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Glittering Star Lodge

OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

NO. 322, IRISH CONSTITUTION



REPORT

OF A MEETING HELD IN H.M. TOWER OF LONDON

3 JUNE, 1938

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GLITTERING STAR LODGE

No. 322, IRISH CONSTITUTION

(DATE OF WARRANT 1759)

ATTACHED TO H.M. 1ST BN. THE WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
(FORMERLY THE 29TH REGIMENT OF FOOT)

Historical Masonic Meeting

Held in H.M. Tower of London, 3rd June, 1938

RECORDED BY V. W. BRO. E. I. T. SERCOMBE,

P.G.D.C. GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND, P. PROV. C. REGR., HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT

WHEN early in 1938 the 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment (the old 29th Regiment of Foot), then stationed in Ramillies Barracks, Aldershot, were warned to hold themselves in readiness to move to the Tower of London for a short tour of duty there, in relief of a battalion of the Guards, no one could have foreseen the remarkable Masonic event that was to arise from that move. For many years a fine old Lodge of Freemasons had been attached to the Battalion, and had been worked with credit in many parts of the world. The Warrant, dated 3rd May, 1759, had been issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland to the 29th Regiment, and among the many interesting experiences of the Lodge was the part it played in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at Boston in December, 1769, two officers of the Regiment, members of the Lodge, Captain J. French and

Captain P. Molesworth, being the first Grand Senior and Junior Wardens respectively.

When in 1881, under the reorganization scheme of the Army, the 29th Foot and the 36th Foot were linked as the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Worcestershire Regiment, the Lodge was attached to the 1st Battalion, and it continued to work with credit in India and other parts of the Empire.

At the February (1938) meeting of the Lodge held at Farnborough (North Aldershot), the announcement was made that the Lodge would not meet again for a few months, as the Battalion was leaving for the Tower of London. I then suggested to the Worshipful Master and the Secretary that the opportunity should be taken while the Battalion was at the Tower to get permission to hold a meeting of the Lodge there. My idea was to hold just an informal meeting, to open the Lodge, read the minutes and close, for the purpose of getting recorded on the minutes that the Lodge had actually been worked in the Tower of London, for I believed that a lodge had never been held in the Tower. The idea was cordially received, and it was left to me to make the necessary inquiries and obtain permission.

A special visit was paid to Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London, and a number of inquiries made to ascertain if there existed any record of a Lodge of Freemasons ever having been held in the Tower. Everybody was most helpful, and after considerable search it was considered that such a Masonic meeting had never been held. There certainly was no record of such a meeting. Bro. Lionel Vibert, the well-known historian, and Secretary of Quator Coronati Lodge of Research, was also interviewed on the subject. He was of opinion that no lodge had ever met inside the walls of the Tower, although lodges had been held in the precincts of the Tower.

Having thus confirmed my opinion, I wrote to R. Wor. Bro. Field-Marshal Sir Claud W. Jacob, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., Past Grand Senior Warden of England, who had been appointed Constable of the Tower. Sir Claud, as Colonel of the Worcestershire Regiment, had some time before been kind enough to accept honorary membership of the Lodge, but had not had an opportunity of visiting it. The letter suggested that it would be a happy event if he would give permission for the Lodge to

hold a meeting in the Tower during their short tour of duty. In order to be prepared, should he give consent, the Grand Secretary in Dublin was asked for the necessary permission to hold a Lodge under such circumstances.

In due course Sir Claud replied, not only giving permission if a suitable place could be found in the Tower for the meeting, but expressing his interest in the project. The reply from R. Wor. Bro. H. C. Shellard, the Grand Secretary, was equally gratifying, for in granting the permission he added much valuable advice.

An even happier communication reached me. This was from our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Donoughmore, K.P., who wrote that when at Grand Lodge he had seen my letter and was most interested in the proposed meeting. He added that, should he be in London on the date when the meeting was held, he would try to be present. His gracious interest in the project changed the whole character of the proposed meeting, which had in the meantime been fixed for Friday, 3rd June. The principal officers of the Lodge were kept in touch with the progress of events, and it was realized that in all probability Masonic history of a particularly interesting character was in the making, and something had to be arranged to do justice to so unique an occasion. An officer of the Battalion had been proposed as a candidate for initiation in the Lodge, and had regularly passed the ballot, but before he could be initiated he had been selected for service on the Staff, and had been posted to Edinburgh. It was decided to invite him to come to London to be initiated into Freemasonry in the Tower of London, and he agreed to do so, provided his duties permitted. In order to ensure having a candidate should he be unable to come, C.Q.M.S. Joseph White, another candidate who had been regularly proposed, approved and balloted for, was also put on the agenda for initiation as an alternative.

The intimation received from our Most Worshipful Grand Master induced me to send an invitation to M. Wor. Bro. General Sir Francis Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., Deputy Grand Master of England, who commenced his military career in the Worcestershire Regiment, had become Vice-Lieutenant of the County, and also Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire. He had some time before kindly consented to accept honorary membership of the Lodge.

His reply was as prompt as it was gratifying. He

would be happy to attend the meeting. The fact that the Tower is within the City of London led me to write to the Lord Mayor, the Right Hon. Sir Harry Twyford, Senior Grand Deacon, England, inviting him to attend this unique meeting, and he and his private secretary, W. Bro. C. Gamon, very cordially accepted the invitation. A similar invitation was sent to M. Wor. Bro. Lord Saltoun, Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, who is the representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and he also accepted.

The members of the Lodge were naturally delighted with the altogether unexpected importance that the meeting was assuming, and all the officers worked diligently for the purpose of putting up a good show. Under W. Bro. T. E. Johnston, the Director of Ceremonies, they practised the ritual to ensure a smooth rendering, and they succeeded.

Applications for invitations came pouring in, but had to be withheld owing to lack of accommodation. The Lodge had been given permission to hold the meeting in the Warders' Social Room, built into the ramparts of the Tower facing the Thames. After taking measurement, it was agreed that it might accommodate about one hundred, by squeezing, and the members intending to be present were asked to notify the Secretary (W. Bro. T. Stephens). There were no preparation, robing or cloak rooms handy, so all these and other amenities had to be extemporized, but so kind and helpful everyone in the Tower proved that all difficulties and inconveniences were overcome or met. A marquee pitched nearby served as a cloak-room for members and visitors, while the Grand Lodge officers made the best use they could of the archway and guard room of the Lower Drawbridge, which was screened off from public view, for robing, and all seemed to find a great deal of amusement in their strangely grim surroundings.

The afternoon of Friday, 3rd June, proved very warm, and it was not surprising to find the Social Room uncomfortably warm when some 120 Brethren were packed into it. The small kitchen attached was used as the preparation room for the candidate, and as the Tyler had to be with him it was arranged that Yeoman Warder S. Reeves, a member of Aldershot Camp Lodge (my mother Lodge), should act as Outer Guard to keep everyone away from the vicinity of the Social Room while the meeting was in progress—a duty he did well.

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master had intimated to me in the meantime that he was not only intending to be present, but desired to open the Lodge himself in ample form, knowledge of which inspired all the officers of the Lodge to do well. The Lodge furniture had been brought up from Farnborough and made a brave show. It attracted considerable attention. The Most Worshipful Grand Master entered the Lodge attended by the Master of the Lodge, W. Bro. A. E. Adams, a former sergeant in the Battalion; R. Wor. Bro. V. Pimm Thompson, Prov. Grand Master, Antrim; R. Wor. Bro. J. Langley, Prov. Grand Master, South-Eastern Counties; R. Wor. Bro. J. Holliday, Grand Superintendent of Works; and myself; and accompanied by M. Wor. Bro. General Sir Francis Davies, Dep. Grand Master, England, and M. Wor. Bro. Lord Saltoun, Past Grand Master Mason, Scotland.

Other Grand Lodge officers had already been escorted into the Lodge and accommodated with seats in the East. They included R. Wor. Bro. Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, P.S.G.W.; R. Wor. Bro. Sir Harry Wyfyod, S.G.D., Lord Mayor of London; R. Wor. Bro. Sydney A. White, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of England; R. Wor. Bro. Major Sir Thomas G. L. Lumley Smith, D.S.O., P.W.G., Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons; R. Wor. Bro. Captain P. E. Walton, P.G.D.; and R. Wor. Bro. I. Mackay, P.G.Std.B. There were many other distinguished visitors.

In opening the Lodge the Most Worshipful Grand Master appointed R. Wor. Bros. Pimm Thompson and Holliday to the Senior and Junior Wardens' chairs, Bros. R.S.M. W. D. Richards and Colour-Sergeant C. G. W. Taylor being the Senior and Junior Deacons, and Bro. ex-Sergeant E. J. A. Horan being the Inner Guard; W. Bro. ex-Sergeant-Major T. Wade acting as Assistant to W. Bro. T. K. Johnston, D. of C., W. Bro. Lieutenant J. J. Flux as Assistant Conductor; W. Bro. the Rev. R. R. Verity, O.C.F., P. Prov. G. Chap., Worcestershire, Chaplain; W. Bro. Major G. H. Ranson, Prov. G.D. of C., East Aberdeen, as Assistant Chaplain; Bro. B. M. Kail as organist; Bro. C.Q.M.S. J. W. Gallon, Treasurer; and W. Bro. C.Q.M.S. T. Stephens, Secretary.

After declaring the Lodge open, the Most Worshipful Grand Master called for and led greetings to the Deputy Grand Master of England, to Lord Saltoun, to Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, and then to the rest of the

Grand Lodge officers present, which were fraternally acknowledged. He then vacated the chair in favour of the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Adams, C.Q.M.S. J. W. Gallon and C.S.M. T. J. W. Seabrook relieving R. Wor. Bros. Pimm Thompson and J. Holliday in the Senior and Junior Wardens' chairs respectively.

Bro. Seabrook, who had been unable to attend the annual Installation meeting, was then formally invested and installed as Junior Warden, a unique honour as being probably the first Installation to take place in the Tower.

The candidate for initiation was Joseph White, the other candidate being unable to attend. The ceremony of initiation was then proceeded with, the ritual which was to so many of the visitors a new experience, being followed with the greatest interest. The Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased to take part in the ceremony by reading the Ancient Charge to the Initiate at the conclusion. Few of the Brethren present of other than the Irish Constitution had witnessed an initiation according to the Irish ritual, which is never printed, and is accessible only to members of an Irish lodge.

After the Charity Box had been circulated, I proposed that the Lodge ask the Most Worshipful Grand Master to accept a Lodge Centenary Jewel as a small mark of appreciation of the great honour he had conferred on the Lodge by his presence that day and taking part in the ceremony, also as a small memento of that historical occasion, the only meeting on record of a Freemasons' Lodge ever meeting in that ancient fortress. I also proposed that General Sir Francis Davies be asked to accept a similar Jewel as a mark of their gratitude to him for his presence, knowing how close to his heart everything pertaining to Worcestershire and its County Regiment had always been; and that Sir Claud Jacob be also asked to accept a similar Jewel, for they all knew that it was chiefly by his kindness and interest that that meeting had been made possible. The proposition was carried unanimously, and the Worshipful Master, having received the consent of these distinguished Brethren, proceeded to pin the Jewels on their breasts. The gifts were suitably acknowledged, the Most Worshipful Grand Master graciously remarking that he would have the greatest pleasure in wearing the Jewel whenever he visited a lodge in Ireland and in describing the happy circumstances under which he received it.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased to

present Grand Lodge Certificates to Bro. Sergeant F. Heaps and Bro. Sergeant W. Browett.

Deputations from the other Irish travelling lodges working in regiments of the British Army were present, and hearty greetings and good wishes were proffered on their behalf by W. Bro. S. Hazeldine, for Lodge St. Patrick, No. 295, attached to the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh; W. Bro. Flight-Staff-Sergeant F. A. Chambers, R.A.F., for Lodge Charity, No. 570, attached to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, Colchester; W. Bro. Major D. McCorquodale, P.M., for Lodge Waterloo, No. 571, attached to the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, Aldershot, among this deputation being W. Bro. W. A. Dollimore, P.M., Aldershot Camp Lodge, P. Prov. G. Standard Bearer, Hants and Isle of Wight, who was my Director of Ceremonies when I constituted Lodge Waterloo in Cologne in 1923; and by W. Bro. W. G. Robinson, for Leswarree Lodge, No. 646, attached to the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, Cairo.

In all my Masonic experience I have not attended a meeting of Masons where such intense interest was taken in the proceedings. Every word was listened to by the Brethren, and Brethren of long standing, and that, with the deepest interest and attention, as if the ceremony was unusual. It was unusual. Visitors, and especially visitors of other Constitutions, saw gathered together not only a Grand Master in the chair of a private lodge, but also almost the highest representatives of two other ancient Grand Lodges, together with a galaxy of Masonic talent, forgathered not at a Masonic Congress, but at an emergency meeting of a military lodge. The distinguished company gave to the proceedings a dignity which marble halls and gilded appointments could hardly have increased. The Lodge was at labour in the simplest surroundings, and during that time one forgot the dance hall, the hard seats, the distempered walls, and the Spartan military furniture with which this improvised Lodge was equipped. The simplicity of the appointments merely served to enhance the spirit of fraternal brotherhood exhibited by these many distinguished Masons who had so kindly and graciously attended an initiation in a regimental lodge—an honour which will ever be remembered and treasured in the annals of Glittering Star Lodge.

The Lodge was closed in due and ancient form, and the Brethren then forgathered in the Tower Restaurant for light refreshments, and where many expressions of

appreciation and satisfaction for the opportunity of being present at such a unique assembly were tendered to those responsible for its accomplishment.

THE GRAND MASTER'S APPRECIATION.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, in a letter of congratulation to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, said:

"I must thank you for all your kindness at the meeting of Glittering Star Lodge in the Tower last Friday, and to congratulate you on its unequalled success. Several of our distinguished English and Scottish visitors expressed to me their appreciation of and interest in the ceremony, which was admirably carried out from beginning to end. It obviously impressed the candidate as well as those who were witnessing an Irish initiation for the first time. Wishing you a happy year of office.—Believe me, Yours fraternally, DONOUGHMORE."

Writing to V. W. Bro. Sercombe, the Most Worshipful The Grand Master said:

"It was a great day for the Irish Constitution, and I believe our visitors enjoyed it equally well. It is splendid to find such work, and so keen a carrying on in the best Masonic traditions.—DONOUGHMORE."



VIEW OF THE TOWER OF LONDON FROM THE THAMES



LODGE "GLETTING STAR" No. 322.

ON THE REGISTER OF THE GRAND LODGE
OF IRELAND.

*Warranted in the 1st Bn The Worcestershire Regiment
(Late 29th Regiment of Foot).
Dated Warrant — 3rd May 1859 —*

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FROM BRO. J. E. CARTWRIGHT.



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ON THE REGISTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

*Warranted in the 1st Bn The Worcestershire Regiment.
(Late 29th Regiment of Foot).*

— Date of Warrant — 3rd May 1759 —

A BRIEF HISTORY

In reading this brief outline of the history of the Lodge, it will be observed that, being a Regimental Lodge, Warranted in the Regiment, its history is largely bound up with the history of the Regiment

Being warranted in the Regiment, it is not affiliated to any District or Province, as in the case of Garrison Military Lodges or Stationary Lodges. It is directly under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge, and all communications are with the Grand Lodge Secretary direct.

The 29th Regiment of Foot (now known as The Worcestershire Regiment) was originally raised by Colonel Thomas Farrington of the Coldstream Guards under a Royal Warrant dated 16th February 1694 and was known as "Farrington's Regiment" in accordance with existing practice of calling Regiments after their Colonel.

In 1702 the Regiment was transferred to Ireland ; from 1704-06 it fought under the Duke of Marlborough, including the great victory of Ramillies ; from 1711-13 it was stationed at Gibraltar ; from

1713-26 the Regiment was again in Ireland ; from 1727-45 it was again stationed at Gibraltar.

In October 1745 the Regiment then known as Fuller's was ordered to proceed to Louisburg in Cape Breton recently captured by New England troops.

Stormy weather obliged the transports to stop at the Leeward Islands, and afterwards at Virginia where they were stationed from December to April 1746, the Regiment eventually reaching Louisburg in May, here it remained until 1749 when Cape Breton was returned to France under the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, and the Regiment was transferred to the new settlement of Halifax where the men were employed in cutting down trees and clearing the ground.

In 1750 the Regiment returned to Ireland. While in Ireland from 1750 to 1765 a warrant No 322 dated the 3rd May 1759 was issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland to the Masons in the Regiment.

About this period a number of Irish Military Lodges were formed, and amongst those then formed there are still in existence:-

No. 295 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, 1758, still working in the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards

No. 322 1st Worcestershire Regiment, 1759.

No. 570 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, 1780.

In June 1765 the Regiment was again transferred to Halifax where its headquarters were established, detachments being sent to Annapolis Royal and Fort Cumberland

The Regiment remained in Nova Scotia until October 1768 when along with the 14th, the Grenadier and one Company of the 59th and a Company of Artillery, it was removed to Boston where it took the leading

part in what was called the "Boston Massacre".

Notwithstanding the intense excitement consequent upon this occurrence, the members of St. Andrew's Lodge Boston (Scottish authority) saw an opportunity before them of forming a Provincial Grand Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

In December 1768 the representatives of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 82 (Scotland) Lodge No 106 in the 64th Regiment, Lodge 58 in the 14th Regiment, and Lodge 322 in the 29th Regiment petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the appointment of Dr. Joseph Warren as Provincial Grand Master. The signers of this Petition on behalf of Lodge No. 322 were Jas. Brown, Master, Charles Chambers, S.W. and Jas. Smith, J.W.

Pursuant to this request a commission was granted in May 1769 by the Grand Master of Scotland appointing Joseph Warren to be Provincial Grand Master and he was duly installed, at a meeting of Massachusetts Grand Lodge held in Boston 27th December 1769, when we find the Master and Wardens of Lodge 322 present, also those of Lodge No 58 (F. Reg.) in the 14th Regiment. At the elections which took place on that date Captain Jeremiah French, of the 29th Regiment was elected S.G.W. and Captain Ponsonby Molesworth (also of the 29th Regiment) J.G.W.

At the meetings of Grand Lodge 12th January and 2nd March 1770, Charles Chambers, Master, James Brown, S.W. and William McMullen, J.W. of Lodge No. 322 are recorded as present.

At the March meeting we find Brothers French, S.G.W. and Molesworth, J.G.W. being granted letters of recommendation. Captain French who served in the 29th Regiment from 1760-64 was promoted Major in July 1773 and was at Quebec and Crown Point in 1776.

In September 1777 he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 31st Foot. He died at Parsonstown King's County in 1819.

On 28th August 1769 nearly a year after the arrival of the 14th, 29th, and 64th Regiments in Boston a Royal Arch Lodge was formed, and worked during the years of its existence, under the authority of the charter of St Andrew's Lodge. The Minutes of its first meeting records the fact that William Davis a P.M. and member of Lodge 58 in the 14th Regiment received "four steps, viz, that of Excellent, Super Excellent, Royal Arch and Knight Templar" (the oldest record of the last mentioned in the world).

In May 1770 the Regiment removed to New Jersey where it was stationed at Brunswick (3 Companies), Elizabeth Town (2 Companies) and Perth Amboy (5 Companies) and in the following year to St. Augustine, Florida, whence detachments were sent to Mobile, Pensacola and one Company to the Bahamas.

In September 1773 the Regiment embarked for England returning in May 1776 to Quebec and thence in June to Three Rivers and in July to Montreal where it remained until September, when it was quartered at St John's, Verchere and elsewhere, detachments taking part later in fighting around St. John's, Lake Champlain, Ticonderoga, the action at Saratoga and other points in Quebec and New York State, returning to Quebec for the winter of 1780-81. The winter of 1782-83 was spent at St. John's.

During 1784-1785-86 the Regiment was quartered principally at Niagara, which place it left in July 1787 for England by way of Quebec.

The Regiment was not again in Canada until July 1802 when it arrived at Halifax, N. S. where it was stationed until July 1807.

Full lists of members correspondence and returns of the Lodge during this period are to be found in the Grand Lodge Archive, Halifax, for this period.

The Regiment subsequently served in the Peninsula War, at the end of which in 1814 it was again sent to Halifax arriving in August of that year from which point it embarked shortly afterwards for Castine and Hamden in Maine, where it remained until the following June 1815 when it re-embarked for England

After service in Mauritius, England, Ireland, Scotland and India, the Regiment served for a long period in Burmah during which time the Masons of the Regiment at the instance of Colonel George Congreve, C.B., who became its W.M. applied for and obtained a renewal (1854) of their Warrant which had been returned to the Grand Lodge in 1820. The Lodge is still at work in the Regiment and bears the same number 322 on the Registry of Ireland, with the name of "Glittering Star"

The Regiment again visited Canada in 1867 landing at Quebec in July and proceeding at once to Montreal, and later to Kingston. In May the Regiment relieved the 17th Foot at Toronto; in November, 4 Companies were quartered at London, Ontario, rejoining headquarters at Toronto the following May proceeding later, in October, from Quebec to Halifax where they were stationed for a short period before embarking for Jamaica.



Copied from notes of Bro. W. Wonnacott, G.L. Librarian, London.
12/7/25.



Extracts from Minutes etc., of Lodge Concord 223 (Plymouth).

Lodge wrote 9th November 1801 to G. Scribe London, intimating that certain R.A. Masons attached to 322 (I.C.) in the 29th Regiment of Foot "were very desirous of having the H.R.A. established upon their Warrant" and made application to Concord Chapter to that effect. This request was referred to G. Chapter and was favourably entertained and upon receiving assurance that by examination they were found duly qualified "they would be entitled to be registered in our Chapter Books and ho'd R.A. Chapters agreeable to the Rules and Regulations for this sublime Degree, copy of which I enclose for their use".

The G. Scribe E. wrote to Concord Chapter "I am happy to observe and have to applaud the attention & zeal the Brethren of your Lodge have always manifested for the Royal Craft and in particular for your care in the present instance in not bestowing it but in a regular and constitutional manner.



*Extracts from Minutes of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.
2nd March 1933.*

The Most Worshipful The Grand Master informed Grand Lodge that he had received an invitation from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, inviting him to send a Deputation to represent the Grand Lodge of Ireland at the Bi-Centenary of that Grand Lodge, which is to take place in June next.

The Grand Master stated that it was not proposed to send a Deputation but that the following Address should be engrossed and sent to Massachusetts.

We the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Ireland met at our Stated Quarterly Communication at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, on Thursday, March 2nd 1933, desire to extend to Most Worshipful Grand Master Curtis Chipman and the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, our warmest congratulations on the occasion of their celebration of their Two Hundredth Anniversary in the coming month of June.

We join with the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in their proud recalling of the work done by their Brother Most Worshipful Grand Master Henry Price and those associated with him in the St. John's Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1733. In those early days the foundations were well and truly laid and the first builders are now continually justified by the success and expansion of their beneficent work by their successors.

In honouring the name of Most Worshipful Brother Henry Price we do not forget that the Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts have other great predecessors, and we pay our tribute to the memory of Most Worshipful Brother Joseph Warren, the First Grand Master of the Second Constituting forerunner of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts as we now greet it.

We Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Ireland can especially congratulate ourselves that the first two Grand Wardens, Bro. Captain Jeremiah French and Bro. Captain Ponsonby Molesworth appointed by Most Worshipful Joseph Warren, were members of our Lodge No 322, a Lodge which is still in full masonic activity under our Constitution in connect with the 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment (in former times the 29th Foot) and which was actively at labour in Massachusetts at the time of these events. The Members of our Lodge 322 were then able to initiate the happy fraternal feeling between the Brethren of the two Grand Lodges that has continued without interruption ever since.

We transmit to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Massachusetts and his Brethren all our most cordial greetings and we look forward, under the guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe to the co-operation of our two Grand Lodge through the whole length and breadth of our respective Jurisdictions until the end of time.

The Grand Master then proposed with the concurrence of Grand Lodge that the Grand Master of Massachusetts, M. . . W. . . Bro. Curtis Chipman be asked to accept Honorary Membership of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

*The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted
Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Masonic Temple,
Boston Mass.*

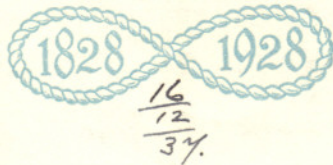
The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts extends to the Grand Lodge of Ireland its thanks for and deep appreciation of the honour done it on the occasion of its Two Hundredth Anniversary by the sending of a cordial and fraternal address of congratulation and by the election of the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts to honorary membership in the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The very beautifully illuminated address will find a permanent place in our archives. The gracious act of honoring our Grand Master finds an echo in all our hearts. It has always been a pleasure to us to remember that the Grand Lodge of Ireland, through Lodge 312, then and now on its roster, had a part in the founding of this Grand Lodge. The present acts of the Grand Lodge of Ireland bind even closer, if such a thing were possible, the ties of fraternal affection between our Grand Lodges which have endured for so long and which we confidently hope will continue in all their strength until Freemasonry shall be no more.



DATE OF WARRANT 23RD JULY, 1784.

JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT, P.M., P.P.G.W.
Secretary.

25, GRANGE ROAD,
DUDLEY



Dear Sir + Brother,

I quite by chance I saw a copy of your Installation
Bouquet + History of the Regiment + was very interested in them. I
may say that the Castle might be the keep of Dudley Castle, so much is
it like unto. It happens that I am on the Executive of the Worcester-
shire Masonic + Library Committee, so that if you have a spare
copy I should be glad to have it, if happily you have two + I might
have one for myself I should be still more grateful. As a Worcester-
shire man I am naturally very proud of my County + its Regiment.
My father was one of the original Volunteers in 1859 + was present
at their last night before they were known as Territorials. During
the War, being over age, I followed his example + was in the 1st Battalion
of the Worcestershire Volunteers, spending three months in 1918 at
Lowestoft, attached to the 2/1st Pembroke Yeomanry under Lt Col
P. D. Butler the celebrated Polo player, so that you can see I am
genuinely interested apart from Freemasonry. I may say that our
Library + Museum we consider as next best to Grand Lodge, + should
you ever be in the neighbourhood, I am sure you would be very
interested. We bought the Shackles Collection for £500, paid for by the
Lodges in the Province, we have an Inigo Jones Set of Ancient Charges
+ many other Jewels, books + Masonic China. My own Lodge is the
oldest in the Province, we have the original Warrant + the copy of the
Sermon preached at the Consecration of the Lodge by its first W.M.

+ an old Installation Card.

Enclose a copy of our Circular; should you at any time find yourself in the neighbourhood on the first Tuesday in the month we should be pleased to welcome you, or any of your Brethren. Our first Minute book is missing, we were erased from G. L. Register in December 1829, but a fortnight later the Lodge was reconstituted by some worthy Brethren & has worked ever since, in the Second Minute book G. L. is recorded as having acknowledged the dues owing during the interregnum & wishing us well in the future. I do hope you will not be bored by my letter, but there is one other question I would like to ask; after "Shelwell", I read a short article by Lt Col Newman Davis, better known to us of the Old Brigade, as "The Dwarf of Blood" of the "Penitentiary War", he stated the "The Duke" was so impressed with it, that in the Waterloo Campaign he sent for the Regiment, which duly arrived at Ostende, but a few days late for Waterloo, is that correct as far as your knowledge goes? How Bro Rev R. R. Verity Prov & Chaplain for Worcestershire tells me he understands that a fuller History of the Lodge is being compiled, if that is so, please advise How Bro Fred Underwood P. A. G. D. C. Masonic Hall, Worcester, our How Librarian or myself when it is completed & the price thereof.

With kind regards & all good wishes for Christmas,

I remain,

Yours sincerely & fraternally

James S. Carlwright.

How Bro M. S. Newman P. M.

I sent this to Plymouth whence it has now been returned.