

HOWE-BEAUCEANT

29 MAY 1962.

THE TWELVE SILK BANNERS

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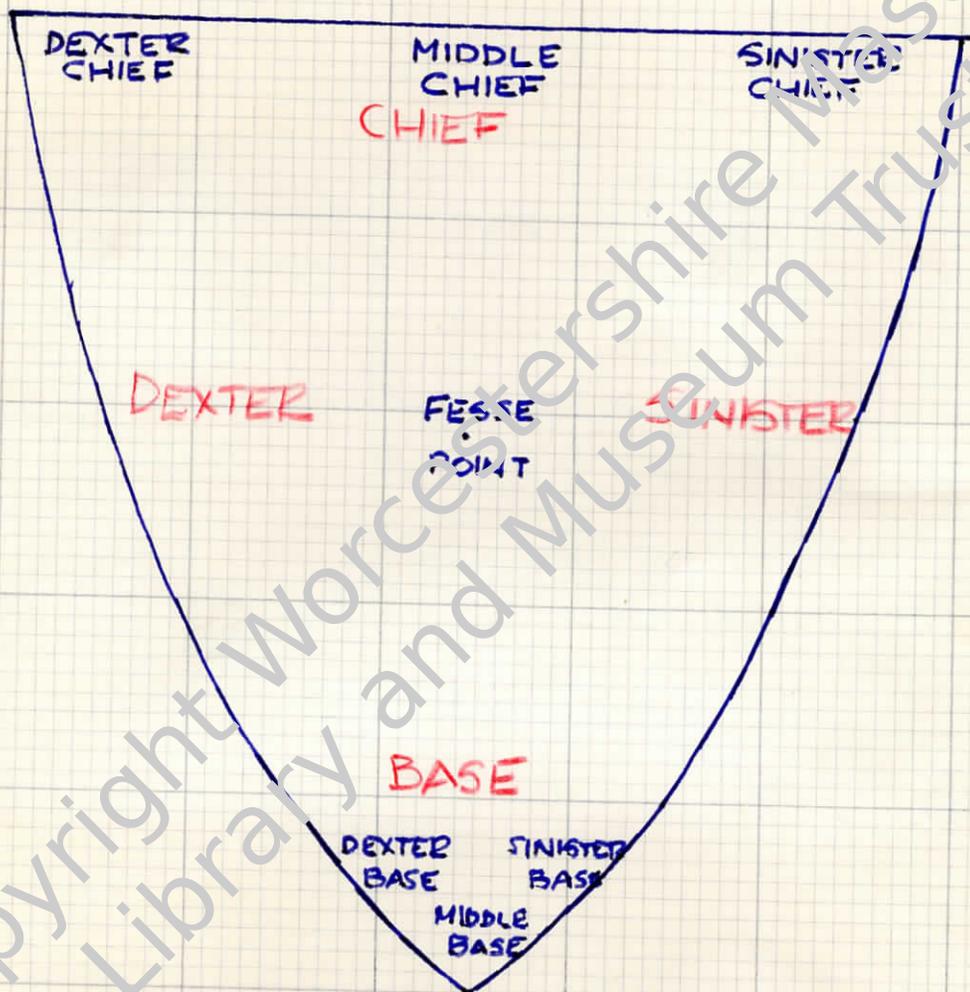
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Paper given by Em. Kt. Robert
Blackledge on 29th May 1962
at the Howe Beauchant Preceptory.

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METALS. GOLD OR
 SILVER ARSENT.

FIVE HERALDIC COLOURS.

AZURE	BLUE
GULES	RED
SABLE	BLACK
VERT	GREEN
PURPURE	PURPLE

EIGHT^{or} FURS.

THE TWELVE SILK PERSONAL BANNERS CIRCA 1855, PRESENTED
TO THE PRECEPTORY BY MEMBERS OF THE BEAUCEANT PRECEPTORY
IN 1894.

Prior to dealing with the subject indicated by the title I propose to make mention of the earliest notices of Knight Templary in this area. The oldest mention which has come to my notice is the entry into the order of one Anthony Godfrey Fricker, a Birmingham Merchant, in the Jerusalem Encampment now No.5, at Manchester, in October 1789; Fricker was one of the early members of the Chapter of Fortitude, joining circa 1783.

Thereafter the next mention is in 1796 when Knight Templars were reported as being present at the memorable meeting of the Chapter of Fortitude in the West Hill Canal Tunnel.

In March 1811, under the heading 'Knight Templars' a regular Encampment of the Orders of Red Cross, Malta and Templars was advertised to be held at the Stork Hotel, in the Square.

It might be that this was the Mount Calvary Encampment warranted at Coventry in 1810 and which appears to have disappeared without trace.

Tolladay in his History of the Howe Beauceant Preceptory mentions an Ascalon Preceptory as meeting in Birmingham in 1810 but this would appear to be an error, the only Ascalon Preceptory meeting in Birmingham of which there is record, is that warranted in 1857 by Baldwyn at Bristol and ceased in December 1867. It would be interesting to know why Sir Knight Bessett Smith sought that Warrant in 1857, with the Beauceant Encampment well established; also it is to be realized that when Howe Encampment was formed in 1861, not only was there a break away from Beauceant, but Ascalon was still registered as working at Birmingham. Bristol does not appear to have any records of this.

This set of circumstances confirms what is abundantly clear from a study of the Craft and Royal Arch, that between about 1853 and 1862 there was a deal of boxing behind the Birmingham masonic scene: not only were there contentious - but let it be said able - personalities, but a separate school of ambitious manipulators; these are hard words to use masonically but I do not think that there is any doubt that they were true.

Prior to the foundation of Beauceant Preceptory in May 1850, a few Midland freemasons were installed as Knights in the Cross of Christ Encampment, London now St. George's Preceptory No.6, London; amongst these we may note Col. George Augustus Vernon, John Orme Brettelle, William Masefield, William Henry Reece, Frederick Dee, William Robinson Kettle, George Paulson Wragge, of whom Reece, Kettle and Wragge concern us this evening.

on
The twelve personal banners which are my subject/this occasion, are mentioned on page 13 of W.F.Tolladay's Review 1850-1911 of Howe Beauceant Preceptory and there described as:-

Twelve handsome Silk Banners with the Coat of Arms, presented by Knights of the Beauceant Preceptory.

It has not been possible to examine an early copy of the By-Laws of Beauceant Encampment but from the existence of these banners, it may be inferred that a contemporary By-Law of the St. Amand Encampment at Worcester was typical of the times; it read:

"Any candidate for admission into this Encampment, entitled to bear Arms, desiring to have the same emblazoned in the muster roll, must deliver a proper draft to the First Herald".

Doubtless the Knights of the newly formed Beauceant Encampment resuscitating the order in the Birmingham area, as they did, after some four decades, were anxious not to be inferior to others.

The custom of exhibiting in Conclave, personal armorial achievements would not appear anywhere to be sanctioned in the Statutes of Great Priory or of the Convent General, neither was it necessary in those days to have the By-Laws of an Encampment approved by Great Priory.

One feels however that Great Priory must have known of the practice; moreover it would have been difficult for the Sovereign Body either to oppose, or even recommend against the practice, for by the very nature of the Order, Armorial achievements are not only an integral part thereof, but derived a great impetus therefrom.

The middle of the last century was a time in which armorial achievements were appropriated with gay abandonment, and in a manner which would have caused consternation in the present College of Heralds; even to-day the legal position lacks definition, and the transition from tradesman to gentleman may take place overnight.

The majority of the twelve banners under review appear to have been drafted on the basis of the Brother Knight appropriating the grant of arms to a person having the same surname. It would be a tedious, expensive and in the circumstances and unrewarding process to attempt to ascertain whether achievements were registered by the Brethren in question; one doubts this.

It is doubtful whether the banners were executed at the same time; probably five were made at or near to the Consecration of Beauceant Preceptory in May 1850, and the others at intervals later. One says this because the owner of one, Bro. George Drury, an Architect died shortly after that date; on the other hand some of the owners notably Lord Leigh had not been initiated.

It is noteworthy that the first Eminent Commander, Colonel Vernon, a member of an old family well established in the Landed Gentry, is not represented in the list.

Eight of the twelve banners have a chief described heraldically as argent cross patee gules in perspective; this has reference no doubt to the order of Masonic Knights Templar. We may take as an example Transparency Nol, showing the Banner of W.H. Reece, Foundation First Captain (present First Constable) of Beauceant Preceptory, who had been installed as a Knight of the Order in the Cross of Christ Encampment in September 1849, by Col. G.A. Vernon, Eminent Commander. Proceeding round the triangular surmount we have the letters S.P.R.+ N.P.U., Knt of M.M.P. & C., Kn. H.R.D.M., K.D.S.H., P.P., P.M. These probably were intended to represent:- Sovereign Prince Rose Croix, Ne Plus Ultra., Knight of Malta, Mediterranean Pass & C., Kt. of Heradim. Kadosh, Past (Provincial), Past Master.

PRECEPTOR

The P.P. might at first thought be construed as Past Preceptor, but that cannot be so as Preceptor was not then an Office. Bro. Reece was a Past Master of St. Paul's Lodge of some years standing and a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden of Warwickshire.

Bro. Reece may truly be described as a man of Birmingham for he was born in High Street at the corner of Union Street, where his father was a Grocer and Tea Dealer. He was admitted an attorney at the age of 22 and commenced practice in New Street a year later. He usually is credited with having transformed Llandudno from a fishing village to a watering place; the sea breezes there brought back to health a very sick daughter of his and as a thanksoffering he restored at great expense the twelfth century church of St. Tudno on Great Orme's Head. In 1858 he was the prime mover in the foundation of the Lodge of St. Tudno, of which he was the first Master.

In 1862 he translated from the french, "An essay on the mysteries and the true object of the brotherhood of Freemasons" and this was published in London and Birmingham.

He died in 1873 and is buried at Edgbaston Old Church.

The second banner is that of Sampson Lloyd Foster, who was appointed Provincial Prior in 1872 at the early age of 41. The shield is argent a chevron between three bugle horns, granted to Foster Co. Berks., with which family our subject had no connection.

Sampson Lloyd Foster C.E., was a great-grandson of Sampson Lloyd of Bordesley Co. Warwick and Birmingham Banker; his surname descended from the Fosters of Bromley Hall, Essex. He was a partner in Lloyds Foster & Co., Wednesbury which company built the Old Park and Monway Works in that town, affectionately known in the locality as Quaker Works, and a concern which lost quarter of a million pounds in supplying ironwork for Blackfriars Bridge. He lived at Old Park Hall near to Great Barr and became a freemason in Howe Lodge now No. 587 about 1852 being then just qualified by age. He was Master of that Lodge in 1859 and exalted in the Howe Chapter at the Consecration Meeting in May 1855.

He was Founder Expert (now Marshall) of the Howe Preceptory in 1861. There is very little account available publically as to how he worked as Provincial Prior - though doubtless the Provincial Minutes books will give some guide.

He died at the early age of 47 at Ealing having been saddened by the devaluation for upwards of £20,000 by a senior official of his company the appointment of whom he strongly supported. Lloyd-Foster took great interest in the Howe Lodge, and was a Director and Deputy Chairman of the Masonic Hall & Club Company Ltd - that is the New Street Hall - until his death.

to

A great masonic name is brought to mind by the next Banner, Argent a lion rampant sable being the arms of Lloyd, Crogen Co. Merioneth and bearing the name John Ward Lloyd, a lamp manufacturer in Edmund Street. He was Master of the Athol Lodge now No. 74 in 1848, 1850 and 1851, Z of the Chapter of Fortitude in 1852; it may be inferred that he was first class ritualist rejecting without compromise that overworked and tiresome apologia 'never mind the words, it is the spirit which counts'.

first Master of the Howe Lodge

He was also a competent organiser and one who left his mark when he vacated his various Chairs.

As he was making his way in Knight Templary he died at his home Shenstone at the early age of 51, in August 1961. The motto on his banner "Let justice be done though the heavens fall in" was typical of the man.

The next banner is that of Lord Leigh, William Henry, Second Baron, of Stoneleigh born in 1824, initiated in Lodge of Light now No.468 in December 1851, and appointed Provincial Grand Master ten months later.

Lord Leigh's long, and for the Province happy, Provincial Grand Mastership, extending as it did over 53 years, is too well known to all of you for me to speak of it here. His name is commemorated in the Leigh Lodge No.887 formerly the Leigh Lodge of Rifle Volunteers; that of his wife Caroline Amelia daughter of the Second Marquiss of Westminster, in the Grosvenor Lodge No.938. He was exalted in the Chapter of Fortitude in 1853 and shortly afterwards installed as a Knight Templar in Beauceant Encampment, becoming Eminent Commander in July 1857.

His arms are correctly depicted except that the Crest is missing; their description Gules, a cross engrailed argent, in the first quarter a lozenge of the second; mantling gules and argent. Tout vient de Dieu.

The remainder of the banners were the property of freemasons who though they did much in some ways are not notable.

The Brothers Goode, Benjamin William and John Thomas, had similar banners except that that of the elder, Benjamin William, has on the border of the surmount, letters exactly the same as those of Bro. Reece, with which we have already dealt. The ~~crest~~ achievement, gules, on a chevron between three lions rampant or as many five foils as the first, was that of the family of Goode, of Whitstone, Cornwall. It is unlikely but not in this case certain that our subjects were related thereto. The motto Deo non fortuna, from providence not from chance.

B.W. Goode - who by the way, with his brother owned ~~an~~ manufactory in St. Paul's Square mainly concerned with the supply of gold and silver watch guards - was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Howe Lodge of which he was Master three times over a period of years, as well as being the first Z of Howe Chapter. He was the first Eminent Commander of Howe Encampment, in 1861, his brother being the first First Captain (First Constable).

He was a member of the Birmingham Town Council from 1849 to 1862, and died at the age of 85 years in 1896 at Speedwell Road, Edgbaston.

Edward Abbotts Lingard, the owner of the next banner, also had works in St. Paul's Square. The shield shown is that of Lingard, Linger co. Lancaster and Curdworth co. Warwick, namely Barry of six or and azure on a bend sable three escallops argent. He died in 1902 at the age of 76; other than resigning from the Chapter of Fortitude when occupying the Z Chair, thereby causing a break in continuity and delaying the Centenary of that Chapter by 23 years, the influence of Brother Lingard on the Birmingham masonic scene was negligible.

William Robinson Kettle an Accountant was initiated in St. Paul's Lodge and was Z of the Chapter of Fortitude in 1850; he was installed as a Knight Templar in the Cross of Christ Encampment in September 1849, and was Foundation Treasurer of the Beauceant Encampment. He died before the Consecration of the Howe Encampment, much regretted by all who knew him. Bro. Kettle probably was one of the stabilising influences in the difficult period in mid fifties.

He practised in Waterloo Street and lived in Hagley Road. The shield azure a bend between two bucks heads erased or is that of Kettle of London. His motto Qui tel cannot be traced; was it a humorous association with his own name?

The next banner is that of Geroge Paulson Wragge initiated in the Lodge of Light now no.468,exalted in the Chapter of Fortitude in June 1849, and installed in the Cross of Christ Encampment in September 1849; he clearly was impressed with his entry into masonry.

His shield is non-descript which cannot be traced and is possibly best associated with the first word in his motto 'audacitur'. Boldly. He was a founder of Beauceant Encampment but his interest in freemasonry seemed to dwindle. He died at Eastbourne in 1889 at the age of 79, so that he was a little less than forty years old when he made his meteoric crusade through some of the degrees.

Frederick James Roberts initiated in the Lodge of Light and exalted in the Chapter of Fortitude in 1849,was Parish Clerk at Aston. His shield azure of a bend argent three mullets sable, and motto Tojours fidele - always faithful - are those of Roberts of Kent and Boresell, Sussex.

George Drury was an architect in Newhall Street, who died in the early fifties.

His shield Argent on a chief vert a tau between two mullets pierced or. Mottot Ready and faithful, are those of Drury, of Thurston Rougham, ~~Suffolk~~ Suffolk.

Of William Dixon Badger I have not succeeded in finding any trace either masonically or in the directories of the time; it probably is that he came from a distance for I have checked Birmingham,Coventry, Wolverhampton and the surrounding towns.

His shield is that of Badger Co.Cambridge;ermine or a bend gules three eagles or.

I believe that it may be said in broad terms that though the banners are a picturesque reminder of an era now a century old, they were a bow to fashion at the time,they ~~was~~ were taken out largely by brethren who will not be remembered, but that some consultation with Burke's works did take place.

I hope in the not too distant future to set out enquiries with a view to ascertaining how many Preceptories have such banners; but of far greater interest to me Brother Knights is what took place in our order in Birmingham and neighbourhood between say 1790 and say 1825. How exactly to commence this search I have/so far rather difficult.

That there is a story I am convinced.

found

WILLIAM HENRY REECE.

Respice futurum.
Regard the future.



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SAMPSON LLOYD FOSTER.

Argent a chevron between three bugle horns.
Foster, Co. Berks.
Persevere. No record in 1861.



JOHN WARD LLOYD.

Argent Lion rampant sable.
Lloyd, Crogen, co. Merioneth.

Let justice be done though the heavens fall in.



THE LORD LEIGH.

Gules, a cross engrailed argent, in the first quarter
a lozenge of the second; mantling gules and argent.
Tout vient de Dieu.

ALL FROM 603



BENJAMIN WILLIAM GOODE.

Gules on a chevron between three lions rampant or
as many five foils as the first.

Deo non fortuna. From providence not from chance.
GOODE, WHITSTONE, CORNWALL.

THROUGH GOD NOT BY CHANCE



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BENJAMIN WILLIAM GOODE.

Gules on a chevron between three lions rampant or
as many five foils as the first.

Deo non fortuna. From providence not from chance.
GOODE, WHITSTONE, CORNWALL.

THROUGH GOD NOT BY CHANCE



JOHN THOMAS GOODE.

See Benjamin William Goode (his brother).



EDWARD ABBOTTS LINGARD.

Barry of six or and azure on a bend sable three
escallop argent.

Lingard, Linger Co. Lancaster.

Lyngarde, Curdworth Co. Warwick and Co. Lancaster.



WILLIAM ROBINSON KETTLE.

Azure a bend between two bucks heads erased or.
Kettle, London.
Qui tel.



GEORGE PAULSON WRAGGE.

Baronets helmet?

Doubtful structure, no record.

Audaciter et sincere. Boldly and sincere.

BOLDLY AND SINCERELY



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FREDERICK JAMES ROBERTS.

Azure of a bend argent three mullets sa.
Roberts. Kent and Boresell, Sussex.

Toujours fidele. Always faithful.



GEORGE DRURY.

Argent on a chief vert a tau between two mullets
pierced or.

Paradus et fidelis. Ready and faithful.



WILLIAM DIXON BADGER.

Ermine on a bend gules three eagles or.

Badger or Bagehott, Co. Cambridge, Gloucester, Leicester.

