

**Lodge St. Michael, No. 38**

27th December

1737



27th December

1937

**CELEBRATION**

OF THE

**BI-CENTENARY**

OF THE

**LODGE**

IN THE

**MASONS' HALL, CRIEFF,**

**12TH FEBRUARY, 1938.**



*ARCHIBALD B. PATERSON, Right Worshipful Master.*

A Stewart 38 D Campbell 38

A Gray 38 D. M. Ridley 38

R. Walters 38 At Labour.

The Lodge will be opened at 5 p.m.

J. A. B. M. & Rae 38

The R.W.M. will welcome Visiting Brethren.

Geo Henderson 1126

The R.W.M. will receive

- (i) The Proxy Master and Wardens of the Lodge.
- (ii) The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West.
- (iii) The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland  
— Sir NORMAN A. ORR EWING, Bart., D.S.O.,  
A.D.C., V.L.

W. Stewart PM 592

A short historical sketch of the Lodge will be given by Bro. JAMES F. HARLEY I.P.M.

John Duff P.M. 38

The R.W.M. will present a copy of "The History of Crief" to the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

The Lodge will be closed in due and ancient form.

Norman A. ... M.G. M.M.

A.B. Paterson R.W.M. No 38.

James F. Harley, I.P.M.

Bro. ... No 38

Stewart P. ... M. 38

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF ...

LODGE ST. MICHAEL, CRIEFF,

No. 38.

Abraham ... Royal Arch 76  
Alexander ... Treasurer

Bro. JAMES F. HARLEY, I.P.M.

John ... No 814 S.W.

J.M. Kelle P.M. 814

Arthur ... No 38

John Brown P.M. 38

James ... 38 ... 922 ...  
James ... 1 & 5 ...

THE LODGE OF CRIEFE was inaugurated on the 27th December, 1737, by a company of Masons duly qualified for the purpose, who were members of a Mason Lodge at Muthill. The first Master of the Lodge was His Grace the Duke of Perth (James Lord Perth).

The Minute of the first meeting reads as follows:—

#### CRIEFE MASON LODGE.

“ WAS erected upon the Twenty Seventh day of December, One thousand Seven hundred and Thirty Seven years, when after those persons, whose names are recorded on the opposite side of this Book, were Entered Members of the same as apprentices; by a Company of Masons duly Qualified for the purpose who had formerly pertained to a Mason Lodge at Muthill. The Members proceeded to choose Office Beavers, for the ensuing year: Accordingly were

#### ELECTED

His Grace The Duke of Perth,	Master.
George Forbes,	Deacon.
James McInnes,	} - Wardens.
Patrick Duncan,	
George Bryce &	} - Box Masters.
Andrew More,	
David Thomson,	- - Clerk.
James Clow,	- - Officer.

N.B.—For this year, James Clow was to have no payment for his trouble, this year as Officer to the Lodge, he having got his Entry free on that account.

The Members then appointed their next Meeting to be in the Tolbooth of Crieife the first Tuesday of March next, and ordained those, who had granted their Bills that night, to appear and pay in the Money said Day.”

The Lodge at this time had no recognised place of meeting, and the members gathered in various places in the town, such as the Tolbooth of Crieife, the Chambers of David Thomson, Writer, and the house of Alexander Taitt, in fact, anywhere they considered suitable and convenient to initiate candidates into the Craft.

In 1739 the Lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland to be granted a Charter, and this was granted on the 8th of August, 1739. (Note.—The Original Master's Chair and Lodge Charter are still prized possessions.)

The Lodge was dormant between 27th December, 1744, and 27th December, 1746, owing to political difficulties, including the Jacobite rising of 1745.

In 1749 Sir Patrick Murray was elected Master in place of The Duke of Perth, who was then in exile. Many irregularities took place at this time regarding the initiation of candidates, and the holding of irregular meetings, and it was a frequent occurrence for members to be fined or expelled from the Lodge for such offences.

Being desirous of having a regular place of meeting, the Brethren, on the 6th of March, 1764, petitioned "The Honourable Commissioners on the annexed Estates of Perth, for a spot of ground to build a Lodge on." The Petition was granted, and the site given was in Lodge Street, where the present building now stands. The foundation stone being laid "with all the solemnities" on 9th April, 1766. The first Bye-Laws for the regulation of the Lodge were approved on 27th December, 1766, and it appears at this time that the name was changed from the Lodge of Crieffe to that of Lodge St. Michael.

It is interesting to note that operative masons had to serve three years at their trade before being admitted to the Craft.

In 1816 the old building was pulled down and a new one built on the same site at a cost of £2000. The ground was gifted by The Honourable Clementina Sarah Drummond Burrell of Perth "from a desire to perpetuate a society which had been formed by her ancestor." The foundation stone was laid on 19th July, 1816, and must have been an occasion for great rejoicing, as it is recorded that Crieff was very rovy that night, and a drunk man made an attempt to pull down the newly-laid stone.

One of the co's standing gatherings in the history of the Lodge during the 19th Century was the Centenary Meeting held in the hall on the 27th December, 1837, and the following is taken from the report of the newspapers of the day:—

"The 27th ultimo being the Centenary of the Society and the day on which Sir William Keith Murray entered upon the duties of the office of Right Worshipful Master, he kindly invited all the Brethren to dine with him that day, in the Lodge. Accordingly, 82 members, including Abercairney, Major Graeme, Yr., of Inchbrakie, and John Stewart Hepburn, Esq., of Colquhalzie, sat down to dinner at four o'clock. After the usual masonic and other toasts were given from the Chair, Mr. Hepburn rose and said, 'The toast I am to propose is in reference to the present meeting of the Brethren of St. Michael's Lodge, for the purpose of celebrating the Centenary of their masonic existence; we are not to forget

that on this night one hundred years ago that venerable oaken chair which has this evening been so ably filled, was occupied by the first Master, James Duke of Perth, when he founded and endowed our ancient Lodge. Since that period, an eventful century has elapsed, during which the Lodge has enjoyed a high degree of prosperity, and with to-morrow's sun another century will open upon us. Shall we not then join in the cordial wish which I propose as the subject of this toast, that the prosperity of our Lodge during the century we are now closing, will be progressively increased and extended during that on which we are about to enter; and that on this St. John's night one hundred years hence, when we shall have been long gathered to our fathers, and the Masons of a future generation shall assemble within these walls to close a second century, that ancient Chair shall be as worthily and effectively filled, and these tables be surrounded by a still more numerous band of Brethren, to spend, if possible, a still happier and more harmonious evening than that which we are now enjoying."

The cheerfulness and urbanity of the Right Worshipful Master, and the lively wit and pleasantry of his friends, were sufficient to dispel every cloud. Mountain dew having been supplied in the utmost profusion, a favourite beverage with all Masons, and first-rate vocal and instrumental music provided, the evening was spent in true masonic style. The Brethren left the lodge at a late hour.

The erection of the new buildings in 1816 plunged the Society into debt. All benevolent payments were suspended at this time, and much financial embarrassment was encountered until 1857, when the debt was finally extinguished, and new Bye-Laws were framed to regulate the disbursement of benevolent funds.

Further alterations and additions were made to the property in 1816, 1879, and in 1888 the Knight's Room was added.

Much controversy seems to have taken place, from 1837 onwards, regarding the maintenance of the Hall and adjacent shops, as nearly every Minute bears some reference to these matters, and numerous Committees were appointed to deal with such problems, and to devise ways and means of combating the persistent plague of changing tenants, and overdue rents. Nevertheless, the Lodge was well established, and initiates were numerous, although numbers of these seemed to have difficulty in paying their Test Fees. Bills were the order of the day, and Treasurers or Box Masters were greatly hampered, in their efforts on behalf of the Bills, by the undue accumulation of past due Bills.

A very prominent Masonic duty during the years 1836-1872 was the laying of foundation stones, and the following list embraces

many important events of that nature attended by the Brethren of No. 38.—

5th October,	1836	County and City Infirmary, Perth.
	1846	Episcopal Chapel, Crieff.
13th October,	1847	Perth Railway Terminus.
24th June,	1861	Wallace Monument, Stirling.
23rd March,	1865	Cutting of First Turf, Crieff—Methven Railway
11th July,	1868	Messrs. Shields' Wallace Factory, Perth.
5th August,	1869	Forfar Town Hall.
13th October,	1870	Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
28th March,	1872	Aytoun Hall, Auchterader.
13th May,	1882	Crieff Parish Church Spire.

Deputations in these days were more elaborately catered for, as the following extract will show. The Deputation referred to represented the Lodge at the laying of the foundation stone of the Wallace Monument.

“ . . . . . Resolve that the Rods, Batons, and the Mallet be repainted, and that a cushion shall be got of blue cloth with suitable tassels for the Bible, and that three sashes be got.

“ Resolve to take twelve Rods for the use of the Committee, and to be painted.

“ That the Lodge may be represented, in honour of the National Demonstration to the memory of Sir William Wallace, the Immortal Champion of Scotch Independence.

“ The Deputation assembled in the Lodge at the hour appointed, and having dressed and formed in due masonic order, they proceeded in full costume to the terminus of the Crieff Junction Railway. Preceded by the Music Band of the Crieff Rifle Volunteers, being No. 8 Company of the Perthshire Rifle Volunteers, playing the martial war ode of ‘Scots wha hae wi’ Wallace bled.’ The Deputation was joined by a grand number of the inhabitants, and was received at the Terminus with the utmost enthusiasm by multitudes of all classes from Crieff and the surrounding district.”

Although much prominence was given to public demonstrations, the ritual work in the old days did not receive the same attention as it does now, and the work was conducted in a more go-as-you-please manner. It was quite a common occurrence for a Candidate to be Entered, Passed and Raised, at one meeting; how different from the present ceremonials.

But whatever the case with ritual, the claims of Harmony were never overlooked, and from its birth, music, song, and procession

have played an important part in the life of No. 38. It is impossible in this brief sketch to describe in detail the benevolent activities of the Lodge, but it has never been forgotten that "the greatest of these is Charity." Nor has the importance of Divine Service ever been neglected. Many eminent clergymen have held the office of Chaplain, and have directed the devotional exercises of the Brethren with great diligence and acceptance.

In 1874 the time had come when the Lodge began to set her house in better order. A complete Roll of Members, numbering 155 was prepared. Later, a Petition Book and Attendance Book were got, and it is evident that every endeavour was made to improve the working of the Degrees. The Lodge from this time made remarkable progress in more than one direction. In ritual there was more dignity, efficiency, and variety. In popular favour the Lodge greatly progressed, as was evidenced by the desire for admission. Distinct advancement was also made in administration, frequently at the request of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, as a result of which No. 38 began to enjoy a long unbroken period of prosperity.

The dawn of the 20th century revealed a strong, healthy, and prosperous body of Freemasons in Crieff. Minutes of greater detail were kept, and it is worthy of note that although attendances were small (average 18), much was done to modernise the furnishings, light, heat and sanitation of the Lodge rooms.

Then came 1914-1918, the dark days of the Great War, but the Lodge was not found wanting, and much noble work was done by those who were left to carry on at home, to alleviate the hardships of those of their number who were serving with the colours.

In 1926, additional ante-room accommodation was added, and in 1935, the "Old Buildings" were completely reconstructed at a cost of £2546.

And so to Lodge St. Michael came the close of the second century of its existence, and once again on the 27th of December, 1937, the Brethren assembled within the hallowed walls according to ancient custom, and thereby constituted the Bi-Centenary. The Master, as in days gone by, voiced the wish of all, that "Lodge St. Michael may enjoy in the future the prosperity that had attended it in the past."

The foregoing is a brief record of the works and achievements of the Lodge, which we shall do our best to carry on, and we shall add to them, please God, as the years go by, others none less honourable.

12TH FEBRUARY, 1938.



ROLL OF RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTERS  
OF THE LODGE.

JAMES, DUKE OF PERTH	-	-	-	-	-	1731-1749
Sir PATRICK MURRAY, Bart., of Ochtertyre	-	-	-	-	-	1749-1763
MUNGO CAMPBELL of Monzie	-	-	-	-	-	1764
JAMES GLASS, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1765
Captain ROBERT DRUMMOND of Pitkellony	-	-	-	-	-	1766-1768
ARCHIBALD MENZIES of Culdares	-	-	-	-	-	1769-1770
Captain ROBERT DRUMMOND	-	-	-	-	-	1771-1772
JAMES GLASS, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1773-1777
Sir WILLIAM MURRAY, Bart., of Ochtertyre	-	-	-	-	-	1778-1779
THOMAS CAW, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1780
JOHN PRATT, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1781
THOMAS JEFFRAY	-	-	-	-	-	1782
Captain JAMES DRUMMOND-PERTH	-	-	-	-	-	1783-1796
Right Hon. LORD PERTH	-	-	-	-	-	1797-1800
Sir PATRICK MURRAY, Bart., of Ochtertyre	-	-	-	-	-	1801-1836
Sir WILLIAM KEITH MURRAY, Bart., of Ochtertyre	-	-	-	-	-	1837-1843
Major WILLIAM MORAY STIRLING of Abercainey	-	-	-	-	-	1844-1849
JAMES BUCHAN, Arnbank	-	-	-	-	-	1850-1854
Dr. WILLIAM BAXTER, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1855-1858
JOHN IRONSIDE, Writer, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1858-1861
Sir PATRICK KEITH MURRAY, Bart., of Ochtertyre	-	-	-	-	-	1862-1872
Captain H. E. H. DRUMMOND MORAY, Abercainey	-	-	-	-	-	1873-1889
Ex-Provost MACGREGOR, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1890
JOHN STOTHARD, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1891
A. ANDERSON CONNON, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1892
JOHN KIPPEN, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1893-1894
D. T. CLEMENT, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1895
JOHN KIPPEN, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1896
CHARLES E. COLVILLE, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1897
SWANSTON DRYSDALE, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1898-1900
JOHN RACHRY, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1901
JOHN KIPPEN, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1902-1903
ALEXANDER MORGAN, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1904-1906
ROBERT McARA, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1907-1908
PETER McGRORON, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1909
JOHN ROGERSON, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1910-1911
DAVID SMITH, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1912-1913
GEORGE H. TROTTER, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1914-1915
JAMES M. CHALMERS, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1916
WILLIAM MACDONALD, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1917-1920
A. WATT ALLISON, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1921-1922
ROBERT W. MACKIE, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1923-1924
JOHN DUFF, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1925-1926
WILLIAM MACDONALD, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1927
JOHN BROWN, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1928-1929
JAMES M. DEWAR, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1930-1931
RODERICK J. MACLEOD, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1932-1933
JOHN TAYLOR, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1934-1935
JAMES F. HARLEY, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1936-1937
ARCHIBALD B. PATERSON, Crieff	-	-	-	-	-	1938

*Menu.*

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Cream of Chicken.

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Whiting Supreme.

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Roast Lamb.

Mint Sauce.

Green Peas.

Potatoes.

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Pear Melba.

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Coffee.

## *At Refreshment.*

**The King and the Craft** - - - - **The R.W.M.**

**The Grand Lodge of Scotland**

Proposed by Bro. A. WATT ALLISON,  
F.R.S.I., F.R.T.A.S., P.M.

Reply by the M.W. GRAND MASTER MASON.

**Lodge St. Michael, No. 38**

Proposed by the M.W. GRAND MASTER MASON.

Reply by the R.W.M.

**The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West**

Proposed by Bro. STEWART A. LAUDER, D.M.

Reply by the R.W. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

**Visiting Brethren** - Proposed by Bro. JOHN KIPPEN, M.A.

Replies



*(Photo by T. J. Kelly, Grief.)*

This Oak Chair was used by His Grace The Duke of Perth at the Inauguration of the Lodge, 27th December, 1737; by Sir William Keith Murray, Bart., of Ochertyre, at the Centenary of the Lodge, 27th December, 1837; and by Sir Norman A. Orr Ewing, Bart., D.S.O., A.D.C., V.L., Grand Master Mason of Scotland, at the celebration of the Bi-centenary of the Lodge, 12th February, 1938.