



John C. Hackett
~~Marlborough House,~~
~~57 Hillgrove Crescent~~
Worcester Street,
Kidderminster

Worcestershire

DY10 1EN

June 5th 1979.

Dear Sir & Brother,

Due to amnesiac tendencies plus pressures forced upon me by changed circumstances I discovered, to my horror, that Minster Lodge have not, to date, filed any facts to assist with the compilation of the history of Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcs. The fault is entirely mine and I offer my apologies together with the enclosed pages of notes in the hope that the tardiness of submission will not have caused any undue delay or difficulty - or even prejudice our chance of mention in the forthcoming history.

I also apologise for my poor typing - offering in extenuation that my handwriting is of the execrable standard too often tolerated today. Illegible! I have sent this missive and the notes on the remaining small stock of Lodge paper remaining from my term as Master of Minster - since when my address has had to change. In the event that even the care taken to amend the postal whereabouts of my person proves indecipherable I re-iterate same address in type:- Marlborough House,
Worcester Street,
Kidderminster,
DY10 1EN. where I can

be contacted by telephone (745137 - code 0562) during the daytime.

I appreciate that the attached notes are but brief. Research only proves how uneventful has been our particular past. Should the contents not be such as you are searching for then I should be happy to assist further on receipt of your guidance as to the manner of fact required.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally,

The Chief Librarian,
Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire,
Masonic Hall,
Rainbow Hill,
Worcester.

2006/58



34



John C. Hackett
Merlborough House,
57 Hillgrove Crescent
Worcester Street,
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DY10 3AR1EN.

"On March 27th, 1935, a meeting was held at The Lion Hotel to consider the advisability of forming a new Masonic Lodge in Kidderminster. "

Thus began Minster Lodge number 5581 in the English Constitution. There were but 9 present at that first exploratory meeting yet only 5 minutes meetings were needed thereafter to make all the necessary arrangements for the Consecration of the first Masonic Lodge to be formed in Kidderminster for over 50 years. The meeting of 27th March 1935 approved the name: subsequently a complement of 19 Founders were found who each contributed 3 guineas to a Fund which more than covered the entire cost of formation etc. The Consecration took place at The Lion Hotel on December 18th 1935 attended by 101 Masons comprising - 19 Founders; 13 from Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire; 3 from Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, 19 from the sponsor Lodge of Hope & Charity no 377; 12 from the Vernon Lodge no 560; 34 representatives of other English Constitution Lodges and 1 from a Scottish Constitution Lodge.

The Consecration was presided over by the Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire R.W.Bro. General Sir Francis J. Davis K.C.B., K.C.V.O., D.L., only a few days after his appointment as Deputy Grand Master of England. The first Worshipful Master was V.W.Bro. Grosvenor who was at the time Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Grand Lodge of England. A memorable part of the Consecration Ceremony appears to have been an address by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro. Rev. R.A. Haysom M.A. who spoke upon the meaning of 'Minster' as 'Service' and gave an exposition upon the history of Kidderminster, its Parish Church and the Masonic connections thereof - the Minute Book, in the only entry recording events at a Festive Board, refers to Rev. Haysom's oration as: "...and inspired address, long to be remembered by all who were privileged to hear it."

92 Brethren sat down to the Consecration Banquet at which Oysters, Game Soup, Plaice and tartare sauce, Roast Chicken and trimmings, Christmas pudding and brandy sauce, Fruit salad and cream, and Coffee was served at a cost of ten shillings per head. The usual Toast list was supplemented by Toasts to the Sponsor Lodge and The Choir.

The first subscription to Minster Lodge was fixed at Four Guineas per annum which was to be INCLUSIVE of food and wine. In October 1942, to cover the circumstances of wartime, the subscription was amended to £1-11-6d for Members other than those in H.M. Forces who were only charged one guinea - the cost of meals taken was to be defrayed additionally as incurred. In October 1946 the Four Guineas inclusive sub. was resumed. Despite the reduction of the Lodge Room rent to £18 per annum in 1948 it was felt necessary to impose a charge of 3/6d per meal as a temporary measure in 1949 for a few months until the subscription could be increased to 5½ guineas.

* It is regrettable that none of the privileged appear to now be alive and, therefore, the substance of the Prov. G. Chaplain's address is probably lost in the obscurity of oblivion - unless Prov. G. Lodge has a copy?



2nd page of notes on history etc of Minster Lodge.

John C. Hackett
Near Gborough House,
57 Hillgrove Crescent
Worcester Street,
Kidderminster

Worcestershire

DY10 ~~WAR~~ IEN.

Numerate miscellaneaie:

Since Consecration Minster Lodge has met at only three venues:- The Lion Hotel; the Masonic Rooms, Stourport (whilst awaiting completion of new Rooms in Kidder.) and The Briars Hotel, Kidderminster.

Installations are held in October each year. The present Master is the 40th in sequence although only the 43rd to hold that office - W.Bro. Stanley K. Cattell having been Master twice.

Minster have, during their existence, had but 7 Treasurers and 9 Secretaries to date. Two brethren have held both offices (Stittard and Burton) to which will shortly be added another (Bagnall) in October 1979.

At the time of writing (June 1979) Minster have held 305 Regular meetings since the Consecration plus 3 Emergency Meetings.

The Lodge Assets comprise: One 1954 Imperial Typewriter 'for the use of the Lodge Secretary' (cost £38-50); one very ancient steel filing cabinet; one leather brief case; two sets of Officers' collars (one set very frayed replaced in April 1979); one set (now incomplete) of Sterling Silver officers' collar jewels; seven leather bound Minute Books; leather bound Account books; Fifty Six members.

To date there have been 139 members and 2 tylers. The 'break-down' of members is-

- 19 Founders
- 1 Honorary elected member (Gen. Sir Francis Davis).
- 92 Initiates
- 27 Joining members

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Odd Facts:

General Sir Francis Davis was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge on 15th January, 1936. There has only been one other Honorary Member (W.Bro. H.W. Penney).

Dress from Consecration to April 1939 was specified as 'Evening Dress'. From that time it has been 'Morning Dress'.

During the 1939-1945 World War the Lodge was host on several occasions to many members of American Lodges who were stationed locally whilst with the American Forces.

The largest attendance at any Minster meeting remains the 101 for the Consecration.

In 1943 a movement to restrict the membership to 40 was, despite considerable support, frustrated by the means to enforce the same.

In 1944 the Lodge Committee approved a motion, arising from a request by the licensee of the Lion Hotel, to add £1 to the cost of each meal to cover gratuities to the hotel staff.

In 1954 the Lodge Committee instructed the Secretary to write to a member who had consistently attended Lodge clad in a 'far too light' suit and brown shoes. No further episode of this saga is recorded.