

2015/21.12

Freemasons' Hall, London W.C.

8 Decr. 1890.

My dear Bro Bristow -

Bro Buss and I have gone very carefully into the matter of the approaching claim of the Harmonic Lodge. No. 252. Dudley for a Centenary warrant - and we find that the case stands thus -

The Lodge was founded in the year 1784 - and apparently continued to work, more or less, until 1800 - but from that date upto 1813, - there is not a single entry or word in Grand Lodge Books respecting it - in the latter year however it seems to have been revived, having been given a number and place on the Roll. at the Union of the 2 Grand Lodges - From 1813 to 1827

it continued to make no Returns, but in 1827. The G. Secy accepted 13 years dues from 3 Brethren - which may be considered as sufficient to keep the Lodge alive -

From 1827 to the present time, Returns have been regularly received from the Lodge.

From the above, it will be seen that the weak link in the Chain is from 1800 to 1813 - and with every desire to assist the Lodge and to further its wishes - I fear that the entire absence of Entries in our books - together with the fact that the Lodge possesses no minutes for that period, must be considered as fatal to its Claims to continued existence from 1784 - and that it will have to make a fresh departure from 1813 -

I may add that several other Lodges have been refused Centenary warrants; not similar grounds.

I return your Statement as requested, and regretting that I am unable to help you in the matter. Believe me
Yours affectionately
Bro W. Bristol
Seelys 252
W. G. Secy Worcester Lodge
Shadwell St. Leake



17. Horseley Heath
Tipton, July 19. 1884

Dear Sir & Brother

Bro. Taylor has forwarded Bro. Bristow's Memo. papers re Constitution of the Lodge, together with letter he has received ^{from} Bro. Hughes who has been going into the matter - you will be sorry to find that there is no chance of obtaining "the Jewel".

Bro. Taylor has asked me to forward Bro. Hughes's letter to you, with request that after perusal of same you will return it direct to him, I therefore enclose it herewith, & perhaps you will kindly let him have it as desired.

I venture to retain the papers for a day or two to read thro' them as I can find time, & then return same to you with others.

Yours fraternally
Sam. Smith

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Extracted from Grand Lodge Books. (3)

Printed Reports of Grand Lodge. No 369.	Charities.	Hall	Liquidation Fund.
Feb 12 th 1800. —	10. 6.	15. 0	2. 12. 0
Nov 6 th 1800. —	10. 6	1. 0. 0	2. 4. 0
Apr 7 th 1802. —	10. 6	1. 18. 0	—
Nov 23 th 1803. —	10. 6.	—	1. 8. 0
1816. — Apr 24 th —	To Benevolent Fund 5. 0	—	Register Fees 15. 0
	Total paid	£ 12. 9. 0.	

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^{copy}
Harmonic Lanterns
Jewel.

Torquay. July 17/54.

Dear Sir

Bro Taylor,

I am exceedingly sorry to
report, that my careful and
extensive researches into copies
of all the Returns made by
Lodges from 1800 to 1813, to the
regular Grand Lodge of England,
have resulted in my having to
confirm the decision of the
Grand Body, as to the Harmonic
Lodge Dudley.

I have done my best.

I give the payments on the
other side, by which it will

be seen that none were made
between 1803 and 1816 !!

Bro Clark's remarks as to
Secret Societies, unfortunately
do not touch the case ^{as}
Freemasons were especially
exempted in the Act 39th
of Geo III.

Yours fraternally & faithfully
Wm James Hughson.
Past J. G. Odessa.