

ANTIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND
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OLD DUDLEIAN LODGE

No. 6734

SOME HISTORY OF THE LODGE FROM
CONSECRATION TO 200th MEETING

by

W. BRO. W. KENT, P.P.G.W.

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SOME HISTORY OF THE LODGE FROM
CONSECRATION TO 200th MEETING

Transcript of a paper presented at the 200th Meeting by Worshipful Brother Wilfred Kent P.P.G.W., a Founder Member of the Lodge.

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It is no doubt quite appropriate for members of the Old Dudleian Lodge No 6734 to hear something of the history of the Lodge over the years of its existence.

A neighbouring Lodge, the Old Edwardian of Stourbridge, was consecrated in November 1945 and the meeting was attended by a number of brethren who were members of lodges which met in Dudley. Among these brethren were some who thought that whatever Stourbridge could do, Dudley could equal or even better. So in 1946 some brethren met at the Masonic Hall, Wellington Road, Dudley to ascertain whether there was sufficient interest to found a Lodge principally for Old Boys of Dudley Grammar School. The first meeting was called by Bro. W.N. Chilton. Quite a number of brethren were interested not only from Worcestershire masons but also from the Province of Warwickshire. Included in the latter were J.R. Napier, and J.W. Davies. The former had been the first Master of the Lodge of Truth 6606 and was aware of the procedure necessary to found a new Lodge.

It was soon found that there were 27 brethren - Old Boys and Masters of the Dudley Grammar School - eligible. Brethren must have been initiated more than three years otherwise there would have been more Founders. During 1946 and 1947 further meetings of interested brethren were held and a Petition to United Grand Lodge of England was presented - sponsored by Dudley Castle Lodge No 4437.

W. Bro. Ben Marsh, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge was pleased at the venture and suggested that the annual meetings of the Lodge should be six instead of the original four

considered and this was agreed upon. As the Founders belonged to lodges of more than just the Province of Worcestershire the working in the ceremonies was to be "Emulation" and the differences decided upon should be set out in writing and listed, a copy included in a Lodge of Instruction Minute Book when put in use. A reading from the Bible was to be an item at meetings. A rendering of the 'Dudley Chorus' was to be made at the Festive Board. With regard to the Dudley Crest or Coat of Arms it was decided to use it on the Lodge Summons, notepaper, etc. and the Town Clerk of Dudley was approached to obtain permission for its use but it was found that this could not be given as Dudley had no authority.

In due course the United Grand Lodge of England sanctioned the founding of the Lodge giving it No. 6734 and W. Bro. Ben Marsh indicated that he would carry out the Consecration upon 13th November 1948. Ordinary meetings of the Lodge would be held at the Masonic Hall, Wellington Road, Dudley where it was possible to use lodge furniture and other items in common use by lodges. A set of collars and gauntlets for Officers was obtained, the cost being defrayed from the Founders fees of ten guineas each. The Worshipful Master's collar was provided by the first Master, W. Bro. J.R. Napier.

Prior to the 13th November 1948 rehearsals of the Consecration ceremony were carried out by the Founders under the supervision of the Prov. D.C., W. Bro. H.E. Hearne, and the Consecration was carried out by W. Bro. Ben Marsh and the Provincial Team in a most impressive manner. The centrefold is a copy of the original Toast List for the Festive Board. Some of the Musical items were provided by members of the Lichfield

Cathedral Choir. The attendance at the ceremony was in the region of 150.

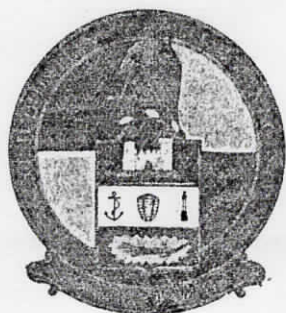
In the months following W. Bro. James Mainwaring who was a Founder and Music Master at the School donated his conductors baton to the Lodge - this could be used as a pointer for Lectures etc. A Bible was obtained for use in the Lodge the cost being covered by W. Bro. H. Cherrington and a cushion for placing under the Bible on the W.M.'s pedestal was provided by W. Bros. W. and J. Chilton - the father and Uncle of Bro. Norman Chilton. W. Bro. J.R. Napier made a painting of a banner which was to be used in Lodge until a banner was made by Mrs Walker, the widow of W. Bro. Frank Walker (a Founder) in his memory.

When the banner was completed Mrs Walker accompanied by Mrs Harry Cherrington attended a Lodge Meeting to present the banner and the meeting was 'called off' and 'called on' so that the ladies could be brought in.

About 1950 when Bro. A.H. Crump was in the Chair, he provided a suitable piece of mahogany for a past Masters' Board which hangs in the Lodge of Instruction Room.

The first candidates for initiation into the Lodge were the Headmaster, Mr D.C. Temple, and Mr A.K. Young (then President of the Old Boys' Association). In the early life of the Lodge there was no lack of applicants to join. Some Old Boys joined other lodges in order to avoid too long a delay and this in spite of emergency meetings and doubling up of ceremonies.

In 1954 W. Bro. J.R. Napier was honoured by being given Grand Lodge Rank and the Lodge



OLD DUDLEIAN LODGE

No. 6734

Consecration

by

Worshipful Bro. BEN. MARSH, P.G.D.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge

and

Installation

of

W. Bro. J. R. NAPIER, W.M. 6606

P.M., 209, 5580, P.P.G. Treas. (Warks)

Masonic Hall, Dudley

13th. November, 1948

FOUNDERS

- W. Bro. J. R. Napier, W.M. 6600, 4533, P.M. 4209,
5520, P.G.Treas. (Warks.)
- J. W. Davies, 4539, 6306, P.M. 5520
- H. Cherrington, 5023, P.M. 252,
Asst.G.Std.B., P.P.G.A.V.
- H. Preedy, P.M. 493, P.P.G.A.V.
- F. G. G. Walker, P.M. 5028, P.P.G.D.
- J. Mainwaring, P.M. 493, P.P.G.D.
- O. S. Brettle, P.M. 3480
- A. H. Crum, 4157
- W. Kent, 493
- W. N. Clifton, 4437
- W. A. Woodall, 930
- I. A. Russell, 252, 530
- S. B. Simpson, 493
- E. N. Davies, 5545
- E. C. M. Jewkes, 74
- S. Jennings, 5028
- K. Silk, 4463
- W. H. Edwards, 493
- C. D. Edwards, 493
- C. D. Matthews, 232
- H. L. Preedy, 493, 5743
- N. E. Davies, 493
- E. C. Parsons, 5729
- K. L. Pearce, 493
- J. L. Round, 5545
- W. W. Hickman, 493
- T. H. Trowman, 5028

Toasts

1. The King and the Craft.
2. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, His Grace
The Duke of Devonshire, K.G.
3. The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master,
The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarbrough, G.C.S.I.,
G.C.I.E., E.D.; The Right Worshipful The Assistant
Grand Master, Brig.-Gen. W. H. V. Darrell, C.F.,
C.M.G., D.S.O., and the Officers, Present and Past,
of the Grand Lodge of England.

Proposed by W. Bro. J. W. Davies, S.W.

4. The Worshipful, The Deputy Provincial Grand Master
in Charge, Ben Marsh, P.G.D., The Assistant Prov.
Grand Master, Dr. E. L. Bunting, and the Officers,
Present and Past, of the Provincial Grand Lodge
of Worcestershire.

Proposed by Bro. W. Kent.

5. The Old Dudleian Lodge, No. 6739.

Proposed by W. Bro. Ben Marsh, P.G.D.,
Deputy P.G.M. in Charge.

6. The Connecting Officers.

Proposed by W. Bro. H. Cherrington, A.G. Std. B.,
P.P.G.W.

7. The Visiting Brethren.

Proposed by Bro. K. L. Pearce.

8. The Tyler's Toast.

Music by the Lichfield Cathedral Quarter.

W.M. - - - W. Bro. J. R. NAPIER, P.P.G. (Treas. Works.)
 I.P.M. - - - W. Bro. J. MAINWARING, P.P.G.D.

OFFICERS, 1948-9

S.W. - - - W. Bro. J. W. DAVIES
 J.W. - - - Bro. A. H. CRUMP
 Chaplain - - - W. Bro. F. G. G. WALKER, P.P.G.D.
 Treasurer - - - Bro. W. A. WOOLALL
Trinity, 10, Oakhill Road, Dudley
 Secretary - - - Bro. W. KENNEDY
Empira, Hamlet Road, Dudley
 D.C. - - - W. Bro. H. GERRINGTON, A.G. St.B.,
 P.P.G.W.
 S.D. - - - Bro. J. C. M. JONES
 J.D. - - - Bro. S. HENNING
 A.D.C. - - - W. Bro. O. S. BRETTE
 Organist
 Assist Secy. - - - Bro. S. B. SIMPSON
 I.G. - - - Bro. K. SILK
 Steward - - - Bro. C. D. EDWARDS
 " - - - Bro. C. D. MATTHEWS
 " - - - Bro. H. L. FREEDY
 " - - - Bro. N. E. DAVIES
 " - - - Bro. F. C. PARSONS
 " - - - Bro. K. L. PEARCE
 Tyler - - - Bro. R. COOKSEY, P.P.G. Fyler

Charity Steward - Bro. W. H. EDWARDS

assisted with the obtaining of his Regalia, a presentation of which was made in the Lodge.

About 1953 the Lodge joined the Federation of School Lodges, which had been formed a few years earlier. The Lodge's first representatives were J.R. Napier and W. Kent.

In 1959 the W.M. of the Lodge (A.L. Napier) made two collecting bowls for the Charity Collection and presented them to the Lodge.

During 1962 when Bro. A.R. Young was in the W.M.'s chair the Lodge was 'host' to the Federation of School Lodges, and their 15th Annual Festival was held at an Emergency Meeting of the Lodge at the Dudley Grammar School. The meeting was most successful and was held in the Hall designed and supervised by Bro. A.R. Young.

The 100th Regular Meeting of the Lodge coincided with the Mastership of W. Bro. R.J.W. Hadley, the actual date being 15th March 1965 when the past Masters of the Lodge were invited to occupy the various offices to carry out the ceremony. The Master's Chair was occupied by W. Bro. W. Kent for the first part of the raising and W. Bro. J.P. Napier for the Traditional History and the second part. The candidate was Bro. G.C. Kent.

Some time after the 100th Meeting W. Bro. W. Kent was presented with a cut glass jug and six firing glasses to mark his attendance at the first 100 meetings of the Lodge. When he left England in 1968 for residence in Australia he was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

In 1970 W. Bro. W. Kent returned to England and gave the glasses back to the Lodge and

hoped that they would be used upon Installation nights.

During the life of the Lodge, Song Books containing the School Song and other items used at after proceedings were acquired.

At Installation Ceremonies in the early days of the Lodge the extended workings had been carried out but had been discontinued after four or five years because some brethren objected to the time taken up. However, in 1976 the practice was revived and in 1981 a set of working tools used in the inner workings was presented to the Lodge by W. Bro. H.J. White.

During the Lodge's existence Headmasters of the School have shown a lively interest in the progress of the Lodge. Had it been founded earlier Mr Hugh Watson and Mr J.W. Watson might have been members. Mr D.C. Temple and Mr P.W. Rogers were initiates of 6734. Since leaving Dudley Mr Rogers progressed through the Chair of the Lodge of his School at Brighton.

Over the years the Lodge has contributed quite generously to the furniture and fittings of the Dudley Masonic Hall Limited.

Even more could be related of the "life" of the Lodge and in spite of unforeseen circumstances which led to the widening of acceptance to membership of the Lodge the future of the Lodge can be looked forward to with great confidence.

Monday 18th January 1982.