

"Silver Birches"
Morgan Close,
Studley,
Warwickshire B80 7PB

21st September, 1979

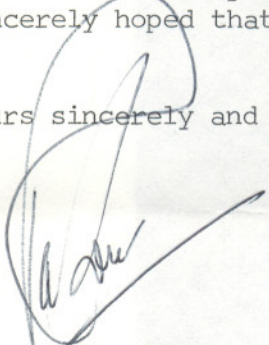
Thomas W. Grouncell,
Librarian & Curator,
Masonic Hall,
Rainbow Hill,
WORCESTER WR3 8LY

Dear Sir & Brother,

As requested in your letter of the 25th July, 1978 herewith the History of Kings Heath Lodge No. 3863 in the Province of Worcesterhire, compiled after a great deal of research by Wor. Bro. G. Andrews.

It is noted that you required the histories by September, 1979 and it is sincerely hoped that our contribution is received in time for inclusion.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,


R. A. West
W.M. Kings Heath Lodge
No. 3863

Enc.

2006/55



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KINGS HEATH LODGE NO 3863

Kings Heath Lodge was founded as an act of faith towards the end of World War I when the victory of the Allies was by no means assured. The date of the warrant was May 24th 1918 and the Lodge was consecrated on Saturday September 7th, 1918 and until 1937 met at the old Moseley Masonic Hall, Institute Road, Kings Heath. Dinner jackets were worn until the outbreak of World War II when circumstances made less formal dress preferable. The Lodge's first Initiate, Major J. N. Cartland (October 8th 1918) lived until he was 91. In 1939 the Master Wor. Bro. P. Hill wrote to congratulate him on his 90th birthday. The first Master, Wor. Bro. C. P. Perry, P A G St B helped to start a tradition which has become a noteworthy feature of the Lodge - that of introducing close blood relations to become members. He had three sons, all of whom became Masters of the Lodge, Wor. Bro. W. O. Perry, P P G W in 1925, Wor. Bro. L. H. Perry, P A G D C in 1931 and Wor. Bro. A. H. J. Perry, P P G D in 1934.

The Gray family provided four Members: Wor. Bro. C. W. Gray, P P G D Master in 1940 and 1950, his brother Wor. Bro. B A Gray, Master in 1945, his brother Bro. A. J. Gray and Bro. B. W. Gray, the son of Wor. Bro. C. W. Gray.

Other examples are:-

Father and Sons

Wor. Bro. A. and Bro. L. Warrar
Wor. Bro. W. and Bro. K. Worthington
Bro. G. and Wor. Bro. G. H. Carter
Wor. Bros. W. J. and W. E. Rice
Bro. A. F. Donaldson and Bro. A. F. Donaldson Jnr.
Wor. Bro. E. S. G. and Bro. C. I Partridge
Bro. E. F. and Wor. Bro. T. C. P. Walden

Brothers

Wor. Bros. E. E. and R. A. Colley
Wor. Bros. H. T. and J. G. Austin
Bros. H. and W. A. Cranage
Bros. P. E. L. and E. L. Lightfoot
Wor. Bros. E. S. G. and Bro. C. R. Partridge
Bros. A. J. and H. J. Windebank

An interesting strengthening of this tradition occurred in 1975 when Bro. A D Griffin proposed his father Bro. F. W. Griffin as a Candidate.

Grand Lodge honoured three of our Founders with the following appointments:

Wor. Bro. C. P Perry P A G St B
Wor. Bro. J H Boocock P A G D C
Wor. Bro. J. Lucking P G St B

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba appointed Wor. Bro. H L Deakin as Junior Grand Deacon in 1913 and in 1941 presented him with its Commemorative Jewel for fifty years' service to the Craft. Wor. Bro. H T Austin, P P G W was honoured by Grand Lodge with the rank of P A G D C and to mark the occasion and as an expression of its congratulations the lodge presented him with Grand Lodge clothing. He was Master of the Lodge both in 1946 and 1947.

As in other Lodges, charity has always been to the fore in Kings Heath Lodge. The efforts of succeeding Almoners, generously supported by the Members have resulted in the fact that the Lodge is now:

Double Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital
Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys
Vice Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

It is good to report that the younger Brethren are supporting the Almoner by taking Covenants.

Civic distinction has been earned by some of the past and present Members. In 1960 Bro. Councillor P E L Lighfoot, J.P. was elected Mayor of Solihull, and it was during his Mayoralty that H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent laid the foundation stone of the new Civic Centre on October 27th 1960. Bro. Councillor P Kellie was also elected Mayor of Solihull in 1975 and filled the office with much distinction. In 1978 Wor. Bro. M Worthington was summoned to Buckingham Palace where Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II conferred on him the M B E in recognition of his longstanding service in Local Government, at Albrighton.

Members have from time to time made acceptable presentations to the Lodge.

- 1921 Wor. Bro. J H Boocock, Founder presented the Master's Collar in loving memory of his son, Sec. Lieut. H. Boocock, 7th Batt. Worcestershire Regiment who fell at Beersheba, November, 7th 1917.
- 1925 Wor. Bro. R. A. Colley presented an embroidered Cushion for the Working tools, which is still in use.
- 1931 A Visitor, Bro. G T Colville, Gael Lodge, Scottish Constitution, presented 3 gavels for the Principal Officers in recognition of the kind reception afforded him. They were made from timber from the cruiser H M A S "Sydney" which sunk the German raider "Emden" in World War 1.
- 1944 Wor. Bro. W. D. Jones presented a Tyler's Sword in October 1944 on the same evening as he received his G L certificate.
- 1958 October, Wor. Bro. H T Austin presented two embroidered Cushions for use on the Master's Pedestal to mark the occasion of his 200th consecutive attendance at Lodge.

Other gifts were two Ballot Trays and a set of Ballot Balls by Bro. G. Carter, who unfortunately died when he was Senior Warden, and
1962 A poinard given by Wor. Bro. W. E. Rice.

A silver cigarette box, presented to Wor. Bro. C. L. Terry, Master by his two Initiates in 1927 was found at an antique dealers by Wor. Bro. A. W. North. He purchased it, had it reconditioned and presented to the Lodge on the occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary. (This practice of Initiates making gifts to Masters got so out of hand that it was finally stopped by G.L.)

From 1918 to 1937 the Lodge met at the Moseley Masonic Hall, Institute Road Kings Heath (previously known as Ruskin Hall). It was here that a Masonic rarity transpired. In 1923 Bro. G. C. Upstone, employed by Messrs. Cadburys was initiated. Almost immediately he was sent up to Accra in Africa and thanks to the universality of Freemasonry, was passed and raised out there. As new Lodges were consecrated after World War 1, these premises became inadequate as there was only one Lodge Room, one Dining Room and no car park. The Moseley Masonic Hall Company acquired and brought up to standard the present Masonic Hall in Alcester Road South, Kings Heath.

To assist in financing this project, the Lodge bought Debenture Shares and to assist in furnishing the No. 1 Lodge Room, presented the Junior Warden's Chair and pedestal. Also it transferred £200 in Debenture Shares from the old Masonic Hall Company to the new one. At present the Lodge holds a nominal £10 worth.

The outbreak of World War II, thanks to the loyalty of members, did not fundamentally affect the work of the Lodge. It even met directly after the Declaration of War, in October 1939 and regularly thence onward. To avoid travel in the blackout and the risk of enemy bombing meetings were held in the afternoon, but due to food shortages and rationing the Festive Board was rather restricted. In this connection, one recalls with admiration the culinary efforts of Mrs. Evans, whose husband Bro. G. Evans was Curator at both Masonic Halls and who later served the Lodge with the rank of P G T. Before the war the meals at the Festive Board at Kings Heath were the envy of the Province, and after war broke out in spite of tight restrictions the efforts of Mrs. Evans and her daughter, Maud, were most praiseworthy. The Lodge was fortunate that no Member was killed by enemy action but Bro. R. E. Master, initiated January 1940 lost a leg in the disastrous air-raid on Coventry. Fortunately he made a good recovery and became Master in 1955.

In its 61 years' existence the Lodge has been loyally served by four Tylers:

Bro. A. Heydon 1918 - 1940

Bro. G. Evans P G T 1940 - 1958

Bro. E. J. Ashfield 1958 - 1961

Bro. J. Tyler P G T 1961 - 1978

Succeeding Masters have expressed their gratitude to them for their long and faithful service.

Since the war the Lodge has enjoyed a record of good Masonry both in word and deed under a succession of worthy Masters. One must however mention its declining numbers. Although it has had a steady list of Candidates for Initiation, it has unfortunately had to record an unexpectedly large number of Members both old and young who have recently died. The Lodge however is fortunate in having young keen Masons as Members and it is confident that the Lodge will have a successful future in their hands.

The sincere thanks of the Lodge are due to Wor. Bro. F. S. Andrews whose patient and thorough research provided the above material but who was prevented by ill health from finalising its presentation.

Signed..........Worshipful Master 1978 - 1979.

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