

King's Beath Holy Royal Arch Chapter, No. 3863.

Moseley Masonic Hall, Alcester Road South, Kings Beath,
Birmingham 14.

704-9005.

Phone: 021-444 3487

90 MILCOTE ROAD
SOUTH HULL
WEST MIDLANDS
B91 1JW

Dear E. Comp. Rex.

I mentioned to you in conversation that the early records of this Chapter are missing, having been stored somewhere for safety at the outbreak of war!

I am now making further attempts to trace them including, as you suggested, the Treasurer's records.

To help me in this I would be glad to have some notes on the history of the Chapter which I will return to you when I have studied them.

Kindest regards

Yours sincerely & gratefully

John (Jordan)

29 NOV 1977

→ These were returned to John Jordan (by hand)
on Wednesday, Nov. 30th 1977



90 Milcote Road
Solihull
West Midlands

10th June 1970

Brandwood P. No. 4649.

Dear W Bro. Rex.

As promised I am enclosing
a copy of the history of the lodge up to
and including the consecration.

Reference is made to various
appendices but these are purely domestic
in nature and appear in the official
history which I keep up to date.

Similarly, all appointments, promotions
etc are only recorded so far as
Provincial Grand ranks are concerned
these are in the official copy and are
not of general interest.

I do not want the papers
returned.

P.T.O

Kunji Heath R.A. Chapter

I was fortunate enough to be in the
Z Chair at the time the Chapter celebrated
its Golden Jubilee. Unfortunately
a complete history was not available as
early minute books had been lost during
the war. They were placed somewhere for
safe keeping but there is no record as to
where that was !!

However, G. Comp. J. B. Durbly delved
into that records he could find and
extracted much useful information.
Thus I am enclosing but must ask you
to return it to me when you have taken
the details you require as it is now
the only copy. There is no hurry so
long as I get it in due course.

I also enclose the card of the
procedure for the jubilee celebration.
Please return this if you so wish.

Yours sincerely & fraternally
John



Personal note relating to
the history of the Lodge.

13th June 1970

In the Birthday Honours
list, Her Majesty the Queen
appointed Mr. S. F. Smith,
Dep. G. S. and a Founder
of the Lodge, as an Officer of
the most excellent Order of the
British Empire for his services
as a member and later as
Chairman of the National
Industrial Safety Committee
of the Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents.

Dear Rex

Thanks for the papers which I now return. I'm afraid they didn't provide the answers to the missing records. I think we have now explored all the possibilities of proving continuity, but without success.

My kindest regards and seasonal greetings for 1978.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and a long, sweeping underline.

The first recorded meeting to consider the formation of a Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Institute Road, Kings Heath, on the 15th May 1919. and was presided over by Ex.Comp. J.H. BOOCOCK. P.G., St. B. P.P.G.J. (War'ks)

15 members of the Kings Heath Lodge No. 3863 attended.

At this meeting it was decided to limit the numbers of Founders to 21, with the proviso that any Brother of Kings Heath Lodge, who should be exalted to another Chapter, would be entitled to become a Founder.

It was decided the Founder's fee should not exceed £5. 5. 0.

Comp. A. WARNER was provisionally appointed Scribe E.

The next recorded meeting of the Founders was held on the 14th January, 1920, when Ex.Comp. E Larkham, P.Z. 587 presided.

18 Brethren were present.

At this meeting, Ex.Comp. E. LARKHAM was unanimously chosen as M.E.Z. Elect. Should the petition be granted and E.Comp. E.E. COLLEY, P.Z. 1060 as "H"
E.Comp. J. LUCKING. P.Z. 1031 as "J"
E.Comp. C.C. PERRY. P.P.G. St. B as I.P.Z.

It was afterwards ascertained that the Lodge Rooms at the Masonic Hall at Kings Heath were vacant on the 11th Wednesday in September, November, January and March.

These dates being decided upon by the M.E.Z. Elect and the other Founders, the petition was completed and signed by the Officers presiding at the next meeting of the Kings Heath Lodge No. 3863, when the resolution was duly passed authorising the formation of the Chapter and despatched to the Provincial Scribe "E" on the 7th February 1920.

The Third meeting of the Founders was held at 25, Bennetts Hill on 12th February 1920 with E.Comp. E. Larkham in the chair.

The Founders fee was confirmed but to include a Founders Jewel.

The following proposals were submitted and carried:-

1. That the subscription be £2. 12. 6.
2. That the Exaltation fee be £5. 5. 0.
3. That the joining and rejoining fee be £2. 12. 6.

Ex.Comps. J.H. BOOCOCK and J. LUCKING and Comp. R.A. COLLEY were requested to draft the Bye-Laws.

Designs for Founders Jewels were considered.

The Fourth meeting of the Founders was held at 25, Bennetts Hill on the 12th May 1920, with Ex.Comp. E. LARKHAM in the Chair.

The arrangements for the Consecration of the Chapter on the 12th June 1920 were considered.

The Founders agreed to present eight Jewels to the Principal Consecrating Officers.

It was decided to invite to the Consecration, the First Principals of the Basefield, Lechnere Hughes, Campbell and Arter Chapters. The Rt. Rev. Canon. C. W. BARNARD, P.G'd Chaplain, Grand Superintendent of Warwickshire,

Ex.Comp. E. A. SMITH. P.S.E.
Ex.Comp. F. G. SWINDON. P.G Sojr.
Ex.Comp. J. S. PRITCHETT.
Ex.Comp. A. CLARKE.

Comp. W. O. PERRY was directed to arrange the Banquet, Menu, Toasts etc. the Banquet not to cost more than 6/- per head.

The suggested Bye-Laws were read and approved, subject to confirmation by the Grand Superintendent.

It was decided to ask the Arter Chapter for the loan of their Officers Collars and Jewels pending the clothing for the Chapter being obtained.

The Warrant of the Kings Heath Royal Arch Chapter No. 3863 is dated May 5th. 1920

The Chapter was consecrated at the Moseley Masonic Hall, Insitute Road Kings Heath on the 12th June 1920.

The ceremony was performed by eight Principal Consecrating Officers, whose names, at this date are, unfortunately, unknown.

The undermentioned Companions were invested as Officers of the Chapter:-

M.E.Z.	Ex.Comp. E. LARKHAM.	P.Z. 587
H.	Ex.Comp. E. E. COLLEY	Z. 1060
J.	Ex.Comp. J. LUCKING.	P.Z. 1031
I.P.Z.	Ex.Comp. C. P. PERRY	P.P.G. St. B.
S.E.	Comp. A. WARNER	
S.N.	Comp. G. W. BRICE	
Treasurer.	Ex.Comp. J. H. BOOCCOCK.	P.G. St. B. P.P.G. J. (Wark's)
Pr. Sojr.	Comp. S. N. PURCHASE	
1st. Asst. Sojr.		
	Comp. R. A. COLLEY	
2nd "	" Comp. T. J. FOSTER.	
β of C.	Ex.Comp. J. H. BOOCCOCK.	P.G. St. B. P.P.G. J. (Wark's)

Asst. D of C.	Comp. W.G. ANDERSON
Almoner	Comp. O.B. JACOBSON
S. Steward	Comp. W.O. PERRY
J. Steward	Comp. C.L. PERRY
Asst. Steward	Comp. R.H. BIRROD
Junitor	Comp. C. TREADWELL

As the Minute Book is missing, it is regretted no further account of the Consecration Ceremony is available.

It is noted that the Chapter Bye-Laws were approved by P. Comp. V.F. PAGE Grand Superintendent on the 16th June 1920 and by the M. Ex. First Grand Principal on the 28th June 1920.

At a meeting of the Founders on the 21st July 1920, it was agreed to engage Comp. N. BOBWOITH as Organist at a fee of £3. 3/- per session. It was also decided that the cost of the dinner for the Convocations should not exceed 5/- per head.

The first regular Convocation of the Chapter was held on Wednesday the 15th September 1920, when four Candidates were exalted.

It is interesting to note that Comp. A.V. TERRY the first recorded Exalte in the membership register, became M.E.S. in September 1930, preceding for some reason unexplained, four Founders, who subsequently attained that office.

On the 16th March 1921, an informal Ladies Evening was held, following the Regular Convocation on the day, the dining fee for Ladies and Visitors being 15/-.

From the records, it appears this arrangement applied until the March Convocation 1940 and was then discontinued for the duration of the War.

On the 3rd May 1940, the first independent Informal Ladies Evening was held, Comp. H.F. AUSTIN being the Secretary.

The first Ladies Evening Secretary was Comp. W.O. PERRY who so acted until 1927, but from then there is no record until 1933.

The undermentioned have since acted as Ladies' Evening Secretary:-

Comp. A.J. GRAY	1933-1937
Comp. H.F. AUSTIN	1938-1947
Comp. W. SILSBY	1948-1958
Comp. N.H. STAMPS	1959-1965
Comp. A.J. ALLEN	1966 to date.

On the 3rd November 1923, the question was raised at an Officers meeting, on behalf of some members of the Chapter and some Brethren of the

Kings Heath Lodge, who wished to join, of changing the day of the Convocation from Wednesday to Friday or Saturday. It was intimated that two Companions had resigned as Wednesday was inconvenient to them.

It was subsequently decided no change be made.

The following is worth noting :-

"On the 29th December 1933, it was reported by the M.E.Z. Ex.Comp. J.A.SLATER that Comp.A. AUSTIN's son was desirous of joining the Chapter and that his Father would propose him and the M.E.Z. would second him. If elected it was decided to exalt the Candidate at the next Convocation. This was done on the 17th January 1934.

The September 1937 Convocation of the Chapter was held at the New Moseley Masonic Hall, Alcester Road South.

The Installation Meeting arranged for the 20th September 1939 was cancelled due to the War. On the permission of Grand Chapter it was held on the 15th November 1939.

At the meeting of Officers held on the 26th September 1947, it was recorded that the Janitor having resigned Comp.H.T.AUSTIN offered to fulfil the duties of the Office pending the election of another Janitor, which offer was gratefully accepted.

Comp.H.T.AUSTIN then proposed that the Janitor's Fee be increased from 10/6 to 15/-, which was agreed.

At the March 1948 Convocation, Ex.Comp.F.H.JOHNSON was elected to the "Z" Chair but passed away in June of that year.

At a Meeting of Past Principals and Officers held on the 29th July 1948, the question was discussed of calling an Emergency Convocation to Ballot for the M.E.Z. for the ensuing year.

This was held on the 11th August 1948 at which Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN, P.Z. was elected to the Chair.

At a meeting held following the Emergency Convocation, Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN submitted his list of Officers for the ensuing year. The three Principals and the Officers were duly installed at the September Convocation.

However, at an Officer's meeting held on the 12th October 1948 a letter was read from Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN, M.E.Z. to the effect that, for health reasons, he was unable to continue in the office.

At an Emergency meeting of Past Principals and Officers held on the 15th November 1948, the Chair was occupied by Ex.Comp.A.B.CLARK, I.P.Z, the question of selecting a successor to Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN as First Principal was dealt with and arrangements as to procedure for the November Convocation.

Ex.Comp.W.C.HENMAN signified his willingness to accept the office of First Principal, if elected, and at the November Convocation he was duly installed by Ex.Comp.A.B.CLARK. I.P.Z.

At a meeting of Past Principals and Officers held on the 8th October 1951 the question of a position being allocated for a Past First Principals' Board was raised, and it was decided to approach the Moseley Masonic Hall Company on the matter. An exchange of correspondence took place respecting the designated position of the Board, and eventually an agreement was reached.

Ex.Comp.N.H.STAMPS, Ladies Evening Secretary at the time, reported a surplus of cash, derived from Ladies Evenings over a period of years, was available, to cover the cost of a board and it was therefore, decided at an Officers meeting held on the 16th October 1968 to proceed with the matter.

Comp.A.J.ALLEN Ladies Evening Secretary, took in hand the provision of a board and to have the Past First Principals names inscribed upon it. The board was placed in No.2 Dining Room at the Masonic Hall on the 1st February 1969.

On the 5th June 1956, as the result of the Donations made to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the Chapter became a Vice-President of that Institution.

At the Regular Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter held on the 8th November 1961, a resolution was passed authorising those Chapters, who so wished, may revise the procedure for Installation Ceremonies, as noted in Appendix "C" and "D" to the report of the Committee of General Purposes dated 4th October 1961. A decision was subsequently made to adopt the procedure noted in Appendix "C" commencing with the September 1962 Installation Convocation.

The M.E.Z. thanked Ex.Comp.W.J.SILBY for the work he did in the amplification of the notes.

The Bye-Laws were revised for the second occasion on the 25th June 1967.

At a meeting of Past Principals and Officers held on the 21st May 1969, Ex.Comp.H.T.AUSTIN proposed a Sub-Committee be formed to arrange a suitable celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the Chapter on the 12th June 1970.

The following were elected:-

Ex.Comp. R.E.WOOLLEY	M.E.Z.
Ex.Comp. J.C.JORDEN	H.
Ex.Comp. F.COOPER	J.
Ex.Comp.H.T.AUSTIN	P.A.G.D.c.
Ex.Comp. N.H.STAMPS.	D.C.
Comp. W. MACK	
Comp. A.J.ALLEN	as Secretary.

Ex.Comp.F.COOPER was installed as Second Principal at the September 1969 Convocation but was, unfortunately unable to proceed in the office for reasons of ill health.

At a meeting of Past Principals held on the 3rd October 1969, it was decided to recommend Ex.Comp.W.MACK "J" as Second Principal and Comp.H.L.GUEST as Third Principal.

The necessary dispensation having been obtained they were duly elected and installed at the November 1969 Convocation.

Attached hereto as an Appendix is some information relating to the membership of the Chapter since its formation.

The following are some exceptional features:-

1. Out of a total of 52 resignations up to date, 32 occurred during the first twenty years as against 7 deceased.
2. Within the first nine years, 3 Founders died, 5 resigned and 3 were excluded.
3. Comp. F.G.STEPHENSON was exalted on the 19.1.1921 and excluded 24.9.1924.
4. Shortest recorded membership:-
Comp.A.C.ROSE was exalted on the 15.3.1937 and resigned before the September Convocation in that year. It is recorded that the Grand Charter Certificate was presented to him, by the M.E.Z. after he left.
5. The undermentioned Compeions had or have 25 years or more membership:-

	<u>Date exalted</u>	<u>Years.</u>
Ex.Comp.S.N.AURCHASE	Founders	34
Ex.Comp.J.E.PEARCE	"	33
Ex.Comp.W.J.PERRY	"	30
Ex.Comp.W.H.TETLEY	"	26
Ex.Comp.A.V.TIRRY	15.9.1920	32
Ex.Comp.E.P.BENNETT	18.1.1922	33
Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN	15.3.1922	30
Ex.Comp.G.SPARRROW	20.1.1926	27
Ex.Comp.B.A.GRAY	17.9.1930	29
Comp.C.A.WILSON	16.3.1932	30
Ex.Comp.H.T.AUSTIN	17.1.1934	36
Ex.Comp.A.B.CLARK	16.11.1938	31
Ex.Comp.D.J.HADLEY	20.11.1940	29
Ex.Comp.J.S.KING	18.3.1942	28
Ex.Comp.F.L.LAYTON	19.1.1944	26
Ex.Comp.W.J.SILSBY	21.3.1945	25

6. Those awarded Honorary Membership for their services to the Chapter are:-

Ex.Comp.F.D.RATCLIFF
 Ex.Comp.E.P.BENNETT
 Ex.Comp.H.L.DEAKIN
 Comp.C.A.WILSON
 Ex.Comp.A.B.CLARK

Comp. C.A.WILSON was Organist through his membership.

7. The undermentioned have been honoured with Grand Chapter Rank:-

Ex.Comp. W.C.HENMAN	P.G.St.B	1946
Ex.Comp. J.STUART KING	P.A.G.D.C.	1958
Ex.Comp. H.T.AUSTIN	"	1968

8. Companions with the longest period in attaining the Chair:-

Ex.Comp. B.A.GRAY	Exalted 17.9.1930	M.E.Z. Sect. 1949
Ex.Comp. H.T.AUSTIN	" 17.1.1934	" " 1950

9. Companions who had the shortest time in attaining the Chair:-

	<u>E.Comp. D. J. HADLEY.</u>	<u>Ex.Comp. J. STUART KING</u>
Exalted	20.11.1940	8.3.1942
S.E.	Sept. 1941	(Sept. 1942
"J"	(" 1942	(" 1943
	(" 1943	" 1944
"H"	" 1944	" 1945
M.E.Z.	" 1945	" 1946

10. The Chapter had only two Charity Stewards between 1932 and 1968 namely:-

Ex.Comp. W.O.PERRY	September 1932 to 13 December 1949
Ex.Comp. D.J.HADLEY	13 December 1949 to 31 August 1968

Ex.Comp. H.T.AUSTIN has been the Chapter representative on the Provincial Library and Museum Committee since September 1956.

Ex.Comp. W.J.SILSBY is the only member who has occupied every office, including that of Janitor for one Convocation.

The oldest Candidate for Exaltation was W.Bro. E.F.SKETT, P.P.G.D. (War's) exalted 15.11.1950 aged 77 years and invested as Principal Sojourner September 1955 aged 82, in which capacity he officiated at the Exaltation of the present M.E.Z. Ex.Comp. J.C.JORDEN on the 16 November 1955.

Comp. Skett was the father-in-law of E.Comp. D.J.HADLEY.

11. Since the Consecration of the Chapter, the meetings of Past Principals and Officers have been held as under:-

From 3.5.1921	At Institute Road Kings Heath.
" 27.8.1937	At Alcester Road South.
" 17.10.1942	At 7, Waterloo Street, by the courtesy of Ex.Comp. A.B.CLARK
" 23.7.1947	At 63 Temple Row, by the courtesy of Ex.Comp. D.J.HADLEY
" 5.10.1959	At Alcester Road South

12. Annual Subscriptions

The records show them to have been:-

From 12.6.1920	£2. 12. 6.
" Sept. 1937	£3. 3. 0.
" " 1946	£3. 13. 6.
" " 1951	£4. 4. 0.
" " 1963	£5. 5. 0.
" " 1967	£6. 6. 0.

To assist the Finances of the Chapter in 1952, a special Contribution of £1. 0. 0. was made by each active member

For the same reason a levy of 3/- was paid by each member taking dinner from November 1957 to September 1962.

13. Candidate for Exaltation

Commencing with the March 1961 Convocation there has been a Candidate available for each Convocation up to the present time the longest continuous period of the Chapter.

14. The present membership of 15 Companions is the highest complement in the history of the Chapter.

SIGNED J.B.DUNKLEY

P.P.P. Gd Sojr.

31st March 1970.

Information relating to Membership of the Kings Heath Chapter No.3863 from its consecration on June 12th 1920 to March 31st 1970.

1. Total number of Members of the Chapter, up to 31st March 1970	-	<u>155</u>
Comprising :-		
Founders		21
Exaltees		118
Joining		<u>16</u>

2. Number of Exaltees and Joining Members during the respective decades.			
	<u>Exaltees</u>	<u>Joining</u>	
To year ending 1920	6	-	
" " " 1930	28	4	
" " " 1940	13	2	
" " " 1950	23	7	
" " " 1960	21	1	
31st March 1970	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u>	
	118	16	= 134

- 3. 17 of the Founders emanated from Kings Heath Lodge No.3863
- 4. The 134 Exaltees and Joining members emanated from:

Province of Worcestershire	95
Province of Warwickshire	24
Other provinces	13
London	<u>2</u>

83 of the 95 Members emanating from Worcestershire were from the following Birmingham Lodges:-

29 from Kings Heath 336	1 Lechmere Volunteers	1374
14 " Kings Norton 4001	1 Masefield	2034
12 " Silver Jubilee 5531	1 Francis Davies	5035
11 " James Watt 5546	1 Lodge of St Oswald	5094
6 " Mystic Quest 3873	1 Brandwood	7679
6 " St Mary's 3879		

- 5. Members deceased, resigned etc.

	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Resigned</u>	<u>Excluded</u>	
To year ending 1930	5	16	3	
" " " 1940	2	16	-	
" " " 1950	7	6	-	
" " " 1960	15	9	-	
" " " 1970	11	1	1	
Date not recorded	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	-	

43	52	4	=	99
	No record of leaving			3
	Present membership			<u>53</u>
				<u>155</u>