

The Bedford Lodge  
257  
London 1812

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*B. Will, Hobbs*

BY-LAWS  
AND  
REGULATIONS  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
BEDFORD LODGE,  
No. 205, 1857  
OF  
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS,  
UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND;  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
The Prince Regent, Grand Master.

LONDON:

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1812.

## INTRODUCTION.



**W**ITHOUT Laws and Regulations no body of men can long subsist, either with comfort to themselves, or with reputation among others; the Members of the **BEDFORD LODGE** have therefore unanimously agreed to the following **BY-LAWS**, as a system calculated to preserve the ancient customs, honour, and dignity of the Fraternity, to promote harmony, and cement a lasting friendship among themselves as Brethren.

## BY-LAWS, &c.



**FIRST**, That all By-laws, Rules, Orders, and Regulations, at any time or times heretofore made for governing this Lodge, are hereby annulled and made void.

**II** That this Lodge shall be held on the ~~first~~<sup>2</sup> Wednesday in January, February, March, April, May, June, October, November, and December, at seven o'clock in the evening, or earlier if business requires, and these meetings be considered as general Lodges. But the Master may at his discretion convene a Lodge of Emergency whenever circumstances may render it necessary.

**III.** That in order to preserve the honour and harmony of this Lodge, and the domestic happiness of its members, the Lodge shall be closed on each night as early as business will permit.

IV. That no question or motion shall be put to the vote unless duly seconded; and all elections, resolutions, and orders of this Lodge, shall be decided by a majority of hands, except a ballot is expressly requested, or absolutely necessary, and on all such occasions the Master to have the casting vote; and in order to guard against motions, &c. being prematurely decided, no resolution or motion whatever shall be deemed conclusive or carried into effect, unless it receives confirmation on the next regular Lodge night; and motions for the removal of the Lodge must be inserted in the summons, and ten days notice given to all the members previous to any such motion being confirmed.

V. Every gentlemen desirous of being Initiated into Masonry in this Lodge, must first be proposed in open Lodge by a member, who shall at the time of such proposition, deliver, in writing, to the Secretary, the Christian and surname, place of abode, age and profession, of such proposed candidate, and deposit half a guinea; and if a ballot be desired, and five negatives appear against the candidate, it shall amount to an absolute rejection, which renders

him ineligible to be ever proposed again in this Lodge. But if he should be approved of, he shall, according to custom, be Initiated into Masonry, on the following Lodge night be passed a fellow craft, and as soon as he appears to be duly instructed for further advancement, he shall be raised to the degree of a Master Mason. If the candidate neglects to attend within the space of twelve months from the date of his proposition, the half guinea so deposited shall be forfeited to the funds of the Lodge. But should the Initiation take place within that period, the deposit shall be taken in part of four <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> guineas, the regular Initiation fee. His supper for the night only, Budge and By-laws, to be included.

VI. That every member, on proposing a gentleman to be made in a Lodge of Emergency, shall deposit the sum of two guineas, in part of five guineas, the Initiation fee on such occasions; if the candidate neglects to attend the evening fixed upon for the Initiation to take place, he shall forfeit the sum of one guinea.

But should the Initiation take place within the space of twelve months following, the re-

maining guinea shall be taken in part of the regular Initiation Fee. And in order to prevent the finances of this Lodge being diminished by such meetings, the registering Fee, House Bill, Tylers expenses, &c. to be paid from the sums collected at Lodges of Emergency respectively.

VII. That every brother who shall have been made a Mason in any other regular Lodge, and shall be desirous of becoming a member of this Lodge, shall be proposed in the usual manner by a member, and if he is not already sufficiently known to the brethren, he shall visit the Lodge one night previous to his admission, and if a ballot shall be demanded, unless five votes appear against him, he shall be admitted a member on paying ~~to~~ ~~guineas~~. The By-laws and his supper for that night only to be included.

VIII. That every member of this Lodge shall *subscribe in advance* the sum of six shillings and sixpence per quarter (exclusive of his supper), towards the current expences of the Lodge; but every member shall be exempt from all payments while on a voyage or journey, provided he pays up his arrears (if any due), and gives

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notice to the secretary of his intended departure.

IX. That every member of this Lodge being *twelve months* in arrears, shall have notice sent him by the secretary, requesting him to pay up his subscription; and if he should refuse so to do, or cause it to be done in the course of the *following six months*, after such notice sent him, he shall not be considered *any longer a member*, nor thenceforth be received as *a visitor* until his arrears shall have been discharged.

X. That no brother shall be qualified to be elected Master of this Lodge, who has not served the offices of either Senior or Junior Warden thereof, or Master of some other regular constituted Lodge, and has been six months at least a subscribing member of this Lodge.

XI. The Master shall be elected every six months, on the Lodge night preceding the festival of St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist; and on the next regular Lodge night, if his election be confirmed, he shall receive his charge, and be invested by the Master he succeeds, before he leaves the chair.



XII. When the Master elect has taken the chair, he shall appoint Wardens and Deacons to assist him in the government of the Lodge, invest them in the usual manner, and give them their respective charges, &c. &c.

XIII. A Treasurer shall be elected annually, on the same night as the Master, in December, and if confirmed on the next regular Lodge night, he shall be invested by the Master, and give such security for his fidelity as shall be satisfactory to the members. His duty is to receive all monies due to the Lodge, and to discharge all legal claims thereon, taking proper receipts for such payments. When he quits his office he shall pay to his successor the balance of money in his hands on the Lodge account, for which he shall receive a proper discharge.

XIV. A Secretary shall be elected annually on the same night as the Treasurer, and be invested by the Master, and charged with the care of all the books and papers of the Lodge; his duty is to take down minutes of all the proceedings, receipts, and disbursements, to enter them fairly in the Lodge books before the succeeding

meeting; he is to fill up the summonses for the Tyler to deliver, and in them give notice of Elections, Makings, Raisings, or any other particular business the members ought to be apprised of, and as an acknowledgment for a faithful discharge of those duties, he shall be presented with the sum of five guineas annually from the Lodge Fund.

XV. The Master shall, on each regular night of Election, appoint two of the members Stewards; these Officers are to see the visitors and younger brethren comfortably situated, assist the Secretary in collecting the subscriptions, and see the tables properly supplied with refreshments; and as in a great measure the Financial respectability of the Lodge depends upon its economy; the Stewards in their official conduct are most strictly enjoined to be regulated in their expenditures by the instructions they receive from the Master, and report to him accordingly; they are likewise to keep memorandums, or deliver checks to the landlord, for all orders they give for wines, liquors, &c. &c. during the evening; the Bill to be compared with those memorandums or checks, signed by

one of them, and delivered to the Treasurer as soon after the Lodge is closed as possible, as no wine or liquors shall be charged upon the Lodge account after the Master quits the chair.

XVI. After the Officers have taken their stations a Tyler shall be chosen, and the Master shall give him charge of the Ornaments, Furniture, and Jewels of the Lodge, that he keeps them neat and clean, guards the door and external avenues to the Lodge, prepares two Lodges, if wanted, and summons the members at least four days previous to the regular meetings, for which he shall be allowed, from the funds of the Lodge, half a guinea; five shillings for every Lodge of Emergency, and two shillings for every Badge; with permission to supply the members with the Masonic Callendars and Badges, when wanted.

XVII. That every Brother Mason visiting this Lodge, shall pay on each visit seven shillings and sixpence, which includes the expence of his supper, &c. And no person shall be permitted to enter the Lodge unless vouched for by some member present, or until after strict examination by the Junior Warden; nor shall

any visitor whatever interfere in the business or debates of this Lodge without the Master's permission.

XVIII. Whenever the Master attends the General Committee of Charity, he shall be allowed, from the funds of this Lodge, five shillings; and ten shillings and sixpence for himself and Wardens, when they attend the quarterly communication.

XIX. In the absence of the Master, the Senior Warden, or a Past Master of this Lodge, shall take the chair, the Junior Warden supply the Senior's place, and some experienced member officiate as Junior; in the absence of the former, the Junior Warden shall take the chair, and appoint Wardens *pro tempore* to assist him in the government of the Lodge; in the absence of any of the other officers, the Master shall nominate members to officiate for the evening.

XX. That an open Committee of the presiding and past Officers, and any other member of the Lodge that can conveniently attend, shall meet annually, in the month of December, to investigate the receipts, disbursements, and any other business relative to the Finances of the

Lodge for the last twelve months, and make a report thereof in open Lodge, on the next regular Lodge night.

XXI. That as this Lodge has ever assisted the General Fund of the Charity to the utmost of its power, and as the members know by experience that the benevolence of private Lodges is frequently abused by itinerant adventurers, in character of distressed Masons, they resolve to adhere strictly to the usage of the Lodge, that is, never to attend to any petitions or applications from strangers (unless presented by a member of the Lodge, who will vouch for the truth of their contents), but refer the party to the General Committee of Charity, as the regular channel for relief.

XXII. The donations to the General Committee of Charity, together with such registering Fees as shall be due to the Hall Fund, shall be paid annually, at the Quarterly Communication held in February.

XXIII. That the Jewels, Ornaments, and Furniture of this Lodge, shall be vested with, and actually be, the joint property of the Master

and Wardens for the time being, in trust for themselves and the rest of the members, share and share alike.

XXIV. That the waiters attending the Lodge be allowed a sum not exceeding ten shillings and sixpence, every regular Lodge night, and five shillings for every Lodge of Emergency.

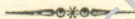
XXV. That at all times a profound silence shall be observed on the usual notice given by the Master. Any member introducing obscene or profane discourses, starting religious or political disputes, or is disguised in liquor, sits down unclothed while the Lodge is open, proposes wagers, distributes shop-bills, or tickets, interrupts a brother while speaking, hisses at what has been said, or is not standing while he addresses the chair, such offending brother shall be subject to any censure the majority of the members present may think proper to impose.

XXVI. That all irregularities not provided for in these By-Laws, shall be submitted to the determination of the members present whenever they happen, who are hereby authorized and

empowered to act according to circumstances, either in vindicating the honour of the Fraternity in general, or this Lodge in particular; whether by censuring or expelling any person or persons so offending, as they in their discretion shall deem expedient.

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MEMORANDUMS  
 OF THE  
 BEDFORD LODGE  
 OF  
 FREE MASONS.



*How long this Lodge has been incorporated as an Operative Lodge of Free Masons, is uncertain; from the information of an aged brother, Master of this Lodge in 1772, it was in reputable circumstances about the years 1739 and 1740; but no documents of its transactions are preserved from that period until the beginning of the year 1766, when it conformed to the Rules of the Grand Lodge of England, and was constituted by Lord Blane, then Grand Master, on the 17th of May, under the denomination of the Operative Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. 364, to be holden at the Mitre Tavern, Union-street, Westminster, on the first and fourth \* Wednesday in every month; none but Operative Masons were admitted members before this period.*

\* For Masters' Lodges.



In October 1767, it was removed to the Rose and Crown, Crown-street, Westminster; and in the year of 1770, it was distinguished by No. 300.

In 1772, dissensions among the members, respecting certain forms of this Lodge, rose to such a height, that it was mutually agreed to dispose of it, and the sum arising from the sale to be equally divided between the members that had paid up their subscription to the last quarter-day.

In January 1773, the Ornaments, Furniture, Jewels, and other property of the Lodge, was disposed of to Br. Thomas Thwaites, for the sum of £26, and removed to his house, the Northumberland Arms, Great Russel-street, Covent Garden, the Master, and several of the brethren continuing members; and Br. Thwaites, by agreement, to act as Treasurer, pro tempore, until the aforesaid debt was liquidated.

In April 1774, Br. Thwaites removed from the Northumberland Arms to the London-Stone Tavern, Cannon-street, and the majority of the members agreed the Lodge should accompany him. In June the members were summoned to dine together on St. John's Day, agreeable to the original custom of the Lodge.

*On the 3d of November 1778, this Lodge voted the sum of Five Guineas towards building the Grand Hall.*

*During the years of 1782 and 1783, the Lodge appeared to be rapidly declining, principally from the non-attendance of the members, and in several instances the Officers.*

*In March 1784, at a special Lodge, consisting of the Master, Wardens, Past-Master, Secretary, and two other members, the Ornaments, Furniture, Jewels, and other property of this Lodge, were disposed of to Br. William Herbert, for the sum of ten guineas: who, in conjunction with the above brethren, agreed to remove it from the City; the ballance due to Br. Thwaites, the fees due to the Grand Lodge, and all other legal demands being discharged.*

*On Wednesday, 7th of April, 1784, the Lodge opened in due form, at the Thistle and Crown, Russel-court, Covent Garden, under the denomination of the BEDFORD LODGE, No. 241; and the late Officers were re-chosen.*

*In August 1788, the Lodge was removed to the Coal-Hole Tavern, in the Strand, the Thistle and Crown not having room sufficient for the accommodation of its members.*

*In October 1788, the unanimous thanks of this Lodge were voted to Br. Alexander Johnstone, of Drury-Lane Theatre, and to Br. Richard Jacob, for their elegant present of a pedestal, masonically ornamented and gilt; to Br. Booth, for his handsome present of a stool and cushion, covered with crimson velvet; and also to Br. Hixon, for engraving a plate for summonses for this Lodge.*

*In February 1789, the sum of Ten Guineas was voted by this Lodge to the Royal Cumberland Freemason's Charity School; Ten Guineas have been added since that period, which renders the Master of this Lodge (for the time being) a perpetual Governor.*

*In June 1796, the old Jewels and Collars were exchanged for new; the ballance amounting to £6 7s. 6d.*

*In June 1791, the Lodge was removed to Freemason's Tavern, Great Queen-street.*

*In July 1792, the Lodge was distinguished by No. 205.*

*In March 1797, the R. W. M. was pleased to appoint Br. Hargrave, J. W. in the room of Br. Joseph Walton, superseded for non-attendance to the duties of the Lodge, or assigning any reasonable excuse for such neglect; in December follow-*

ing Br. Walton was expelled this, Lodge for repeated irregular and improper conduct during Lodge hours.

In April 1798, the annexed By-Laws were presented to the Lodge by the Committee appointed to draw them up, and were unanimously approved of on the following Lodge night; J. Simpson, R. W. M.; J. Hargrave and W. Strongith'arm, Wardens; G. Allison, P. M.; W. Robinson, Treasurer, and J. Harris, Secretary. The Committee for auditing the annual accounts of the Lodge, was also established this year.

In June 1798, the sum of ten pounds were voted from the funds of this Lodge towards the defence of the Country, and a voluntary contribution, in addition to the above, amounting to £32 10s. 6d. was raised among the members.

In April 1799, in consequence of the exorbitant charges and inattention of the landlord of Freemason's Tavern, this Lodge was removed to the Queen's Arms Tavern, St. James's-street.

In February 1806, the sum of three guineas was voted to an artist for a Design, to answer both for certificates and summonses; and also ten guineas for engraving a plate from the same.

In April Br. John Collins was expelled, for appearing at the Lodge in a state of inebriety, acting in a riotous disorderly manner, and making use of language unbefitting a Mason. In November following this Lodge was removed to Freemason's Tavern, there not being sufficient room at the Queen's Arms for the accommodation of its members.

In March 1807, the thanks of this Lodge was voted to Br. Farrant, for his valuable present of broad silver lace, and emblematical ornaments, for eight collars, to be worn by the Officers of this Lodge; and to Br. Jones, P. M. for the materials he supplied in having the same made-up, and presented to the Lodge.

In March 1808, the members of this Lodge (as an emanation to its successive Officers), voted, that a silver box, of the value of ten guineas, masonically ornamented and gilt, be presented to Br. John Simpson, P. M. as an acknowledgement of the high sense they entertain of him, for his unremitting attention to the several duties of this Lodge, since he was initiated in June 1791; but more particularly to the ten different periods he presided as R. W. Master. In December following, this Lodge was greatly honored in the preference given it by his Royal Highness the Prince

of Wales, Grand Master, who commanded that the Gentlemen of his Household should be initiated therein; and in the same month, the Master and Wardens received notice from the Grand Secretary, that their attendance was requested at a Special Grand Lodge, to be holden at their Hall, on the 31st instant, to accompany H. R. H. the Grand Master, in procession, to lay the foundation stone of Covent-Garden Theatre.

In January 1809, the thanks of this Lodge were voted to Br. Farran, for his second valuable present, consisting of crimson velvet, silver fringe and tassels, for a cushion for the Master's desk; and to Br. Jones, R. W. M. for having the same made-up and presented to the Lodge. On same evening the thanks of this Lodge were voted to Br. Harris, Secretary, for his present of ancient manuscripts, on parchment, containing the original charges, and part of the lectures on craft masonry.

In March 1810, the thanks this Lodge were voted to Br. Ireson, P. S. W. and to Brothers Stewart and Bologna, jun. for their valuable present of a lodge board, exceedingly well designed, painted, &c. &c.

In February 1811, the sum of ten guineas was

unanimously voted from the funds of this Lodge (which was increased on the following Lodge night to £31 10s. by a voluntary subscription of the members), for purchasing a silver embossed cup and cover, to be presented to Br. Rice Jones, R. W. M. as a mark of their esteem, and in approbation of his zeal, ability and exertions, in promoting the regularity and general prosperity of the Lodge, during the twelve different periods he presided as R. W. M.

In February 1812, the sum of fifteen guineas was voted from the funds, for purchasing a set of brass candlesticks of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian Orders; the old candlesticks were ordered to be repaired and used in the Lodge of Instructions\*; but that they, the jewels and furniture, be considered the property of this Lodge.

In April 1812, in consequence of the material alterations in the general receipts and expenditure of this Lodge, the By-Laws were ordered to be corrected and printed for the use of the members.

\* The Lodge of Instructions meets every Monday night, at Seven o'Clock precisely, at Br. Mayo's, the Goat, Pall Mall, during the Months of January, February, March, April, May, June, October, November and December,

RICE JONES, R. W. M.  
 GEORGE HALE, S. W.  
 EDW. COWMEADOW, J. W.  
 JOHN SIMPSON, P. M.  
 WILLIAM DIXIE, Treasurer:  
 JAMES HARRIS, Secretary.  
 S. V. HOWIS, S. D.  
 RICE HOLROYD, J. D.

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*N. B. No petitions can be recommended by this Lodge, to the General Committee of Charity, in favour of any of its members who have not paid up their subscriptions for three years; nor can their children be admitted into the Royal Cumberland Freemason's School.*

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\* \* \* *The aforesaid Memorandums were first selected for private information; the Secretary, however, now avails himself of the opportunity of the By-Laws going to the Press, of submitting them also for general information, hoping they will meet with the approbation of his Brethren, the MEMBERS OF THE BEDFORD LODGE.*