principal, Arthur, 2nd Baron Amptill and the Second Grand Principal, Fiennes, 1st Baron Cornwallis. Before proceeding to invest his Officers he also referred to an appeal from Grand Lodge respecting the destruction of The Temple at Quetta, Pakistan in the recent earthquake and suggested that the Province should send a donation equivalent to one guinea from each Chapter, being re-imbursed by the Treasurer's of the various Chapters.

In 1937, when presenting The Report of the Committee of General Purposes, the Grand Superintendent referred to the Abdication of King Edward VIII and expressed the Province's loyalty to King George VI

and wished him and Queen Elizabeth a long, happy and prosperous reign. The 'Report' commented: 'Freemasonry with the Nation suffered a severe shock in the abdication of King Edward VIII, but it is a matter of sincere congratulation that the Nation and the Craft survived the blow without apparent injury. Many steadying influences combine to carry our country through such a time of trial and not least among such influences is Freemasonry. Our new King George VI is a Freemason and to him we offer our heartfelt loyalty.' At the 1938 Convocation, Sir Frederick referred '... to that wonderful Meeting of Grand Lodge held at the Albert Hall last year, when King George was graciously pleased to be invested as Past Grand Master'.

In the previous year, on the 30 September, Sir Frederick had consecrated the Temperantia Chapter, No. 4088, Leicester, attached to the Temperantia Lodge, No. 4088, meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester. The new Chapter had twenty Founder Members and on the 8 March 1939, he consecrated the St. Peter's Chapter, No. 1330, Market Harborough, attached to the St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1330, meeting at Market Harborough. There were twenty Founders and this was to be the last of the five new Chapters to be added to the Province during his reign as Grand Superintendent.

The Annual General Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held on the 4 May 1939, was the last that Sir Frederick was to attend. The minutes of that meeting record him as saying when presenting the 'Report: 'It was very apt and fitting that the first paragraph should deal with the resignation of our First Grand Principal, H.R.H. Arthur, 1st Duke of Connaught. It was really not surprising that he sought a rest having reached his 89th birthday on the previous Monday. He had served the Craft, Royal Arch and Mark masonry for a long period of thirty-eight years, having succeeded the late King Edward VII to this post in 1901 ...' The Grand Superintendent went on to comment that it was cause for rejoicing that the Royal Family had again provided a Ruler for us in the person of H.R.H. George, 1st Duke of Kent who, the previous day, had been invested and proclaimed in Grand Chapter to succeed his Great Uncle as the First Grand Principal. He added that he had not been aware that this investiture was to take place on that occasion otherwise he would have made every endeavour to be present.

The last occasion that Sir Frederick was to visit his Mother Chapter was on the 18 April 1939. His first visit after his installation as M.E. Grand Superintendent was on the 18 April 1922, when the minutes of that Convocation state: 'All Present and Past Prov. G. Officers retired to escort the M.E.G.Supt. Ex. Comp. C.F. Oliver into the Chapter. On taking his seat the M.E.G.Supt. was unanimously saluted with the honours due to his rank, which he very kindly acknowledge'. He was present again in the following April at what was minuted as the '50th Annual Installation or Jubilee Festival' and was received and saluted

in a similar manner. The Attendance Register of the Chapter shows that apart from April 1939, he attended only two further meetings, both in the month of April, in the years 1930 and 1931. As the Chapter did not meet after April 1939, until the 29 February 1940 it was not until that convocation that the M.E.Z. was able to make 'a touching reference to the passing away since our last meeting of two of our old Past First Principals. Most Ex.Comp. Sir C.F. Oliver, P.Z., Grand Supt. who passed away Aug. 7th 1939, & Ex. Comp. A.H. Brewster, P.Z., P.P.A.G.S., who passed away Aug. 6th 1939, the Companions giving tribute by standing in order in silence'.

Sir Frederick last attended a convocation of St. George's Chapter, No. 1560, of which he was a Joining Member and a P.Z., on the 22 April 1938, and if the relevant Chapter minutes accurately relate attendance (No Attendance Registers are available to confirm) the first of its convocations he attended as Grand Superintendent was on the 3 January 1922, on which occasion he was 'saluted with the honours due to his rank'. Thereafter, during the time he was to rule over the Province, excepting the last year of his life and with the possible exclusion of the years 1924/30/31, when his attendance is not recorded, he attended the convocations of the Chapter at least once and, sometimes, twice yearly. At two of these convocations he invested one of his Provincial Grand Officers and at the April 1937, meeting of the Chapter, for the first time the minutes state that 'The Warrant was presented by the M.E. Grand Superintendent'.

It was at the meeting of the Chapter held in December 1939, that the M.E.Z. made 'suitable and feeling reference to the death of the M.E. Grand Superintendent and the brethren (sic) stood as a mark of respect'. The Report of the Committee of General Purposes presented at the 1940 Provincial Convocation began by stating: 'In this very eventful year the outstanding epoch was the sudden passing of our beloved First Grand principal on the 7th August, 1939. He had meant much to Freemasonry in this Province. His great personality, his wonderful qualities and his unsparing efforts to further the interests of its members, all forced upon the mind the great loss we had sustained. He was especially interested in the Royal Arch Degree . . . So we mourn a great leader, a loyal friend, an approachable head and the community a kind, courteous, true and cheerful gentleman . . .'

The M.E. Companion George William Hunt, Grand Superintendent, in referring to the Report said: 'In the Report which has just been received and adopted, the first item I should like to comment upon is the passing of Sir Frederick - the late Grand Superintendent. We all deeply mourn his loss, for if ever a Province had a leader, worthy of esteem, it was the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, in the person of Sir Frederick Oliver. 'He was beloved by all and earned the esteem and gratitude of every Companion, being always so approachable, but he meant more than that to those who were privileged to work in close

association with him, for he had a most lovable disposition and always treated those officers about him with his fullest confidence. The task of following in his footsteps is extremely difficult but we shall have before us the remembrance of his glorious and inspiring leadership, a fragrant memory . . . ?

The Provincial Grand Registrar's Return presented to the 1940 Convocation showed the total number of subscribing members of the Province (including those with multiple membership of Chapters) to be 736; 658 nett. An overall increase of 261 since November 1921, the year of Sir Frederick's installation as Grand Superintendent. Sir Frederick had been an Honorary Member of four of the eleven Chapters in the Province.

In the Craft, Charles Frederick Oliver was initiated in the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, Loughborough, on the 27 August 1889, the ceremony being performed by his brother and both his father and uncle were present. He was installed as Master on the 28 November 1893, and for some years after, served in the office of Treasurer. He was a Founder of both the East Goscote Lodge, No. 2865, Syston, and Lodge Semper Eadem, No. 3091, Leicester: a Joining Member, Secretary and P.M. of the Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1560, Leicester, and a Joining Member and P.M. of the Lodge of Research, No. 2429, Leicester.

In Provincial Grand Lodge, he was appointed Steward by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. the Lord Ferrers, and in His Lordship's absence, was invested by the Deputy P.G.M., W.Bro. Samuel Steads Partridge, P.A.G.D.C., at the Annual General Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough, on the 4 October 1894. On the 8 October 1896, he was appointed and invested as Provincial Grand Registrar and, on the 22 November 1905, became Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary, the acting P.G.M.-in-the-Chair commenting that W.Bro. Oliver had kindly accepted the office, not by way of promotion, but to give much needed assistance to W.Bro. Edward Holmes, the Provincial Grand Secretary. On the 29 November 1906, due to the intended appointment of W.Bro. Holmes to Deputy P.G.M., he was invested as Provincial Grand Secretary and remained in that office for seven years.

He was present at the Special Meeting held on Saturday, 17 July 1909, when R.W.Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Earl Ferrers, laid the Foundation Stone of the new Masonic Hall, London Road, Leicester, and by command of the Provincial Grand Master, read the Inscription on the Stone. The following year, on the 25 April, at the banquet which followed the dedication of the new Hall by the M.W. pro Grand Master of England, Arthur, 2nd Baron Amphilh. G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., it was announced that to mark the occasion and in recognition of their services to the new Hall, the Provincial Grand Master, with the consent

of the Pro Grand Master, had conferred the rank of P.P.S.G.W. upon the Provincial Grand Secretary and two other brethren.

In 1911, W.Bro. Oliver was appointed Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in the Grand Lodge of England and on the 3 February 1914, at an Especial Meeting of the Members of Provincial Grand Lodge, held at the Temperance Hall, Leicester, for the purpose of installing W.Bro. Edward Holmes as R.W. Provincial Grand Master, he was appointed, obligated, invested and proclaimed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

During the fourteen years he was to occupy this office, including a period as Deputy Provincial Grand Master-in-Charge, he was absent from only one meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and that occasion was on the 29 November 1915, when R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes, P.G.M., was to say: 'The absence during the year of W.Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel C.F. Oliver, D.L., D.P.G.M., has been a real loss to the Province. He was, however, sure that all rejoiced they had a brother so eminently qualified to discharge the important duties which devolved on him as the Officer Commanding the 2/4 Leicesters'. The R.W.P.G.M. also referred to W.Bro. Oliver's recent advancement to P.J.G.D. in the Grand Lodge of England.

At the subsequent meeting held during November, 1916, the R.W.P.G.M. 'most heartily welcomed the D.P.G.M. upon his return to their midst from his military duties'. In 1918, owing to the illness of R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes, W.Bro. Oliver presided over Provincial Grand Lodge as D.P.G.M.-in-the-Chair and again acted in the same capacity at an Especial Meeting held in 1924. In 1919, at an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, on behalf of the brethren of the Province, he presented the R.W.P.G.M. with his portrait and at another Especial meeting held in the same year at the Leicester Royal Infirmary he assisted the R.W.P.G.M. in laying in Masonic Form the Memorial Foundation Stone of the New Orthopaedic Department. It was also in 1919, that he signed for the first time as Chairman, the Report of the Charity Committee of Provincial Grand Lodge and the Annual Report of the Kelly Memorial Fund and he continued to do so for his remaining years as D.P.G.M.

On the 18 May 1922, he represented the R.W.P.G.M. at a United Provinces Masonic Service held in Peterborough Cathedral to mark the 800th anniversary of the commencement of the building and took part with the Provincial Grand Masters present in the reading of the lessons. Two years later, on the 12 June 1924, together with the Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Chaplain, he again represented the Province at Peterborough, this time on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Northants and Hunts Provincial Grand Lodge when John, 5th Baron Lilford, Provincial Grand Master of that Province, formally handed over to the Cathedral Authorities the Buttress at the North East corner which had been subscribed by the

Freemasons in Northants, Hunts, Leics and Rutland, Cambs, Lincs and Norfolk.

It was at an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on the 25 February 1927, that the R.W.P.G.M., on behalf of the Brethren of the Province, presented to his Deputy his portrait in oils, commenting, *inter alia*, as he did so, that it gave him great pleasure to have this opportunity of acknowledging on his own behalf, W.Bro. C.F. Oliver's very loyal co-operation with him as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Their long and very close association together had not been marred by a single discord and it was with a feeling of thankfulness that he and the brethren were assembled that afternoon to pay tribute to one of their most devoted brothers. After the portrait had been unveiled and been accepted to be hung 'for all time upon the walls of the Masonic Temple', the Provincial Grand Secretary said: 'The Hall will be enriched by the portrait of so worthy, distinguished and devoted a Brother. He has shown by his conduct and bearing what an English gentleman and Freemason should be . . .'

Following the death of R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes on 23 May 1928, W.Bro. Lieut.-Col. C.F. Oliver, T.D., D.L., P.G.D., D.P.G.M.-in-Charge, was installed as R.W.P.G.M. at an Especial Meeting of the Members of Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on the 13 March 1929. W.Bro. J.T. Thorp, P.S.D., P.P.S.G.W., was in the Chair. The Installing Officer was to have been the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Fiennes, 1st Baron Cornwallis, but owing to an accident in which he dislocated his shoulder was unable to be present and V.W.Bro. Sir P. Colville Smith, M.A., Grand Secretary, acted in his stead.

One of the first duties of the newly-installed P.G.M. was when on the 18 April, 1929, he opened the new Masonic Hall which had been erected at Hinckley.

Throughout his years of P.G.M. R.W.Bro. Oliver attended every meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and it was at the 1930 Annual General Communication that he announced his acceptance of an invitation to preside over the Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to be held in 1933; this being the first occasion on which a P.G.M. of Leicestershire and Rutland had accepted this distinction. At the subsequent 135th Anniversary Festival held on the 14 June 1933, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, three hundred and five Brethren and their wives were present and a total sum of £786,404 was subscribed, £24,371 of which had been donated by the Brethren of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland; being £12.6s.6d. per member and £902 per Lodge – a record at the time.

The Deputy Provincial Grand master, W.Bro. J. Russell Frears, J.P., P.G.D., was to comment later in Provincial Grand Lodge: 'We

all felt a great deal of pride, when the R.W.P.G.M. rose to greet the ladies and brethren from his Province on June the 14th. The magnificent assembly of brethren, accompanied by so large a number of ladies, was a wonderful tribute to the esteem and respect in which we all hold him. We had a chance to show our real feeling to the P.G.M. on that occasion and the way in which the Province took advantage of that opportunity shows the love and affection we all feel . . .'

During 1933, the R.W.P.G.M. was also present at both the Especial Grand Lodge held at the Albert Hall and at the Dedication Ceremony of the Masonic Peace Memorial in the New Temple at Great Queen Street, London; and on the 15 December 1934, he attended a meeting of Loughborough brethren when they celebrated the centenary of Freemasonry in that area by commemorating the consecration of the Rancliffe Lodge, No. 608, on the 9 December 1834. This Lodge, from which the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007 was eventually formed, held its last meeting on the 1 February 1848, and was erased on the 1 June 1853.

At the Annual General Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge held on 29 October 1936, R.W.Bro. Oliver officiated at the Ceremony of Dedication of the new Temple which was to bear his name at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester. In referring to the total new extension which included a new Museum and Library, The Report of the Committee of General Purposes stated: 'There is no doubt that the extended accommodation will meet all likely needs for some time to come and will greatly add to the comfort and enjoyment of every section in the Province and also be appreciated by our guests at Ladies Festivals'.

On Sunday, 11 April 1937, A Coronation Bell which had been presented by the Province to Leicester Cathedral was dedicated before a large congregation of brethren and their ladies by the Bishop of Salisbury, P.G.Chap. of Grand Lodge, and on the 12 May, the Coronation Day of H.R.H. King George VI., the bell was rung for the first time by the R.W.P.G.M.

The 1938 Annual General Communication was the last R.W.Bro. Oliver was to attend at the 1939 meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge W.Bro. J.H. Corah, P.A.G.D.C., Deputy Provincial Grand Master-in-Charge is reported as saying that the Brethren were meeting under the shadow of a great loss:

Our late R.W. Provincial Grand Master was no ordinary man and ordinary Mason. For nearly fifty years he had devoted a very large portion of his time to the cause of Masonry. We should never forget his work first as Provincial Grand Secretary, then for many years his successful association with R.W.Bro. Edward Holmes as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and then, for ten happy years he presided over us as our leader.

There never was a more accessible, a more considerate, a more kind-hearted man, and yet he was born leader of men. He governed the Province with prudence and yet with singular firmness. He over-looked nothing, and yet was always quick in recognising merit and in paying tribute to devoted service. He was firm and steady in principal and carried out in his life the principals he had learned within the Lodge and he did indeed prove to the world the happy and beneficial influence of our ancient Institution.

The Report of The Committee of General Purposes, dated October 1939, in commenting on the death of the R.W.P.G.M. stated: '... on the 27 August this year he would have completed fifty years as a Mason. It had been decided that the Province should as a token of its gratitude and respect, make gifts to him and to Lady Oliver. The gifts had already been made ready – a gold cigarette box for Sir Frederick and a diamond bracelet for Lady Oliver and they were to have been presented to Sir Frederick at the next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and to Lady Oliver on some other suitable occasion. They will now be handed to Lady Oliver privately by W.Bro J.H. Corah, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master-in-Charge of the Province.

'The Box bears the following inscription inside the lid:-

This box was to have been presented to Colonel Sir Frederick Oliver, T.D., D.L., Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, by the Freemasons of the Province to mark the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of his entry into Freemasonry and as an expression of their gratitude for his wise and kindly rule and of their respect and affection for him as a man and a Mason.

'On the front of the box:-

"Right Worshipful Brother Colonel Sir Frederick Oliver, entered Freemasonry on the 27 August, 1889, and died on the 7th August, 1939."

"Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit"

Sir Frederick was a Life Governor of the three Masonic Institutions with eleven Stewardships in each and Patron of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

In the Mark Master Masons' Degree he was advanced at an Emergency Meeting of the Howe Lodge of M.M.M., No. 21, held at Loughborough on the 18 July 1893, and was installed as Worshipful Master in 1901. He was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province in 1912, on the 8 December 1913 was elevated into the William Kelly Lodge of R.A.M., No. 19, Leicester being installed as Commander in 1918. In 1919, he was appointed Past Grand Overseer in the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters and, in 1922, became a Founder and first Master of The Stony Gate Lodge of M.M.M., No. 751, Leicester. At an Especial Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge

of Mark Master Masons of Leicestershire and Rutland held on the 12 December 1932, Sir Frederick was installed as Provincial Grand Mark Master, an office he was to hold until his death. The Oliver Lodge of R.A.M., No. 751, Leicester, moored to The Stony Gate Lodge of M.M.M., No. 751, was consecrated in 1936 and took the name of the P.G.M. who was elected an Honorary Member.

In The United Religious & Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes & Malta, in England & Wales and the Dependencies thereof, Sir Frederick was Eminent Preceptor of the Rothley Temple Preceptory, No. 152, Leicester, in 1908 and 1909 and Provincial Chancellor 1909 and 1910 and attained the Great Priory rank of Past Great 1st. Constable. In the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist, he was installed as Sir Knight in the Byzantine Conclave, No. 44, Leicester, in September, 1926, was invested as Standard Bearer in 1927 and as Aide-de-C. in 1928, but did not progress.

In the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33°, he was a member of St. Margaret's Chapter Rose Croix, No. 92, Leicester, was Sovereign in 1917 and was elected 33°. In 1930, he was appointed the first Inspector General of the Leics, Northants, Hunts & Rutland District (1930-63) and, in 1936, when the Oliver Chapter Rose Croix, No. 311, Leicester, was consecrated and bore his name he was elected an Honorary Member. In 1923, he became the first Candidate to be proposed for Induction in the Amity Conclave, No. 51, Leicester of the Order of The Secret Monitor: was appointed Guide in 1927 and was installed as Supreme Ruler in 1928 and held the rank of Past Grand Guide in the Supreme Grand Council.

The last masonic ceremony Sir Frederick was to attend was on the 19 July 1939, when he was present at the installation of H.R.H. George, Duke of Kent as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England at Olympia. For sometime his health had been giving him some concern and following an operation in a London Nursing Home he died on Monday, 7 August 1939.

In reporting the funeral which took place on Friday, 11th August, the *Leicester Evening Mail* carried bold headlines:

'MILITARY HONOURS FOR SIR FREDERICK OLIVER

'FREEMASONS KEEP ALL-NIGHT VIGIL IN CHURCH OVER THE FLAG-DRAPED COFFIN

'Leicester Cathedral was filled with mourners today at the funeral of Sir Frederick Oliver. The civic life of the city, its commerce and industry, the defence forces, and the Freemasonry of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, were fully represented.

'Outside the cathedral, crowds of several thousands assembled in St. Martin's and Guildhall-lane to watch the cortege.

'As the cortege left the church a half-muffled peal was sounded on the cathedral bells.

'The funeral was semi-military, and was attended with Masonic ritual at graveside. A bearer party of warrant-officers and sergeants of the 44th Anti Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers, of which Sir Frederick was Honorary Colonel, was provided, and in addition to officers of the Battalion, there was a guard of 20 warrant officers and sergeants.

'The funeral service was taken by Provost H.A. Jones, of the cathedral, assisted by the Rev. S.G. Lloyd of the Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland. Freemasons, Canon F.B. Macnutt, formerly Provost of Leicester Cathedral, read the Lesson. Canon Macnutt took the graveside service at Knighton Church.

'The coffin, draped in the Union Jack, had remained all night in the Cathedral, Freemasons keeping watch beside it throughout the night.

'The Cathedral service was simple. After the Sentences, the 23rd Psalm was sung, followed by the hymn, "The King of Love my shepherd is", prayers, and the hymn, "Abide with me".

'At the graveside, a bugler from the Depot, The Leicestershire Regiment, sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Afterwards, members of the Masonic Order filed round the open grave, and dropped sprigs of acacia into it.'

The report was accompanied by a photograph of brethren waiting to pass by the grave and listed among the innumerable Freemasons who attended the funeral, W.Bro. J.H. Corah, Deputy Provincial Grand master in charge, V.W.Bro. S.A. White, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, and W.Bro. G.E. Billson, Secretary, Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

THE NAMES OF THE MASONIC UNITS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND OTHER THAN CRAFT LODGES

by

W.Bro. Alan Selby, P.P.G.Swd.B.

Introduction

This article represents the completion of the task to which my hand was set some time ago, that of briefly attempting to indicate the thought behind the selection of the names of our masonic units. The Transactions for 1992 carried an account of the Craft Lodge names. This paper covers the other Orders practised within the Province.

The introductory comments to the previous article largely apply with equal cogency to this; the reader is referred to them to avoid repetition here.

Chapters of 'Royal Arch Masons'

In 1817 it was decreed that every Royal Arch Chapter must be attached to a Craft Lodge and bear its number. Later the convention seemingly evolved that new Chapters should also bear the name of the Craft Lodge of origin. In this Province all Chapters formed since 1877 have borne both the name and number of the parent Lodge. The chapters listed below are restricted to those with a different title to the Lodge of origin or attachment.

279 Fortitude

Attached to St. John's Lodge: A Concept much honoured throughout Freemasonry. The chapter records before 1814 are lost, so there is no evidence for the reason for the name.

523 De Mowbray

Attached to John of Gaunt Lodge, but originally to Rutland Lodge of Melton Mowbray, The de Mowbrays were the old feudal Lords of the Manor for nearly four hundred years and gave to the town its distinguishing second name.

779 St. Augustine's

Attached to Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, but originally formed in Leicester.

St. Augustine of Canterbury brought Christianity to Britain and founded the See of Canterbury in 597. The Augustinian Order was very well represented in Leicestershire before the dissolution of the Monasteries.

1007 Charnwood

Attached to Howe and Charnwood Lodge. Vide the comments in the previous article. Charnwood would seem a propitious choice of title for the new Chapter.

1560 St. George's

Attached to Albert Edward Lodge. The patron Saint of England. He was a distinguished soldier who suffered martyrdom under Diocletian, Emperor of Rome, (284-305) and is honoured as typifying Christian chivalry and courage.

Lodges of 'Mark Master Masons'

Since the constitution of the Province it has been customary for Mark Lodges to bear the same title as the Craft Lodge whence came a majority of founders, or that met at the same venue, but it is not necessarily so. The Lodges dealt with below exclude those bearing the same name as a Craft Lodge of the Province.

19 Fowke

Sir Frederick Gustavus Fowke, Baronet.
Provincial Grand Master [Craft] 1850 to 1856
Grand Superintendent [Royal Arch] 1850 to 1856

21 Howe

Richard William Penn, 1st Earl Howe.
Provincial Grand Master [Craft] 1856 to 1870, including Rutland from 1869.
Grand Superintendent [Royal Arch] 1856 to 1870

194 Simon de Montfort

Born in France c 1206. Came to England and claimed the Earldom of Leicester. He led the opposition to the inefficiencies of the rule of Henry III that resulted in the 'Provisions of Oxford' being forced upon the King in 1258. The open war that ensued brought de Montfort his great victory at Lewes in 1264, after which he called together the first true 'Parliament', by which he is ever remembered. But his power waned, he was defeated, killed and dismembered at the battle of Evesham in 1265.

491 Fidelity

Another concept greatly honoured in Freemasonry. No record exists of the reason for the choice of title.

751 Stony Gate

District of Leicester, built to the favoured south western side of the rapidly expanding town of the later 19th century. Here many prominent men of substance made their homes.

1133 St. George's

The Patron Saint of England is referred to in the Oration delivered at the Consecration.

Lodges of 'Royal Ark Mariners'

It is usual for Royal Ark Mariner Lodges to take the name and number of the Mark Lodge to which they are attached, indeed new R.A.M. Lodges are now 'expected' by Grand Mark Lodge to do so. However we have the following pair that differ.

19 William Kelly

Attached to Fowke Lodge, William Kelly (1815 – 1894) was a celebrated mason of Leicester.

Provincial Grand Master [Craft] 1870 to 1873

Grand Superintendent [Royal Arch] 1870 to 1894

Provincial Grand Master [Mark] 1858 to 1894

Intendant General [Red Cross of Constantine] 1871 to 1894

751 Oliver

Attached to Stony Gate Lodge. Sir Charles Frederick Oliver, T.D., D.L.

Provincial Grand Master [Craft] 1928 to 1939

Grand Superintendent [Royal Arch] 1921 to 1939

Provincial Grand Master [Mark] 1921 to 1939

Inspector General [Ancient and Accepted Rite] 1932 to 1939

Conclaves of 'The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine'

44 Byzantine

Constantine, by conquest of his opponents, became Emperor of the Western Empire in 312 and of the Eastern Empire in 323. He transferred his Capital in 328 from Rome to Byzantium primarily because he had comprehensively rebuilt the place to his own grand design, whereupon the city was renamed Constantinople.

277 Isle of Patmos

This is a volcanic island in the northern Dodecanese islands of the eastern Aegean sea. St. John the Evangelist was exiled there in A.D.81 to 96 during which time he wrote the Book of Revelation. In the Convent of the Apocalypse is the cavern where he reputedly lived and worked.

304 John Wiclif

Vide Wicliff Lodge No. 3078 in the previous article.

Rose Croix Chapters of the 'Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33°'

92 St. Margaret's

The splendid old extra-mural church of one of the nine ancient parishes of Leicester.

- 241 Oudh**
Part of the state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India, south of Nepal. The Oudh district extends from the Himalayas to the Ganges. Once part of the Mogul Empire, its governor set up as an independent King with this capital at Lucknow, where the Chapter was consecrated in 1924 and thence regularly held until its transfer to Melton Mowbray in 1973.
- 311 Oliver**
Vide Oliver Lodge R.A.M. No. 751.
- 558 Hugh Latimer**
Born at Thurcaston [near Leicester] in 1485 and educated at Cambridge. Became Bishop of Worcester in 1535. A powerful pro-Reformation preacher he was imprisoned twice in the Tower of London during the reign of Henry VIII. On the accession of Edward VI he resigned his episcopal appointment and devoted himself to preaching in support of social justice. For these advanced views he was found guilty of heresy and in 1555 he was burned at Oxford, a victim of the 'Marian Persecution', together with Archbishops Ridley and Cranmer.
- 564 Abbey of Leicester**
The abbey of St. Mary de Pratis was founded by the second Earl of Leicester, Robert le Bossu [the hunchback] in 1143. He endowed it with its site and the patronage of fifty four churches, mainly of the surrounding area. In 1530 the abbey received the dying Cardinal Wolsey who was buried in the monastic church, now like the remainder of the abbey, completely swept away. At the Dissolution in 1538/39 it was the second richest Augustinian abbey in England.
- 614 Bishop Segrave**
Gilbert de Segrave, son of Nicholas the 1st Baron Segrave. He ministered at Kegworth, Harlaxton [Stafford], Aylestone, Fenstanton [Huntingdon], and at the cathedrals of Lincoln and St. Paul's. He was elected Bishop of London in 1313, consecrated and enthroned at St. Paul's in 1314. He died in 1316.
- 617 Venonae**
The Latin name of the site at the high crossing of two great roads of the Romans, the Fosse Way and Watling Street. It lies on the Leicestershire/Warwickshire boundary. A stone monument erected in the 18th century may still be seen in-situ and although somewhat weather beaten, its inscription deciphered.

1046 Saints Peter and Paul

The imposing parish church of Syston, the home of the Chapter.

Perceptories and Priors of 'The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta'

152 Rothley Temple

Vide Rothley Temple Lodge No. 7801 in previous article.

294 Ivanhoe

The classic story of crusading times by Sir Walter Scott, with its Ashby-de-la-Zouch connections. Vide also Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge No. 779 in previous article.

410 Sir John Babington

Sir John was the senior of six Babingtons who were Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He entered the Order c 1520 and progressed rapidly. He was Commander of Dalby and Rothley Preceptories and Treasurer of the Order in England, in 1527/28 he was Prior of the Order in Ireland and next in rank in the English 'Langue' to the Prior in 1532. The Order of the Temple was suppressed in 1540.

The Preceptory appreciated the link with Rothley Temple, the mother Preceptory, the more so since the wife of one of the founders, Bro. Kt. Hollick, was herself a Babington, descended from the Rothley family.

420 Ulverscroft

The Priory of St. Mary was founded in 1134 by Robert le Bossu, second Earl of Leicester [he who also founded Leicester Abbey]. The Augustinian Order was practised there. In 1438 the visiting Bishop reported the Prior was lax, and the Sub-Prior had absented himself for twenty years. By 1536 however the Priory was well staffed and much esteemed for its benevolent works, which continued until the Dissolution in 1539. The Priory's arms were those of Saer de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, who was a Knight Templar and a benefactor of the Priory.

Tabernacle of 'The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests'

122 Leicestershire and Rutland

The local Tabernacle of the East Midlands District No. 31.

Conclave of the 'Order of the Secret Monitor'

51 Amity

The Order is also known as the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan and is based upon the story of their friendship.

Council of the 'Order of Royal and Select Masters'

146 Leicester

The local council of the East Midland Division.

Council of the 'Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees'

124 Ratae

Ratae Coritanorum, the Roman name for their fort at the crossing of the River Soar by the Fosse Way. The Coritani were the Celtic tribe of the district. It has been postulated that the Celtic word 'Rath', denoting a fortified camp, or perhaps its ramparts, was latinised by the Romans and applied to the settlement they found at the crossing that became, eventually, Leicester.

Postscript

It has not always proved possible to elicit with certainty *why* the subject of a title, however worthy was so honoured. If there be no surviving founders, should there be no extant records, how can be categorically say *why* that name was chosen? So to all prospective founders of the future, please do assist your curious Brother researcher of time to come by recording the rationale behind the name you have chosen.

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.

Past 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. £1 per copy. (inc. postage)

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) £1 per copy. (inc. postage)

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

Cheques etc. to be made payable to 'Leicester Masonic Library'.

N.B. Cheques for copies of Lodge Transactions from 1991 on to be made payable to 'The Lodge of Research No. 2429'.

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.
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.
Starmer, H., B.Sc., P.M. 4711, P.M.
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, G.C., P.P.G.M., P.M. 2028
Buswell, D.A., Prov.G.M., P.M. 4874, 7896, P.M.
Sturges, J., P.M. 4835, 7767, P.M.
Hurwood, D.S., P.S.G.D., P.M. 1464, 8320
Warburton, F.W., P.M. 6514, P.M.
Ridge, J.A., P.A.G.D.C., P.M. 7841
McCrorry, R.M., M.B.E., P.J.G.D., P.M. 7762, 7896, 8013, P.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
Jacques, R.T., M.Ed., P.M. 1330, 8350, P.M.
Butler, A.R., P.M. 3919, 7896, W.M.
Dean, W.V., P.M. 8320, 7736
Booton, W.J.S., P.A.G.D.C., 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
Tassell, H.W., P.Dep.G.Swd.B., P.M. 5061, 7896
Parkes Bowen, M.D.M., P.J.G.D., P.M. 1560
Neaverson, P.A., P.M. 279
Glover, W.W., P.M. 4711
Cappin, J.M., P.M. 8276

HONORARY MEMBERS

R.W.Bro. Cyril Robinson, D.L., 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. 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, LL.B., 1391.

Bro. Revd. H.S. Biggs, B.A., 523.

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*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
*W.Bro. F. Haines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921-22

*Obit

*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
*W. Bro. H. Carr	1963-64
V.W. Bro. W.G. Fox	1964-65
*W. Bro. E. Muddimer	1965-66

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*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. Starmer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	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
W.Bro. R.T. Jacques	1992-93
W.Bro. A.R. Butler...	1993-94

*Obit

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