

LODGE "FRIENDSHIP" No. 202.



150th Anniversary Celebrations.



W. Bro. WILLIAM J. CANN, Master.

15 Grafton Road, Mutley, Plymouth.

Friendship Masonic Hall, Grandy Street,
DEVONPORT

September 12th, 1921.

Dear Sir and Brother,

A Regular Lodge will assemble on Thursday, Sept. 22nd, at 6-0 p.m. PROMPT, by dispensation, at the MASONIC HALL, PRINCESS SQUARE, PLYMOUTH when the undermentioned, together with such other competent business, as may be submitted to, or by, the W.M., will be entertained.

Yours fraternally,

DENNIS TARR, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.,
Secretary.

27 Amherst Road, Plymouth.

BUSINESS.

- To read the circular convening the Meeting.
- To read and put for confirmation, the Minutes of the last regular Meeting.
- To pass and raise the lodge. To receive distinguished visitors.
- To lower the lodge to second, then to the first degree.
- To receive Propositions. To transact any competent business.
- It is requested that Members intending to be present and remaining to Supper on this occasion will please notify W. Bro. G. W. M. LE BAILLY, I.P.M., 1 Wadham Terrace, Devonport, per return.
- To record motion of thanks on 150th Anniversary. Closing Ceremonies.
- Arrears to December, 1920 (which should now be forwarded).
- Brethren are requested to appear in Dark Clothing and White Gloves.

On SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, a SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be held (by invitation of Bro. the Rev. C. E. L. Cowan, R.N.) in the ROYAL DOCKYARD CHURCH at 3-0 p.m. By dispensation, Masonic Clothing will be worn. Brethren of 'Friendship' can clothe in the Police Reserve Room by 2-40 at the latest and march in procession at 2-45 into the Church by the West door, under the direction of the D.C. Special sidesmen will direct them to their seats, all being seated by 2-50 p.m. P.G. officers will then march in procession to their places followed by the Choir and Clergy. Service to start punctually at 3-0 p.m. Order of Service will be printed and placed in the seats. The whole of the offertory will be devoted to the Masonic Charities.

(N.B.—Brethren of Sister Lodges will use the Pay Room, and P.P.O.'s the Muster Station for purposes of clothing.)

NOTE.—Brethren changing their address should not fail to inform the Secretary, and when claiming the privilege of "half-dues" vide By-law No. VI., Secretary must be notified.

The Lodge of Instruction, St. John's, No. 70, meets at 8-0 p.m., Thursdays, Princess Square, Plymouth, September to March.

Officers for 1921.



- W. Bro. W. J. CANN Master
- " GEO. W. M. LE BAILLY, I.P.M.
- Bro. H. LAMBERTON ... S.W.
- " E. J. SCOTT ... J.W.
- W. Bro. M. AXWORTHY Chap.
- " JOHN BARTLETT Treas.
- " A. DENNIS TARR Secty.
- " A. G. PHILLIPS,
Rep. on Com. of Petitions and
Charity Steward,
27 Victoria Place, Stoke.
- Bro. C. BRENTON ... D.C.
- " J. MUMFORD ... S.D.
- " W. TRIGGS ... J.D.
- " W. H. C. CHAFF A.D.C.
- " T. DURE ... Almoner.
- " C. MOORE ... Org.
- " R. FINCH ... A. Secty.
- " E. J. STRONG ... I.G.
- " H. BAKER ... Sen. Std.
- Bros. R. D. WEEKS, E. C. STEPHENS, A. J. WORTH, T. P. HARRIS, A. H. KEATES, G. H. MOON, C. H. FLEMING, H. E. JEFFERSON, F. P. HIGGINS, W. S. THOMAS, J. E. JOPE, F. J. BISSON, Stewards.
- Bro. C. TRUSCOTT ... Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

- W. Bro. C. H. PRICE.
- " J. F. BURNS, P.P.G.,
Supt. of Wks.
- " G. W. HANCOCK,
P.P.A.G.D.C.
- " M. AXWORTHY, P.P.G., PurS
- " G. COLLINS, P.P.G.D.
- " J. LARK.
- " A. BROOM, P.P.A.G.D.C.
- " J. BARTLETT, P.P.G.D.
- " T. L. SOPER, P.P.G. Swd. Br.
- " A. G. PHILLIPS, P.P.G.D.
- " W. OLDEN, P.P.G. St. Br.
- " M. V. HANCOCK,
P.A.G.D.C.
- " A. DENNIS TARR,
P.P.A.G.D.C.
- " J. HOLDEN.
- " B. WALLIS.
- " E. TUCKER.
- " C. J. RAYNELL.
- " H. G. PARRETT.
- " I. STEPHENS.
- " BATTEN.
- " R. JINKS.
- " R. C. S. STADDON,
P.P.G.D., (3337.)
- " W. J. W. LAUNDER,
(358 Bermuda).



A RETROSPECT.

To write a "history" covering a period of 150 years is a task which, with such little available space is impossible. The most that can be done is to record a few interesting events from the very brief records compiled by our predecessors.

Our career as a lodge began on September 26th, 1771, but no account is given of the details of the ceremony as we should do in the present day, and we can hardly imagine a consecration without the customary dignified and ornate proceedings to which we are accustomed. The environment was not conducive to any such observances so we must accept the bare fact that the first meeting took place "at the house of Bro. John Hannaford, at the Public Inn, known by the sign of 'The Bunch of Grapes' in Plymouth Dock." Bro. John Harrison being the first installed master.

Its first number was 416, our present one 202 being the sixth. We stand tenth on the list in the Province and sixth in Plymouth.

The Lodge met in 12 successive "Ale houses" or "Inns" during a period of 90 years, as shewn here:—

- 1771—"Bunch of Grapes," Plymouth Dock.
- 1776—"Golden Lion," Old Town Street, Plymouth.
- 1784—"Peace and Fame," Plymouth Dock.
- 1785—"Plume of Feathers," Fore Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1786—"Dolphin" Inn, Granby Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1787—"Half Moon," George Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1788—"King's Arms," Granby Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1789—"Prince George," Fore Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1802—"Navy" Hotel, Fore Street, Plymouth Dock.
- 1805—"Barnstaple" Inn, Princes Street, Plymouth Dock and Devonport (1824).
- 1846—"Tavistock" Inn (2 months only).
- 1855—"Lord Hood," King Street.
- 1862—St. Stephens' Street (the first private house).
- 1883—Present Home in Granby Street.

**Two sons of the first licentiate were members of the Lodge.*

In 1857 a Committee was appointed to find a new lodge room, or site on which to build one, which resulted in a room being secured for Masonic purposes only in St. Stephens' Street (bottom of Ker Street), Devonport, the first meeting in which took place in 1862 and on which the sum of £159 was spent to convert it into use for Masonic purposes.

That did not long meet the needs of the members; another site was secured and another building erected on a lease in place of dwelling houses demolished for that purpose. The sum of £600 having been raised by shares among the Brethren the last of which was bought off in 1906 and the Freehold in 1916 when our present building became our own property. The first meeting was held there in 1882 and only four of its members then are alive to-day, each of them having occupied the W.M.'s Chair.

- W. Bro. C. H. Price, initiated December, 1877, W.M. 1885.
- W. Bro. Geo. W. Hancock, initiated December, 1877, W.M. 1893.
- W. Bro. Jno. J. Burns, initiated February, 1878, W.M. 1886.
- W. Bro. Aaron Broom, initiated September, 1881, W.M. 1899.

W. Bro. W. Ailsford was the W.M. in that very important year and the first initiate was Bro. Harley. The building is convenient and rooms comfortable, but they have been proved to be totally inadequate to meet our present requirements, so looking at the matter from a broad standpoint—a very real attempt was made in January of this year to unite as many lodges as so desired in a scheme for a large Masonic Temple near the Milehouse Cross Roads, so that we with others could meet in comfort. It failed however, through lack of support, but we did our utmost to bring it about. We still require further extension of premises, and the dwelling house next door has been acquired for that purpose.

Public functions were apparently more in evidence in the early days than is the case to-day, for in 1802 the brethren marched in procession to Stoke Church to take part in a general thanksgiving for Peace, in 1821 to Plymouth Old Church to celebrate the Coronation of King George IV., in 1826, to the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Masonic Hall, Plymouth, (in *East Street obviously), in 1860 another to St. Andrew's Church—purpose not stated. The next was not until our recent attendance at St. Andrew's Church after the cessation of the Great War; while on this very important occasion of our Anniversary another will be recorded for next Sunday.

In 1875 the W.M. was sent to represent the lodge at the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince (Edward) of Wales as our M.W. Grand Master and again in 1901, when H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught succeeded

**(N.B.—This Hall, built at a cost of £2,500 afterwards became the Commercial Sale Rooms, then Burt's Furniture Store, eventually acquired by John Yeo & Co., and now re-constructed to their use. It is on record (not ours) that lodge "Fortitude" 170 and "Friendship," 339, contributed largely towards its erection.*

to that high Office on the accession of King Edward to the Throne of these realms, our esteemed Treasurer W. Bro. Jno. Bartlett was the W.M. on that occasion. Prior to 1904 a vote was found to be necessary each year to send representatives to the Annual P.G. Lodge, since then, however, a Bye-law ensures the attendance of the W.M. and Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Charity Steward. It was not until 1915 that the General Purposes Committee were vested with their present powers.

Financial items in the early days were very interesting (was money ever otherwise?). The first Treasurer's Account the month after starting is shewn—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To expenses paid this night in celebrating the Con- stitution	5	9	9	Cash in Treasurer's hands	5	7	0
				In debt to Treasurer ...	0	2	
					<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

Compare this with our present account or the Autumn Balance Sheet.

These are items also in the succeeding months' accounts, "by 3 visitors, 3s." "by 5 visitors, 5s." implying that visitors paid 1s. each for their hospitality. In 1788 appears the resolution "Each member to pay for their supper" but no fixed price is given. Then in 1819 "visitors to pay only 6d." apparently confirming the suggestion that they had hitherto paid 1s. In 1822, another entry, "Lodge only to pay for Malt liquor and not after 11 p.m." All of which goes to show that the entertainment in the refectory was a problem then just as it is to-day, but the attendance at the gatherings is striking. The records showing usually 7, 8 or 9 while 12 was a host, but oh! shades of H.A. a record in 1835 tells us "13 lodge, W.M. and officers at Plymouth Races."

There were, however, in operation penalties for absence. In 1821 it was W.M., 5d., Wardens, 4d. Deacons, 3d., all other officers and members, 2d., but in 1857 it was fixed at 6d. for all officers and as this has never been rescinded—but we will say no more on this subject.

An item appearing occasionally is "to one letter, 5d."; compare this with our present 280 circulars per month, not a few at 2d., the rest 1d. besides abundant correspondence and one is able somewhat to grasp the extent in growth of our postal system, and its cost to the lodge.

Whether it was to obtain revenue or to add to its dignity (?) is not shewn but in 1820 a resolution was passed "Any brother could take the degree of F.M. on payment of 5s." It was called a "degree" you will note, so that the qualification of Master of the Lodge could not have been necessary in order to become a P.M.

The method of relief was somewhat peculiar. There was apparently no "Poor and Distressed" as an Institution and no Almoner. We find in 1822 a Brother who had been a P.M. and subsequently excluded was relieved with 10s. and a plate of meat (the size of the plate or the quantity of meat is not indicated). In 1828 a pint of gin to a brother confined to his bed (possibly to keep him there a little longer). In 1832 6 bottles of Porter to a brother ill.

We do not appear ever to have suffered the loss of a W.M. by death, but strange to say in the present century two of our W.M.'s have joined the Grand Lodge above. Bro. W. H. Cawse in 1901 and Bro. Turner in 1905.

Only once has the lodge been honoured by a P.G.W.'s Office and the occasion of that exception is worth noting.

In 1907 our Veteran Bro. E. J. Knight, P.M. (the secretary at that time) celebrated his Masonic Jubilee, and at the P.G.L. in that year he was honoured by the P.G.M. with the collar of J.G.W. His was the first portrait to be hung in the lodge room. He continued as secretary for 6 years afterwards and died in 1913 having been 57 years a Mason and 28 years secretary of "Friendship."

At the celebration of our Centenary in 1871 we were honoured by a visit from the P.G.M. and his Deputy, when 105 brethren dined in the Oddfellows' Hall, Ker Street. The last recorded visit of the P.G.M. was in 1906, when in April of this year we were honoured with the presence of the first A.P.G.M. W. Bro. J. W. S. Godding, J.P. (P.G.C.). What will be the record of this 150th anniversary?

Much more might be written concerning the doings of the many hundreds of brethren who from time to time have constituted this proud old lodge of "Friendship." Our recent rapid growth, the contribution of our membership to the fighting services in the Great War, and much else, but space forbids.

No trouble has been spared in the arrangements to make these gatherings successful and the brethren are invited to assist to maintain and uphold the honour and dignity of the past 150 years, the proud position held by the lodge and the high reputation it enjoys in the Province with the never dying spirit of B.L.R. and T. that has characterised the members in the past, and pass on to history, these celebrations pure and unsullied as did our brethren in the days that are gone.

A.D.T.

2014/56.558



Old Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth,

Opened 1827.

Said to be the Largest Hall in Plymouth at that time.

(BLOCK KINDLY LOANED BY JNO. YEO & Co.)

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