

Ancient & Honourable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons



Godson Lodge, No. 2385.



Secretary :

F. W. ALLSOP, P.P.A.G.P., (Staffs.) P.P.G.O.,  
155, McKean Road,  
OLDBURY.

9. 11. 1932

Dear Wor. Bro. Barlow,

Did you see Wor Bro.

John Sutton and arrange work with him  
for P.M.'s night?

Kind regards

Yours fraternally

F W Allsop

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3rd November 1932.

F. W. Allsop, Esq.,  
155, McKean Road,  
OLDBURY,  
Birmingham.

Dear Wor. Bro. Allsop,

In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I have to say that Wor. Bro. John Sutton expressed himself as quite willing to join me in the preparation of some work, but when I mentioned to him another idea he fell in with it and left me to discuss matters with the W.M.


As a result I believe that you would be quite safe in putting on your agenda as follows :-

The Chaplain will read chapter 6 of the second book of Chronicles and will give an explanation thereon.

I am not sure if the wording will be acceptable to you but the fact is that the W.M. has asked me to give the reading and to give a lecture. A member of the Lodge of Instruction wanted to know why the V.S.L. was ordered to be opened at a certain place. It was found that none of the brethren were prepared to answer the question and it was therefore considered appropriate that an explanation should be given at the next full meeting of the lodge when there was no other work on hand.

With kind regards,

Yours fraternally,



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Secretary :

F. W. ALLSOP, P.P.A.G.P., (Staffs.) P.P.G.O.,  
155, McKean Road,  
OLDBURY.

27. 11. 1932

Dear Bro Barlow,

Thank you for your letter. I  
am afraid I never opened V.S.L. at 2 Chron 6  
Have I been remiss? NO - not as an  
emulation man.

Kind regards

Yours paternally

F. W. Allsop

John II - 19.

Destroy this temple & in three  
days I will raise it up.

21.

He spoke of the temple of  
his body.

Cor. I. 3. 16.

Ye are the temples of God.

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# Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Staffordshire

Most Excellent Companion  
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH  
Grand Superintendent  
Patshull House, Wolverhampton

E. Comp. A. J. LODGE, P.G.Std.Br.(Eng.)  
2nd Prov.G.Principal  
28, Croftdown Road, Harborne, Birmingham

E. Comp. T. J. RICHARDSON, P.G.Std.Br.(Eng.)  
Prov.G.S.E.  
39, Mayfield Road  
Wylde Green, Birmingham  
Telephone :  
Sutton Coldfield 1301



28, Croftdown Road

Harborne

Birmingham

17

November 1932

Dear Bro. Barlow,

Reference to our conversation at The Lewisham Lodge last night, I think you asked me why the V. of the S.L. should be open at Chronicles 11, chap. 3 and verse 17. This verse is about the two Pillars B. and J. and seems to me to be most appropriate for the first degree, unless your difficulty is that in this degree only B. is mentioned and J. comes in the 2nd. and v. 17 refers to both. ? otherwise I can find nothing wrong with the reference. why this verse has been selected I cannot say so I fear I do not help you very much, but our conversation was so hurried that I did not quite see what was passing in your mind. In the second degree the reference is Judges chap. 12, v 6.- about Shibboleth which is all right. and in the third degree 1 Kings, chap 6, v 8. this is about the middle chamber of the T. and to my mind this is much more appropriate for the 2nd than to the 3rd. possibly this is what you meant and I misunderstood you. but I have no idea by whom or when these particular passages were selected.

With fraternal regards

Yours faithfully

W. Bro. C. T. Barlow.

P. P. G. Std. Br. WORCS.

10th November 1932.

Captain A. J. Lodge,  
28, Croftdown Road,  
Harborne,  
BIRMINGHAM.17.

Dear Bro. Lodge,

I am very grateful to you for your letter of yesterday's date, following our conversation at Lewisham Lodge on Tuesday evening.

Unfortunately you are on the wrong track, but perhaps if I give you a little more information you will be able to help me in the preparation of my paper which is to be given at Godson Lodge on Wednesday 23rd instant.

According to our ritual the V.S.L. is to be opened at chapter 6 of the second book of Chronicles. I do not think that there is any other reference in the ritual to the place or the time at which the V.S.L. is to be opened, that is to say, at the opening of the lodge.

I can find no book of reference that indicates why the chapter mentioned should be the important one, but reading the chapter I can appreciate that it is most appropriate, and so far I have sketched out my paper on those lines, although, to make the paper interesting, I have assumed three questions, that is to say

- (1) Why do we expose the V.S.L. in our lodges?
- (2) Why do we open it ?
- (3) Why do we open it at the place indicated ?

So far I have asked a score of friends, but in no instance have I yet found anything of a helpful character, so that this confirms my opinion that the subject is one likely to prove extremely interesting, possibly not only to the members of Godson Lodge; but also to the members of other lodges, for which reason, although I do not intend to read the paper, but to make

B

my remarks extemporaneously, I shall nevertheless retain a careful record of what I say in case at a later date the paper may be called for. I shall also submit a copy of the paper to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire for approval, in case permission may be desired to print it. You will understand therefore why I am anxious to gather together as much useful information as possible so as to make the work complete.

Of course the paper is going to be made more interesting at our meeting by the reading of the chapter itself, and so as to provide a proper sequence and understanding of chapter 6, I am making a brief reference to the contents of the preceding chapters, and in particular to the concluding portion of chapter 5. You will see why that should be if you care to refer to both chapters.

I am particularly obliged to you for your letter and I hope that the subject is one that will interest you.

With fraternal regards,

Yours faithfully,

# Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Staffordshire

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THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH  
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28, Croftdown Road

Harborne

Birmingham 17.

November 12 1932

Dear Bro. Barlow,

In reply to yours of 10th inst I still find myself in some difficulty as to why you expect any other answer to the three questions which you raise other than those which seem to be obvious.

You ask "Why do we expose the V. of S.L. in our Lodges " surely to show that all present professing believe in the G.A. of the U. the Grand Orient of France do not recognize the V.S.L. in any way and for this reason the G.L. of England have no connection with them whatsoever. In Jewish Lodges they have the Old Testament, The ~~Mahomedans~~ Mahomedans the Koran, and in India it is a common thing to have all such books binding on the conscience of the various races, on which to take the necessary obligation. No. 2 "Why do we open it " This is the natural and obvious thing to do , it is open as soon as the Lodge is open and to draw special attention that it is there, and without it the Lodge could not work nor perform any ceremony whatsoever.

"Why do we open it at the place indicated ?" You admit that II book of Chronicles chap. 3 v.17 is most appropriate with a reference to the 2 Pillars B.& J. so what is the objection, much better to have a special and fitting reference rather than to open it anywhere in a



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more or less casual manner , so personally I really see nothing  
to debate, it all seems to me to be so very much in order and nothing  
better to offer. There is no reference in the ritual that I  
know of as to the place or time that the V.S.L. should be open but  
can you suggest a better reason than to open it when the Lodge is  
open and close it when the Lodge is closed. Possibly there is  
something else in your mind that I have not grasped but I fail to see  
any difficulty about it nor do I see anything to debate upon.  
So you must forgive me if I do not understand.

Yours fraternally

W. Bro. C. T. Barlow. P.P.G. Std. Br.

Worce.

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14th November 1932.

Captain A. J. Lodge,  
28, Croftdown Road,  
Harborne,  
BIRMINGHAM, 17.

Dear Bro. Lodge,

I am really very grateful to you for your letter of 12th instant, and I suggest that it will make matters much more clear if you will be kind enough to read again the third paragraph of my letter of 10th November, also looking up for yourself in the usual ritual the rubric which follows the opening of the lodge. The first rubric, as you will remember, is an instruction to the W.M. whose action is repeated by S.W., I.V., I.G. and T. The second rubric is an instruction to the I.P.M. and directs him to open the V.S.L. at sixth chapter second book of Chronicles, etc. The third rubric does not concern us at the moment.

I am afraid that the reference to second book of Chronicles, chapter 3 verse 17 is your own, and in fact, in your first letter you would appear to indicate three different openings in connection with the three different degrees, but that of course would be wrong.

I am really grateful to you for your reference to the Grand Orient of France, and for your confirmation in regard to our Jewish brethren and our Mahomedan brethren.

There was only one question put to me and that ~~was~~ was number 3, but to make my paper more interesting I am assuming, as I told you in my letter of 10th November, the two other questions. It is not a debate, and in fact I should imagine that a debate in open lodge would constitute rather a difficult procedure. It is just a matter of a paper or a lecture which I think is going to be extremely interesting. I agree with you that certain reasons are fairly obvious, but probably you find that what is obvious to one person is gross darkness to many other people, so that to give light to the majority is a duty and as a rule creates no displeasure for those who can appreciate the obvious.

With kind regards,  
Yours fraternally,

28, CROFTDOWN ROAD,

HARBORNE,

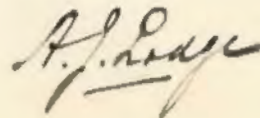
BIRMINGHAM. 17

November 15 1932

Dear Bro. Barlow,

In reply to yours of yesterday, I think I now understand. - Certainly what is perfectly obvious to you and to me, may not be so obvious to those just initiated or others who never take the trouble to think at all. My little book which is the usual Emulation Lodge of Improvement MDCCLXXVII edition says nothing in the rubric about opening the V. of the S.L. at Chron. II chap. 3 v.17 - all that is stated is "P.M. opens the V.S.L. and places both points of C. under the S." that is all, so your book must be different. The three openings were given to me many years ago by a P. M. now deceased and I took a careful note of his ruling, or possibly opinion. I suggest for your paper that very few know what constitutes a Just Perfect and Regular Lodge, the lectures give the proper answers to this question "When so met, what makes them Just. - Ans. " The Volume of the Sacred Law unfolded " "And what perfect in number? " Ans. "Seven or more regularly made Masons. " " And what regular? " Ans. " The Charter or Warrant from the Grand Lodge " - all this in the first lecture which you no doubt know well. Then Of, At and On in same Lecture might be another useful subject, not as I understand now for debate but for the instruction and guidance of juniors who will I am sure be most grateful to you for your paper. As to para. three in your first letter evidently our ritual books are a different edition and this will partly a/c for my mis-understanding you.

Yours sincerely and fraternally



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Secretary :  
F. W. ALLSOP, P.P.A.G.P., (Staffs.) P.P.G.O.,  
155, McKean Road,  
OLDBURY.

4. 11. 1932

Dear Bro Barlow,

On the 14th inst. I wrote  
to the secretary Emulation Lodge of Improve-  
ment: "Is it necessary when a Craft Lodge is

opened that the P.M. should open the V.S.L. at  
a certain place (say 2 Chron. 6)?

I am a member of the Emulation  
Lodge of Improvement and a P.M. of the Lodge  
at Honour Wolverhampton where there is a  
"recognized" V.S.L."

On the 14th inst. I received  
this reply: "It is usual, though not necessary  
to open Volume at 2 Chron. 6. It is advisable  
to so open that the Volume will be about halved  
and so will lie evenly with S. and C. on one page"

I thought this would interest you.

Kind regards

Yours fraternally  
F W Allsop

1-#501/3005

21st November 1932.

F. W. Allsop, Esq.,  
155, McKean Road,  
OLDBURY,  
Birmingham.

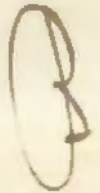
Dear Wor. Bro. Allsop,

I am very grateful to you for your letter of 19th instant, and what you say confirms information that I have received from another direction, namely, Wor. Bro. John Hill, who tells me that according to Emulation working there is a fixed place at which the V.S.L. is to be opened. It was my intention to mention that point in my paper, but also to express the opinion that a fixed position is preferable to a haphazard one, and that in accordance with the printed instructions in our ritual, the second book of Chronicles sixth chapter seems to me to be most appropriate.

I suppose that there must be many similar points that justify discussion and difference of opinion, but nevertheless I am also sure that discussion properly carried out creates useful thinking and produces good results. I am therefore looking forward to Wednesday this week.

With kind regards,

Yours fraternally,



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