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A FEW NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE PROV. GD. LDG OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

FIRST 100 OR SO YEARS OF HISTORY

CONCERNING THE PROV. WOULD NOT COME AMISS THAT A GEN FACT

DOUBLE PRIOR TO

to the year 1752 little is known ~~concerning~~ concerning MASONIC AUTHORITY ~~in~~ in Worcestershire ~~but~~, ^{BUT DURING} that year ^{HOWEVER} under the Gd. Mastership of Lord Carysfort "a deputation ^{PATIENT} was granted to Sir Robert de Cornwall, Bart. as Prov. Gd. Master for the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Salop, Monmouth and Hereford", this king-size area of jurisdiction for ^{AN} ~~one~~ individual (especially when one ^{IS REMINDED} ~~thinks~~ of the hazzards and difficulties of locomotion ^{OF} those days) ^{WOULD} seem to be of no mean ^{ORDER} ~~importance~~, surprise is ^{SOMEWHAT} ~~excited~~ ^{LESSENED} ~~when~~ when it is realised that this authority embraced 3 ¹⁰⁰ Lodges only- one in our own county meeting at 'The Talbot, Stourbridge, ^{AND} warranted Aug. 1733, a 2nd. at 'The Swan Inn, Gloucester warranted Mar. 1738 and a third warranted in Oct. 1742 and meeting at 'The Three Horse-shoes, Leominster.

Subsequently ~~and~~ during the following ¹⁰⁰ years 13 Lodges (as far as one can ascertain) came into being, namely:

- The Ldg. of Hope, No. 241, Stourbridge, in 1768, now ext.
- " Harmonic Ldg. No. 369 now 252, Dudley, 1784,
- St. John's Ldg. No. 397, Bromsgrove, 1786 " "
- The Worcester Lodge, No. 483, now 280 Worcester, 1790
- The Mercy and Truth Ldg. No. 703, Evesham, 1818, now ext.
- " Hope and Charity Ldg. No. 523 now 379 Kidderminster 1824.
- " Royal Standard Ldg. No. 730 now 498, Kidderminster now Dudley. 1844
- " Semper Fidelis Ldg. No. 722 now 529, Worcester, 1846

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The Clive Lodge, No. 819 Bromsgrove, ~~1849~~ (now the Vernon Ldg. No. 560, Stourport)

" Lodge of Stability, No. 824 now 564, Stourbridge, ~~BOTH 1849~~

" " " Perserverance, No. 838 now 573, Dudley, and now Halesowen, 1850.

St. Michael's Ldg, No. 1097, Tenbury, 1866,

The Royds Ldg. of Malvern, No. 1204 Malvern, 1867.

(It may be of interest to know that in addition to the above there were 5 Lodges under the Athol or Ancient Constitution meeting in Worcester, Bewdley, Dudley, Kidderminster and Gloucester.)

The next ^{POINT} ~~reference~~ of interest concerns the appointment of Bro. John Dent as Prov. Gd. Master, this Bro. was a Banker and a M.P. for Lancaster and later for Poole, Dorset, the official manuscript of his appointment is dated 31st. July, 1792 and is still ^{is} believe preserved by ^{LOG.} 1280, he subsequently became Sen. Gd. Warden and latter Gd. Treas., but, ~~unfortunately~~ although the Brethren of Worcestershire were charged "to correspond with him upon all Masonic business" they had little knowledge of him. He resigned the office of Gd. Treas. early in 1826 and died at the close of that year. ^{OWING} ~~Due~~ to the continued absence of this P.G.M. the Brethren of The Worcester Lodge ~~became somewhat~~ disappointed and endeavoured to obtain the appointment of a Dep. Prov. Gd. Master from among their own number and the Minutes of their Lodge gives evidence that on Dec. 27 1820 a letter was sent to the Gd. Sec. asking whether "the appointment of a Prov. Gd. Master is registered in the book of Gd. Ldg. and if so the name of the Bro., but, if not information as to the proper ~~course~~ of procedure, as a result of this letter it was learned that a Bro. Thompson

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had been Dep.Prov.Gd. Master for some 18 years, this worthy Bro.who joined the Worcester Lodge in 1799 and was at once elected to the Chair of that Lodge seems to have been highly esteemed by his Brethren, for, not only did they have his portrait painted in 1801 and presented him with a silver tankard (now in the Prov, Museum) in 1808, but, they elected him to the Chair as W.M. on 12 other occasions. He was appointed Past Dep.Prov.Gd.Mst. in 1822 after which little is known regarding him. His successor was a Bro.Adam Dods, M.D., who in Sept. 1822 caused a letter to be sent to the W.Ms. of the Ldgs. of Worcester, Evesham and Kidderminster stating that he proposed to hold a Prov. Gd.Meeting at the Reindeer Inn, Worcester for the purpose of appointing the Officers for the establishing of a Prov. Gd.Ldg., in consequence of this letter some 12 members of The Worcester Lodge together with 16 members of other Ldgs met and having unanimously intimated their desire that a Prov.Gd.Ldg.for the County of Worcestershire be duly and regularly established, 8 Brethren of the Worcester Ldg.and 4 each from the Kidderminster and Evesham Ldgs.were nominated and appointed Prov.Gd.Officers. From 1827 to 1835 no reference to Prov.Gd.Ldg appears to exist, and it would seem that the Worcester Ldg.became to all extent and purpose ^{THE} Prov.Gd.Ldg. for not only do we find them making arrangements for the purchase of regalia etc.for the Prov. Gd. Officers ^{AND} but of writing to the Gd.Sec. asking whether or not the Ldgs. in the Prov.be allowed the favour of recommending the appointment of a ~~Dep.~~ ^{DEPUTY} Prov. Gd.Master and also ~~a~~ ^A Prov.Gd. Master., in 1835 a letter from the Gd. Sec. regarding

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now in the Prov, Museum

WAS SUCCEEDED

AS A RESULT

EXPRESSED

ONE

AS FAR AS BEING AWARE

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SEC.

Sec. was received dealing with the subject of a Prov.Gd. Master and a Committee of three Brethren was appointed to draw up a statement of facts to be presented to H.R.H.the Duke of Sussex as Gd.Master, on the subject", this statement was read ~~and~~ confirmed and ordered to be signed by the W.M., 3 years later in Aug.1838 the then W.M. was able to inform the Brethren that he had "seen Dr.Cracefix, an officer of the Gd. Ldg.respecting the appointment of a Prov. Gd. Master and a Dep.Prov.Gd.Master, and that ^{THIS BROTHER} ~~Dr.~~ Cracefix offered his best services", the Ldg then resolved "to entrust the W.M. with full powers to settle this matter with Gd. Lodge", unfortunately the promised intervention of this learned Bro.and the efforts of the W.M. appears to have been of little avail.

^{had} ~~But~~ Now it is the turn of the north of the Prov.to take action for we ^{READ} ~~are informed~~ that in April 1843 the W.M. the S.W. and a P.M. of the Dudley Ldg came to Worcester to ascertain the views of the Worcester Ldg. with respect to having a Prov.Gd.Lodge for the Prov.-----and to take what steps were necessary, another 4 years passed and we read that the S.W. and the M.C. of 280 proceeded to Kidderminster "to meet and confer with other Ldgs there assembled, respecting the propriety of applying for a Prov.Gd.Ldg.", ^{IT WAS} the deliberations of this meeting ^{THAT} resulted in a successful outcome and the end of so many years of frustration, for, we find a letter from Bro.Roden P.M., of Royal Standard Ldg. dated 19th.June'47 informing the W.Ms. of the several Ldgs. that the 17th of Aug had been fixed for the opening and holding ^{OF} the "Grand Ldg of the Prov.of Worcs. at the Guildha ^{at} Worcester

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On this date a Craft Ldg was opened by the W.M.of 280 and his Officers after which the Gd.Registar,the Gd. Sec. attended by the Gd.Tyler entered and Prov.Gd. Ldg was opened in due form and the several Officers appointed as follows;-

Dep.Prov.Gd.Master,	The Wor. Bro.W.Roden,	Royal Standard	Ldg.
Prov.Gd.Sen.Warden,	" " "	W.Masefield,	Harmonic
" " Jun. "	" " "	Harvey Ginton,	Worcester
" " Treas.	Bro. F.T.Elgie,	Mayor of Worcester,	and of the Worces
" " Sec.	The Wor Bro.Whitney	Griffiths,	Worcester

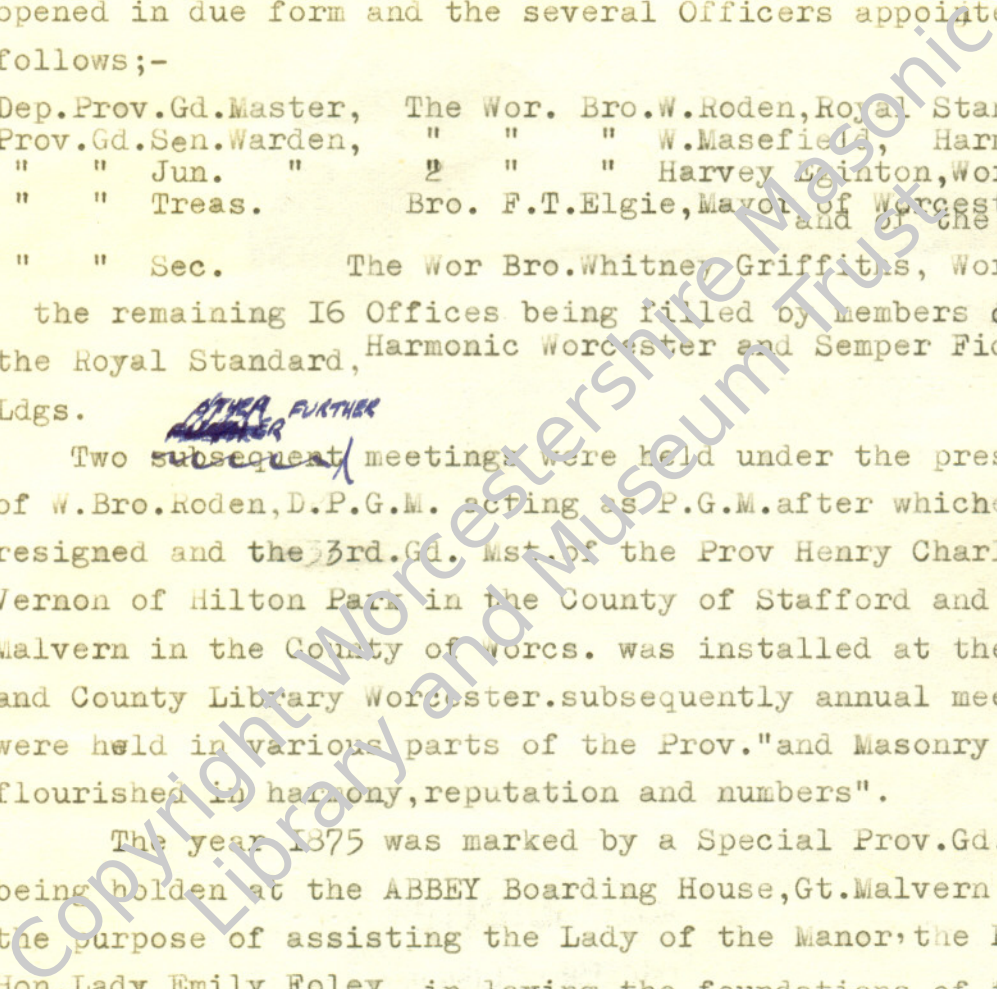
the remaining 16 Offices being filled by members ofom the Royal Standard, Harmonic Worcester and Semper Fidelis Ldgs.

~~subsequent~~ ^{OTHER FURTHER MEETINGS}

Two subsequent meetings were held under the presidency of W.Bro.Roden,D.P.G.M. acting as P.G.M.after which hehe resigned and the 3rd.Gd. Mst.of the Prov Henry Charles Vernon of Hilton Park in the County of Stafford and of Malvern in the County of worcs. was installed at the City and County Library Worcester.subsequently annual meetings were held in various parts of the Prov."and Masonry flourished in harmony, reputation and numbers".

The year 1875 was marked by a Special Prov.Gd.Ldg. being holden at the ABBEY Boarding House,Gt.Malvern for the purpose of assisting the Lady of the Manor,the Right Hon.Lady Emily Foley in laying the foundations of the New Malvern Schools,the Brethren afterwards attending Divine Service at the Priory Church when Bro.the Rev.G. Risk preached the Sermon.

In June 1886R.W.Br.Vernon resigned and surrendered the Gavel to the 4th.Prov,Gd. Mst.Bro.Albert Hudson Royds



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N.M. & SENIORS ONCE AGAIN I THANK YOU FOR AN ENJOYABLE EVENING AND FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN BEING WITH ME

Worcester. R. Wor. Bro. A. H. Royds remained in office until 1878 during which period ^{W.M.} signs of progress in the Prov. are manifest ^{L.C.} by the presentation of the Masonic window in Worcester Cathedral, the consecration of The Ldg. of St. Michael, No. 1097 and by the establishing in Malvern of The Royds Lodge of Malvern, No. 1204 about which the following is recorded ^{PART OF THE} in the minutes of Prov. Gd. Ldg. Monday, Dec. 30th, 1867. --- The Royds Lodge' No. 1204, was this day consecrated in solemn form, at the Winter Promenade, Townshend House, Malvern by the Wor. Bro. John Barber, Dep. Prov. Gd. M. of Worcestershire acting for the R. W. Bro. Albert Hudson Royds, P. G. M. who was prevented from attending by the death of a relative, assisted by the Wardens and Officers of the Prov. Gd. Ldg. and in the presence of Brethren from the different Ldgs. in the Prov., Bro. Albert Brown, P. M. 529, Prov Junior Gd. Warden, was installed Wor. Mst. of the said Ldg, Bro. W. C. Ward-Jackson, P. M., PROV. Senior Gd. Warden of Durham was appointed Sen. Warden and Bro. Edmund Albert Nuttall Royds, P. M., Prov. Sen. Gd. Deacon, Worcs. was appointed Junior Warden. At the close of the business, the Wor. Dep. Prov. Gd. Mst. Prov. Gd. Officers and Brethren walked in procession to attend Divine Service at the Priory Church, and a most eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. Bro. Geo. Fisk LL, D. Vicar, on Brotherly Love; "after which the Brethren reformed in procession and walked to the Belle Vue Hotel, where it is proposed to hold the regular meetings of the Ldgs and partook of a Banquet under the presidency of the Wor. Master of the Royds Lodge." and with the birth of ^{IT IS} our mother Ldg I leave the progress

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 W.M. + BRETHREN
 THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING & FOR YOUR PATIENCE
 SENIOR WARDEN

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THE FIRST OF THE MALVERN LODGES
 OF THE PROV. Gd. Ldg.