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The Lodge of Stability, No. 564

1849 - 1949



Centenary
Festival

The Lodge of Stability, No. 564

Souvenir

Centenary Celebrations

8th. OCTOBER, 1949

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Foreword

As part of the Centenary Celebrations, the Brethren of the Lodge of Stability No. 564 are publishing a History of the Lodge, covering the past hundred years.

It is therefore unnecessary in this Foreword to refer at length or in detail to its activities.

It should be noted that this Lodge was not the first to bring the light of Masonry to Stourbridge, for we find slight references to two Lodges with Warrants dated 1733 and 1768 which met at the Talbot Hotel, and fuller information of the "Hope" Lodge which met at the "Three Tuns" Inn in 1775 and was meeting at the "Crown" Inn in 1802. Recently I have been fortunate in finding a copy of the Bye-Laws of this Lodge printed in Stourbridge in 1800. This Lodge was erased in 1828 and if there were any survivors they took no part in the founding of the Lodge of Stability.

Sometime in 1849 a meeting of Brethren resident in Stourbridge and neighbourhood was held when it was decided that Bro. Charles Curran (a P.M. of Faithful Lodge No. 696—now No. 473) should be asked to prepare a Petition for a new Lodge and become its first Master.

Bro. Curran prepared the Petition which was sponsored by the Faithful Lodge No. 696 and the Harmonic Lodge, Dudley (then numbered 313) and on June 10th, 1849, he wrote to the Dep. Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire (Dr. Roden), stating that the Brethren proposed to present the Petition for his consideration. In due course our Charter or Warrant was issued and it is dated 28th June, 1849. The Lodge was authorised to meet and transact all Masonic business after the receipt of the Warrant, and did so although the Lodge was not consecrated until January 23rd, 1850. The Lodge initiated four Brethren during 1849 and paid Grand Lodge Dues for that year.

The Brethren who signed the Petition were :

Wor. Bro. Charles Curran	...	Faithful Lodge	No. 696
Bro. Robert Martin	...	Harmonic Lodge	No. 313
Bro. William Joseph Pringle	...	Faithful Lodge	No. 696
Bro. William Ford	...	Faithful Lodge	No. 696
Bro. Edward Peters	...	Faithful Lodge	No. 696
Wor. Bro. William Masfield	...	Harmonic Lodge	No. 313
Bro. Thomas Rawlins	...	Mount Sinai Lodge	No. 142
		Penzance (now numbered 121)	

Bros. C. Curran, R. Martin and W. J. Pringle were the Master and Wardens designate in the Warrant.

The following Brethren were treated as Founders although they did not sign the Petition: Thomas Coldwall Hassall, Joseph Aston (Harmonic 313), John Weldon, James Nesbitt Evans, and in the list of Officers Bro. Curran submitted to the Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. Hassall is Treasurer, Bro. Joseph Aston is S.D. and Bro. Weldon I.G.

The first regular meeting of the Lodge was held on 16th July, 1849. It was held at the "Vine" Inn, Stourbridge, of which Bro. Ford, one of the Petitioners, was landlord. At this meeting the Master designate was unable to be present and Wor. Bro. William Masefield occupied the Chair.

Before its Consecration the Lodge purchased the Furniture, Jewels and Regalia of the St. John's Lodge No. 431 Lichfield which had recently lapsed. Much of this equipment is in use to-day and the I.P.M.'s and Treasurer's Jewels are of a pattern no longer sanctioned. The Volume of the Sacred Law was two hundred years old when we acquired it and was printed in 1639.

The Lodge was duly consecrated by the Wor. Deputy P.G.M. (Dr. Roden) on January 23rd, 1850. Wor. Bro. Wm. Masefield acted as Prov. G.S.W., Wor. Bro. A. Patterson as Prov. G.J.W. and Wor. Bro. Thomas Hodges was Prov. G. Secretary.

It is surprising to us weaker Brethren to learn that before the Consecration Ceremony the Lodge was opened and a Candidate was Initiated, one Brother Passed and one Raised.

The Financial beginnings of this Lodge also are startling, for we find that the Founders paid no Founders' Fees and the Lodge started on a loan of £50 from the Treasurer, which he subsequently converted into a gift. Still, our celebrations today shew that our name "Stability" was right notwithstanding the slender financial foundation upon which the Lodge was built.

The Lodge had to depend upon its Initiates almost entirely for its working Officers. The Petitioners had evidently become Founders only to start the Lodge. Wor. Bro. Wm. Masefield resigned in 1851 and never went into the Chair. The Master and Wardens designate in the Charter rarely attended the Lodge after they had passed the Chair, and all had resigned by 1855. Our Lodge in its early days really centred round Wor. Bro. Joseph Aston, who was the fourth Master, and held that office four times. He was a Stourbridge man and lived at Stamber Mill. Our records show that for some years the Lodge depended on Wor. Bro. Wm. Masefield and other P.M.'s from Harmonic to form the Board of Installed Masters at Installations. When Bro. Aston was installed for the second time he was the only Installed Master in the Lodge.

The Lodge met at the "Vine" Inn only until 1851 and in that year moved to the Talbot Hotel, which has been our masonic home ever since.

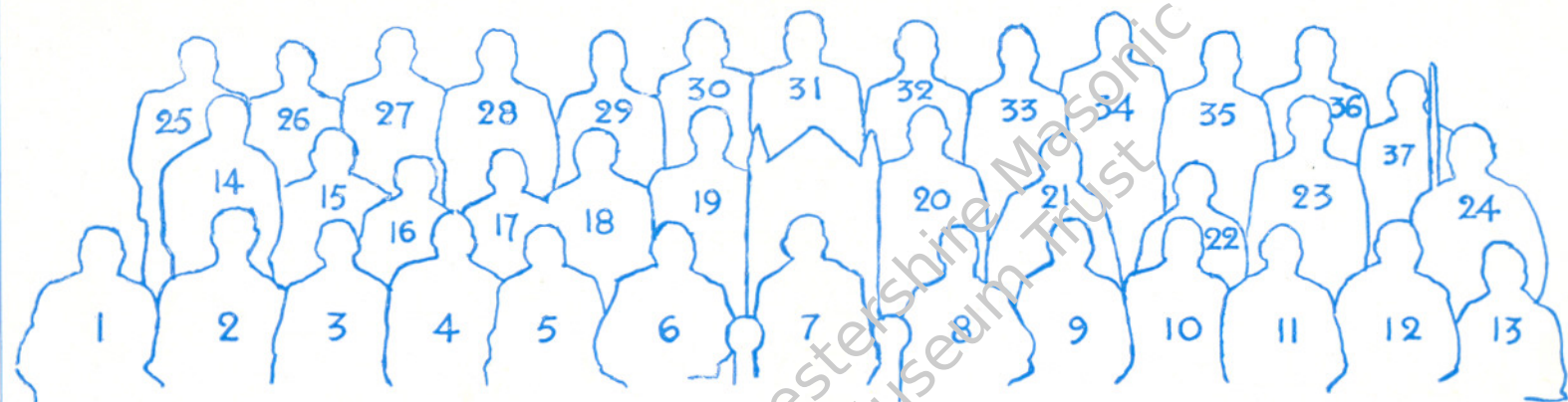
The Lodge membership has never been large and has never exceeded the present number. A few of us remember the time when we had only twenty-three members. Still, the comparatively small membership has had its compensations, for Brethren have had an opportunity of attaining the Chair within a reasonable time and we like to think that the small number has made our brotherly Association particularly close and friendly.

A. G.



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MEMBERS, May 28th. 1949



KEY TO MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) J. H. Evan Evans. | (10) William Gould. | (19) Ralph Bennett. | (28) F. Colin Mobberley. |
| (2) George Rupert Griffin. | (11) N. S. Bache. | (20) G. R. Perks. | (29) Harold A. Kay. |
| (3) Frank Stevens. | (12) A. G. Beard. | (21) A. J. Shearer. | (30) Ralph P. Matkin. |
| (4) P. D. Folkes. | (13) E. Glynne Jones. | (22) J. Moncrieff Gould. | (31) John C. Sellars. |
| (5) Albert Grove. | (14) J. Ashwin Nayler. | (23) H. R. Hammersley. | (32) H. Eric Bloomer. |
| (6) Hugh L. D. Perks. | (15) Alexander B. Clibbery. | (24) A. W. C. Clunas. | (33) A. T. B. Shearer. |
| (7) Walter Stevens. | (16) David J. Anthony. | (25) Joseph J. L. Brookes. | (34) Leslie Vaughan. |
| (8) Horace S. Dunwell. | (17) Arthur S. Leather. | (26) William A. Peplow. | (35) S. C. Smith. |
| (9) R. H. Eames. | (18) George R. Gibbs. | (27) E. John Orchard. | (36) Jack Jones. |
| | | | (37) William J. Price. |

OFFICERS
OF
LODGE OF STABILITY, No. 564

1949

WOR. BRO. WALTER STEVENS	...	...	...	W.M.
WOR. BRO. D. J. ANTHONY	...	...	...	I.P.M.
WOR. BRO. HUGH PERKS	...	...	...	S.W.
BRO. H. S. DUNWELL	...	...	...	J.W.
WOR. BRO. RALPH BENNETT, P.M., PROV.G. REGR.	...	...	...	CHAPLAIN
WOR. BRO. PERCIVAL D. FOLKES, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W., P.M.	...	...	...	TREAS.
WOR. BRO. ALBERT GROVE, P.M., P.P.G.W., P.A.G.D.C.	...	...	...	SEC.
WOR. BRO. G. RUPER GRIFFIN, P.M., P.P.G.W.	...	...	...	D.C.
BRO. RUPERT L. GRIFFIN	...	...	...	S.D.
BRO. J. M. GOSD	...	...	...	J.D.
WOR. BRO. A. B. CLIBERY	...	...	...	ASSISTANT D.C.
WOR. BRO. FRANK STEVENS, A.R.C.O., P.M., P.P.G.W., P.A.G.STD.B.	...	...	...	ORGANIST
BRO. H. R. HAMMERSLEY	...	...	...	I.G.
BRO. JOSEPH BROOKES	...	...	...	STEWARD
BRO. J. DONALD BARNES	...	...	...	STEWARD
BRO. GARNET F. PEIRSON	...	...	...	STEWARD
BRO. W. A. PELOW	...	...	...	STEWARD
BRO. E. JOHN ORCHARD	...	...	...	STEWARD
BRO. A. W. C. CLUNAS	...	...	...	TYLER

MEMBERS
OF
LODGE OF STABILITY, No. 564

John Gillam.	Walter Stevens.
Albert Grove.	Joseph H. Higgs.
Frank Stevens.	Hugh L. D. Perks.
George Rupert Griffin.	Joseph C. Hickman.
A. Howard Lunt.	Rupert L. Griffin.
F. J. Barnes.	J. Moncrieff Gould.
P. D. Folkes.	H. R. Hammesley.
A. G. Beard.	Stanley Howlis.
H. G. Taylor.	Harold D. Croft.
R. H. Eames.	Joseph J. L. Brookes.
N. S. Bache.	J. Donald Barnes.
A. D. Hayes.	Garnet F. Peirson.
A. J. Shearer.	William A. Peplow.
E. Glyane Jones.	Edmund S. Calvert.
William Gould.	E. John Orchard.
J. H. Eyan Evans.	Roland J. Peace.
F. K. Perks.	H. Eric Bloomer.
William J. Peice.	F. Colin Mobberley.
George R. Gibbs.	A. J. B. Shearer.
Ralph Bennett.	Ralph P. Matkin.
B. Horace Corbett.	Harold A. Kay.
Horace S. Dunwell.	Jack Jones.
Arthur S. Leather.	Leslie Vaughan.
J. Henry Simpkins.	John C. Sellars.
Alexander B. Clibbery.	S. C. Smith.
C. R. Heathcock.	A. W. C. Clunas, Tyler.
J. Ashwin Nayler.	D. O. Roden, Serving Bro.
David J. Anthony.	

CENTENARY MEETING OF THE LODGE OF
STABILITY, No. 564

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

All Brethren of the Lodge and Visiting Brethren are requested to take their seats in the Lodge by 4.15 p.m.

1. At 4.30 p.m. precisely the Worshipful Master and his Wardens will take their chairs.
2. The opening ode will be sung.
3. The Lodge will be opened.
4. The Secretary will read the Dispensation.
5. The Director of Ceremonies will announce the Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire in Charge, Wor. Bro. Ben Marsh, J.P., Past Grand Deacon, the Worshipful the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Dr. E. L. Bunting, M.B., P.G.D., Grand Lodge Officers and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers, who will enter the Lodge in procession.
6. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will take the Chair and appoint his Wardens.
7. The Worshipful, the Deputy P.G.M., the Worshipful the Assistant P.G.M., Grand Lodge Officers and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers will be saluted in and in form.
8. The Secretary will read the summons convening the Meeting.
9. The Secretary will read the Minutes of the first Meeting held on the 16th July, 1849, and the Consecration Meeting held on the 23rd January, 1850.
10. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will address the Brethren on the object of the Meeting.
11. The Prov. G.D.C. will present the original warrant to the Deputy P.G.M. for his inspection, who will request the Secretary to read the same.
12. The Provincial Grand Secretary Wor. Bro. H. V. Stanton, P.G.D., will then retire from the Lodge.
13. A procession of Past Masters will be formed and retire from the Lodge.
14. The Past Masters will escort the Prov. Grand Secretary into the Lodge bearing the Centenary Warrant.

15. The Hymn. *Now thank we all our God*, will be sung during the procession.

Now thank we all our God,
With heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom His world rejoices ;
Who from our mothers' arms
Hath bless'd us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us.
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us ;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplex'd,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
So Mote it Be.

16. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will direct the Prov. Grand Secretary to read the Centenary Warrant.
17. The Provincial Grand Chaplain will give an oration.
18. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will present the W.M. with the Centenary Warrant and direct that the proceeding be entered on the Minutes of the Lodge.
19. The W.M., Wardens and Past Masters of the Lodge of Stability will resume their seats.
20. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will call upon the Secretary, Wor. Bro. Albert Grove, P.A.G.D.C., to give a short history of the Lodge.
21. The Prov. Grand Chaplain will offer up prayer.

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, we humbly beseech Thee to receive these our prayers and oblations of praise. We unite in hearty thanks to Thee, Almighty Father, for the manifold blessings bestowed on us and on our Lodge, and give grateful thanks to Thee that Thou hast been pleased to preserve and direct this Lodge for a hundred years. We beseech Thee to grant a continuance of Thy blessings, and give us grace so to follow the good example of the Brethren who have laboured for the welfare of this Lodge, that the work of the Lodge may ever be as well to Thy Glory as the welfare of our fellow creatures.

So Mote it Be.

22. The Prov. Grand Chaplain will give the Patriarchal Benediction.
23. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will call on the W.M. and his Wardens to resume their chairs.
24. The Hymn *O God, our help in ages past*, will be sung by all the Brethren, during which alms will be taken in aid of the Worcestershire Provincial Benevolent Fund.

O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne,
Thy Saints have dwelt secure ;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone ;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

So Mote it Be.

25. The Brethren will sing the first verse of the National Anthem.
26. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M., the Worshipful the Assistant P.G.M., Grand Lodge Officers and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers will retire in procession.
27. The Lodge will be closed.
28. Closing Hymn.

Menu

Cocktails

Sherry

Hors d'Oeuvres Variés

Sauterne Côte Belle
1943

Poulard Rôti Forestière

Bourgogne Rouge
1943

Purée d'Épinard
Carottes Sautées au Beurre
Purée de Pommes de Terre
Pommes de Terre Rôties

Champagne
Charles Heidsieck
1943

Charlotte Russe
ou
Le Fromage

Brandy

Le Café

Les Desserts

Toast List

✓ His Majesty the King.

✓ The Most Worshipful The Grand Master His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G.

The Lodge of Stability No. 564

Proposed by Wor. Bro. B. Marsh, Dep. Prov. G.M. in Charge.

Response by Wor. Bro. Walter Stevens, W.M.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Scarborough, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., E.D., Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master, Brig. Gen. W. H. Darell, C.B., G.M.G., D.S.O., Rt. Wor. Asst. Grand Master, and the Officers present and past, of the Grand Lodge of England.

The Wor. Bro. Ben Marsh, P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G.M. in charge of the Province; Wor. Bro. E. L. Bunting, P.G.D., Asst. Prov. G.M., and the Officers, present and past, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.

The Visitors.

The Tyler's Toast.

Musical Programme arranged by
Wor. Bro. G. R. Gibbs, P.P.G.W.



CREATED 1777
BRO. W. H. HILL
PHOENIX PRINTERIE
DUDLEY

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