

2015/21-28

The Country Stewards' Lodge

Attention was drawn to the existence of a "Country Stewards' Lodge, last century; by Bro Hughan in the "Freemason" for Jan 3rd 1855, and a correspondence ensued in the subsequent numbers of that Paper for June, and July, but the real object has not been traced for which the members of that Lodge were wanted. Bro Hughan has so far discovered the following particulars. The Country Stewards' Lodge was warranted in 1789 as No 220, becoming in 1792 No 449, and as held at the F. M. S. London. In 1802 ~~was~~ it was removed to Berkeley Gloucestershire as No 449, and called the Lodge of "Faith and Friendship", now called the "Royal Faith & Friendship", and numbered 270 still in Berkeley. The Warrant exhibits the fact that it was originally founded at the Guildhall Coffee House on 25 July 1789. At the "Mason" it became 509, in 1832 it took No. 337 and is now 270 (See Hughan's "Masonic Register") Bro Hughan has also discovered that a Feast was held in London for which there were Stewards, one being so noted in one of the old Calendars, hence he surmises that the Lodge was formed and sustained by Brethren from the Province, who had private Feasts after each Grand Lodge Communication.

The Feast since made Union ^{by Men. Hence the} and now fortunately owned by the well known collector & Freemason, Mr. Geo Taylor, proves that the Lodge was of a distinguished character, as the inscription thereon could not have been inserted. There is no account of the cost incurred in the G. S. accounts, so it is likely all that is meant by the reference is that the G. S. permitted it to be worn by the Master.

W. H. 1874/85

See 976
Nov. 1872

Large
A magnificent jewel. Unique and of great value.

The medal proper, of a circular shape, in the form of a locket rests on an eight-pointed star, of steel, each point representing a triangle. Obverse. Two columns on which rests a segment of a circle containing a painting in enamel of fourth & fifth century, surrounded with very small pearls, the Lewis being above. Below are the letters G. "all seeing eye", 47 "Problem" Sun & seven stars, the Vol. of Sacred Law & four square resting on steps (possibly) the columns are granite & globes are on the tops, on either side being crescent emblems in each profession the whole being placed on a blue enamel back, save the gold & related payments of feet. The whole design is composed in a locket shaped case, many of the tools being in part composed of ivory. On reverse in a small circle, within a larger one of burnished steel, containing a nine-pointed gold star having the words in French In Hoc Signo Vinced, and in center a cross of calvary with the anchor & chain intertwined, in representation of the Knight Templar degree. Temp. 1820.

W. Hughan

Mosaic pin, blue, white and yellow ballants set in silver representing a pair of compasses, composed by a segment at the points, and bearing a square thereon, with the Sun & Moon below. Perfect condition Temp. 1780-1800.

W. Hughan