

THE VERNON LODGE

No. 560.

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Souvenir

OF

Centenary Celebration

4th APRIL, 1949.

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MEMBERS OF THE LODGE, 1899,
THE YEAR OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

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MEMBERS OF THE LODGE, 1924,
THE YEAR OF ITS SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

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(Sd.) ZETLAND, G.M.

To all and every our Right Worshipful, Worshipful and Loving Brethren

We, THOMAS DUNDAS, Earl of Zetland, BARON DUNDAS
OF ASKE IN THE COUNTY OF YORK &c. &c., &c., &c.

Grand Master

OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF ENGLAND

Send Greeting

Know Ye that we by the authority and under the sanction of the United Grand Lodge of England vested in us for that purpose and at the humble Petition of our Right Trusty and Well Beloved Brethren Thomas William Kinder, Xavier N. Paszkowicz, Richard William Johnson, Thomas H. Wheeler, William Pettifer, William I. Windram and Arthur Kinder, do hereby constitute the said Brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the Title or Denomination of

No. 819

The Olive Lodge

The said Lodge to meet at the Town Hall Bromsgrove Worcestershire on the fourth Wednesday of every month empowering them in the said Lodge when duly congregated to make pass and raise Free Masons according to the Antient Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations throughout the known world. And further at their said Petition and of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the above named Brethren. WE DO APPOINT the said Thomas William Kinder to be the first MASTER, the said Xavier N. Paszkowicz to be the first SENIOR WARDEN and the said

Richard William Johnson to be the first JUNIOR WARDEN for opening and holding the said Lodge and until such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and installed. Strictly charging that every Member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge and who must previously have duly served, as Warden in a Warranted Lodge shall be installed in antient form and, according to the Laws of the Grand Lodge that he may thereby be fully invested with the Dignities and Powers of his office. AND WE DO require you the said Thomas William Kinder to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that you and they and all other the members of the said Lodge do observe perform and keep the Laws Rules and Orders contained in the Book of Constitutions and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or transmitted by us or our Successors Grand Masters or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being. AND WE DO enjoin you to make such Bylaws for the Government of your Lodge as shall to the Majority of the Members appear proper, and necessary the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the General laws and Regulations of the Craft of Copy whereof you are to transmit to us. AND WE DO require you to cause all such Bylaws and Regulations and also an account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a Book to be kept for that purpose. And you are in no wise to omit to send to us or our successors Grand Masters or to THE RIGHT HONORABLE CHARLES WORSLEY PELHAM, EARL OF YARBOROUGH, BARON YARBOROUGH, BARON WORSLEY, &c., &c., &c. Our Deputy Grand Master or to the Deputy Grand Master for the time being at least once in every year a List of the members of your Lodge and the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees, and monies payable thereon. It being our will and intention that this our WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of our Grand Lodge. AND you the said Thomas William Kinder are further required as soon as conveniently may be to send us an Account in writing of what shall be done by virtue of these presents.

Given under our Hand and the Seal of the Grand Lodge at London this 13th January A.L. 5849, A.D. 1849.

By Command of the M.W. Grand Master,

(sd) WILLIAM E. WHITE, G.S.

(sd.) YARBOROUGH, D.G.M.

Foreword

In the days when the study of history connoted little other than a record of conquering kings and bloody battles, he, who said "Happy is the country with no history," was fittingly deemed a wise man. But when, on the other hand, history becomes the loving record of how men have served each other in a brotherhood of loyal altruism and truth, it would be unseemly that their principles and deeds should pass, without some word of note, to those who come after. Such, then, is the reason, if reason be needed for a production of this nature. The opportunity to make it is taken in this the Centenary Year of the Vernon Lodge.

The matter began to take shape when, in the typically British way, a small committee of Lodge Members was formed, and to it was given the task of investigating the possibilities of a History of the Vernon Lodge.

"A Short Account of the Vernon Lodge, No. 560," published at the Lodge Jubilee, from the accomplished pen of a beloved Brother, Edward Collens, already existed, and this formed the basis of the Committee's deliberations.

The passage of years and greater facilities for research had discovered a few inaccuracies and deficiencies in that volume, but reverence for the past and respect for a great memory, caused the Committee to decide to republish the "Short Account" in toto. Such corrections and additions as were found to be necessary were left in the capable hands of the Worshipful Master for the Centenary Year, Wor. Bro. F. C. Perrett, to whom the Lodge owes much gratitude for his

hours of patient investigation and willingness to travel many miles to establish his evidence. His findings were too important to form an appendix, and are here published separately.

There remained the years from 1899 to the present day. Wor. Bro. H. E. Rose, the Secretary of the Lodge, volunteered to read through the Minute Books for the years between, and extract therefrom such items as might be considered worthy of special mention. He has made no attempt to romanticise or sentimentalise the happenings, his account has the great merit of being purely factual. The task was not light, it was well and conscientiously done and he fully deserves the thanks of all the Brethren.

Finally, the three sections of the History thus prepared, were collated and systematically searched for any small errors by Bro. J. W. Moffitt and myself. We hope there are none.

We are much indebted to Wor. Bro. W. A. Greenway for his design of the cover. It incorporates the badge with the old number 819 and the new badge presented to the Lodge by Right Wor. Bro. H. C. Vernon in 1877.

Such has been the work of the Committee, and it proffers this little volume to the present Brethren as their personal souvenir of a great occasion, to the Brethren yet to be as a guide to their path, and to the Brotherhood of Freemasons as a prepared stone, which, it is hoped, may be found worthy of a humble place in the great edifice of Masonic History and Tradition all over the world.

J.G.R.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE VERNON LODGE No. 560

As compiled from the Records by

BRO. EDWARD COLLENS, P.M., P.PROV.G.SWORD.B., PROV.G.SEC.
DESIGNATE, SECRETARY, 560,

*and read on the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Lodge
July 11th, A.L. 5899.*

THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE LODGE WHOSE FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY we are met to celebrate to-day, which by your desire Worshipful Sir, I undertook to compile, has been rendered a difficult task by reason of the very brief, and often I fear, incorrect minutes which my earlier predecessors kept, and induced the Lodge to concur. You have had an example of this in the bald account just read from the Chair of that ceremony which must be of surpassing interest to every member of the Lodge for all time. A ceremony which we cannot hope to throw much light on after a lapse of fifty years, beyond the glimmer afforded us by the Minute Book.

This brevity may sometimes have been excusable on the score of the Scribe having nothing to record, but it was not always so, for in one instance the fact that a new W.M. had been installed appeared to have escaped his recollection until he had chronicled the close of the Lodge, when he added the information in a postscript, indicating by asterisks where it should be read.

Another fact in the history of the Lodge has probably added to the difficulties of the historian: on two occasions there has been a complete break with the past; the roll of its members has changed to a man, its traditions—short-lived if you will, still traditions—broken; twice it has become a new Lodge in everything but its charter. We have no Past Masters still in their green old age, whose memories can take us back to the fifties, tell us what manner of men Kinder and Johnson and Harcourt-Oldham were, and how the ceremonies were worked in those days. No! the Lodge in its early years was most unfortunate.

Our Warrant is dated January 13th, 1849 and bears the autograph signatures of Grand Master the Earl of Zetland and Deputy Grand Master the Earl of Yarborough. It is therein called the Clive Lodge,

No. 819, and is to be held at the Town Hall, Bromsgrove. The seven Brethren¹ named in the constitution were, according to the old Registers members of No. 348—no name, only the Lodge number being given. In my earlier investigations, I rather loosely assumed that No. 348 was that of the Mother Lodge of the province, now 280, but the earlier number of 280 was 349, consequently 348 must, if still in existence, be 279, and this to my great surprise I found to be St. John's Lodge, Leicester. How a group of Leicester Masons came to found a Lodge in Bromsgrove, remains a mystery. I have written to the Secretary of St. John's to enquire whether his books can throw any light on the matter, but up to the time of writing have not received an answer.² A courteous letter from the Grand Secretary confirms the fact that the subscribing members were, with one exception, Brethren of 348, and the S.W. designate, was of 533. He further adds what I was most desirous of discovering—that the petition was recommended by Joseph Bennett, F. N. Gosling, and Thos. Clutterbuck, the W.M., S.W., and J.W. respectively of "Semper Fidelis"; and A. Dobie, Prov. Registrar, who was at that time acting Prov. G.M.³

Of the 26 members who go to form the roll of the Lodge during the first year of its existence, only five give their addresses as in Bromsgrove, eleven lived in that town or the immediate neighbourhood, whilst of the remainder, four hailed from London, three from Leicester, and two each from Birmingham, Shrewsbury, and Worcester.

A Lodge with the majority of its members thus widely scattered, could only hope to succeed by dint of the most determined enthusiasm and *esprit du corps*; and these essentials were not more evident in this than in any other Lodge. Small attendances are noticeable from the first: the second meeting of the Lodge was attended by but six members and two visitors, although candidates were initiated and passed. Rapid promotions followed as a matter of course, and I notice that the Rev.

1 They were—Thos. W. Kinder, S.W. of 348 (St. John's Lodge, Leicester), W.M.; X. J. Paszkowicz, 533 (Filde Union Lodge, Fleetwood. Erased from the roll of Lodges in 1850), S.W.; R. W. Johnson, 348, J.W.; Thos. H. Wheeler, P.M., 348; Wm. Pettifer, W.M., 348; W. J. Windram, J.W., 348; Arthur Kinder, 348. Only the first and third became Masters of this Lodge.

2 Recent correspondence with Bro. Topott (to whose kindness in searching old records I am much indebted) proves that most of the Leicester Brethren were Coachbuilders. Probably the establishment of Railway Carriage Works at Bromsgrove was the first link in the chain of events which brought us together on our Jubilee day.

3 I find that John Dent, M.P., was appointed G.M. of the Province in 1792; he died in 1826, but the vacancy was not filled until 1850, when R. W. Bro. Vernon was appointed. It was near the end of the interregnum of 26 years that this Lodge was constituted.

Harcourt-Oldham, Vicar of Stoke Prior, who was initiated on October 10th, 1849, was elected to the Master's Chair on November 12th, 1851, just two years after receiving the light of Masonry. Bro. Oldham may have been a very admirable Mason, but with so short an apprenticeship he could hardly have qualified himself for the duties of Master of his Lodge.

With such adverse influences at work, it is not surprising that our Bromsgrove Brethren lost heart; having first tried the effect of quarterly meetings in place of monthly ones (a most unfortunate step, I think), we read under date November 26th, 1855, that the following resolution was passed—

“That owing to want of Members and short attendances at Lodge, this Clive Lodge be dissolved, its warrant returned to Grand Lodge, and its furniture sold. Any surplus funds to be given to the Masonic Charities.”

Another meeting did not take place for seven months; possibly negotiations were pending which rendered an earlier assembly unadvisable; at all events that resolution was never confirmed; on the contrary 14 Brethren,⁴ all residents of Dudley, were proposed as joining members, and elected on June 29th 1856. Resolutions affirming the expediency of removing the Lodge to Dudley, altering the name from *Clive* to *Vernon*, and dealing with its surplus revenues were also passed, and another meeting held on August 27th, 1856, at the Golden Cross Hotel, to confirm the resolutions, closed the Bromsgrove record.

During those six or seven years, I can find but two records of any interest to us of to-day.

On May 5th, 1852, Bro. Edmund Anthony Harley Lechmere, P.S.C.D.; W.M. Sumner Fidelis Lodge; P.Sec. of the Apollo Lodge, Oxford, was proposed as a joining member by Bro. R. W. Johnson, J.M., and seconded by Bro. Houseman, S.W. That he was also balloted for and elected is evident, but the Minutes contain no record of it.

On June 15th, 1852, Provincial Grand Lodge was held under the Banner of Clive, at the Golden Cross Hotel, Bro. Henry Charles Vernon,

⁴ They were—Bro. the Rev. A. G. Davies, W.M., 730 (Royal Standard); Geo. H. Decley, P.M., 838 (Perseverance; then a Dudley Lodge); Elliott Hollier, P.M., 313 (Harmonic); Sam. H. Blackwell, 730; James Worley, 313; G. B. Lowe, 838; Thos. Wright, Sec., 838; William Wigginton, Sec., 313; Henry Roper, 98 (probably a Staffordshire Lodge); William Timmins, 838; B. Bagley, 838; William Holland, 313; and Zachariah Round, 313.

R.W.P.G.M. presiding. A Church Parade with band of music, bell-ringing, and other accessories usual in those days, was organised, and presumably was very successful, for the Vicar of Bromsgrove and his Curate became candidates, thus adding two to the already large proportion of clerical members of the Lodge.

The evening, we are further told, was spent in the utmost harmony, and true Masonic principles were kept in view.

The second era in the history of our Lodge now opened, and with every prospect of success—it numbered some thirty members, most of them resident in Dudley, and all within the immediate neighbourhood; a few experienced and ardent brethren guided its destinies, and the R.W. Prov. G.M., who had permitted it to take his name, evinced a warm interest in it. The predominant note of the re-organised Lodge was *Discipline*—severe discipline. One can see that a high ideal influenced these early Dudley leaders: Masonry was followed for Masonry's sake; the seductions of the Hotel smoking-room were unknown, the ameliorative influences of the Fourth Degree were kept in stern subjection. All officers absent from Lodge without good excuse were remorselessly fined, and private Lodge certificates from joining members a *sine qua non*. Listen to the following, penned by one of Worcestershire's Masonic worthies:—

“Dudley, October 29th, 1856.

I do hereby certify that Brethren A. G. Davies, W. Wigginton, E. Hollies, W. Finch, and S. H. Blackwell are regular registered Master Masons in Lodge No. 730, and during their stay amongst us have behaved as true and worthy Brethren, that they are all members, and their dues all paid.

(Signed) W. MASEFIELD, W.M. 730.”

Another Brother—one at that time holding a most exalted position in the Borough of Dudley—was not so fortunate. He was, it appears, a member of the Ionic Lodge in London, and Vernon wanted proofs. Secretary of Ionic treated Vernon's letters with contempt, but 819 persevered. Secretary then said that he had never been asked for, or given, such certificates, and wasn't going to begin. Unofficial members of Ionic testified that the Brother had been a member for twenty years, though not a keen Mason, and Grand Lodge had a registered Brother of that name. But all this was of no avail, Vernon took its stand on the Constitutions, and, backed up by the Provincial G.M. (who highly complimented the Brethren on the position they had taken), after over twelve months wrangle, an appeal to the Board of General Purposes was lodged. It is much to be regretted that the decision of the Board is not recorded in the minutes; it could, no doubt, be obtained

from Grand Lodge, whose business organization is, according to the writer's experience, excellent; but time does not permit. Suffice it to say that it resulted in the withdrawal of the candidate.⁵

Another resolution passed in open Lodge, November 18th, 1857, will, I am sure, evoke an approving response from our W.M. It reads:—

“That, whereas it is necessary that the intermediate meetings shall be regularly attended by the officers of the Lodge—with a view more especially to the attainment of proper and correct working—all officers not so attending, or not sending a written notice of their inability to do so, shall be fined as follows:— The amount of such fines to be placed to the Library Fund.”

It is much to be regretted that certain large-sized photographs of these early Masters which were paid for out of the Lodge funds have not descended to us at Stourport; they were good men and true Masons, and we would wish to have a better acquaintance with them.

But with all their Spartan determination, a little incident which occurred at the first Installation meeting shows us that they were human, and that we, the Brethren of 560 of to-day, are their direct descendants. We read that the “Right Wor. Prot. G.M., having arrived at the time appointed, and finding the Lodge room not fully prepared for his reception, nor even at a later period (owing to the misunderstanding of the Tyler) left in anger.” It is, however, gratifying to know that an ample apology put matters right. I fear that punctuality has never been one of the Vernon virtues.

The Masonic enthusiasm displayed by the leaders found a poor response amongst the rank and file, and, although a large measure of success in the way of work rewarded the early efforts of the Dudley Lodge, the attendance was execrable throughout. Uncomfortable rooms probably had much to do with this. Their quarters in the Old Town Hall were frequently invaded, and their meetings perforce held elsewhere. Worse followed, for in the Spring of 1860, the building being required for other purposes, a migration to the Wesleyan Schools at Rose Hill

⁵ The Grand Secretary has since furnished me with a copy of the resolution of the Board, as follows:—Grand Secretary's Office, 16th June, 1858. Sir and Brother,—I have the honour to inform you that the subject of your complaint was laid before the Board of General Purposes at the meeting held yesterday, the 15th instant. I am directed to inform you that the Board are of opinion that they are precluded from entertaining the complaint—not from any question of its merits, but because it is requisite that a complaint should be made by the person aggrieved, and not by any third party. I remain &c., W. G. CLARKE, G.S. To the W.M. Lodge, 819, Dudley.

was decided on, and one can readily make out that the room which cost 5s. per night (inclusive of coal, gas, and cleaning, and the right to erect a cupboard therein), was not at all a suitable place for a Masonic Lodge.

Slackness followed. The Lodge, which had hitherto met twelve times a year, now decided to meet nine times, and a further reduction to seven times was afterwards agreed to. Dissolution began to be talked about—dissolution or a change of residence, and when, on November 16th, 1864, the Brethren found that their Lodge room had been captured and was held in force by the Sisters of a Dorcas Society, it is no wonder that more vigorous steps were taken, and, at the adjourned meeting, a committee was appointed to ascertain on what terms Brother Roberts of the Freemasons' Tavern would open his doors to them. This, from a Lodge which five years previously had solemnly recorded its conviction "That this Lodge does not consider it expedient to extend the Tavern system in connection with Masonry under any circumstances," is a clear proof that circumstances alter cases.⁶

But this change from the Wesleyan Schools to the Freemasons' Tavern came too late. Although several candidates were proposed for initiation, the removal of the Lodge—which had evidently been the policy of some of the Brethren for many months previously—came with a rush. On March 15th, 1865, Brother Poole gave notice that, at a Lodge of Emergency, he should propose "That the Lodge be removed from Dudley to Stourport, and that the necessary arrangements be made therefor." On March 31st this proposition was carried by a majority, and, at the next Regular Lodge, Brothers George Baldwin, Stanley Baldwin, Alfred Baldwin, Erich Baldwin, Thomas Bond Worth, and E. Russel Lewty, all of No. 280 Lodge, were admitted joining members, and Brother Masefield appointed valuer of the effects.

The Lodge was now about to enter upon the third period of its existence. Bro. Royds was designated first Master, Bro. Edward Winnington S.W., and Bro. George Baldwin J.W., and a long list of influential Brethren testified, as joining members, their approval of the new venture. But at the outset a strange mistake, for a body of experienced Masons, was made. Two Lodges were held in the new quarters, at both of which business of importance, including the initiation of a candidate, was transacted, when the Grand Secretary intervened with

⁶ One of the replies to questions submitted to the fraternity by the Board of General Purposes, having reference to the disposal of the Grand Lodge property in Great Queen Street. Circular dated Jan. 10th, 1859.

a desire to know what brought the Vernon Lodge from Dudley to Stourport. The approval of the R.W. Prov. G.M. to the change had been sought and obtained, but the necessary confirmation by Grand Lodge had been ignored; and, presumably, Grand Lodge did not like being ignored. At all events, a whole year's delay resulted. Bro. Royds, who was to have been first W.M., had in the interval become P.G.M., and he did his best to propitiate the wounded feelings of the Great Queen Street authorities. It ended in the Lodge having to go back to Dudley, pass a formal resolution of removal, meet again a month afterwards to confirm the same, and obtain the consent of the authorities thereto. The previous meetings at Stourport being illegal, the candidate who had already been initiated was again balloted for and initiated.

I do not propose, Brethren, to take you through the minutes of the succeeding thirty years, page by page; it would be very unprofitable, and there are Brethren now living who were active workers in Vernon at the period we have now reached. One—only one!—of the survivors still keeps his name on the roll of the Lodge; they were jointly instrumental in bringing here. Brethren of Vernon know that he bears the honoured name of Alfred Baldwin. Would that he could be induced to resume his long-discarded badge, and occasionally join us in our ceremonies!

Judging from the names of the men who backed the Lodge in its new venture, and from the long list of distinguished guests who frequently honoured it by their presence, it is not an uncharitable assumption that the somewhat Puritanical sternness which marked its Dudley sojourn found no favour in Stourport. Let us hope that, profiting by the past, we may "observe that due medium between avarice and profusion," which every Mason is enjoined to seek.

Glancing through the big volume of minutes in which the business of the Lodge has been recorded in these latter years, I notice that Provincial G. L. was held under the Banner of Vernon in 1869, 1879, and 1889.

In 1874 a "Breeches Bible" came into the hands of V. W. Bro. the Rev. Adolphus F. A. Woodford, Past G. Chaplain, which from certain notes therein, appeared to have been the property of this Lodge. Bro. Woodford not only restored the volume to the Lodge, but had it re-bound, cut down, and furnished with silver clasps, before doing so—a proceeding which Bibliophiles would not commend. For his courtesy and liberality Bro. Woodford was elected an Hon. member of the Lodge.

In 1877 a much more important recovery of Lodge property was made—the old minute book, and other books, which had somehow got lost, were restored. Bro. George Baldwin was Secretary during these years—1874 and 1877—and we, no doubt, owe the recovery of our property to his untiring zeal. In conducting the ceremonies of the Lodge from the Master's chair, or when attending to his duties in the less exalted position of Secretary, the true welfare of the Vernon Lodge was evidently the first consideration of Bro. Geo. Baldwin.

In this same year (1877) the Banner which now hangs above the Master's chair was presented to the Lodge by Right Wor. Bro. Vernon; he had long retired from the active work of Masonry, and his kindly letter shows him to be a very old man in feeble health. The hope he expressed, that he might once more be able to visit his old Lodge, was not permitted to be realised.

Towards the end of 1878 a schism occurred, which went far towards wrecking the Lodge. A great deal might be written about it, but I prefer to say very little—a Brother thought he had claim on the Master's chair, which the Brethren refused to give effect to. He and his sympathisers seceded, and that at a time when the local tide of Masonry ebbed low; but sympathisers rallied round us, the difficulties disappeared, and the Lodge stood undiminished, firmer and better for the ordeal.⁷

In 1882 the Chair of the Lodge was filled by Bro. Geo. Taylor, whose zeal for Masonry in general, and for the welfare of this province in particular, the older Brethren present will bear glad testimony to; and it was during this time that he became Prov. G. Sec.

The only recent event I need to refer to is the step we have now completed, and the consecration of which (if I may be allowed to use that word), we effect on this our consecration day. I refer to the bold step we took when we decided to start a house of our own for this our Lodge. The Swan Hotel which had sheltered us for 30 years, became, on the retirement of our esteemed Past Master and Charity Steward, Bro. Vale, P.P.S.G.W., a tied house, and most of us considered that the altered circumstances made a change advisable. The Town Hall was tried, and a fine, large Lodge-room resulted; but it was cold, too large for our numbers, and the secondary accommodation very bad.

⁷ The happy ending of this regrettable business was largely due to the able and tactful handling of it by our late Bro. Meredith (then W.M.), so lovingly remembered by those whose privilege it was to know him.

The last professional work of an unusually active life was his report on the best means of heating our new Lodge-room. This was found on his blotting-pad when Death had claimed the writer.

This house⁸ was void, and we braved the venture. The financial difficulty may, and probably will be, formidable to a Lodge that can never be a large one; but we believe that in acting as we have, the best interests of Masonry will be promoted.

Nothing now remains, Brethren, but to bring these imperfect memoirs to a close with the expression of the hope—aye, and the conviction—that the chronicler of another fifty years may be able to look back on more bright spots, fewer dark ones, than have fallen to me; that, as time rolls on, the principles and tenets of our profession become better understood, more honestly followed, by the Brethren of Vernon; that they, as erring men, *have* done their best to transmit those principles, pure and unpolluted, through this Lodge from generation to generation!

8 Refers to house No. 8, Lichfield Street, (Centenary Committee).

FURTHER NOTES ON THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

THE TASK OF REVISING THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS of this ancient Lodge has been given to me, and you will all agree, after reading the preceding pages written by Wor. Bro. Edward Collens, Past Provincial Grand Secretary, how difficult that must have seemed at first view. However, I am consoled by the fact that many of the ordinary everyday Masonic happenings of that period are so-day noteworthy, and many of those Ancient Brethren, although to Wor. Bro. Collens they seemed to follow their ordinary Masonic activities, have been responsible for building those fine Masonic Traditions of which we are so proud. Wor. Bro. Geo. Taylor and Wor. Bro. Edward Collens both reached positions of eminence in this province by becoming in each case Provincial Grand Secretary, and their combined experience and influence must have done much to produce our present feeling of well-being. Another eminent Freemason, who was Wor. Master of this Lodge on its Fiftieth Anniversary, Wor. Bro. C. D. Eaton, Past Grand Deacon, was for over 40 years one of the most active Officers of this Province. To record his work in this and other Lodges to which he belonged, his active connection with other Degrees, and also his work in Grand Lodge, would be more than my poor pen could undertake.

After reading through the records of our Lodge, I am impressed by the feeling that our own history bears a distinct resemblance to that of general Masonic History, for, as there are three epochs in the History of Freemasonry, so there are three epochs in the History of our Lodge. Those who held sway during those epochs were the Masonic families of Kinder, Baldwin, and Vale. The Kinder Brothers were instrumental in forming the Clive Lodge in 1849. The Baldwin family was responsible for the transfer of this Lodge from Dudley at a time when the few members left were considering the surrendering of the Warrant. The Vale Brothers were the prime movers in the revival after a period when it was necessary to accept active help from other Lodges.

I have been able to obtain but little information regarding our Founders except the following taken from the records of the St. John's Lodge, No. 348 of Leicester (now No. 279).

Thos. W. Kinder	Initiated	1845 S.W.	1847.
R. W. Johnson	..		1847.
Thos. H. Wheeler	..	1843 W.M.	1845-46.
William Pettifer	..	1845 W.M.	1847.
W. J. Windram	..	1846 W.M.	1848.
Arthur Kinder	..		1846.

The Kinders were well-known Leicester Coach Builders, and were in active business in that city until the beginning of the present century.

What has puzzled me for some years is why should Thomas Kinder, a Leicestershire man, choose the name of "CLIVE" for our Lodge? A quite recent visit to Bromsgrove produced a solution to that problem. The name must have been chosen for the reason that a family named "Clive" were at that time residing at Hewell Grange, Bromsgrove. An interesting fact is that Lady Harriet, one of the two daughters of the Sixth Earl of Plymouth was married in 1819 to the Hon. Robert Clive, a son of the First Earl of Powis, who was a descendant of Clive of India. (She assumed the name of Windsor in addition to, and before, that of Clive in 1855).

No mention is made in Wor. Bro. Collens' pages of the consecration which took place at the Town Hall, Bromsgrove, on the 14th July, 1844. The Consecrating Officer was Wor. Bro. W. Roden, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was founder and Past Master of the Royal Standard Lodge which was consecrated at Kidderminster in 1844. Previously he was a member of the Lodge of Hope and Charity, Kidderminster, but never occupied the Master's Chair in that Lodge, as he only reached the office of Senior Warden. He was distinguished in public life in Kidderminster for he was elected Mayor on four occasions. It is indeed strange that the Royal Standard Lodge should move to Dudley in 1851, and the Clive Lodge should also move to that town in 1856.

The seven years following the consecration were characterised by disappointing progress due to the founders' lack of experience, and to the fact that many of the members resided at a great distance from their Lodge. One of the early members worthy of mention was Bro. Doctor Fitch, who was elected a joining member in 1851. He was a member of a Chester Lodge. Some of our older Brethren can doubtless remember him, and many of us will call to mind his son, who was initiated into our Lodge on the 24th May, 1910. He remained a member until his death in 1946, and his passing severed the last remaining family link with the original Lodge. Wor. Bro. Revd. J. H. Iles was the last member to occupy the Chair at Bromsgrove, and he also presided at the first meeting at Dudley.

In 1850 the Province, which had been without a Provincial Grand Master at last found a suitable ruler in Right Wor. Bro. Henry Charles Vernon, a son of the Lord of the Manors of Hilton and Essington, of Hilton Park, Wolverhampton. He was then Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, his brother Wor. Bro. G. A. Vernon, being Grand Master of the Province from 1853 to 1864. As Provincial Grand Master, Wor. Bro. H. C. Vernon was responsible for the removal of the Lodge to Dudley, and his letter of sanction of the transfer, and the re-naming

of the Lodge to "VERNON" is attached to the inside cover of the first minute book, together with the personal letter of sanction by the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland. It is there now for any Brother to see.

You will have read in the preceding pages about the great interest Wor. Bro. Vernon had in the Lodge which bore his name.

Perhaps it is of interest to note that while our Lodge was housed at Dudley, Provincial Grand Lodge was held there on the 9th September, 1856, and the programme of the procession, still attached to our Minute Book, records that the Lodges in that procession were preceded by police, the Union Flag, and bands of music.

Undoubtedly, Vernon Lodge removed from Dudley to Stourport because it failed to find permanent premises in Dudley and the transfer took place in 1866 when Wor. Bro. George Pitt was Master. The second epoch had begun, and it was associated with the illustrious name of Baldwin. The details have kindly been supplied to me by Wor. Bro. Fred Underwood, Past A.G.D.C., Honorary Librarian to the Province. Bro. George Baldwin, "Ironmaster," was initiated in the Worcester Lodge No. 280, together with his brothers Stanley and Alfred, "merchants," on 3rd December, 1863. He became Wor. Master in 1867. Brother Enoch Baldwin was initiated in January, 1864. Wor. Bro. George Baldwin had a great love for our Lodge, and took an active part in the work until his death in 1881. He was also Worshipful Master of Vernon in 1867, and afterwards became Secretary, holding the office until 1880. During those years he acted as Installing Master at most of the Installation Ceremonies, and on many occasions gave an explanation of the first Tracing Board and Initiations, a practice rarely followed to-day. In March, 1875, an application for a special dispensation was made in order to initiate his son, George Pearce Baldwin, who was under 21 years of age. (His age at the time of the application was 18 years and 10 months). The last of these Baldwin Masons was Alfred who died in 1908, he was father of the first Earl Baldwin of Bewdley.

Two other Brethren of the Worcester Lodge assisted in the transfer of Vernon to Stourport; they were Bro. Edward Lewty and Bro. Thomas Bond Worth, both initiated in 1864. Neither of these Brethren reached the Chair. Bro. Lewty died during the year he was Senior Warden (1869). The work of the Lodge for the first four years in Stourport was performed by the Brothers Baldwin, ably assisted by the Brethren of 280. One name often mentioned in the early minutes is that of Wor. Bro. J. Newton, who, on many occasions, took office and explained both Tracing Boards. At every meeting of our Lodge we are reminded of this worthy Brother's love for Vernon, for our Alms Box was presented by him in 1868.

Although each Lodge Meeting in those first years at Stourport was fully occupied with work, the candidates admitted showed little keenness. Consequently in 1870 it was obvious that more active help was urgently needed. This help was most opportunely received from the Lodge of Hope and Charity. At almost every meeting from 1870 to 1880 Brethren of 377 joined our Lodge, and a glance at our Past Masters' Board shows that between 1870 and 1882 nine of those Brethren occupied the Vernon Chair. The name of Wor. Bro. George Grosvenor appears on our Board, a name familiar to all of us as he was the father of Wor. Bro. The Rev. J. E. Grosvenor, Past Deputy G.D.C. He became a joining member on 5th December, 1871 and was installed on 17th December, 1872.

These Kidderminster Brethren, without doubt, kept up on the books of Grand Lodge, and their help and influence during that critical period must indeed be acknowledged. During this period, Thomas Vale was initiated. It was on the 8th April, 1879 he saw the Light. He was appointed Junior Deacon in December of the same year, installed in the Chair in 1882, and appointed D. C. in 1884. He was appointed Secretary in 1886, and after three years in that office became Charity Steward, which office he held until his death in 1910.

A study of the Past Masters' Board reveals a striking change in the attitude shown by Brethren of the Lodge after the installation of Wor. Bro. Thomas Vale. He obviously encouraged the admission of gentlemen of keenness and ability. The necessity to introduce joining members from other Lodges was no longer paramount. This seems to be the commencement of the third epoch, for on no occasion since that date has Vernon Lodge been without Brethren possessing the necessary qualifications to fill the Chair.

The Brethren of Worcester Lodge, No. 280, when visiting our Temple, often enquire about the portrait of Wor. Bro. F. T. Elgie which hangs in our Dining Hall. It was on the 21st of May, 1872, that Wor. Bro. George Baldwin observed that he did not know how much longer he might be permitted to address the Vernon Lodge, and therefore he thought it opportune to remark that the large portrait before them of Wor. Bro. Elgie, an old master of the Worcester Lodge, was his property, and he wished it to be understood that so long as the Vernon Lodge continued where it was, so long should that picture remain in its present position. But if it should occur that this Lodge at any time be removed from Stourport, the picture must go to No. 280 at Worcester.

In February, 1877, Wor. Bro. H. C. Vernon, who had then retired from his office of Provincial Grand Master, presented the Lodge with its banner. Heraldic experts can find no connection between the design and that of the Vernon family, except the possibility that the field

sinister bears the Vernon arms. It seems more likely that the artist has endeavoured to convey a suggestion of Stourport by its ships and quay.

In 1893 Brother Charles D. Eaton was made a member of Vernon. He was then a member of Atholl Lodge No. 74, but was of Stourport birth, and connected by marriage with Wor. Bro. F. Vale. He quickly showed his keenness in the craft by giving all seven sections of the First Lecture when he was Senior Deacon in 1895; and also as Senior Deacon gave the Charge after initiation to his Brother-in-Law Wor. Bro. Fred Vale on the 19th May, 1896. Of the list of members published on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lodge, dated 11th July, 1899, only Brother Fred Vale is with us to-day.

By this time, at long last, the Vernon Lodge had acquired a home of its own at 8, Lichfield Street. It was here that our Fiftieth Birthday was celebrated. Wor. Bro. Collens had compiled his well-known history of the Lodge, and was to read it to the Brethren. This interesting item, however, had to be postponed owing to the excessive heat in the Lodge Room.

Another point of interest worthy of mention is that sanction was given to the formation of a Lodge of Instruction on the 20th November, 1899, Wor. Bro. Eaton becoming its first Preceptor. Thus while we are celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Lodge, we are also commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lodge of Instruction.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge the information I have been able to gather from the Centenary Souvenir of the St. Peter's Lodge, No. 419 (Staffs.) loaned to me by Wor. Bro. R. P. Vale. It seems hardly a coincidence that this Lodge contained as members Wor. Bro. J. H. Iles (Master of Clive during the transfer to Dudley, and later Chaplain of St. Peter's); Right Worshipful Bro. H. C. Vernon (who was also a member of St. Peter's); Wor. Bro. Henry Vale and his brother Vincent, who joined the Vernon Lodge in 1893 and 1891 respectively.

F.C.P.

THE YEARS FROM 1899 TO 1949

THE FEAR EXPRESSED BY WOR. BRO. EDWARD COLLENS IN HIS penultimate paragraph that the Lodge would never be a large one, has happily been removed, and the hope of his last paragraph more than realised. Vernon Lodge has, since 1898, increased both in numbers and standing, and pursued a tranquil course untouched by any of the disturbances or irregularities which chequered its earlier history.

As time went on the number of suitable candidates for initiation increased to such an extent that the old Lodge Room in Lichfield Street became too small to accommodate the Brethren. Heated by coal fires, the rooms there were too restricted and quite unsuitable for large gatherings. In fact at many meetings meals were served simultaneously in two rooms to relieve congestion, while for special meetings and Installations the Town Hall had to be hired.

The suggestion that a move might be made to larger and more commodious premises first appeared in the Lodge Minute Book in May 1928. Buildings at Bewdley were first considered as there were no premises in Stourport which could be adapted to the purpose for which they were required. In the end, and after much discussion, a decision was taken to build a Masonic Hall on land adjoining the old Lodge. The land was bought for £134. Wor. Bro. (then Bro.) Godwin kindly submitted plans, for which he made no charge and Messrs. T. Vale and Sons Ltd. promised to erect the building at cost price plus 5 per cent.

The total cost of the new Lodge, to which the Brothers Vale each gave £100, was £2,380. The following letter was received from Wor. Bro. F. Vale:—"I have been authorised to write as follows, In grateful memory of the late Wor. Bro. T. Vale, P.P.G.W., P.M. of Vernon Lodge, his five sons, all Past Masters of Vernon, have pleasure in offering a donation of £100 each towards the cost of the new Masonic Hall.

Yours sincerely, F. VALE."

A resolution of sincere thanks was accorded to the generous donors on February 16th, 1932.

The new building was completed in 1931 and the first ceremony in it was held on November 17th, 1931. Up to the present the Temple, curiously enough, has not been consecrated.

A small committee was also formed to attend to the furnishing, but the results of its deliberations were not presented to the Lodge nor to the Bye Monthly Meeting for no record appears in any Minutes. Wor. Bro. F. Vale presented the dining room carpet and Wor. Bro.

(then Bro.) H. G. Southall the carpet in the Tyler's Room together with the green surround in the Lodge Room. The other items of necessary furniture were purchased from Lodge Funds.

It is interesting to note that on February 21st, 1928, all the offices in the Lodge were filled by members and connections of the Vale Family. A member of the family was 'raised' on that occasion.

Applications for membership from suitable candidates continued to increase with the result that it was generally felt that the Lodge was becoming unwieldy. The decision was taken in 1935 to form a daughter Lodge to be named the "SEVERN LODGE." but that is the beginning of another story.

In 1933, the Vernon Mark Lodge was formed, and this Lodge also is in a flourishing condition. A Lodge of the Royal Ark Mariners was established in 1948.

From time to time various articles of furniture and other ornaments have been given to the Lodge by sundry members. A complete list would fill too much space, but mention must be made of the munificent gift of the valuable library from Wor. Bro. C. D. Eaton on October 21st, 1924. This library has since been augmented by Wor. Bro. Eaton and other Brethren. At his death he bequeathed his valuable collection of Masonic jewels to the Lodge.

In 1942 the debt owing to a Building Society in respect to the Masonic Hall was £1,693 2s. 6d. But by this time the prevailing feeling among the Brethren was that the building should become their property, and with this end in view, Wor. Bro. J. F. Parker was appointed secretary of a small committee to launch an appeal for donations and loans free of interest to cover the debt. £581 18s. 3d. was quickly given and £970 lent, so the premises became to all intents the property of the Brethren of Vernon Lodge.

In 1947 a Class of Instruction was successfully formed, chiefly owing to the energy and enthusiasm of Wor. Bro. J. F. Fennell. Under the guidance of Wor. Bro. J. Carss it is working smoothly and effectively. The results will undoubtedly become evident in future years.

Also in 1947 a Ladies Festival was held for the first time. It had such success that it is likely to develop into an annual event.

So may I conclude this brief outline of the happenings during the past fifty years and venture to express the hope that the old Vernon Lodge will continue to prosper, that future generations will benefit from the devotion of past and present members, thus deriving profit and pleasure from their membership and their attendance at Meetings.

H. E. R.



THE CENTENARY OFFICERS,
1940.

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Library and Museum Trust



MEMBERS OF THE LODGE,
IN THE CENTENARY YEAR, 1949.

Demolish. G.M.

And the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Other Officers and Members of the Vernon Lodge
No. 20 and all others whom it may concern.

CERTIFICATE

Whereas it appears by the Records of the Grand Lodge that on the 15th day of January 1849 a Resolution was passed by which certain Brethren therein named, adhering and supporting their and their regular Successors to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at the Town Hall, Worcester, Gloucestershire, and which Lodge was named the Olive Lodge and then numbered 819 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England And whereas in 1856 it was required the Vernon Lodge And whereas in 1860 it was removed to the Old Town Hall, Queen Street, Dudley, Worcester in 1865 to the Swan and High Street, same port, in 1868 to the Freemasons Tavern, Shore Street, Dudley, and in 1883 to the Swan Hotel, Shropshire And whereas in consequence of the alteration made in the names of Lodges in the year 1883 the said Lodge became and now stands on the Register as No. 500 meeting at the Masonic Hall, Shropshire, in the City of Worcester under the title or denomination of

THE VERNON LODGE

And whereas satisfactory proof has been produced of the continuance of the said Lodge for one hundred years dating from the 11th day of July 1849 And whereas the Brethren composing the said Lodge have to be permitted to wear a Commemorative Jewel and have prayed our sanction for that purpose

Now Know Ye that We having taken the petition into our consideration and viewed to their request and notice of Our Brethren We hereby give and grant to all and each of the subscribing members of the said Lodge being males, the same permission to wear in all our Masonic Meetings suspended to the left breast by a Sky Blue Ribbon and exceeding one inch and a half in breadth a JEWEL of MEDALS of our own design, as before that we have already approved as a CENTENARY JEWEL that such Jewel shall be worn only by those Brethren who are born five Subscribers and Members of the said Lodge and for so long only as they shall pay the stipulated Subscription to the funds thereof and be duly returned to the Grand Lodge of England

Given at London this 17th day of July A.D. 1899 A.S. 1899

By Command of the Most Worshipful Grand Master,
His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, G. G. G. G. G.

Wm. ...

LIST OF MEMBERS, APRIL 4TH, 1949

with date of Initiation (or joining).

Hon. Members :—Wor. Bros. BEN. MARSH, J.P., D.P.G.M.
 E. L. BUNTING, M.B., ASST. P.G.M.
 JOHN COX, P.M.
 A. D. CAPEL LOFT, P.M.
 W. H. STONE, P.M.
 E. A. MILLWARD, P.M.

F. VALE, P.M.	1896	S. W. STRADLING, J.D.	1936
H. VALE	1900	N. A. FERGUSON	1937
F. D. RATCLIFF, P.M.	1903	J. H. LORR	1937
G. WEAVER, P.M.	1904	R. PARKER	1937
W. V. VALE, P.M.	1904	H. L. MCCALL, Asst. Sec.	1938
J. CARSS, P.M. D.C.	1906	S. G. BRITCHEARD, Sq. Leader	1938
H. BEAKBANE, J.P., P.M.	1908	S. S. TYLER, Inner G.	1939
R. P. VALE, P.M.	1909	M. BRIDGE, Steward	1939
J. F. PARKER, P.M.	1909	W. W. WYLD, Steward	1940
A. T. FORTY, P.M.	1919	E. MARKS, Steward	1940
E. LLOYD	1920	F. HILL	1941
W. H. GODWIN, P.M.	1920	J. W. McFITT, Steward	1941
H. K. AULT	1921	W. J. CHURCH Senr., Steward	1942
H. G. SOUTHALL, P.M.	1922	W. J. JOHNSON, Major	1942
A. H. MASTERMAN, Major	1923	W. J. JOHNSON, Dr., Steward	1942
R. A. HECTOR, J.P.	1923	W. J. CHURCH, Junr., Organist	1942
G. W. AYLWARD, P.M.	1924	W. H. WALKER	1942
H. E. ROSE, P.M., Secretary	1924	J. P. CASTLE, Lt. Colonel	1943
J. G. RICHARDSON, Canon, P.M., Chaplain	1925	M. G. HEAD, Steward	1943
H. G. HILL	1926	L. A. WARD	1943
A. S. NORTHOVER, P.M.	1928	T. GREEN	1943
H. N. FROST, J.P.	1929	E. H. GREENAWAY	1944
T. F. W. HARRIS	1929	J. E. COWPER	1944
H. G. FORSYTH, P.M.	1929	E. J. EVANS	1944
P. G. HOPCROFT, J.P., P.M., Treasurer	1930	C. T. POSTINGS	1944
R. SKES, P.M.	1931	F. MATTEY	1944
G. N. FRICHARD, P.M.	1932	G. H. HALFORD	1945
R. A. LUBBROCK, P.M.	1932	P. A. FORTY	1945
A. J. VICCARS, Almoner	1932	H. J. REYNOLDS	1945
F. C. PERRET, W.M.	1933	O. E. BLINCOW	1945
J. H. JONES, P.M.	1933	B. R. IVENS	1946
M. H. CAPEL LOFT	1933	H. EVERS	1946
G. WILCOX, Asst. D.C.	1933	R. HOOPER	1946
A. J. BURRETT	1934	F. L. GLOVER	1946
J. F. FENNELL, P.M.	1934	R. A. KNIGHT	1947
W. A. GREENWAY, I.P.M.	1934	H. E. CATTELL	1947
W. JOHNSTONE	1934	M. K. J. FRYER	1947
F. A. PRICE, S.W.	1935	W. H. McCORMACK	1947
A. G. P. HAMLIN	1935	F. WILSON	1948
S. L. JARVIS, J.W.	1935	B. L. FIELD	1948
J. R. DANCE	1935	L. P. VERNON	1948
W. H. CLARKE, S.D.	1935	H. BROWN	1948
		S. KEMP	1949
		O. W. CONGRAVE	1949
		W. E. J. ROBERTS, Tyler	

LIST OF BRETHREN WHO HAVE SERVED THE OFFICE OF MASTER

The Clive Lodge, No. 819, holden at Bromsgrove

BRO. THOS. W. KINDER	1849-50	BRO. J. H. ILES	1853-4
.. THOS. W. KINDER	1850-1	.. T. HOUSMAN	1854-5
.. R. W. JOHNSON	1851-2	.. J. H. ILES	1855-6
BRO. REV. HARCOURT OLDHAM	1852-3		

Removed to Dudley, and re-named the Vernon Lodge.

BRO. REV. ALEX. G. DAVIES	1856-7	BRO. THOS. WRIGHT	1860-1
.. G. L. DEELEY	1857-8	.. EDWIN POOLE	1861-2
.. ELLIOTT HOLLIER	1858-9	.. ISAAC PRINCE	1862-3
.. Z. B. SMITH	1859-60		

Number entered to 350.

BRO. JOHN CECIL WESLEY	1863-4	BRO. GEORGE PITT	1864-5
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Removed to Stouport Swan Hotel.

BRO. GEORGE PITT	1866	BRO. THOMAS VALE	1883
.. GEORGE BALDWIN	1867	.. ARTHUR COMBER	1884
.. STANLEY BALDWIN	1868	.. CHARLES MYTTON	1885
.. STANLEY BALDWIN	1869	.. GEORGE LEES	1886
.. ENOCH BALDWIN	1870	.. EDWARD LAY	1887
.. JOHN BLUNDELL	1871	.. WILLIAM DORSETT	1888
.. W. L. FAWCETT	1872	.. T. FRED HOULT	1889
.. G. W. CROSVENOR	1873	.. J. W. CONSTERDINE- CHADWICK	1890
.. E. A. BROOME	1874	.. H. E. G. MORRISON	1891
.. JAMES MORTON	1875	.. EDWARD COLLENS	1892
.. CHARLES JECKS DIXON	1876	.. EDWARD COLLENS	1893
.. J. T. BEDFORD	1877	.. DONALD CARGILL MARTIN, M.A., M.D.	1894
.. J. T. MEREDITH	1878	.. WM. GEO. PAGE	1895
.. J. T. MEREDITH	1879	.. EDWARD COLLENS	1896
.. G. W. NAYLOR	1880	.. ROBERT RHODES	1897
.. R. S. BLUNDELL	1881	.. CHARLES MYTTON	1898
.. GEORGE TAYLOR	1882		

Masonic Hall, Lichfield Street.

BRO. C. D. EATON	1899	BRO. E. A. MILLWARD	1916
.. R. RHODES	1900	.. W. V. VALE	1917
.. J. I. GLOVER	1901	.. A. D. CAPEL LOFT	1918
.. J. I. GLOVER	1902	.. E. S. ROBINSON	1919
.. F. VALE	1903	.. J. CARSS	1920
.. H. CHUMBLEY <i>place</i>	1904	.. H. VALE	1921
.. E. COOKSON	1905	.. R. P. VALE	1922
.. A. W. GABRIEL	1906	.. J. F. PARKER	1923
.. J. FELTON	1907	.. W. H. STONE	1924
.. G. JACKSON	1908	.. H. BEAKBANE	1925
.. T. E. VALE	1909	.. G. R. MASO	1926
.. P. PRINCE	1910	.. G. FENNEL	1927
.. J. EDGLEY	1911	.. T. J. ROGERS	1928
.. F. D. RATCLIFF	1912	.. A. S. FOSTER	1929
.. T. D. POTTER	1913	.. F. S. TOOBY	1930
.. J. COX	1914	.. L. J. LLOYD	1931
.. G. WEAVER	1915		

New Masonic Hall, Severn Road.

BRO. A. T. FORTY	1932	.. P. G. HOPCROFT	1941
.. F. S. VALE	1933	.. R. SYKES	1942
.. W. H. GODWIN	1934	.. J. G. RICHARDSON	1943
.. H. G. SOUTHAL	1935	.. C. R. PRITCHARD	1944
.. G. W. AYLWARD	1936	.. L. R. A. LUBBOCK	1945
.. H. E. ROSE	1937	.. R. H. JONES	1946
.. A. S. NORTHOVER	1938	.. J. F. FENNEL	1947
.. F. E. MUNTFORD	1939	.. W. A. GREENWAY	1948
.. H. G. FORSETT	1940	.. F. C. PERRETT	1949

CENTENARY MEETING OF THE VERNON LODGE, No. 560.
ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

All brethren of the Lodge and Visiting Brethren are requested to take their seats in the Lodge by 4-50 p.m.

1. At 5-00 p.m. precisely the Worshipful Master and his Wardens will take their chairs.
2. The opening ode will be sung.
3. The Lodge will be opened.
4. The Secretary will read the Dispensation.
5. The Director of Ceremonies will announce the Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire in Charge, Wor. Bro. Ben Maash, J.P., Past Grand Deacon, the Worshipful the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Dr. E. La Bunting, M.B., P.P.G.W., Grand Lodge Officers, and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers, who will enter the Lodge in procession.
6. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will take the Chair and appoint his Wardens.
7. The Worshipful, the Deputy P.G.M., the Worshipful the Assistant P.G.M., Grand Lodge Officers and Prov. Grand Lodge Officers will be saluted in antient form.
8. The Secretary will read the summons convening the Meeting.
9. The Secretary will read the Minutes of the first Meeting held on the 4th April, 1849, and the Consecration Meeting held on the 11th July 1849.
10. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will address the Brethren on the object of the Meeting.
11. The Prov. G.D.C. will present the original warrant to the Deputy P.G.M. for his inspection, who will request the Secretary to read the same.
12. The Provincial Grand Secretary Wor. Bro. H. V. Stanton, P.G.D. will then retire from the Lodge.
13. A procession of Past Masters will be formed and retire from the Lodge.
14. The Past Master will escort the Prov. Grand Secretary into the Lodge bearing the Centenary Warrant.
15. The Hymn, *Now thank we all our God*, will be sung during the procession.

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 mothers' arms
Hath bless'd 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 perplex'd,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

So Mote it Be

16. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will direct the Prov. Grand Secretary to read the Centenary Warrant.
17. The Provincial Grand Chaplain Wor. Bro. Rev. G. H. Sharpe will give an oration.
18. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will present the W.M. with the Centenary Warrant and direct that the proceedings be entered on the Minutes of the Lodge.
19. The W.M., Wardens and Past Masters of the Vernon Lodge will resume their places.
20. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will call upon the Secretary, Wor. Bro. H. W. Rose, P.P.G.D., to give a short history of the Lodge.
21. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M. will call on the W.M. and his Wardens to resume their chairs.
22. Copies of the Centenary Souvenir Book will be distributed.
23. The Prov. Grand Chaplain will offer up prayer :—

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, we humbly beseech Thee to receive these our prayers and oblation, of praise. We unite in hearty thanks to Thee, Almighty Father, for the manifold blessings bestowed on us and on our Lodge, and give grateful thanks to Thee that Thou hast been pleased to preserve and direct this Lodge for a hundred years. We beseech Thee to grant a continuance of Thy blessings, and give us grace so to follow the good examples of the Brethren who have laboured for the welfare of this Lodge, that the work of the Lodge may ever be as well to Thy Glory as the welfare of our fellow creatures.

So Mote it Be.

24. The Prov. Grand Chaplain will give the Patriarchal Benediction.
25. The Hymn *O God, our help in ages past*, will be sung by all the Brethren, during which alms will be taken in aid of the Worcestershire Provincial Benevolent Fund.

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 Thy 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.

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.

26. The Brethren will sing the first verse of the National Anthem.
27. The Worshipful the Deputy P.G.M., the Worshipful the Assistant P.G.M., Grand Lodge Officers and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers will retire in procession.
28. The Lodge will be closed.
29. Closing Hymn.