

Provincial Grand Chapter of Lincolnshire.



31 Silver Street,

Lincoln, 6th Sept., 1918

W. H. H. MOORE,
PROV. GRAND SCRIBE E.

Enc.

Dear Sir and Bro.,

Your letter of the 3rd inst., addressed to Bro. Epton who has recently joined up, has been handed to me.

Very little is known about the Alsbeta Chapter, no records appear to exist, or if they do, their whereabouts is unknown.

Enclosed I send you an extract from Wor. Bro. W. Dixon's book on the History of Freemasonry in Lincolnshire which gives the whole of the information which he was able to obtain after a considerable amount of research. You will see that it finishes up with the statement that the seal is in your possession, possibly Bro. Epton communicated with you.

I know many of the prominent Masons of Grimsby, but do not know of a "bright one archeologically inclined," or who could give any further information as to the old Chapter. Should you be fortunate enough to learn anything further I should esteem it a favour if you would communicate it to me.

I am,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Wor. Bro. G. L. Shackles,

7, Land of Green Ginger,

HULL.

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THE ALETHEIA CHAPTER, GRIMSBY.

On 8th May, 1813, (Rev) Geo. Oliver, Master of the Apollo Lodge, at Grimsby, was exalted in the Royal Arch Chapter "Industrious", working in connection with the Humber Lodge, Hull.

This Lodge met under an Athol Warrant which was removed to Hull in the early part of 1809.

The following correspondence relating to the Grimsby Chapter is, I believe, the only documentary evidence existing, showing that W.H.White took any interest in the Province over which he for so many years was the nominal ruler:-

"Parliament Place

"Westm. 3rd June 1813

"Dear Sir,

"Upon my return home from out of Kent whither I had been for some days past I found your favor accompanied by a Petition from certain of our Brethren to hold a Royal Arch Chapter at Great Grimsby by which I shall have great pleasure in presenting to the Grand Chapter on the sixth of July next - not doubting but that the Prayer of such Petition will be most readily acceded to, & as soon as the Warrant of Constitution is obtained I will send it to you or rather Mr. Oliver at Grimsby aforesaid together with an Account of the expenses attendant. Assuring you at the same time I should feel particularly happy in attending the Constitution of said Chapter if I knew when it was intended to take place & that I could make my arrangements accordingly.

"I will thank you to inform me if you have already got the necessary Regalia &c for a R.A.C. or what you may particularly want & if I can procure it for you here I shall have great pleasure in doing & await your commands accordingly.

"I am Dear Sir

"Yours most fraternally,

"The Rev. M. Barnett

"W.H.White., P.R.S.

"Barton on Humber"

Dr. Sir & Bro.,

"Grimsby June 18 1813.

"I received in due course your kind communication relative to the Royal Arch in answer to which I have to state, that however gratifying it might prove to the feelings of the Brethren belonging to the Apollo Lodge to be honoured with the presence of Bro. White, the Grand Superintendent

for this County, at the opening of the Chapter here, yet the low state of our Finances compels us to decline that honour: for in fact we are possessed of no Funds at all and the Expenses already incurred have been so serious, that the Brethern have been under the necessity of contributing liberally to discharge the Debts of the Lodge, and I am of opinion that any new appeal to their Purses would be attended with great inconvenience, and would be injurious to the cause of Masonry in Grimsby.

"I with great pleasure accede to your proposal of opening the Chapter on the 13 of August: and I have no doubt, but on that day, there will be sufficient number of Companions present to do it without any additional Expense: as to the Regalia, whatever is absolutely necessary, we are already possessed of, the Robes as not being immediately requisite we must defer the purchase of until our Funds are recruited.

"Rev. M. Barnett,

"I am Dr. Sir & Bro.

D.P.G.M. for the

"Your Humble Servt.

County of Lincoln:

"Geo. Oliver

Another letter, dated July 24 after giving details of the arrangements for the Provincial Meeting, &c., continues:-

"I have not yet received the Warrant of Conetitution for a R.A. Chapter which I presume, will be transmitted thro' the medium of you, our D.P.G.M

"I need not mention how gratifying it will be to my feelings & to those of the rest of the Brethern of the Apollo Lodge, if Bro. White should arrange his business in Lincolnshire, so as to enable him to honor us with his Company on the 12th of August."

No evidence is forthcoming as to whether or not the Chapter was opened in August. The next reference is the following letter, among the Oliver papers in P.G.L. Library:

"Fremasons Hall

"6th September 1813.

"The Petition for a Royal Arch Chapter to be holden at Grimsby was laid before the Grand Chapter at its last meeting when an order was made for a Warrant to be granted, but Mr. Dent one of the Grand Principals being out of Town, and having been so almost ever since the order was made I have not been able to procure his signature, as soon as he returns to London you may rely on my forwarding the warrant with the least possible delay.

"I remain &c.

"Mr. W. Langton.

" William H. White G.S.

The records at Grand Chapter show that on July 6th, 1813, a Charter was granted to George Oliver, E.D. Wedge, John Green, and others, for the Aletheia Chapter, to meet at Freemasons' Hall, Great Grimsby, No. 183.

The Warrant apparently, however, was never taken up, as it does not find a place on the register of that period, nor was it brought forward after the Union.

Whether the funds were low, or whether, having waited so long for their warrant, they determined to do like some of their neighbours and work without it, it is impossible to state, no account of their proceedings being known.

That the Chapter flourished for several years is evidenced by a newspaper cutting among the Oliver papers:-

"On Tuesday evening last a gold medal and chain were presented to the Rev. Geo. Oliver, by the members of the Royal Arch Chapter, Grimsby. On one side, in base relief, a pair of compasses are extended upon a line of chords within which is the letter G. circumscribed by a pentagon; the whole surmounted by a tessellated border. On the reverse is this inscription 'Presented to Bro. the Rev. G. Oliver, by the Companions of the R.A. Chapter, holden in the Apollo Lodge, as a small token of gratitude for services rendered to Masonry in Grimsby. A.L. 5820'".

After this year (1820) no mention of the Chapter occurs.

A seal or medal of copper, the size of a penny, bearing the inscription "Aletheia Chapter Gr. Grimsby," is now in possession of Bro. G. L. Snackles, Hull.

The Altheia Chapter

No 183. Great Grimsby

Excerpt from the Introduction by W. H. Hughes to W. B. Dixon's
History of Freemasonry in Lincolnshire
Published by Bro. James Williamson 290 High St. 1894

~~Indiscreetly~~

"The next Chapter under the 'Moderns' was No 183, the 'Altheia'
" Great Grimsby of 1813, and the third was the 'Conard' No 184
" Lincoln, which, though not warranted until 1817, had an
" independent existence for at least some ten years before. That
" Bro. Dixon's History was being written I had no idea that
" another Chapter had been issued after 1813, which in my
" Origin of the English Rite of Freemasonry, 1884, ends the Roll,
" but evidently 183 was not the last, but No 184 of A.D. 1817.
" The latter was the only one of the three that seems to have come
" on the English Roll, which is printed in the Laws and
" Regulations of 1823, the numbers then being those of the Lodges
" where the Chapters were attached.

" Bro. Dixon also affords particulars of a 'Modern' 'R. A'
" Chapter, meeting from 1807 or earlier, without any regular
" Authority."

The following is extracted from Dixon's History of Freemasonry in Lincolnshire p. p.
337. 8. 9. 40.

51, LOUIS STREET,
SPRING BANK,
HULL.

Sep 13th - 1918

Dear Bro Shackle

I have pleasure in
sending you your personal
Dixons History of the in
Kinc: & you will find
herein (see Index) a
reference to the "Aletheia"
Chapter of Apollo Lodge
Munby. Bro Rev. G. Oliver
was apparently a founder.
See article -

The Book is very

readable & exhaustive.
Kindly return in due
course.

I also send the "Lona"
Bulletin which I have
read - the local article
is very interesting.

We have in the Number
Lodge safe, the minutes
of the "Industrious Chapter"
(attached to the "Rodney"
Lodge) 1801 - 1817, & will
be glad to fix a date
for perusal -

The "Installed Masters" will
not meet in October -

Yrs faithfully
W. J. Oldroyd.