



Leicester

**The Lodge of Research
No. 2429**

Transactions 2015-16

One Hundred and Twenty Fourth Year of Publication

The Lodge of Research, No.2429

Officers 2015 – 2016

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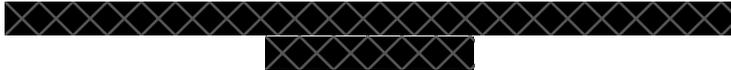
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W. BRO. DAVID M. SHARPE

Biography

W. Bro. David Sharpe was Initiated by his father, W. Bro. T. E. M. Sharpe, in the Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, in February 1974, at a ceremony attended by his grandfather, Bro. L. T. Thompson of Shenstone Lodge, No. 7037. He became Master in 1988, and subsequently was Charity Steward for two years before becoming Lodge Mentor in 2003. He was Master of the Loughborough Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 8312, in 2002, and subsequently served as Secretary for six years. He joined the Correspondence Circle of the Lodge of Research in 1999, before becoming a full member in 2004. He was Secretary for five years and has been the Editor of *The Transactions* since 2007. In Provincial Grand Lodge he was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2011. He is also a full member of the Notts. Installed Masters Lodge, No. 3595, and a member of the Correspondence Circle of the Derbyshire Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 8509.

He was Advanced in the Howe Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1979 and was Master in 1990 and 1991. He served as Secretary for fourteen years. He was also a founder of Progress Lodge of Installed Mark Master Masons, No. 1786. In Provincial Grand Lodge he was promoted to Past Junior Grand Warden in 2002.

He was Elevated in the Howe Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1999, and was Commander in 2008, before becoming Organist for two years.

His interest in History and ritual has resulted in him writing several lodge histories and delivering papers at all the Orders mentioned above. In becoming Master of the Lodge of Research, he continues the tradition of the Editor of *The Transactions* being Master at the same time. This is the seventh time it has happened in the history of the lodge.



Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

‘William & Ann’ of London, W. S. Magub Commander by Michele Renault (1855)

The ship shown in this painting is believed to be pictured lying off the coast of Genoa. Flying from one of its masts is a flag with a Masonic symbol, the set-square and compass. The ‘William & Ann’ was built in 1759 as a warship, but from the 1780s it began acting variously as a trade, transport and whaling ship. In 1856 she was bought by William Sutton Magub, whose name can be seen at the base of the painting. Masonic flags were often flown from ships whose captains did not have a coat of arms but were Freemasons. The ‘William & Ann’ was badly damaged in a hurricane off the coast of Madeira in 1858, and so fell out of service.

THE TYLER'S TOAST

*To all poor and distressed brethren,
Wherever they are dispersed, Over land, sea, or in the air.
A speedy relief from their suffering,
And a safe return to their native land, should they so desire.*

‘The Tyler’s toast has more meaning when it is recited by expatriated Englishmen, 5,000 miles away from home and civilisation, than it has when drunk at the social board of a London lodge.’

Masonic Illustrated June 1905

This paper extends the discussion of an issue raised by John Hamill in his 1993 Prestonian Lecture on the development of Masonic charity.¹ Bro. Hamill started his discussion by observing that Freemasonry rests on Three Grand Principles - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth - and that Relief - what we might now describe as Charity - was one of the earliest and perhaps the most important motivations for the founding of the Order. He continued, ‘In simple terms our early brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviation of the suffering of a brother, or the dependents of a deceased brother, by giving money or sustenance until the circumstances improved.’ In his lecture, John went on to look at the evolution of what might be described as the institutional structure for charity within Freemasonry - such as the Board of Benevolence, the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and Boys, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the Royal Masonic Hospital etc. – and concluded with a review of how the organisation of that charitable provision had changed in response to the advances of the Welfare State during the twentieth century. I would like to take up another aspect of that same story and talk about the informal, personal and grass-roots lodge-based charity that individual Masons and small local groups of lodge members provided to other needy brethren. This was the kind of charity that was practised before the evolution of the charitable institutions and which continued to operate actively alongside them for much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In this context, attention will be focused on the occasional ‘payments’ made in cash, kind and time, by individual Masons and their lodges, to travelling brethren who found themselves in distress or need of help and assistance. It will be argued here that this type of charity was widespread and took place on a large scale; that it was a major factor bringing many men into Masonry; and that it worked to the great benefit not only to Masons and their families but to local communities and society as a whole. It was the assurance of the wide ranging financial and non-financial support that Masonic membership could bring, not just at home but wherever another

1 John Hamill, ‘And the Greatest of these is Charity: The Development of Masonic Charity’ *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* Vol. 106 (1993) pp. 162-174

LIST OF PROSECUTIONS.

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E. BENNETT.

Bennett, E. 534, Tyrton, Derby
Do. do.
Henson, David Do. do.
Phillips, J. 635, Devonshire, Gloucep
Bennett, E.
Gunn, George Do. do.
Phillips, J. Do. do.
Cutler, Arthur 309, Peace and Harmony,
Southampton
Dawson, H. 47, Newtown, Notts.
Do. do.
Foster D. 251, Trinity, Coventry
Phillips, J. Do. do.
Hadfield, James 729, Stoneyhgh, Coventry

Detected at Ashton-under-Lyne on Sept. 2nd, 1867, by the Almoner (Bro. Pownall), for having obtained relief on three previous occasions in the names of E. Bennett, J. Phillips, and H. Dawson. He signed an apology as "William Henry Dawson" before a Provincial Brother, and was allowed to go after a severe reprimand.

Three months' hard labour at Huddersfield on April 18th, 1890, for obtaining relief by false pretences from the Almoner (Bro. Jas. Marlow), in the name of James Hadfield.
(see report of trial).

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166

Bennie, Charles. . . same 51, Angel, Colchester
Do. William Do. do.

No such name, or over a member of this or any other Lodge *(see confession)*.

Three months' hard labour at Huddersfield on May 15th, 1893, for obtaining relief by false pretences from the Almoner (Bro. John Martin).
(see report of trial).

* No such name on Lodge Books.



G. BENNIE.

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179
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STEPHEN BRADBURN.

* Bradburn, Stephen 633, Elanston, Hyth, Newcastle-on-Tyne
* Hammerley, Joseph Do. do. do.
* Warburton, James Do. do. do.
Evans, Henry same 224, St. John's, Torquay
Do. John Do. do.
* Flint, Thomas man 4, Victoria, Kingsdown, Dublin
Shandish, John Do. do. do.
Mason, Scarsdale
Wilson, John 93, Shamrock, Dublin

633, Elanston, Hyth, Newcastle-on-Tyne
Do. do. do.
Do. do. do.
224, St. John's, Torquay
Do. do.
4, Victoria, Kingsdown, Dublin
Do. do. do.
93, Shamrock, Dublin

Description, 1890: Age, 53; height, 5ft. 9in.; grey eyes; brown hair; sallow complexion; long thin face.

Fourteen days' hard labour at Rochdale on Aug. 17th, 1864, in the name of John Wilson.
Seven days' hard labour at Chesham, Staffordshire, on Aug. 9th, 1896, in the name of Stephen Bradburn, alias Henry Evans.
Fourteen days' hard labour at Hatfield, Notts., on Jan. 10th, 1893, in the name of James Warburton.
Convicted at Rochdale for stealing a clock from the Masonic Rooms, where he had gone seeking alms; at Chesham for obtaining relief by false pretences from the Almoner (Bro. Thomas H. Call) and at Hatfield for attempting to obtain relief by false pretences from the Almoner (Bro. J. V. Thomas). *(see report of trials).*

* No such name on Lodge Books.



STEPHEN BRADBURN.

British Masonic Imposters
From Pownall, Masonic Imposters.
Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

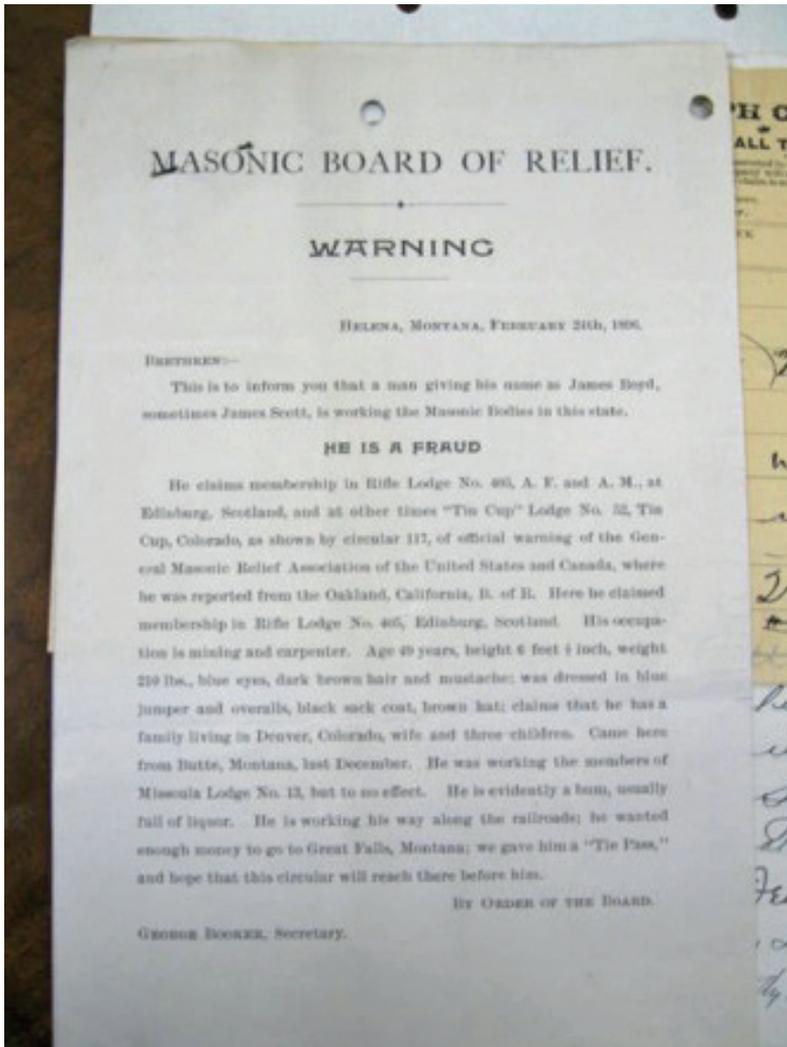


Travelling Certificates issued by Royal Sussex Lodge and St. Andrews Lodge, Nova Scotia 1865 and 1888



From the archives of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

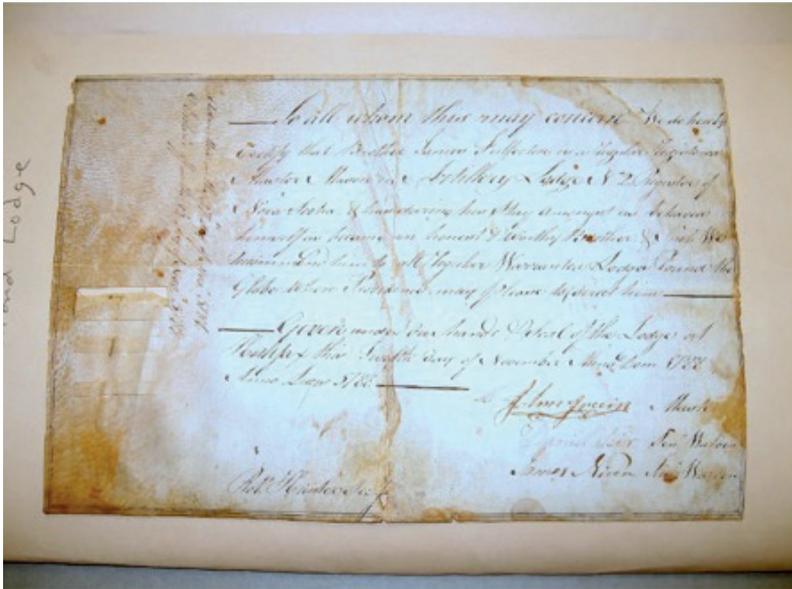
**North American Masonic Imposters: Masonic Relief Association
Warning Circular 1896.**



As in Britain, these were often accompanied by photographs and details of the false accounts that were given by perpetrators.

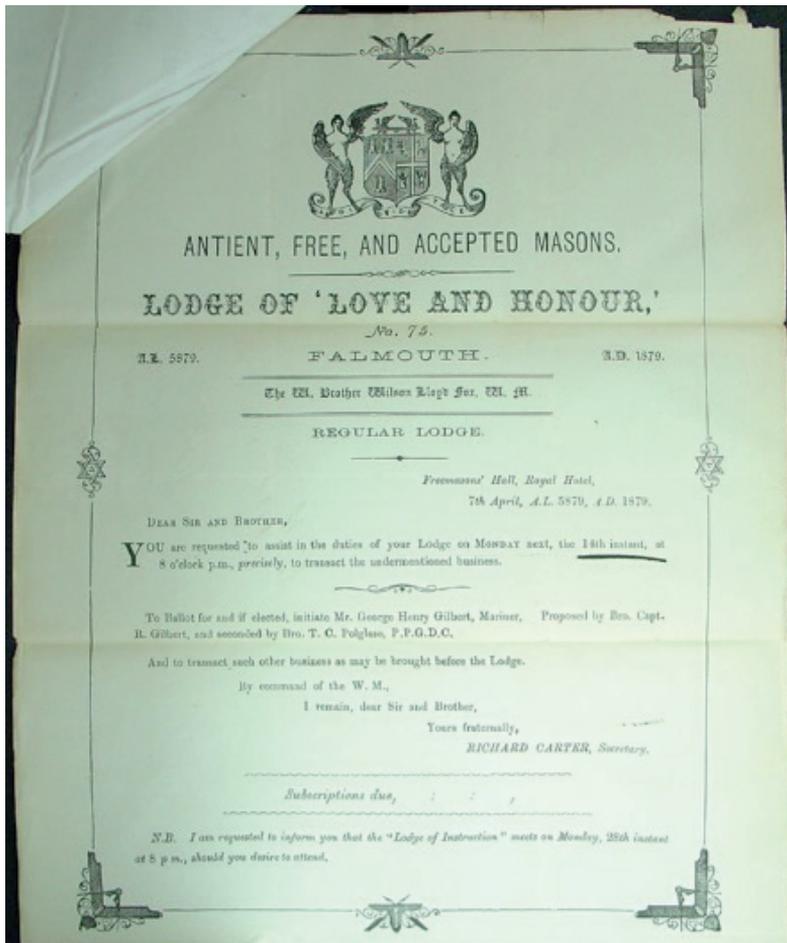
Photograph: Roger Burt

**Letter of introduction for a member of Artillery Lodge,
Nova Scotia 1788**



From the archives of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

**Summons from the Lodge of Love and Honour to Ballot for, and
Initiate, a Mariner. Falmouth, Cornwall, 1879**



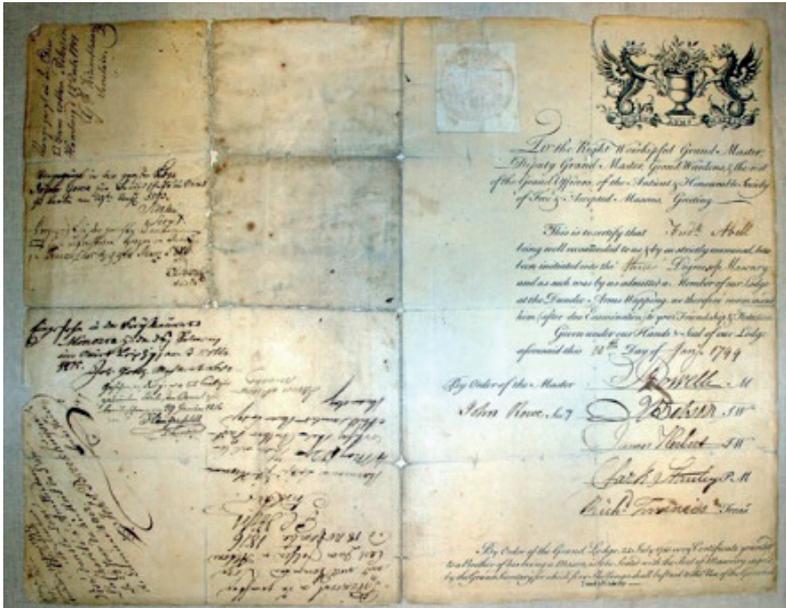
Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

A Lodge Certificate issued by the Lodge of Love and Honour,
Falmouth, Cornwall in 1856.



Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

A Private Lodge Certificate issued to Frederick Abell (a tailor at his initiation) on being raised in Dundee Arms Lodge, later renamed Old Dundee Lodge No. 18



The certificate has been endorsed by officers of the lodges that he visited over the next few years in Germany, the Netherlands and the Virgin Islands.

Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

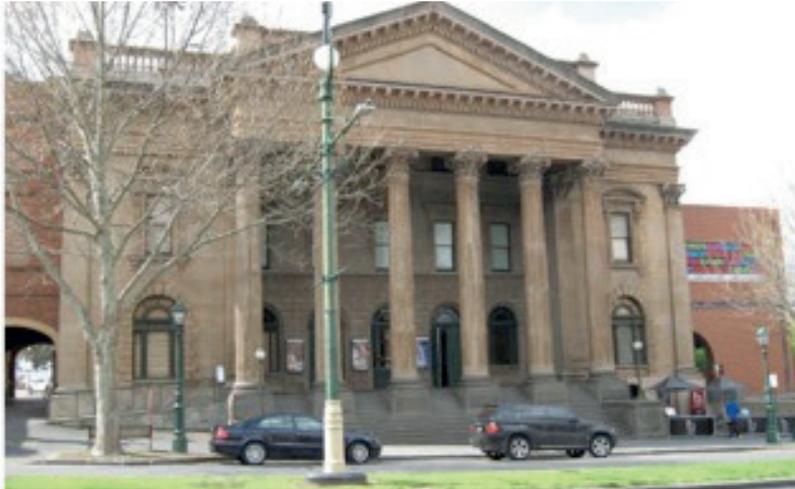
Masonic Hall, Bannack, Montana, U.S.A



The lodge room was on the second floor and the ground floor accommodated the town's school room.

Photograph: Roger Burt

Masonic Hall, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia



Masonic Halls were commonly among the largest and most impressive buildings in frontier mining districts. This Hall, built in 1873, was said to be the largest building in Victoria at that time.

Photograph: Roger Burt

Masonic Cemetery, Virginia City, Nevada, U.S.A.



Local masonic and other fraternal lodges often provided their own cemeteries for members.

Photograph: Roger Burt

**Grave Stone of Cornish Miner/Masons in Idaho
and California, U.S.A**



Many men regarded their origins and their Masonry as their key identities, and recorded them boldly on their grave stone.
Photographs: Roger Burt

THE 10TH EARL FERRERS: TIME FOR REVISION AND RE-EVALUATION?

**W. Bro. David J. Hughes, PPGStB (Sussex),
PPSGD (Leicestershire and Rutland)**

Local Masonic historians have not been kind to Sewallis Edward Shirley, and I will admit my own guilt in going along with the strictures laid upon him by others. In *A History of the Masonic Province of Leicestershire and Rutland* (2010), Chapter 3, which I wrote, scans over the career of the 10th Earl in a mere paragraph of sixteen lines. How could that do justice to a reign over this Province of nearly 40 years? Furthermore I repeated the false old calumny that he only attended the Annual Communications of Provincial Grand Lodge twice and was more distinguished by his absence rather than his presence with regard to the business of the Province, leaving the direction of affairs largely in the hands of his predecessor, R. W. Bro. William Kelly, or to his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Samuel Steads Partridge. I did the 10th Earl a little more justice in my paper in the Lodge of Research for 2012-2013 when I considered “The Strange Case of Earl Ferrers’ Personal Papers”¹, but even then I repeated the charge that Ferrers was a ‘mere figurehead’ and an ‘absentee landlord’, who held his office by virtue of his rank and birth which were in those days considered essential qualifications in a Provincial Grand Master by UGLE.

The Earl has fared little better at the hands of his current family, who, admittedly, are not close kin but are collateral relatives. In his reminiscences, *Whatever Next?*, the 13th Earl Ferrers, who had an eventful military and agricultural career, and an even more distinguished political one, states this of the 10th Earl: “The 10th Earl was in my father’s day called ‘Two Back’ for the very simple reason that my father was the 12th Earl — and the 10th Earl was two back. He had no children. He lived like a Lord. He went shooting. He had his own pack of hounds and his own golf course. In the old days the now famous Quorn Hunt used to be the Ferrers Hunt. If there was any money he spent it; and if there was not any, he spent that too. The 10th Earl married Ina White, the rich Irish heiress and daughter of the Countess of Bantry in Bantry Bay. Regrettably it was not a happy marriage. He loved her but, unfortunately, she did not love him. She missed Ireland. They had no children and much of her life was spent in a wheelchair.” (For more on the Ferrers Hunt see below, because the 13th Earl got his facts slightly wrong in the passage quoted above. He was, however, correct in so far as Lady Ina Hedges-White came from a family with great wealth. In the 1870s her father owned 69,500 acres of County Cork.)

It is time to correct the record - at least in part, if only in relation to the Earl’s Masonic career, and maybe because I feel rather sorry for poor old

1 *Transactions of the Lodge of Research 2012-13* pp 86 - 92

as PGM as he did step down from the County Council. I do not think it would have been conceivable for the Earl to contemplate resignation as PGM. He had been entrusted with the office by UGLE and such an appointment in his eyes was not to be considered a temporary one. While it is true that Earl Howe had resigned as PGM, that was only after a long period of ill health, and shortly before his death. Furthermore there is absolutely no evidence I have come across to suggest that the Province was dissatisfied with the Earl's conduct in office. It was furthermore well known that the Countess was far from well and so there would have been great sympathy for the Earl and his problems. In many ways it may actually have suited the various effective leaders of the Province, William Kelly, Samuel Steads Partridge and Edward Holmes, to have a formal local head of the Order who was somewhat removed from the main scene of action and development. The latter part of the nineteenth century saw Leicester's trade, commerce, manufacturing and professional life grow rapidly. The steady growth in the number of Leicester lodges and the burgeoning life of the side degrees was also a feature to a very considerable extent of the urban life of the then Borough of Leicester. A country nobleman living in quite a remote part of the county might have been all very well as the formal dignified head of local Freemasonry, but the effective power lay with those who lived and worked in the rapidly growing urban area, and that seems to have pleased all concerned. Once more to paraphrase Bro. W. S. Gilbert: "the noble statesman did not itch to interfere with matters which he did not understand." This parallels the retreat of the Monarchy under Queen Victoria and her son, King Edward VII, and grandson, King George V, from a position of executive power to one of symbolic importance.

Finally on this issue I think it is clear from the details of the Earl's funeral ceremonies that he took his position as a Mason most seriously indeed and that in his heart he was a true and faithful Craftsman to the very end. Masonry certainly informed the Earl's life and conduct. He was a man of generosity for whom charity was second nature. He devoted much of his life to the service of his fellow beings and undoubtedly discharged his obligations to his servants and tenants with great regard to their well-being.

Setting the Earl in a wider context it is clear that in many ways his life was a microcosm of the decline of the English landed classes which set in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He was undoubtedly improvident in his spending and lived beyond his increasingly limited means to such a degree that he ultimately lost most of his inheritance, and could even have lost his beloved Staunton Harold. However, he was not alone in this regard; other noblemen were even more spendthrift. Furthermore, as I stated earlier, his upbringing and traditions were such that he must have found it impossible to consider not maintaining matters in the way they had always been conducted. He was a man of his class and of his time: sadly the tide of events and the flow of history were not on his side.

So I think it is not out of order to suggest that we might shed a tear of sympathy over the failings of this noble brother. He was, I now wish to submit, not such a bad Provincial Grand Master as some, including myself, have on occasions made him out to be.

Appendix 1: Pictures of the Earl and Countess



The Earl as a young man. Original by C Laurie, published by Thomas C Jack, London and Edinburgh,

EARL FERRERS.

SIR WALLIS EDWARD SHIBLEY, sixth Earl Ferrers, is the eldest son of the late Earl Ferrers, his mother being Augusta Annabella, daughter of the Very Rev. Lord Edward Clinton. He was born in 1847, and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his M.A. degree in 1873, having succeeded his father in 1859. The Ferrers family is an exceedingly ancient one. Sir Robert Shirley was created Viscount Tamworth and Earl Ferrers in 1711 by Queen Anne. Washington, the second Earl, died without male issue in 1726, and was succeeded by his brother Henry, who died unmarried; and the throne next Earls—Lawrence, Washington, and Robert—were sons of another brother, Lawrence, who died before Henry. Robert, the sixth Earl, died in 1797, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert, who died in 1807 without issue, and the title devolved upon his brother Washington, at whose death in 1847 his grandson, the late Earl Ferrers, succeeded to the title and family estates.

Earl Ferrers first appeared as a Master of Fox-hounds in 1876. He hunted two days a week that part of the Queen country adjoining Ashby-de-la-Zouch, known in former days as the old Donington country. The hounds are at his Leobold's residence, Stanton Harild. The country extends from CHB on the one side to Whitwick on the other, the boundary being the road which runs through Sheepfold Village.

The estates of Earl Ferrers have quite historical fame. The herd of wild cattle, all pure white, at Chartley Castle, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, have earned a world-wide reputation, and we believe no one else in England possesses this valuable herd. Chartley Castle, built in the feudal ages, is now only a picturesque ruin, and the Manor House, destroyed by fire

in the seventeenth century, is replaced by a modern residence; but the park, consisting of nearly 1000 acres, is nearly as it was described by Edgewick, who observed, "The park is very large, and hath therein red deer, blackcock, fallow deer, wild boars," that meant wild cattle and swine. It is said the cattle formerly ranged in the Forest of Noctwood, and were driven into the park about 1248, during the reign of Henry III.; whilst in 1658 there was a charge entered on the old books of £7s. 7d. for mowings, makings, and carryings hay for the wild boars, and in 1683, in, for the cooper for a pale for the wild swine, the last known mention of wild boars in England, as although the present Earl tried to renew the hunt his effort failed. The herd of cattle were about thirty in number as a rule, but in 1851 they had increased to forty-eight, and in 1872 dwindled down to twenty-seven, their colour being white with black ears; whilst if a black calf was born it was instantly destroyed, as there was a legend that the birth of a black calf foretold some calamity, generally death, to a member of the house of Ferrers. In 1875 the herd consisted of ten breeding cows, four bulls, five calves, and six stags, which ranged about the park with some seventy red deer and two hundred and fifty fallow deer. The Chartley wild cattle have all long horns, and are noted for straight backs, deep bodies, and short legs, with the tail well set on, the heads of the bulls manly, and of the cows through-head, the eyes by no means so fierce as in other wild breeds, and the hair comparatively soft, whilst all have black hoofs and black manes. They live principally upon grass, with some rough hay in winter, and the stags when killed weigh about 400 lbs, but one killed on hay and all-oats weighed 800 lbs.

Courtesy of: The Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London



Ina as a young woman.
Courtesy of: the current owners and custodians of Bantry House,
Ireland, the Shelswell-White family, descendants of the Countess's
eldest sister



The Earl and Countess taking tea.
Courtesy of: the Leicestershire County Record Office, Wigston.



The Earl in the Orangery.
Courtesy of: the Leicestershire County Record Office, Wigston.



The Canopy Structure

The canopy is supported by two columns each having a rudimentary ball at the top.

The left hand column bears the letter I or perhaps J. I believe it to be I and this may point out a Continental origin as I and J are interchangeable in Latin. The right hand column bears the letter B.

Above the horizontal rail on the canopy are two finials in the form of fluted towers. The canopy itself is semi-circular in form at the front and shows an equilateral triangle surmounted by a square feature, which may be a coat of arms. The triangle is flanked by two cornucopias. In the middle of the triangle at the top is an all seeing eye.

In the middle is a cushion lying on a cross. On the cushion there is a crown and another lobed 'crown' to its left. To the left of the cushion appear to be a basin and a metal (gold) cup and another object. To the right of the cushion there appears to be sprigs of vegetation (ears of corn?).

Poles Surmounted by a Crown with Ribbons

On either side of the canopy are two poles. Each pole is surmounted by an elaborate crown and from the head of the pole at the bottom of the crown on each four ribbons are appended. The colours of the ribbons are red, white, gold and blue. (These correspond to the colours on the ribbon of the collar jewel.)

Pedestal

The pedestal rests on a table covered in a white cloth. The pedestal is covered in red material with a gold bordering and has a pentalpha on the front with the letter G in the middle.

The table covered in white cloth carries a number of objects. Prominent are two candleholders in gold or gilt. On the left hand side is a plumb rule and on the right a level. Just to the right of the pentalpha is a small book (possibly another VSL). In front of this is a miniature coffin with a skull and crossbones. There is another symbol beneath the skull and crossbones but this is too indistinct to decipher. At the head of the coffin is an hour glass. To either side of the coffin and in front are two globes mounted in frames. To the left of the left hand globe is a beehive and on the right of the right hand globe is a square and compasses. In front of the coffin is a cushion with gold tassels on the three corners that are visible. On the cushion are three objects. From the left can be seen a trowel then a chisel (?) and finally a maul on the right.

The front covering of the table is adorned with large representations of the crossed keys, then a dove bearing an olive branch and finally crossed swords.

Further documentation regarding this sword and iron stand is found in the extracts of the Treasurer's book belonging to Dundee Lodge, No. 9, (S. C.) of 1761. From these extracts, this particular sword seems to have been purchased and inserted in this iron stand not to serve the Tyler but used as a symbol of absolute authority of the R.W.M. to rule over his lodge. The extracts further describe this sword as being a handsome weapon, double-handed with a blade 38 inches long, the hilt of 10 inches and the guard 9 ½ inches wide. This sword eventually served as a Tyler's sword from 1835 to 1918.



15



16

Picture of stand and handle perhaps alongside to show how it is secured like a cameo

The following information was supplied by Brother Gavin Collinson, Librarian Archivist, of Constitutional Lodge, No. 294, of Beverley, England: Brother Thomson Foley (a member in 1881) gives a nice description of the Sword as follows;

“The sword so fixed in our Lodge is a large flaming double-edged sword; the blade 3 feet 1 inch long, the hilt 7 inches, total length 3 feet 8 inches. It is fixed in a wooden stand, painted and gilt, the lower part having three steps to which are attached two Gilt Columns on square bases; the 47th proposition between the two columns; surmounted by a circular arch to which the hilt of the sword is secured is regularly placed on the right side of the W.M.'s pedestal close to the position of the S.D. and remains with its naked blade uplifted during the time the Lodge is at Masonic work.

15 Photography by Bro. Chris Harland, Constitutional Lodge, No. 294, of Beverley

16 *ibid*

Number 294 has possessed this sword for many years, beyond the memory of the oldest member. It may have belonged originally to the St. George's East York Militia Lodge, which was founded in 1782, (our predecessor in Masonry in Beverley) some of whose furniture we still possess." In the Quarterage Books and the minutes of the lodge it shows that William Brownrigg a founding member of the Lodge since 6th March, 1793, who was a Bricklayer and Ironmonger, sold the Sword to the Lodge on 1st May, 1796, for 4 shillings. There is no mention of where he obtained the sword.

The early practice of exhibiting a sword in a frame to serve as a symbol inside the lodge seems to have been common.¹⁷ In travelling to various parts of the world we will find representations of the flaming sword such as the pair on the forecourt of the entrance to the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., United States. This pair of swords flank and protect the wording set in the stone, "The Temple of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, Erected to God and Dedicated to the Service of Humanity, Salve Frater" (Welcome Brother).

N.B.: There may well be indisputable documentation that the wavy bladed sword was indeed recorded in some Grand Lodge records as proper but has eluded my prying eyes and therefore a further search would not be without merit.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Larissa Watkins, Assistant Librarian of the Supreme Council, House of the Temple, Washington D.C., United States for her kind assistance.

Bros Gavin Collinson and Chris Harland of Constitutional Lodge No. 294, Beverley, England for their kind assistance and photographs.

¹⁷ *Masonic Service Association, S.T.B.*, Vol. XXI, No.2, p 4

of Jesus Christ and represents the crucifixion. On the far left Judas Iscariot is seen having committed suicide. He is hanging dead by the neck from a tree. On the ground beneath him the thirty pieces of silver of no more use to him spill out of a money bag on the ground beneath. With desolate expressions on their faces, Mary the Mother of Jesus and St. John the Beloved Apostle remain close to their crucified Lord, while to the right side is the man traditionally named Longinus thrusting his spear into Jesus's side to make sure he will really and truly die. Here is Christ's indomitable sacrificial love confronting in his life and death the personal and cosmic forces of decreation. The man nailed to the cross is a beardless youth. He has a serene look of spiritual resolution. From the cross he silently challenges the observer to discover what those around him are missing out on: the experience of being held in God's hand by the power of his infinitely generous, self-giving love. This is the true triumph in all creation.

The cross of Christ draws out the deadly poison from the negative workings of the world. Here politics and religion come up against their human limitations and are challenged by this divine spontaneous ordering of love towards the goal of salvation. With the world's emphasis on debate and division, is all that life means to us, individually and together, meant to result in one wholesale, destructive pile-up? This is the God who embraces suffering and death within his glorious everlasting life. This is God's real and urgent loving ambition for us and the whole of creation, to share his abundant living - to save us all with deep penetrative healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and restore us to the heights of heaven.

MISCELLANEA

JEWELS PRESENTED TO LEICESTER MASONIC MUSEUM

W. Bro. David M. Sharpe, PPGSuptWks

Photographs: W. Bro. Derek J. Andrews, PPJGW

After W. Bro. James N. Pitts, PPJGW, Howe and Charnwood Lodge, No. 1007, and Lodge of Science and Art, No. 8427, died in June 2013 his family asked the Almoner of Howe and Charnwood, W. Bro. Ray Hardy, to dispose of his Masonic regalia and deal with some Masonic curios. W. Bro. Ray faithfully returned regalia to the lodges of which W. Bro. Jim had been a member, but there was an old toffee tin containing a number of Masonic jewels and other curios. W. Bro. David Sharpe was then asked to help identify them and to deal with them as he thought best. Many of the jewels were duplicates of those held at the Masonic Hall at Loughborough, and so he took them to the Provincial Museum in Leicester to include in their collection. Four of these jewels are of special interest.



One is a Bi-centennial Jewel issued in 1917, issued during World War 1 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. On the Obverse is an engraving of the MWGM, the Duke of Connaught and on the reverse the arms of UGLE and the dates 1717–1917.

There are also two silver Masonic Million Memorial Fund Commemorative Jewels. These were in recognition of money donated



to the Masonic Peace Memorial, later to become known as 'Freemasons' Hall', in memory of the many brethren who had given their lives in the First World War. These were issued to any lodge member under the English Constitution who donated ten guineas (£10.50) or more.¹ They were given to W. Bros. J. S. Potter PPJGW and H. Mallinson. Some 52,334 individual Jewels were issued. Any individual Mason donating 100 guineas or more² was eligible for one of these jewels in gold. Was there a gold one for W. Bro. Potter, since he donated over 100 guineas? If so, what became of it? If not, why not?

A slightly larger medal in gold on a light blue collarette to be worn by successive Masters of lodges was awarded to those lodges contributing an average of ten guineas per member, which were to be known as Hall Stone Lodges. Howe and Charnwood did not qualify, but there are two such lodges in the Province who did, Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1560, and Enderby Lodge, No. 5061. In all 1321 lodges at home and abroad qualified as Hall Stone Lodges.

The final jewel in the tin is perhaps the most interesting. It was created to be awarded to those individual Masons, who had donated at least 240 guineas (£252)³. 956 of these Jewels were issued and is known as the Collector's Jewel. This was given to W. Bro. Potter, and is inscribed M.M. M. and his name. The M.M.M. has is not a reference to the Mark Degree; it refers to the Masonic Million Memorial Fund.

Whilst these Jewels are, of course, of considerable interest we must bear one thing in mind. They are in the museum in Leicester due to the thoughtfulness of W. Bro. Jim's family and will form part of a display of his curios and works donated to the museum. How easily they could be now in some 'antique shop' or a flea market. One must ask, will our families know what to do with our Masonic regalia, books and curios when we depart to that G. L. Above? This is the point made by W. Bro. T. M. Ll. Walters in the conclusion of his Inaugural Address to the Lodge of Research in 1977 when he said, "Many Masons have interesting material. When they die their wives or executors may not appreciate it and it would



1 In 2015 terms £645.18
2 £6451.80
3 £15484.33

be a service to posterity if arrangements could be made to deposit it either with their lodges, or an established library or archive before it gets into the hands of persons who may not appreciate its value.”⁴

Hanslip Ward Lodge, No. 3399, Harwich, Tracing Boards
W. Bro. David M. Sharpe, PPGSuptWks
Photographs: W. Bro. Malcolm Harman, PPGJW (Essex)

At first sight the three Tracing Boards pictured opposite would appear to be nothing different to those which can be found in many Masonic Halls. However, the story behind them makes them unique.

They were produced in 1980 by a non-Mason, who painted as a hobby. Russell Thomas was a carpenter by trade, who had an interest in art and woodturning. He later became a member of the East Anglia Group of Marine Artists. He had produced some paintings for W. Bro. Bruce Bennings, who was very keen to promote local talent. He approached Mr Thomas and asked him to paint the three Tracing Boards in oil and to name his own price. His account book for the year, pictured below, shows that he charged £50 for each Tracing Board, the equivalent of £278 in 2015.

Sale of 1980 Pictures			
Oil wash	along the walls	Mistley	Mrs Howard 30.00
oil	Steps to Heaven	1st Degree	Frazmason 50.00
"	The Coffin	2nd "	" 50.00
"	View across the Desert	3rd "	" 50.00

Whilst the Tracing Boards are shown in the correct order, they are shown in Mr Thomas’s account book with the Second and Third reversed. Indeed the descriptions of each Board shows the fact the artist was not a Mason, but also reveals an interesting interpretation of their meaning.

The Tracing Boards were taken to the Masonic Hall in Harwich at night and Mr Thomas and his wife were asked not say anything about what they actually saw. I am pleased to say that our openness today has enabled me to print copies of the three photographs of the Tracing Boards and to give them to Janet Thomas, Russell’s widow. Russell Thomas did not become a Mason, although he was invited to do so, as he felt unable to afford the fees involved. What he has, however, given to Masonry is the gift of a set of unique Tracing Boards, which can be enjoyed by all members of the Craft.

4 Transactions of the Lodge of Research, No.2429, 1977 page 23



MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

Buswell, D.A., PProvGM, PM 4874, 7896, PM
Ridge, J.A., PAGDC, PM 7841, PM
Booton, W.J.S., PJGD, PM 8276, PM
Newman, A.N., PGJD, PM 523, 2076, PM
Wykes, D.L., PM 1560, PM
Simpson, A., PM 7744, 7896, PM
Parkes Bowen, M.D.M., PJGD, PM 1560, 7896, PM
Cappin, J.M., PM 8276, PM (*obit*)
Harrison, J.T., PM 6514, PM
Clarke, V.C., PM 8276, 8729
Leek, R., PM 7832, 8429, 9071, PM
Herbert, A.D., PM 8729, PM
Head, B.E., PM 279, PM
Peacock, D.A., PAGDC, PM 50, PM
Wilson, M., Rev Canon, GCh, PM 7841
Robinson, M.A., PM 3078, PM
Sharpe, D.M., PM 1007, 8312, WM
Hughes, D.J., PM 2201, 7801, PM
Crocker, C.D., PM 7762
Kinder, P.C., PDGSwdB, PM 7744, 7896
Sharman, A.E., PJGD, PM 5664, 7896
Varley, J.D., PM 7841
Townsend, J.A., PM 2146, 8350
Johnson, I.R., PM 3091
Andrews, D.J., PM 1560
McKeown, D.O., PM 2081, 9705
Davoudian, H., PM 2811, 8729
Green, A.R., PAGStdB, PM 3448
Hagger, D.V., PGM, PM 4835, 7896
Mason, K.G., PJGD, PM 5208, 8312, 8429, PM (*obit*)
Gan, R.L., PAGDC, PM 23, 534, 1691, 2956, 8020, 9558
Reeve, R.C., PM 7767, 9844

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Andrew Prescott