

The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine  
and the  
Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist

Division of North and East Lancashire



## A short history of **DYKES CONCLAVE No. 36**

compiled and read at the Centenary Meeting on 28th October 1971 by the Conclave Recorder,  
Very Illustrious Knight **William SLATER**, Past Grand High Chancellor

Nothing was known of the origin and early practice of Red Cross Masonry in **Dykes Conclave** until 1963 when the first minute book came to light in Kendal and was presented to the Conclave. The records now reveal that, throughout its history, the enthusiasm shown by those Knights who felt it their duty to extend the Order into North-West England is demonstrated again and again by many eminent knights whose loyalty and devoted service has given emphasis to the Watchwords of our Order - **Faith, Unity and Zeal.**

Five years after the Grand Imperial Conclave was re-assembled, a Warrant to hold Conclave No. 36 in the Masonic Rooms at Cockermouth, to be called "Dykes", was granted to Sir Knight **IREDALE** and others on 24th December 1870. It is recorded that the inaugural ceremony held on 15th April 1873 was performed with great effect by:

Illustrious Knight	<b>R. Wentworth</b>	<b>LITTLE,</b>	Grand Treasurer
Illustrious Knight		<b>J. WHITWELL,</b>	Past Grand Chamberlain
Illustrious Knight	<b>H.C.</b>	<b>LAVANDER,</b>	Assistant Grand High Almoner
Sir Knight		<b>BANNING</b>	
Sir Knight		<b>ROUTMELL</b>	
Sir Knight		<b>PEARSON</b>	
Sir Knight	<b>R.</b>	<b>ROBINSON</b>	
Sir Knight	<b>W.</b>	<b>TAYLOR</b>	
Sir Knight	<b>F.</b>	<b>TAYLOR</b>	

and Doctor Wm. **JONES** who officiated as Grand Organist.

As a contrast to present-day practice, the remainder of the business makes interesting reading. An Installation Ceremony was conducted when thirty-five Brethren were made Knights of the Order, their names being recorded with

the number of their Lodge. From this, it would appear doubtful if the Royal Arch qualification was essential in those days, since only two Chapters existed in West Cumberland. The degree of interest shown in the new Conclave was reflected in the wide area covered by the Lodges which provided the first members, from Millom in the south to Maryport in the north, seven Lodges in all.

After the Installation of these Knights an unusual procedure was taken when the grade of Eusebius was conferred on eleven of them, and that of Sovereign on ten. This was followed by the Enthronement of Sir Knight Richard ROBINSON as the first Most Puissant Sovereign of the Conclave, and Sir Knight PEARSON was inducted into the chair of Eusebius.

Sir Knight IREDALE, being unable to accept the office of Most Puissant Sovereign for health reasons, could be the explanation for the time lapse between the granting of the Warrant and the subsequent inaugural ceremony. So the first meeting of Dykes Conclave ended on an encouraging note, with a membership of forty-three. At the next meeting on 21st May 1873 the Most Puissant Sovereign appointed his Officers, and a further six new Knights were installed.

At the Enthronement Ceremony in 1874, two members had the grade of Eusebius conferred on them. This was followed by one member who was Enthroned as Most Puissant Sovereign of the Conclave and the other being inducted into the chair of the Viceroy. This was also the procedure adopted in 1875.

An interesting minute of 1876 reads:

*"Sir Knight LAMONBY was ceremonially advanced to the grades of Viceroy and Sovereign by Special Warrant of the Grand Imperial Council, to enable him to spread the Knightly Degree in the Australian Colonies".*

Later that year two members were admitted to the superior grade of Past Sovereign by special warrant.

The Division of Cumberland and Westmorland had also been formed, and Col. SEWELL was appointed the Intendant-General, an office he held for the next twenty-three years. But as Dykes was the only Conclave in the Division at this time, no Divisional Conclaves were held until 1907, following the appointment of Capt. Richard RIGG, High Sheriff of Westmorland, as the new Intendant-General.

In 1878 it was moved to hold the Conclave meetings in various towns throughout the county, the place of meeting to be decided by the Most Puissant Sovereign. This practice was continued for the next thirty years, eleven towns being used. The reason given was for the greater convenience of the Knights, but the conveyance of the articles needed to furnish a Conclave must have caused quite a problem to the officers concerned, bearing in mind the limited means of transport in those days. In 1892 the Warrant of the Conclave was removed from Cockermouth to Whitehaven, by command of the Grand Sovereign.

So far, nothing has been told of Red Cross Masonry in the Furness area. Interest in the Order was beginning to show, following the Installation of Sir Knight A.E. SADLER of the Furness Chapter, who was responsible for introducing many prominent masons from Barrow and Ulverston into the Conclave. The Enthronement of Sir Knight SADLER as Most Puissant Sovereign of the Conclave in 1902 provided Ulverston with the first recorded meeting of Dykes Conclave held in the town.

The meeting of the Conclave held in Ambleside on 14th April 1909 coincided with the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Brother T.A. ARGLES, hearing that the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Lord Henry CAVENDISH-BENTINCT was to be Installed as a Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine that day, expressed a wish to be installed at the same time. His request

was granted, the formal proposition being waived on the advice of the Intendant-General, who was present and claimed his authority to create knights by virtue of his office.

Steady progress was maintained during the next thirty years by the introduction of the Appendant Orders of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist into the ceremonies and the transfer of the Warrant to Ulverston.

A union with the Kenlis Conclave No. 166 had also been made, when officers of Dykes Conclave accepted various offices in Kenlis Conclave. This arrangement continued until 1946 when Kenlis Conclave ceased to function and the remaining members were accepted as joining members of Dykes Conclave.

*(Editor's note): The present-day Kenlis Conclave is No. 273 and was Consecrated on 1st July 1972 and meets in Lancaster. The Conclave had tried to obtain the original number of 166, but it was refused as they were not to meet in Ulverston.*

The Conclave had also been brought into the North-Western Division, and a more modern practice of the working had developed. This was the work of the late Very Illustrious Knight R.H. SWAINSON of Urswick and a former headmaster of Ulverston Grammar School. Following his death in 1957, it is recorded that:

*"Had it not been for his untiring efforts during the last thirteen years as recorder, Dykes Conclave would not have been in existence today".*

The decline in membership in the early 1960's was accelerated by the loss of eight Past Sovereigns by resignations and deaths, plus the exclusion of four Knights within two years. It was only by the Faith, Unity and Zeal of the few remaining knights, who were determined to maintain the Conclave in being, that the first century of Dykes Conclave has been successfully concluded.

This short history places on record the personal sacrifice of the time and leisure of so many leaders in our Order, and for which present and future members of Dykes Conclave should be for ever grateful.

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## **SUPPLEMENT TO HISTORY OF DYKES CONCLAVE No. 36**

compiled and read at the Regular Meeting in Ulverston on 23rd January 1995 by the son of our original author, Very Illustrious Knight Jack SLATER, Past Grand High Chancellor

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An Emergency Meeting of the Conclave was held on 17th May 1965 when the Conclave was honoured by the presence of M.III. Grand Sovereign, Major Robert Lindsay LOYD, O.B.E., M.C., G.C.C. He had expressed a wish, during the meeting of the Divisional Grand Conclave three days previously, to attend Dykes Conclave.

Our candidate was Ex.Comp. Rev. T.L., WALSH, who was the Third P.G. Principal of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of West Lancashire. He was installed as a Knight of the Order and admitted a member of Dykes Conclave by P.Kt. J. SLATER, Div.S.Gen. Although the Conclave conferred the Order of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Appendant Orders on W.Kt. WALSH in January 1966, he never attended another meeting of Dykes Conclave. He became an Assistant to the Grand Superintendent for the Royal Arch Province of West Lancashire, and later an Assistant Grand Master for West Lancashire.

In March 1970 the Conclave elected our regular visitor, P.Kt. Major James Edward GLOVER, as a joining member. He was unable to attend our regular meeting on 19th October 1970 and apologised by letter, stating that he was attending the inaugural meeting of the new Division of Lancashire, the successor of the North Western Division. At that important meeting he was obligated and invested as the first Deputy Intendant General of the Division.

At the enthronement meeting of Dykes Conclave in March 1971 our new Deputy Intendant General presented a cheque to cover the cost of the Centenary Warrant, stating that " . . . had it not been for the names of all the past sovereigns being displayed on the Summons, this Conclave would not have received the Warrant . . . ". In March 1973 the Conclave elected him as an honorary member.

The Centenary Meeting of Dykes Conclave was held at Ulverston on 18th October 1971, and was opened by M.P.Kt. William Richard Bennett MARSHAL, our Sovereign. During the years leading to his enthronement he was becoming increasingly blind. For this meeting he had learned the whole ceremony by heart in advance of his total blindness.

The granting of the Centenary Warrant was foretold by the Masonic Correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, when he reported that " . . . Brig. C.B.S. Morley was re-elected Grand Sovereign; J.C.M. TWALLIN was re-elected Grand Viceroy; 388 new members of the Order had been admitted; eight new Conclaves had been warranted and 'Dykes' Conclave of Ulverston in Lancashire had been granted a Centenary Warrant . . . ".

Before the presentation of the Warrant by the Intendant General, V.III.Kt. Arnold MORETON, two special items of business took place. First, honorary membership to Dykes Conclave was conferred on V.III.Kt. Dr. William Rickard WATERS, G.C.C. He was the last Intendant General of the North Western Division. The same honour was accorded to V.III.Kt. Arnold Moreton, the first Intendant General of the new Lancashire Division. Second, twelve members of other Conclaves within the Lancashire Division were elected and admitted Members of Dykes Conclave.

The Intendant General, on ascending the throne, requested that V.III.Kt. William SLATER, the Conclave Recorder, should read the Warrant of Consecration and give a short history of the first hundred years of the working of Dykes Conclave. This history precedes these notes. The Divisional Recorder, V.III.Kt. B. ANSON, P.S.G.G. was then requested to read the Centenary Warrant, which was then taken to the Throne and presented to our Sovereign, M.P.Kt. W.R.B. MARSHALL, by the Intendant General.

The members of the Conclave then formed themselves into processional order, and each was presented with a Centenary Jewel by the Intendant General. The occasion was further honoured by the investiture of P.Kt. H.B. WILSON as P.S. Div. Gen.

Our Sovereign then presented the Intendant General with a cheque to give to a charity of his choosing, which he accepted with grateful thanks. The Intendant General and Dr. WATERS were then invested with Centenary Jewels by the Most Puissant Sovereign. As a point of interest, and unlike Craft or the Royal Arch degree where Honorary Members do not wear Centenary Jewels, it is an accepted practice in Red Cross Masonry and our three honorary members were pleased to do so.

The meeting continued by opening an Assembly of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre by officers of the Lancashire Division. During the meeting, W.Kt. J.E. DIXON and W.Kt. E.A. TYSON were made Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The First Point was conferred by III.Kt. H.H. BOLTON, and the Second Point by P.Kt. E.G. HODKINSON. The St. John Degree was conferred by III.Kt. J.E. HASLAM, the Deputy Intendant General for the Division of Cheshire & North Wales.

Dykes Conclave was the oldest in the North Western Division before it was divided into the Lancashire Division and the Cheshire & North Wales Division. It was therefore fitting that members of both Divisions should have jointly performed this Ceremony of the Appendant Orders.

In May 1973 a Committee Meeting was convened to consider the position of Most Puissant Sovereign for the following year. A recommendation was accepted to elect E.Kt. R.T. BLUNDELL who had been our Viceroy in 1966 but a protracted illness prevented him from being enthroned as Sovereign.

At the same meeting, it was decided that our M.P.S. should present one of our two Sentinel's aprons to the Division, for use by the Divisional Sentinel. This was formally presented at the Divisional Meeting in May 1974.

It was in that year that the County Palatine of Lancashire was reduced in size. The parts of Lancashire that were "North of the Sands" combined with Cumberland and Westmorland to create the new County of Cumbria. Even though Dykes Conclave formerly resided in Lancashire, it does not change the traditional loyal toast of "The Queen - Duke of Lancashire", which is still performed at every meeting to this day.

In May 1976 the Division of Lancashire was further divided. The Division of West Lancashire came under the guidance of V.III.Kt. A. MORETON as Intendant General. Our own new Division of North & East Lancashire was headed by our very own honorary member, V.III.Kt. Dr. J.E. GLOVER as Intendant General. Dykes Conclave is now the oldest Conclave in this new Division.

The Conclave has been honoured by ten members attaining acting Grand Rank, namely:

V.III.Kt.	W.F.	LAMBSON,	Intendant General
V.III.Kt.	Col.F.R.	SEWELL,	Intendant General
III.Kt.	R.H.	SWAINSON,	Grand Standard Bearer
III.Kt.	G.S.	HIGHAM,	Grand Examiner
V.III.Kt.	J.	SLATER,	Grand High Chancellor
R.III.Kt.	Dr. J.E.	GLOVER, GCC,	Intendant General
II.Kt.	M.	SAYAGE,	Grand Vice Chamberlain
III.Kt.	P.J.	FLITCROFT,	Grand Prefect
III.Kt.	N.J.	THOMPSON,	Grand Prefect
III.Kt.	J.	ANDERTON	Grand Standard Bearer (L)

Our two other honorary members, V.III.Kt. A. MORETON, K.C.C. and V.III.Kt. Dr. W.R. WATERS, were both Intendant Generals as previously stated. Six members have attained the high office of Viceroy in this Division, namely:

III.Kt.	V.	CURRY,	Past Grand Orator
V.III.Kt.	J.	SLATER,	Past Grand High Chancellor
III.Kt.	W.J.P.	PENNINGTON,	Past Grand Herald
III.Kt.	T.M.	GREENSILL MBE,	Past Grand Prefect
III.Kt.	N.J.	THOMPSON,	Past Grand Prefect
III.Kt.	P.J.	FLITCROFT,	Past Grand Chamberlain

In 1972 the name of the old Conclave "Kenlis" was revived when a Conclave of that name was consecrated in Lancaster, and two of our members became founders. These were:

III.Kt.	H.B. <b>WILSON,</b>	Past Grand Chamberlain
P.Kt.	J.E. <b>DIXON,</b>	Past Divisional General

In August 1980, twelve members of the Conclave became Founder Members of Cumbria Conclave No. 347 at Millom, and the two Conclaves continue to have a very happy relationship. Often, members of both Conclaves join for the Appendant Orders, where a large number of officers are required.

There were eighteen subscribing members of Dykes Conclave immediately before the Centenary Meeting. By the end of first decade in the Conclave's second century the membership steadily increased to thirty-one members. The following decade saw a consolidation and numbers remained somewhat static. This current third decade opened with the addition of St. Leonard Conclave No. 276 at Windermere. Although that Conclave was originally consecrated in Oldham on 14th December 1972, it transferred to Windermere on 3rd June 1992. Dykes Conclave has worked closely with St. Leonard Conclave for the Appendant Orders.

On a personal note, V.III.Kt. Jack SLATER, P.G.H.Chan. celebrated thirty-five years of membership in Dykes Conclave in January 1994 and presented the Conclave with his Sovereign's and Commander's Jewels to be worn by each newly-enthroned Sovereign during his term in office.

Dykes Conclave continues in good heart and selects prospective members with care as it has always done. This ensures that the Conclave thrives on quality rather than quantity.

### Additional information:

Here follows extracts from:

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**The  
New History of Freemasonry  
in the Province of Cumberland & Westmorland**

published in early 1991 by K.W. Bond and Brethren of the Province

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Dykes Conclave No. 36 of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine was founded in Cockermouth in 1870 where W.F. Lambony was installed in 1873, later filling all the offices up to the Most Puissant Sovereign. Later in life, he was Intendant-General (unattached) of the Grand Conclave of England. The Dykes Conclave later moved to Whitehaven where it operated until the early 1930's.

*(Editor's note) The above information appeared on page 15 of chapter one, detailing the life of William Farquharson LAMBONY (1839-1926), who was the first author of the "History of Craft Masonry in Cumberland & Westmorland from 1740.*

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## **The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Appendant Orders**

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In the early 1800s, there were a number of bodies, Masonic and otherwise using the name "Red Cross" which have confused the early history of this Order. However, there is no doubt that the present Order was re-organised and firmly established by Robert Wentworth LITTLE in 1865. As early as 1870, the Dykes Conclave No. 36 was founded in Cockermouth, possibly because Lord Kenlis, later the Earl of Bective and the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, was an early Grand Sovereign. It was an Order which once started, spread rapidly and in the first decade over a hundred conclaves were chartered.

The degrees controlled by this Order are:

**Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine and two appendant degrees**

**Knight of the Holy Sepulchre**

**Knight of St. John the Evangelist.**

The first degree is based on the story of Flavius Constantius, better known as Constantine the Great, born in Gaul in AD 272 who was declared Emperor in York in AD 306. It was a time of great unrest in the Roman Empire and eventually Constantine marched south with a great army of 40,000 troops to confront his main rival, the tyrannical Emperor Maxentius. Although successful in the initial skirmishes, Constantine was outnumbered and faced defeat in the main battle. As the sun set before the fateful day, Constantine and many of his soldiers saw a golden cross in the rays of the setting sun with the initials, I.H.S.V. on the four arms. Many took this to be a portent of doom but during the night before, Constantine had a dream in which the God of the Christians held out the same cross which would lead them to victory. Telling his commanders of his vision, he inspired them sufficiently to lead them to victory, routing the enemy and opening the way to Rome.

Subsequently, he incorporated the golden cross into the banner of Victory, the Labarum, and established an elite Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine to guard it. This story of conversion to the Christian faith, and the secret doctrine associated with the Labarum form the basis for the Masonic Order. The Appendant Orders have legends associated with the Cross but occurring at different historical times. Membership qualification for this Order is that of Royal Arch Companion.

The regalia for the Order consists of a sash, varying in colour according to the degree, and breast jewels. The breast jewel for a Knight Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine consists of a gilt edged Red Cross bearing the letters, H.S.V. - "In hoc Signo Vincas" (In this sign, thou shalt conquer) suspended from a purple ribbon. Senior ranks wear a sword from the sash.

Dykes Conclave No. 36 was founded in 1870 and moved around the Province and is now in Ulverston, the neighbouring Province of West Lancashire. Our earlier historian, W.F. Lamonby, who became a member of this Conclave in 1873 was especially commissioned as a Past Sovereign in London before he left for Australia in order to introduce the Order into Victoria. On his return from Australia in 1891, he was appointed to the very high office of Intendant-General (unattached) of the Grand Conclave of England.

*(Editor's note) The above information appeared on page 250 under "Other Masonic Orders".*

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## **Cumbria Conclave and Holy Trinity Sanctuary of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, No. 347**

**Constituted 6th August 1980**

Meets at the Masonic Hall, Cambridge Street, Millom

7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of September (E), November and December

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The Cumbria Conclave was consecrated by Right Illustrious Intendant-General, Major James Edward GLOVER, O.P. in the Masonic Hall, Millom before an assembly of forty-three Knights. The twelve Petitioners were all members of Dykes Conclave No. 36 working at Ulverston. The Conclave which became the most northerly of the Order in north-west England was named after the 13th century Holy Trinity Church on the outskirts of Millom.

McKay Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1390 of Millom has supplied a steady supply of candidates. Each year, the Conclave also holds a Sanctuary Meeting to confer the Appendant Orders, sometimes joining with Dykes Conclave as a large number of officers are involved.

This Order requires a considerable amount of furniture and before the Consecration most items were made or donated by the Founders, while the columns were given by the first two candidates, Companions C.G. and L. ASHBURNER - father and son. The Conclave banner was embroidered at the School of Embroidery of the University of Manchester. The Sovereign's gown was made by a brother who was a master tailor.

The Conclave has been honoured by the selection of four members to act in the appointment of Divisional Viceroy, namely:

V.III.Kt.	J. SLATER,	Past Grand High Chancellor
III.Kt.	W.J.P. PENNINGTON,	Past Grand Herald
I.I.Kt.	T.M. GREENSILL, M.B.E.,	Past Grand Prefect
III.Kt.	M.J. THOMPSON,	Past Grand Prefect

During the twelve years of working, the Conclave has brought in twenty-one Companions, but with the inevitable sad loss of others through the years membership now stands at thirty.

*(Editor's note) The above section appeared on page 251 and was contributed by Illustrious Knight T.M. GREENSILL, M.B.E., Past Grand Prefect and a former distinguished member of Cumbria Conclave No. 347.*

Dykes Conclave No. 36 & Cumbria Conclave No. 347 are in the Division of North & East Lancashire under the enthusiastic guidance of Right Illustrious Knight Paul Charles Ian EDMONDS, K.C.C., Intendant General.