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Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons

St. Paul's Lodge, No. 43

Warwickshire

**Celebration of the 200th Anniversary
of the Foundation of the Lodge**

Installation

OF

Rt. Wor. Bro. Col. W. F. WYLEY, P.G.D.

Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire

Worshipful Master

AT THE WARWICKSHIRE MASONIC TEMPLE

BROAD STREET, BIRMINGHAM

ON

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 1933.

Officers

RT. WOR. BRO. COLONEL W. F. WYLEY, P.G.D.		W.M.
PROV.G.M.		
WOR. BRO. T. ALAN FURSE		I.P.M.
BRO. ARCHIE B. SOLOMON		S.W.
BRO. BERTRAM C. EVANS		S.V.
WOR. BRO. H. JACOBS, P.P.G.W.	CHAPLAIN.	
WOR. BRO. H. J. JOSEPH, P.P.G.D.	TREASURER.	
BRO. L. C. DAVIS	SECRETARY.	
BRO. J. A. HARRIS		S.D.
BRO. P. F. CHAMBERS		J.D.
WOR. BRO. MOSS MINDELSON		D.C.
WOR. BRO. EDWARD S. JACOBS		A.D.C.
WOR. BRO. MENDEL C. MINDELSON, P.P.G.D.	CHAR. STD.	
BRO. T. H. ROSE	ASST. SEC.	
BRO. T. G. ST. JOHNSTON		I.G.
BRO. F. W. MOON		S.S.
BRO. G. STRETTON HILL		S.
BRO. M. L. MINDELSON		S.
BRO. H. FEATHERSTON		S.
BRO. J. G. LINES		S.
BRO. J. WILK		S.
BRO. C. H. MORTIMORE, JUNR.		S.
BRO. WILLIAM LITTLER		TYLER.

Menu

HORS D'OEUVRES À CHOIS

TORTUE CLAIRE ORKI

SUPRÊME DE SOLE BONNE FEMME

CÔTELETTES D'AGNEAU PORTUGAISE
CHOU DE MER — POMMES CROQUETTES

SORBET AUX CERISES

CHAPON RÔTI — SALADE PANACHÉE
POMMES DUCHESSE

MERINGUE CHANTILLY

DESSERT

CAFÉ

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Toast List

"H.M. THE KING AND THE CRAFT."

Proposed by—

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

"The Most Worshipful the Grand Master,
H.R.H. the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G."

Proposed by—

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

"The Most Worshipful the Pro Grand Master the Rt. Hon. LORD AMPHILL: the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master the Rt. Hon. LORD CORNWALLIS, and the rest of the Officers, Present and Past, of the Grand Lodge of England."

Proposed by—

WOR. BRO. EDWARD S. JACOBS, A.D.C.

Responded to by—

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL THE PRO. GRAND MASTER.

"The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, COLONEL W. F. WYLEY, P.G.D.: The Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, BRIG.-GENL. M. QUAYLE JONES, P.G.D.: The Worshipful the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WOR. BRO. J. S. PRITCHETT, P.G.D.: and the rest of the Officers, Present and Past, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire."

Proposed by—

VERY WOR. BRO. SIR P. COLVILLE SMITH, Grand Secretary.

Responded to by—

WOR. BRO. BRIG.-GENL. M. QUAYLE JONES, P.G.D.,
Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

"THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER."

Proposed by—

BRO. ARCHIE B. SOLOMON, S.W.

Responded to by—

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

"THE VISITORS."

Proposed by—

BRO. JACK WILK, Steward.

Responded to by—

VERY WOR. BRO. CHARLES R. I. NICHOLL, Grand D.C.
WOR. BRO. H. E. GOODBY, P.P.G.W.

"THE TYLER'S TOAST."

Musical Programme

" THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S SONG."

Sung by WOR. BRO. JUSTIN MINDELLOHN, P.M.

Accompanied by WOR. BRO. H. S. WILLIAMS, P.M., P.P.G.O.

SONGS

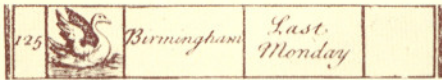
By BRO. GEORGEY DAMS,

BRO. ALFRED BUTLER.

Accompanist,

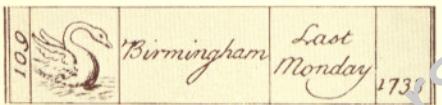
BRO. JACK VENABLES

Reproduced from the Engraved Lists, showing the different numbers under which St. Paul's Lodge was registered, and the Meeting places.

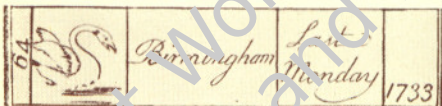


Engraved List of Lodges 1737.

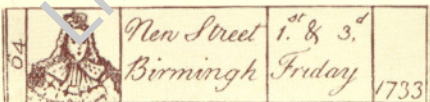
From "Engraved List" in the Warwickshire Masonic Museum and Library, Birmingham.



Engraved List of Lodges 1740.



Engraved List of Lodges 1764.



Engraved List of Lodges 1765.

The Extracts from the Lists of 1740, 1764 and 1765 are Reproduced by kind permission of the United Grand Lodge of England.

These and other *Grand Masters* have also granted *Deputations* at the Request of some good Brothers in Cities and Towns throughout *England*, for *Constituting* the following *Lodges*, as recorded in the *Grand Lodge-Books*, and in the engraven *List*, who have their *Rank* of *Seniority* at the *Grand Lodge*, according to the *Date* of their *CONSTITUTION*, viz.

— STOURBRIDGE in <i>Worcestershire</i> , at the <i>Dog</i> , constituted 1 <i>Aug.</i> 1733. meet each <i>Wednesday</i> .		constituted
— BIRMINGHAM, at the <i>Swan</i> , constituted <i>A. D.</i> 1733. and meet last <i>Monday</i> .		1 st and 3 ^d
— PLYMOUTH, at the <i>Mason</i> , constituted <i>A. D.</i> 1737. and meet <i>Friday</i> .		— <i>Shire</i> , 1737

Taken from the Book of Constitutions (2nd Edition), published 1738. This book is the property of St. Paul's Lodge presented to the Lodge by Wor. Bro. L. Booth in 1907.

Birmingham, June 21, 1764

THE Fraternity of FREE-MASONS belonging to the NEW-LODGE, N^o. 64, and 124, held at the *Kings-Head*, in *New-Str.* Give Notice, that their Feast of *St. JOHN'S* will be held on *Monday* next at the said house; where a visit from any worthy Brother will be esteemed a favour,

By order of the Master,
F. H. Secretary.

☞ Dinner upon the table at half an hour past One.

This cutting is from the only known advertisement mentioning the number of the Lodge as No. 124,* and is taken from the *Birmingham Register and Entertaining Museum* of June 21st, 1764, in the Birmingham Reference Library.

* Under the Grand Lodge of the Antients.



Augustus 1822
G M

To all and every our Right Worshipful Brethren and Loving Brethren

Wth Grace Augustus Frederick of Brunswick Lunenburg Duke of Sussex

Baron of Alford Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

Grand Master

of the Most Ancient University of Free and Accepted Masters of England

Said Brethren

Whereas

It appears by the Records of our Grand Lodge that a Brethren did in the year 1723... [The text continues with a detailed historical account of the lodge's formation and the Duke of Sussex's involvement, mentioning the date of the warrant as 1822.]

Saint Pauls Lodge

By Command of the Right Worshipful

Wth Grace G M

Warrant signed by the Grand Master

Warrant of Confirmation dated 1822 under which St. Paul's Lodge now works.

To the Worshipful Master, Wth Grace Officers and Members of the Saint Pauls Lodge, 1785 Birmingham and all other Brethren of said Lodge

Whereas It appears by the Records of the Grand Lodge that in the year 1723 a Brethren of Constitution were admitted to the said Lodge... [The text details the lodge's history and the Duke's confirmation of its status.]

Saint Pauls Lodge

It being the Pleasure of the Grand Lodge in the County of Warwick And whereas the Brethren comprising the said Lodge are desirous... [The text concludes with the Duke's command and the date of the warrant.]

Given at Westminster Hall London this 5th January 1822

By Command of the Right Honourable

The Earl of Zetland M. P. Grand Master

Profy. J. G. G.





Banner showing the number as 51, now loaned to the Warwickshire Library and Museum.



Old Banner.



New Banner.



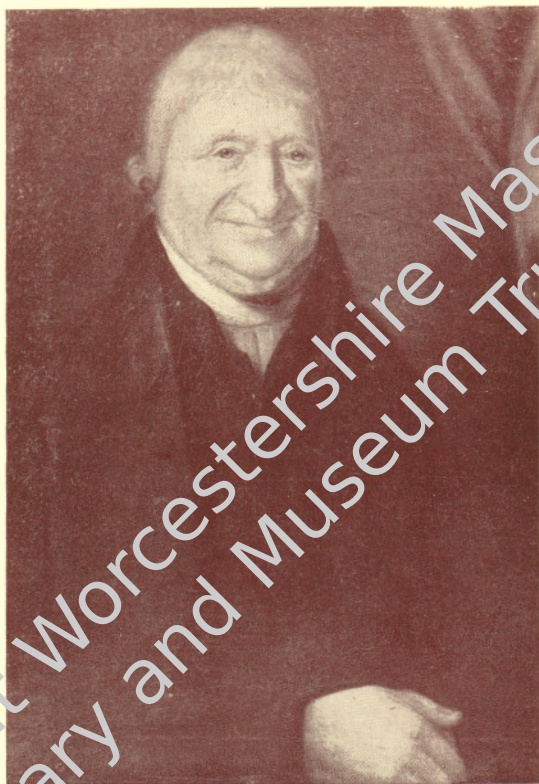
Senior Warden's Chair



Junior Warden's Chair

Two Mahogany Masonic Arm Chairs for use of the Wardens.
These undoubtedly were two of a Set of three made by Chippendale,
circa 1775 (restored 1924).

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Painting of W. BRO. J. SKETCHLEY,
Wor. Master of St. Paul's, 1764.

Loaned to the Warwickshire Library and Museum.

Presented to the Lodge by
BRO. JULIUS BROOKS in 1929



RT. WOR. BRO. COL. W. F. WYLEY, P.G.D.,
Prov. Grand Master for Warwickshire.
Wor. Master of St. Paul's Lodge,
1933.

JOHN WILKES. RICHARD WEBSTER. *JEREMIAH VAUX.

JAS. BISSETT. *JAS. SKETCHLEY



*JAS. MURRAY. *JOHN FREETH. JOHN COLLARD. JOHN MILES. JOHN TOY. JOS. FEARN. JOS. BLUNT.

* Bros. SKETCHLEY, FREETH, MURRAY and VAUX, were Members of St. Paul's Lodge.

Reproduction from the painting of Birmingham "Worthies," about 1752.

History of the Lodge

The details of the early history of St. Paul's Lodge are more or less a matter of conjecture, as there are no records in existence covering the first few years of the life of the Lodge. The earliest recorded minutes are of the year 1764.

There are, however, some well recorded facts in connection with the Lodge and its transactions during the period in question, 1733 to 1764, from which it is possible to draw certain conclusions.

There is no doubt that in the year 1733 a Lodge was founded and met at the Swan Hotel in Birmingham, and that the Warrant or Letter of Authority, dated August 1st, 1733, under which the Lodge was constituted was issued by the "Moderns." The number of the Lodge was 125, but this number was altered to 109 in 1740 and to 64 in 1756. The List of Lodges in 1740 contains a record as follows:—No. 109. "Swan," Birmingham, last Monday. The Book of Constitutions, 1756 Edition, states in the List of Lodges:— "Swan," Birmingham, last Monday, 1733.

This date is confirmed by the Engraved List and refers to No. 64 "Swan," Birmingham. The "Exposure of Freemasonry," published in 1763, states No. 64 "Swan," Birmingham, last Monday, 1733. In 1764 the Members of No. 64 Modern must have felt that they wished to be allied to both the "Modern" and "Antient"

Grand Lodges, for on the 11th April of that year they obtained a Warrant from the "Antients," the number of which was 124. This "Antient" Warrant was returned to Grand Lodge in 1765.

There is recorded in Grand Lodge a payment on 23rd April, 1764, of £1 3s. 6d. by Lodge No. 64 Birmingham to the "Moderns," being £1 1s. 0d. for Charity and 2s. 6d. for Registration of New Address; this payment is confirmed by an entry in the Minute Book of St. Paul's Lodge under date 27th April, 1764. The record for that year of the Lodges meeting in Birmingham includes No. 64 "Moderns" and 124 "Antients" at "Kings Head." Coupling these two records together, the conclusion is that in 1764 the Lodge then No. 64 "Moderns" that was founded in 1733 and met at the "Swan," Birmingham, removed thence to the "Kings Head," Birmingham. On April 27th, 1764, a Lodge of Emergency was held. The Minutes of that Meeting read as follows:—

"The Wor. Master called this night a Lodge for the first time when the following Brethren met besides his Worshipful—Br. Sketchley, S.W., Br. Freeth, Br. Hensler, Br. Sparrow and Br. Sadler. After Br. Freeth was installed as J.W. and Br. Hensler as Secretary. The Worshipful Master and Senior Warden having been installed by the Grand Secretary Br. Dermot by order of the Grand Master the Lodge proceeded upon business and first a body of "Bye Laws was passed according to the Book to be printed."

Lodge accounts of that period show a payment to the Grand Secretary of the "Antients" for the Warrant. It is clear from the early Minute Books that the Lodge was in 1764 and for some years afterwards known as No. 124 and No. 64—that is to say—No. 124 "Antients," and No. 64 "Moderns." There is abundant evidence in the Lodge Minutes for the next few years that the Lodge was working continuously under both the "Modern" and "Ancient" Constitutions. How this was Masonically possible is a puzzle of which the solution has not yet been found. In 1767 there was evidently some feeling with respect to the anomalous position of the Lodge, for in February of that year the "Moderns" Grand Lodge issued a Warrant to the Brethren meeting at the "Kings Head," New Street, Birmingham (Lodge No. 64), naming Edward Rushton to be Master, James Sketchley to be Senior Warden, and Samuel Freeth to be Junior Warden, "for opening the said Lodge and for such time only as should be thought proper by the Brethren thereof." This Warrant was returned to Grand Lodge in 1822 on the issue of the Warrant of Confirmation under which the Lodge is working at the present time; it is still in the custody of Grand Lodge. This Warrant of Confirmation finally sets at rest all doubts concerning the year of the foundation of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 43, for it is definitely stated therein that the Lodge was founded in 1733. This is also confirmed by the Centenary Warrant, issued in 1864—the actual date thereof being 5th December, 1864—authorising the Members of the Lodge to wear a Centenary Jewel of special

design. All the Engraved Lists of Lodges, and all Official Publications and Records and Year Books issued by Grand Lodge for the past 150 years, put the year 1733 as the year of foundation of St. Paul's Lodge, Birmingham.

St. Paul's Lodge has had many offshoots, and few Lodges can go back 156 years for their first offspring. On the 7th November, 1777, the Lodge signed a petition for a Warrant for a Lodge of Freemasons to be held in the 6th, or Inniskilling Regiment of Dragoons, who obtained Warrant No. 508 on the 18th December, 1777.

The Lodge also supported the petition of St. Matthew's Lodge, Walsall, Staffs. who received Warrant No. 786 in 1847.

In modern times the Lodge has supported the petitions of at least eight Lodges now meeting in Warwickshire.

In 1784 it was agreed to petition the Grand Master for the name "St. Paul's," and this request was duly granted.

The number of the Lodge has been altered by Grand Lodge from time to time.

In 1733	it was	No.	125.
" 1740	" "	"	109.
" 1756	" "	"	64.
" 1770	" "	"	53.
" 1787	" "	"	41.
" 1792	" "	"	38.
" 1814	" "	"	58.
" 1832	" "	"	51.
" 1863	" "	"	43.

It has remained No. 43 since the year 1863. The Charity Box now used at all Lodge Meetings has engraved on it the No. 51 and the year 1858.

James Sketchley mentioned above was a most important and influential Freemason in Warwickshire, for it was through his good offices that Freemasonry in the Province was organised in a proper manner prior to the formation of a Provincial Grand Lodge in Warwickshire in 1792, when he was appointed the first Provincial Grand Secretary. His portrait was presented to the Lodge in 1792, but was afterwards lost: in 1929 the painting was purchased at a local sale by Bro. Julius Brooks, a present member of the Lodge, and after having been duly identified was presented by him to the Lodge and now hangs in the Library and Museum in this Temple.

Bro. Sketchley and Bro. Freeth are both shown in the well-known portrait of "Birmingham Worthies," painted by Eckstein in or about the year 1790, and which now hangs in Aston Hall, Birmingham.

The Minute Books of the Lodge record several interesting events in the Masonic History of the Province of Warwickshire.

On March 11th, 1789, a Lodge of Emergency was called to commemorate the happy recovery of King George III from illness. The toast list contains the first reference to the toast of "Our absent Brethren," and a "Complimentary toast to the Visitors."

On June 7th, 1792, a letter was received from Grand Lodge announcing the appointment by the Grand Master of Thos. Thompson, Esq., M.P., as Prov. G. M. for Warwickshire. At the first meeting of Prov. G. Lodge the following members of St. Paul's Lodge were elected to office :—

Bro. Jas. Timmins as Prov. Dep. G. M.

Bro. B. S. Heaton as Prov. G. S. W.

Bro. B. Parker as Prov. G. Treasurer.

Bro. Jas. Sketchley as Prov. G. Secretary.

Bro. Rev. Andrew Laurance as Prov. G. Chaplain.

On May 6th, 1803, the sum of £30 10s. 0d. was subscribed by the Brethren to the fund in aid of the Free Church then about to be erected. This was Christ Church, which stood at the top of New Street, and which was demolished in 1897 when Victoria Square was made.

The minutes of September 18th, 1805, record a full description of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of a Public Office in Moor Street, Birmingham, the W.M. of the Lodge, Bro. Wm. Hollins, being the Architect of the building and acting as Prov. G. Sup. of Works.

On July 7th, 1806, Prov. G. Lodge was held for the first time under the auspices of St. Paul's Lodge.

On December 31st, 1840, for the first time a sum of money was voted from the Lodge Funds to purchase a P.M.'s Jewel.

On 29th November, 1870, the Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham was consecrated by Lord Leigh, Prov. G. M. for Warwickshire, assisted by the W.M's. of St. Paul's, Howe, and Faithful Lodges.

In 1927, St. Paul's Lodge was honoured by the Master of the Lodge being chosen to open the door of the Warwickshire Masonic Peace Memorial Temple in Birmingham, at the summons of the Most Wor. the Pro. Grand Master, The Rt. Hon. Lord Amptill, who performed the Opening Ceremony. The Lodge was further honoured by an invitation to hold the first meeting of a Lodge in the Temple. The meeting was held on the 26th September of that year, when the Ceremony of Initiation was performed, Bro. John G. Lines, a son of a member of the Lodge thus being the first Initiate in the new building.

In recent years several members of the Lodge have been honoured by the conferment of Grand Lodge rank. In 1920 the late Wor. Bro. J. Headon Boocock was appointed P.G.St.B., in 1925 the late Wor. Bro. Samuel Abrahams was appointed P.A.G.D.C., and in 1928 Wor. Bro. Bertram Silverston was appointed P.A.G.D.C.

In 1935 occurs the first celebration, in the Province of Warwickshire, of the 200th Anniversary of the Foundation of a Lodge, and St. Paul's Lodge is very proud that Col. W. F. Wyley, P.G.D., the Provincial Grand Master has honoured it by becoming the Master of the Lodge for this year.