

St. James's Lodge,

No. 482.



1842—1942

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FESTIVAL of the CENTENARY

of

St. James's Lodge, No. 487.

at

BLUE GATES HOTEL, SMETHWICK, STAFFS

on

THURSDAY, 22nd MAY, 1947.

1842 — 1942

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Order of Proceedings

All brethren of the Lodge and Visiting Brethren are requested to take their seats in the Lodge by 4.40 p.m.

At 4.45 p.m. precisely the Worshipful Master and his Wardens will take their chairs.

1. The opening ode will be sung.
2. The Lodge will be opened.
3. The Secretary will read the Dispensation.
4. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master of Staffordshire (Rt. Worshipful Bro. The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Dartmouth, Past Grand Warden), the Worshipful Deputy Prov. Grand Master (Worshipful Bro. Col. W. J. Kent, Past Grand Sword Bearer), Grand Lodge Officers and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers will be announced and enter the Lodge in procession.
5. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will take the chair of the Lodge and appoint his Wardens to the Warden's chairs.
6. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will be saluted in ancient form.
7. The Worshipful Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and present Prov. Grand Lodge Officers will be saluted in ancient form.
8. The Secretary will read the Summons convening the Meeting.

9. The Secretary will read the Summons convening the first meeting of the Lodge held at The New Inns, Handsworth, on the 26th April, 1842, and the minutes of that meeting.
10. The Worshipful Master will present a copy of the original Warrant of the Lodge to Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master for his inspection.
11. Worshipful Bro. E. C. Court, P.M. (W.M. of the Lodge in its Centenary year 1941-42) will present the substituted Warrant of the Lodge to Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master for his inspection.
12. The Prov. Grand Secretary (Wor. Bro. H. E. Mitchell, P.A.G.D.C.), will retire from the Lodge.
13. A procession of Past Masters of the Lodge will be formed and will retire from the Lodge.
14. The Past Masters headed by the Sen. Past Master present will escort into the Lodge the Prov. Grand Secretary bearing the Centenary Warrant and as these Brethren perambulate the Lodge the following Ode will be sung, viz. :

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 mother's arms,
 Hath blessed 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 perplexed
 And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
 The father now be given,
 The Son, and Him who reigns
 With them in highest heaven,
 The One eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore ;
 For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be ever more.
 So Mote it Be.

15. Worshipful Bro. R. M. Douglas, P.M., will present the Centenary Warrant of the Lodge to Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master for his inspection.
16. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will direct the Prov. Grand Secretary to read the Centenary Warrant.
17. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will invite the Senior Past Master of the Lodge (Worshipful Bro. H. E. Rose, P.P.G.W.) to give a short history of the Lodge.
18. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will hand the copy of the original Warrant, the substituted Warrant and the Centenary Warrant to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and direct that the proceedings be recorded in the Minutes of the Lodge.
19. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will congratulate the Lodge on its Centenary.
20. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will invest the Worshipful Master, Wardens and brethren of the Lodge with Centenary Jewels.
21. The Prov. Grand Chaplain (Ver. Wor. Bro. Rev. Preb. A. T. S. Talbot, P.A.G., Chap.) will offer up prayer.
22. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master will call upon the Worshipful Master and Wardens to resume their chairs.
23. The Worshipful Master will thank Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, the Worshipful Deputy Prov. Grand Master and the Visitors.
24. The Prov. Grand Chaplain will give the Patriarchial Benediction.
25. The Rt. Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, the Wor. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Officers and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers will retire in procession.
26. The Lodge will be closed.
27. The hymn, "O God our help in ages past," will be sung by all the brethren, during which alms will be taken :—

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.

Time like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

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.

28. The brethren will sing the first verse of the National Anthem.

The Family Tree.



St. Peter's Lodge, No. 607 Wolverhampton (now 419)
(Mother Lodge)

ST. JAMES'S LODGE, No. 707 (now 482)

Founders from - Lodge of Light, No. 689
Athol Lodge, No. 88
Salopian Lodge, No. 186

Tudor Lodge, No. 1792

Bridge Trust Lodge, No. 2878

Old Eversley Lodge,
No. 5259

Lodge of Construction, No. 5350

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Lists of Officers

	1842.	1942.	1947.
W.M.	William Lloyd	E. C. Court	J. A. Whittall
I.P.M.		F. W. W. Oakley	K. Huxley
S.W.	William Buckle	W. A. Court	E. C. Beavan
J.W.	Thos. B. Brown	R. M. Douglas	F. S. Mayers
Chap.		C. S. Wildblood	W. F. Horden
Treas.		F. Cripwell	F. Cripwell
Secretary		H. R. Wright	H. W. M. Harrison
D.C.		W. G. Leaney	F. W. W. Oakley
S.D.		A. M. Alexander	W. L. McKay
J.D.		K. Huxley	W. Crook
A.D.C.		W. F. Horden	R. M. Douglas
Almoner		J. A. Whittall	H. R. Wright
Organist		H. E. Wasser	H. E. Wasser
I.G.		E. C. Beavan	V. G. Startin-Field
Stewards		F. C. Pickering	F. C. Pickering
		H. W. Oakley	H. W. Oakley
		F. S. Mayers	G. Jefferson
		W. L. McKay	E. J. Kedwards
			L. A. Brown
Tyler		D. Hill	H. A. Crockford

ROLL OF PAST MASTERS.

- 1842-3—W. Lloyd, P.P.G.Tr'r.
 1843-4—W. Lloyd, P.P.G.Tr'r.
 1844-5—W. Broomhead.
 1845-6—F. Dee, P.P.G.Sec.
 1846-7—F. Dee, P.P.G.Sec.
 1847-8—W. Buckle.
 1848-9—F. Dee, P.P.G.Sec.
 1849-50—F. Dee, P.P.G.Sec.
 1850-1—W. Banks, P.P.A.G.D.C.
 1851-2—E. Yates, J.P., P.P.G.W.
 1852-3—T. C. Roden.
 1853-4—T. C. Roden.
 1854-5—T. J. Goode, P.P.G.D.
 1855-6—J. T. Goode, P.P.G.D.
 1856-7—S. J. Smith, P.P.G.O.
 1857-8—E. Yates, J.P., P.P.G.W.
 1858-9—Major J. W. McKnight,
 P.P.G.S. of W.
 1859-60—S. Pendleton.
 1860-1—W. Hopkins, P.P.G.W.
 1861-2—E. L. Bullock, P.P.G.W.
 1862-3—C. Yarwood, P.P.G.D.
 1863-4—W. E. Simmons.
 1864-5—E. Hooper, P.P.G.W.
 1865-6—G. C. Richards, P.P.G.D.
 1866-7—M. H. Simpson, Jun.
 1867-8—E. A. Schluth, P.P.G.Sw.B.
 1868-9—J. J. Turner,
 P.P.G.W. (War.)
 1869-70—W. J. Whittall, P.P.G.W.
 1870-1—J. Jacobs, J.P., P.P.G.R.
 1871-2—F. Derry, P.P.G.W.
 1872-3—J. Waterson, P.P.G.D.
 1873-4—J. Brown.
 1874-5—W. R. Betteloy, P.P.C.P.
 1875-6—J. Rowlands, J.P., P.P.G.W.
 1876-7—W. H. Ward, P.P.G.St.B.
 1877-8—W. E. Parkes, M.D., J.P.,
 P.P.C.D.
 1878-9—J. H. Parkes, P.P.G. W.
 1879-80—F. J. Pepper, P.P.C.V.,
 P.D., D.C. (Eng.)
 1880-1—J. Dealey, P.P.A.G.D.C.
 1881-2—Capt. E. R. Kimpton, V.D.,
 P.P.C.R. (staff),
 P.P.C.A.P. (War.)
 1882-3—W. Wykes.
 1883-4—E. V. Bradley, P.P.G.O.
 (War.)
 1884-5—W. F. Brown, P.P.G.D.
 (Glos.)
 1885-6—W. Randall, D.D.,
 P.P.G.W., P.G.Ch. (Eng.)
 1886-7—J. Warrilow, P.P.G.W.
 1887-8—H. Payton, J.P., P.P.G.W.,
 P.G.D. (Eng.)
 1888-9—A. F. Warrilow.
 1889-90—S. Jenkins, P.P.G.S. of W.
 1890-1—W. B. Stocker, P.P.G.D.
 (Glos.)
 1891-2—G. Shread, P.P.G.D.
 (Staff.), P.P.G.W. (War.)
 1892-3—W. Lister, P.P.G.R.
 1893-4—Major A. E. Hart, V.D., P.P.G.D.
 1894-5—A. T. Holdsworth, M.D., P.P.G.D.
 1895-6—H. Loveridge, P.P.G. Tr'r.
 1896-7—F. Skevington.
 1897-8—F. Hughes, P.P.G.W.
 1898-9—W. Allman, P.P.G.D.C.
 1899-0—P. H. Whitehead, P.P.G. St'd B.
 1900-1—E. Booth, P.P.G.W. (Staff.),
 P.P.G.W. (War.)
 1901-2—L. C. Lamsdale, P.P.G.D.C.
 1902-3—J. F. Pepper, P.P.G.W.,
 P.D.G.D.C. (Eng.)
 1903-4—W. J. Durose, P.P.G.P.
 1904-5—H. E. Rose, D.M.D., P.P.G.W.
 1905-6—F. G. Whittall, P.P.G.W. (Staff.)
 P.P.G.W. (War.), P.A.G.D.C. (Eng.)
 1906-7—W. H. Coley, J.P.
 1907-8—W. E. Oakley, P.P.G.D.
 1908-9—Sir F. H. Pepper, J.P., P.P.G.W.,
 P.A.G.D.C. (Eng.)
 1909-10—E. H. Parry, P.P.G.D.
 1910-11—E. H. Parry, P.P.G.D.
 1911-12—H. A. Pepper, P.P.G.R.
 1912-13—M. G. Morgan, P.P.G.D.
 1913-14—J. B. Wirtchouse, P.P.G.D.
 1914-15—B. Nock, P.P.G.O.
 1915-16—F. H. Thompson, P.P.G. Tr'r.
 1916-17—W. Thompson.
 1917-18—G. Coley, P.P.G.D.
 1918-19—G. Elvins, P.P.G.D.
 1919-20—E. Cripwell, P.P.A.D.C. (War.)
 1920-21—F. Newman, P.P.G.W.
 1921-22—J. Robson, P.P.G., Sw. B.
 1922-23—A. Franklin.
 1923-24—W. A. Gething, P.P.G.D.
 1924-25—F. F. Gething.
 1925-26—F. B. Whittall, P.P.G.D.
 1926-27—W. E. Fenton.
 1927-28—A. N. Floyd, P.P.G. Sw. B.
 1928-29—W. Hodge, P.P.G.D.
 1929-30—F. Cripwell, P.P.D.G.D.C.
 1930-31—W. F. Horden, P.P.G.O.
 1931-32—C. S. Wildblood, P.P.A.G.D.C.
 1932-33—F. G. Whittall, P.P.G.W. (Staff.)
 P.P.G.W. (War.), P.A.G.D.C. (Eng.)
 1933-34—H. R. Wright, P.P.G.D.
 1934-35—E. J. Curry, P.P.G.D.
 1935-36—H. E. Wasser, P.P.A.G.D.C.
 1936-37—W. G. Leaney, Prov. G.P.
 1937-38—H. K. Priestley.
 1938-39—J. A. Whittall.
 1939-40—T. C. Pepper.
 1940-41—F. W. W. Oakley.
 1941-42—E. C. Court.
 1942-43—W. A. Court.
 1943-44—R. M. Douglas.
 1944-45—A. M. Alexander.
 1945-46—K. Huxley.

Names in italics are present members.

ST. JAMES'S LODGE, No. 482,
1842—1942.

"11th May 1942." The long but enthralling labour of conning every word of the Minutes written during our first century is finished. The heavy book is laid aside leaving the immediate impression that, after all the years, the Lodge was meeting again at its birthplace but, overshadowed by the greatest war of all time, no mention was made that since the last meeting on 30th March, we had passed our hundredth birthday.

The reader muses on these books which have been tended by Secretaries meticulous, just ordinary or careless and which breathe the abiding imprint of powerful personalities who have loved and served our Lodge down the years. He is impressed that no Lodge is better qualified to describe itself as a family Lodge—so frequently have fathers, brothers and even a son, secured the election of their sons, brothers and father to the fraternity of our membership. He has read of great occasions and of meetings of real sorrow overshadowed by the loss of a dear old friend and brother, and of occasions faring, but always he feels the underlying strength once the Lodge was firmly established.

Bro. Lloyd
First W.M.

And that firm foundation is due to one man—William Lloyd.

William Lloyd was truly the founder and father of the Lodge. He was an accountant of Soho Hill and one of the most prominent brethren of his time in both the Provinces of Staffordshire and Warwickshire. Master of the Lodge of Light, then numbered 639, he headed the petition to G.L., dated 3rd Dec., 1841, which secured the recommendation of the officers of our Mother Lodge, St. Peter's, then numbered 607 and meeting at the Star and Cancer, Wolverhampton, on 6th Dec., 1841, and on receipt of the warrant, dated 5th March, 1842, he sent out the summons in rhyme to the first meeting on Monday, the 26th April, 1842, at "Crocketts Inn," Handsworth (now "The Newsnns.") At this meeting, which had no sort of consecration, he was supported when he took the chair as first W.M. by his co-petitioners:—William Buckle as S.W., Thomas Bellisson Brown as J.W., and Alfred Allen, all of the Lodge of Light; Robert Richardson and John Scott of the Athol Lodge then numbered 88; and Samuel Johnson of the Salopian Lodge, No. 328. The other petitioner, George Downing, was not present but was elected an honorary member in 1844.

First
Wardens.

William Buckle was a skilled engineer employed by Boulton & Watt at Soho, and an early member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Thomas Bellisson Brown was a manufacturing chemist living in Handsworth village and later a commercial traveller. Of the others, little is known.

First
Visitor.

The first meeting was graced by the presence of Bro. Cotton of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 51, our first visitor, who honoured us by his presence at each of our next ten meetings.

Bro. Lloyd
again.

Bro. Lloyd only missed two meetings (even though the Lodge was not opened) up to Oct., 1853. He was W. M. for the first two years, Treasurer until 1856 and again in 1858, wrote all the minutes until July, 1847, and obviously edited them for years after, was our first Prov. G. L. Officer when elected Prov. G. Treas. of Staffs. in 1843, and recorded a fulsome report of the proceedings in the minutes. He proposed and seconded innumerable candidates to our Lodge and regularly occupied any office in the absence of the appointed holder. On 1st Dec., 1856, the P.G.M. (Wor. Bro. Col. Vernon) attended to present a portrait of Bro. Lloyd to the Lodge and paid high tribute to him, while on 23rd Nov., 1859, a Testimonial amounting to £111 13s. 6d., which had been subscribed by the Prov. G.M.'s of Staffordshire and Warwickshire and numerous Lodges and brethren in Midland provinces, was handed to him in our Lodge. With it was an address which set forth that he was then aged 65 years and had been a Mason for 30 of them, having been initiated in the Salopian Lodge in 1821, a member of the Athol Lodge, P.M. of the St. Paul's Lodge founder and P.M. of the Lodge of Light, Prov. Deacon of Warwickshire 1824, Warden of that province, 1832-7, and was then and had been for the past 16 years Prov. G. Treas. of Staffordshire, and for the past 13 years Prov. G. Treas. of Warwickshire. It also recalled that he had installed masters in no less than nine different Lodges. Truly a Mason well qualified to lay the foundation on which our superstructure has been raised!

Early
difficulties.

And he had difficulties to overcome with his brethren. During the first year an initiation was postponed as "in consequence of the disturbed state of the neighbourhood (the candidate) had that day been sworn in as a special constable," while on more than one occasion insufficient brethren attended to allow the Lodge to be opened—Bro. Lloyd once waiting in solitary loneliness, a fact which he duly recorded. On 13th

April, 1846, the S.W., failing to answer an especial summons to be in his place and explain himself, was superceded, and after nine years the magnet of Birmingham was pulling so hard that a proposition to move the Lodge to the Royal Hotel there was carried in spite of his strenuous opposition. But, having presented a memorial meantime, he succeeded in persuading the Lodge to reverse its decision at the next meeting. A similar resolution carried by 5 votes to 4 in 1853, he defeated by pointing out that the majority was insufficient under the Book of Constitutions. After that we have remained firmly a Staffordshire Lodge.

Other difficulties arose and the Lodge passed a resolution (seconded of course by Bro. Lloyd) "That the members do not feel satisfied with the manner in which the W.M. has performed the duties of his office" in an early year. A stickler was Bro. Lloyd!

That was his last proposition. His final attendance was in July, 1860. He tendered his resignation in August, 1862, but was elected an Honorary Member and died in Feb., 1868. A great man.

Date of Meetings.

The warrant authorised a meeting every Monday nearest full moon but that soon proved inconvenient and the Bye-Laws were altered at a Special Meeting in 1849 to fix our meetings on the first Monday in the month at which (but not in every month) we have remained ever since (disregarding temporary alteration occasioned by the last war).

On Early Banquets.

During those early years, the matter of creature comforts was frequently raised in Lodge. Indeed, to judge by the state of some of the minutes, they were written up after the refreshment and in 1839 the brethren included a Bye-Law that the W.M. should call for the bills not later than 11 o'clock. While the Lodge met at Crocketts the landlord of the hostelry was invariably a member and some of them received severe complaints in Lodge on the quality of the victuals, service or table ware. It is fair to assume that a very considerable altercation between the W.M. and the landlord in 1868 led to the passing of a resolution in 1871, that it was desirable to move the Lodge—a resolution which the same landlord met with surprise but which did in fact lead to the Lodge removal in 1879, of which more anon.

Scanning those minutes, among items and omissions that have appealed to this historian (though perhaps not to the reader) are :—

7th April, 1843.—Lodge room engaged by Sunday School children, so Lodge held at Bro. Brown's house.

15th Dec., 1845.—First record of a gift to charity. (The Lodge has played its part since though propositions did not always succeed without pruning).

1st Sept., 1851.—Visit of Bro. Inigo Jones.

3rd Jan., 1853.—Three members resigned (in consequence of wholesale collection of arrears by the Tyler, on a commission basis).

1st Aug., 1853.—Proposals by Bro. Lloyd of eight candidates as joining members met with disapproval by a brother who pointed to small attendance. Sharply rebuked by the W.M., the brother declined to vote "and left the Lodge"—presumably recalling the badge that he was wearing. Then peace seemed to reign.

1st May, 1854.—The Lodge voted £3 3s. 0d. to "Soldiers' wives and children engaged in the present war," but a festival proposed in aid of the same object for August was postponed on account of total lack of support from other Lodges and resulted in a net loss.

7th July, 1856.—The only P.M. present at installation was a visitor—Bro. Bassett Smith who took the chair, signed the minutes and without any Bd. of Installed Masters proceeded to instal Bro S. I. Smith as W.M.

6th Oct., 1856.—Bro. Finch elected a joining member and at once invested as I.G.—quick promotion.

Years 1857-8-9.—W.M.'s frequently absent while officers usually served for one year and then retired.

7th May, 1860.—Resolution of dissatisfaction with W.M. (who never again attended !)

4th Nov., 1861.—First record of presentation of G.L. Certificate in open Lodge.

Calendar year 1863.—A year of tremendous activity—15 initiations but no remark on 21st birthday.

5th Sept., 1864.—W.M. reminded brethren that coloured clothes are not masonic (how like to-day).

1st July, 1867.—First record of " greetings " from a visitor.

Year 1867.—No reference to 25th birthday.

6th July, 1868.— First P.M.'s jewel presented to Wor. Bro. Schuth. (This was not followed again until years after).

6th Feb., 1871.—£100 voted from Benevolent Fund to the widow of a brother—surely a goodly sum by the standards of those days—while Lodge working funds amounted to a balance of 19s. 4d.

4th May, 1874.—Five black balls recorded against the first of two candidates proposed by W.M. He ordered a fresh ballot with the same result and promptly withdrew the second candidate. (This is the only record of a candidate being " black balled," although all candidates have not proved universally satisfactory).

6th Jan., 1879.—Discovery by the vigilant Secretary that, from formation, the Lodge had been working Third Degree with a lantern declared illegal by G.L. in 1816.

3rd June, 1882.—Wor. Bro. W. F. Warrilow resigned from Lodge during his year as W.M. on account of ill-health.

May, 1891.—Wor. Bro. Stoker married during his reign as W.M.

Years 1886-94.—Few candidates forthcoming and at many meetings no ceremony took place or a rehearsal only, usually in First Degree but the year 1895-6 showed a phenomenal awakening when nine gentlemen were initiated and 39 degree ceremonies worked. Among them were the initiation, passing and raising of our Senior P.M. and friend of all of us—Wor. Bro. H. E. Rose.

1st Oct., 1900.—The W.M., W. Bro. E. Booth, Jun., initiated his father, Bro. E. Booth, Sen., and subsequently passed and raised him. Unfortunately Bro. Booth, Sen., only lived to 29th May, 1901.

25th June, 1903.—Festival at Patshull Park, by kind permission of Rt. Wor. P.G.M., to strengthen the Province "B" Fund when the Lodge, through its Charity Steward Wor. Bro. J. F. Pepper, headed the list with £387 14s. 6d.

11th Sept., 1911.—Bro. H. A. Pepper installed by his brother Wor. Bro. F. H. Pepper.

5th Oct., 1914.—First meeting after commencement of Great War when £5 5s. 0d. voted immediately to Prince of Wales Relief Fund.

4th Jan., 1915.—Private F. B. Whittall initiated by his father Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall—the first of the third generation. At the same meeting the Lodge resolved that the subscriptions of brethren in H.M. Forces or directly serving the Crown should be placed to their credit. Seven brethren were at once affected. Thus early was the Lodge "doing its bit."

Years 1917-18.—A note of sadness is reflected from the minutes when at a meeting after meeting the Lodge offered condolence to brethren in the loss of near relatives killed in action until at the December, 1918 meeting a special prayer of thanksgiving was offered and the brethren sang the Doxology and National Anthem in open Lodge. In October, 1919, a tablet was unveiled to the memory of Bro. Capt. Lister killed in action.

5th March, 1928.—The Lodge qualified as a "Hall Stone" Lodge.

1st May, 1939.—The first "Family Night" when the rulers of our mother, daughter and grand-daughter Lodges were invited to our Meeting.

6th Jan., 1941.—In consequence of the requisitioning of the Masonic Hall, Wretham Road, the Lodge met again at its birth-place—Crocketts Inn (the "New Inns"), Handsworth.

Ladies' Night.

A dozen years or so after our foundation, the brethren looked to the entertainment of the ladies. This first took the form of an "Invitation Ball" in the Lodge Room—well advertised in the press, and was succeeded in 1888 by the modern Ladies' Night restricted to guests of the brethren. To the latter was later added the "Christmas Party," intended more especially for the immediate families of the brethren.

Lodge of Instruction.

As long ago as 1864 the Lodge appointed a Committee to consider a Lodge of Instruction but nothing was done until, during a series of visits from the P.G.M., Rt. Wor. Bro. Foster Gough, his urgings resulted in a resolution on 1st Dec. 1890, to sanction the working of our present Lodge of Instruction. Under the original guidance of Wor. Bro. J. F. Pepper, Wor. Bro. W. J. Whittall and others, it has since prospered and given much benefit to the Lodge and the brethren of other Lodges. It is a great source of pride to us that our Lodge of Instruction was the first outside London to be recognised by the Board of Emulation as qualified to receive its sanction, to instruct in strict Emulation working. As is well known this is adhered to rigidly and has frequently earned the applause of eminent brethren of the Board. At a "Provincial Preceptors meeting" of that body in 1917, Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall gave a demonstration of the Installation Ceremony and only very narrowly missed "the matchbox."

Craft Lectures.

Even before the formation of the Lodge of Instruction, our brethren had given enthusiastic support to the Lectures. In the earliest days when no other labour was called for, Bro. Lloyd and other P.M.'s gave lectures of Masonic interest. The highest point undoubtedly was reached on 4th Nov., 1878, when the whole 15 sections of the Three Craft Lectures were worked at one meeting by the W.M., I.P.M., S.W., J.W., and Secretary variously.

Meeting Places.

It has been recorded that the Lodge was established at Crocketts where we remained until 1st Dec., 1879. On that day we met for the first time in what was described in a resolution of 6th May, 1877, as "rooms about to be erected at Wretham Road, Handsworth." Notification had meanwhile been received in 1863 that our number had been changed by G.L. from 707 to 482. At these Wretham Road rooms we remained (despite a disastrous fire on 7th May, 1903, which destroyed much of the Lodge property but not, fortunately,

the minute books which had been deposited prudently in a bank) until 1925. On the 25th Feb. of that year, a joint meeting was held with all other Masonic bodies associated with the Mother Lodge to open the new Masonic Hall, also in Wretham Road, which remains, despite requisitioning, our spiritual home.

The
Summons.

The summons was first interleaved in the Minute Books in 1887 but has not been inserted continuously. Various designs appear but when interleaving became permanent in 1901 that document was substantially in its present form and has so remained.

Daughter
Lodges.

Our daughter Lodges are the Bridge Trust Lodge, No. 2878, a petition for the Warrant of which was signed in open Lodge in 1901 and the Old Eversley Lodge, No. 5259 (5th Jan., 1931) but although the Tudor Lodge, No. 1772, acknowledges St. James's Lodge as its sponsor, there is no record in our minutes other than a resolution to grant the use of all Lodge furnishings to that Lodge in March, 1879, and a letter in Jan., 1880, from our brethren of the Tudor Lodge, giving thanks for help in the forming of that Lodge. On 6th Dec., 1864, a proposal is recorded to obtain a warrant for St. James's R.A. Chapter and on 7th May, 1883, the Lodge resolved to let its furnishings to the proposed St. James's Mark Lodge.

Bye-Monthly
Meetings.

Our Lodge is at least unusual if not unique in the matter of the officers (or Bye-Monthly) meetings. These have always been the happiest occasions when the business is followed by refreshment at the invitation of one of the brethren. In former days it was obligatory that the meeting should be held at the home of brother host and strict rules were observed to guard against undue liberality to the detriment of one less favourably situated than another. Even before the war, changes in living had rendered it increasingly difficult to carry out the ideal, dear to the hearts of our fathers, of entertaining one's brethren in the bosom of the family, but, apart from war emergency, the custom of a brother host has, and be it hoped always will be, observed. It cannot be estimated how much this truly Masonic custom has contributed to the perfect harmony and well-being of our Lodge.

Visits of
P.G.M. and
D.P.G.M.

After the first visit of the then D.P.G.M., Wor. Bro. Col. Vernon, to our Lodge on 31st May, 1847, when he conducted a searching examination into the affairs of the Lodge in every

aspect, and expressed himself as well satisfied, we have been honoured regularly and graced by the presence of succeeding D.P.G.M.'s and of the Prov. G.M. for the time being himself. Perhaps the most regular was Wor. Bro. Foster Gough who was with us four times during a year as early as 1866, at one of which visits he gave it as his opinion that our Lodge "was second to none in the Province." Honesty forces the admission, however, that he was not so pleased with us at his visits in 1888 and 1890, when he did not hesitate to remark on the unpunctuality of brethren and the quality of the work merited his advice to establish a Lodge of Instruction.

A signal occasion was the 4th Dec., 1922, when Wor. Bro. C. G. Kent, D.P.G.M., attended at the express command of P.G.M., who regretted his personal absence, to invest Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall as P.P.G.W. This was the only Past Wardenship allotted to Staffordshire by M.W.G.M. to mark the investiture of H.R.H. Prince of Wales as G.S.W., and Wor. Bro. Kent told us that the honour was long overdue to Wor. Bro. Whittall. Wor. Bro. Whittall was then already P.P.G.V. of Warwickshire and it is the only occasion at which a provincial honour has been conferred in our own open Lodge and not at a meeting of Prov. G. L., and must be very rare. Wor. Bro. Whittall's portrait and Masonic achievements were subsequently published in the Provincial Calendar.

And now, before coming to family history and to some of the famous brethren who have made our Lodge what it is, here are some of the Red Letter days in our history :—

Red Letter Days.

1st Dec., 1856.—When Wor. Bro. Vernon, P.G.M., attended to present portrait of Bro. Lloyd to the Lodge, and paid high tribute to our brother.

23rd Nov., 1859.—The Subscription to Bro. Lloyd already mentioned.

9th Aug., 1876.—Lodge opened in temporary iron church at Handsworth followed by opening of Prov. G. L., after which the P.G.M., Rt. Wor. Bro. the Earl of Shrewsbury, laid the foundation stone of Handsworth Parish Church. The minutes record that the brethren of P.G. Lodge and St. James's Lodge returned to the "Lodge Room" (? New Inns), where the P.G.M. closed Prov.G.L. The final entry on the minutes is that the W.M.

"by power invested in him closed the Lodge." The historian suspects that the astute Secretary realised that the Lodge had not been closed formally and resolved his difficulty in completing his minutes very neatly. At the subsequent banquet the toast of the W.M. was not given which caused much heart-burning, and at the next meeting the Rector (Bro. Dr. Randall, subsequently W.M. and Grand Chap.) poured oil on a sea of indignation by explaining that it was his wish that such a toast be included and that he was at a loss to understand the omission.

4th Nov., 1878.—Whole of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Lectures worked at one meeting.

2nd May, 1892.—Jubilee celebrated after some discussion as to propriety in view of the recent death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Foster Gough, P.G.M. There was no especial Masonic ceremony and the celebration took the form of a banquet.

9th May, 1899.—Prov. G.L. held in our Lodge Rooms when all 33 Lodges then in the Province were represented.

5th May, 1902.—Diamond Jubilee of the Lodge which reduced the funds from £135 to £11.

6th May, 1918.—Presentation of a jewel to Wor. Bro. J. Rowlands to mark 50th anniversary of his initiation in the Lodge, though not of continuous membership, and

3rd May, 1924.—Presentation of a similar commemorative jewel to Wor. Bro. E. J. Kimpton who throughout had been a stalwart of the Lodge. This ceremony was attended by Wor. Bro. Dr. Parkes who had been S.D. at the initiation and who had been congratulated himself in open Lodge on his 50th anniversary, although not then a member. Bro. F. Madeley Mole, a fellow initiate of Wor. Bro. Kimpton, was also present.

28th Feb., 1925.—Ceremony, already noted, to open the new Masonic Hall.

5th Oct., 1925.—Our first installation in the new home. Wor. Bro. F. B. Whittall was installed by his father, Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall, in the presence of no less than 14 Grand Officers—the most brilliant assembly ever recorded in our annals.

7th Feb., 1930.—Dinner given to Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall by all Masonic bodies associated with our Lodge.

Our
Brethren.

And finally, to our brethren.

The Grand Old Men who have lived to see the 50th Anniversary of their initiation into St. James's Lodge, include :—

Wor. Bro. J. Rowlands, Wor. Bro. E. R. Kimpton (who was not present when the Jubilee of his installation was recorded in Oct., 1931), Bro. F. Madeley Mole, Wor. Bro. W. E. Simmons, Wor. Bro. E. W. Bradley and our well-beloved Senior Past Master to-day, Wor. Bro. H. E. Rose. Only Bros. Kimpton and Rose remained members from the day of their initiation.

Our first Grand Officer was Wor. Bro. Dr. Wm. Randall, appointed Grand Chap. in April, 1890, followed by the first initiate to attain Grand Rank, Wor. Bro. J. F. Pepper, who received P.D.G.D.C. on 4th June, 1902; Wor. Bro. H. Payton, Gd. S. D. in April, 1906; Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall, P.A.G.D.C., 1927, and Wor. Bro. F. H. Pepper, a like office on 7th June, 1933.

The family tradition of our Lodge had been supported in the early days by three blood brothers Bullock and the son of one of them, and four members of the Payton family. Later, Wor. Bro. J. F. Pepper (Master in 1879 and again in 1902), was followed by three sons (two of them Masters) to be succeeded by a grandson (also Master), and Bro. Soutter and three sons were all members. Fraternal regard is shown by the rapid joining or invitation of six close neighbours in Hamstead Road, Handsworth (Bros. Walton, Stocker, Lister, Holdsworth, Soutter and Fulford-Brown). Wor. Bro. E. Booth, Jun., as mentioned, initiated his father while his uncle was also a member. Our Lodge has been fortified by the three blood brothers Newman and the like of the Elvins family, Wor. Bro. E. R. Kimpton and his son, Wor. Bro. Fulford-Brown and his son, the Durose father and son, similarly the Coleys, Shreads, and Thomasons, Wor. Bro. E. Cripwell and Wor. Bro. F. Cripwell, the brothers Gething and many others.

But, as outstanding, must be acknowledged the connection with our Lodge of the Whittall family. Wor. Bro. W. J. Whittall, a member of the Lodge from which most of our

founders came, the Lodge of Light, first joined St. James's Lodge in 1854. He resigned for a time but rejoined in 1864, was Master in 1869, and rendered noble service until his death. He was followed by his son, Wor. Bro. F. G. Whittall (Master in 1905 and by special invitation of the brethren again in 1932), one of the most eminent and best beloved Masons of his generation whose work for the Lodge shines in our memory, and two sons-in-law, Wor. Bro. W. E. Oakley (Master, 1907) and Bro. W. H. Court. Of Wor. Bro. W. J. Whittall's grand children, seven grandsons and the husbands of two grand-daughters have been initiated in St. James's Lodge, and all except Wor. Bro. F. B. Whittall, who has passed on, are members to-day, including our W.M., Wor. Bro. J. A. Whittall (who reigns over us again for the second time).

From these grand family connections spring our unique record of the third generation. Wor. Bro. F. B. Whittall was the first son and grandson of former W.M.'s to occupy the chair of our Lodge in 1925. He was followed by Wor. Bro. J. A. Whittall in 1938, Wor. Bro. T. C. Pepper in 1939, and Wor. Bro. F. W. W. Oakley in 1940, who was in turn succeeded by the third generation in Wor. Bro. E. C. Court, our centenary Master in 1941, and Wor. Bro. W. J. Court in 1942—five successive Masters.

This sketchy epitome is given proudly to those who will come after in the knowledge that they will emulate and improve on the work of their forebears and that the history of our second century shall be more illustrious still.

MENU

SOUP

CREAM OF TOMATO

ROAST TURKEY

VEGETABLES IN SEASON

SWEET

COFFEE

TOASTS

THE KING AND CRAFT

Proposed by THE WOR. MASTER

THE GRAND MASTER, THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF
HAREWOOD, K.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

Proposed by THE WOR. MASTER

THE R.W. THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, GENERAL
SIR FRANCIS J. DAVIES, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
K.C.V.O.

THE R.W. THE ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER,
BRIG.-GENERAL W. H. V. DARELL, C.B.,
C.M.G., D.S.O., and THE GRAND OFFICERS
PRESENT AND PAST

Proposed by Wor. Bro. H. E. WASSER, P.P.A.G.D.C.

Response by Wor. Bro. R. B. MUNIMERY, P.C.D., Prov.D.C.

THE R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER, THE RT. HON.
THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH, G.C.V.O.,
T.D., D.L., PAST GRAND WARDEN.

Proposed by Wor. Bro. H. E. ROSE, P.P.G.W.

Response by The R.W. Prov. GRAND MASTER

THE W. DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER COL.
W. J. KENT, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., P.G.Swd.B.,
AND THE OFFICERS PRESENT AND PAST
OF THE PROV. GRAND LODGE OF
STAFFORDSHIRE

Proposed by Wor. Bro. H. K. PRIESTLEY

Response by Wor. Deputy Prov. GRAND MASTER

ST. JAMES' LODGE No. 482

Proposed by The R.W. Prov. GRAND MASTER

Response by THE WOR. MASTER

THE VISITORS

Proposed by Wor. Bro. F. W. W. OAKLEY, D.C.

Responses by

W. Bro. C. F. MONK, P.G.D., D.P.G.M., Warwicks.

W. Bro. BEN MARSH, A.Prov.Gd. Master, Worcs.

W. Bro. M. A. WILSON, Wor. Master of
St. Peter's Lodge (Mother Lodge)

W. Bro. B. SERGEANT, Wor. Master of Lodge
of Construction (Grand Daughter Lodge)

THE TYLER'S TOAST