

Bromsgrove 72999.

The Masonic Hall
Rainbow Hill
Worcester.
WR3 8LY.

9 West Rd.,
Stoney Hill
Bromsgrove
B60 2NG.

Nov 22.'78

Provincial Records.

Dear Wor Bro Tom,

Following the meeting of Past Masters and officers of Bromsgrove Lodge held in October, your circular letter of 25th July was passed to me for attention, and I submit the attached for inclusion in "The History of the Masonic Province of Worcestershire".

This is an outline of the general history of Masonry in Bromsgrove from the earliest records available up to the present time, and, as such I feel will be of greater general interest than a list of the 'domestic' events of the present Lodge.

I have of course included the most important events of the present Lodge, but have dealt with this in a general manner, rather than on the efforts and achievements of various individual Masons.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,



Bernard A. Roberson.

The earliest available records show that the first Lodge to be founded in Bromsgrove was the St Johns Lodge No 487 and it's warrant was dated July 11th 1786. It was a 'Modern Lodge' and is believed took its name from the Patron Saint of the town.

It originally met at the Golden Cross Hotel in the High Street of Bromsgrove, but, in 1792 it changed it's venue to the Star & Garter Hotel in Droitwich, but was erased from the register of Grand Lodge on 6th February 1786.

The next Lodge to be founded in the town had an equally chequered career; this was the Clive Lodge No 819 and was consecrated in the Town Hall Bromsgrove on 11th July 1849 by Wor Bro Roden who was at that time the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Worcestershire.

It is believed that the name of the Lodge had some connection with the Lord of the Manor of Bromsgrove, the Earl of Plymouth, who resided at that time at Hewell Grange, Tardebigge, and whose family name is Windsor-Clive, being connected by marriage with to Lord Clive of India.

The Constitution of the Clive Lodge shows that the majority of the founders were members of St Johns Lodge No 348 Leicester. Whilst it is something of a mystery for a group of Leicester Masons to be amongst the founders of a Lodge in Bromsgrove, it is believed that, as the majority of them were coachbuilders it is likely that the establishment of the Railway Carriage & Wagon Works at Bromsgrove could have been the link in the chain of events.

A further point of interest is that the petition was recommended by Joseph Bennett; F.Gosling and Thomas Clutterbuck, the Wor Master; Senior and Junior Warden respectively of the Semper Fidelis Lodge No 529 in the City of Worcester, and also A.Dobie, Provincial Grand Registrar who was at that time Acting Provincial Grand Master.

What records that are available show that the activities of the Lodge did not meet with the success which the founders had expected, and by November 1855 (a mere 6 years after it's consecration) moves were afoot to close the Lodge. Whilst these early attempts at closure were not immediately successful, it is recorded that in June 1856, fourteen brethren, all residents of Dudley, were elected as joining members, and that a resolution affirming the expediency of removing the Lodge to Dudley and altering it's name to Vernon was also passed. Another meeting was held at the Golden Cross Hotel on August 27th 1856 to confirm the resolution and so ended the second recorded attempt to establish Freemasonry in Bromsgrove.

The present Bromsgrove Lodge No 5414 was founded in 1933, and it's Consecration took place in the Public Hall, Worcester on Thursday 5th October of that year. The Consecration Ceremony was conducted by The Rt. Wor. Bro. General Sir Francis J.Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.L., the Provincial Grand Master assisted by Wor Bro W.T.Page., Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The prime movers in the foundation of the Lodge were, Bro's R.R.Mason., R.A.Haysom., T.Harris., and H.W.James who were members of one, or both the Northfield Lodge No 5056 and the St Laurence Lodge No 2724, In addition much encouragement and support was also forthcoming from members of Wyche Lodge No 3638. The Master and Wardens of Northfield Lodge No 5056 signed the petition to Grand Lodge, in open Lodge on March 18th 1933.

Shortly before the Lodge could celebrate it's sixth birthday, war was declared on September 3rd 1939 and, in common with all other organisations the Lodge went through a prolonged period of austerity and inconveniences, but such was the enthusiasm and dedication of the founders, it survived all the difficulties of a nation fighting for it's very existence, even during the War the Lodge was able to form a Royal Arch Chapter which was consecrated on January 28th 1944 by Ex Comp Harvey Gibbs, Prov G.H.

Since its formation Bromsgrove Lodge has been responsible for the sponsoring of three daughter Lodges; The Old Bromsgrovian Lodge No.5743 in October 1938; The Lodge of the Holy Wells No.6975 in June 1950, and The Hagley Lodge No.7932 in November 1963.

The Lodge originally met in De Grey's Cafe, then situated in High Street, Bromsgrove and subsequently moved to St.John's Parish Hall and afterwards to All Saints Parish Hall. The Lodge moved to The Bromsgrove Masonic Hall, Churchfields, Bromsgrove in 1962; this building was presented to the Freemasons of Bromsgrove by Mrs Edith Poole, and stands as a memorial to herself and her husband, Wor Bro A.H.Poole, P.P.G.D. who was the twelfth Master of the Lodge; and it was dedicated by the Rt.Wor.Bro.Lt-Col.O.W.D.Smith, D.L., J.P., Provincial Grand Master on December 15th 1962.

This building is now the home of four other Craft Lodges; two Royal Arch Chapters, a Lodge of Mark Master Masons and four other Masonic orders.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust