

Wm Bro Fred Rawson

Lodge of St. Francis

With all good wishes
from
The AG
No. 4899

No



4899

Consecrated = Sept. 1927.

Coming of Age

Sept. 1948.

This Brochure has been compiled to record a brief history of the growth and progress of the Lodge from its Consecration to its 21st Session of Regular Meetings.

"Service and Sacrifice"

Lodge of St. Francis

No. 4899.

Wor. Bro. Dr. GEO. THOMAS, P.P.G.D., Master Designate.

CONSECRATION OF THE ABOVE LODGE

at

THE MASONIC HALL, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM,

on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 1927.

Consecrating Officer :—

R.W.Bro. Colonel W. F. Wyley, M.D., D.L., Prov. G. Mast.

Assisted by :—

Wor. Bro. Brig. Gen. M. Quayle Jones, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., Prov.
G. D., Dep. Prov. G. M.

Wor. Bro. J. S. Pritchett, B.C.L., Prov. G. D., Asst. Prov. G. M.

Wor. Bro. James Jackson, Pro. Grand W.

Wor. Bro. A. W. Nuttall, Pro. J.G.W.

Bro. The Rev. The Lord Bishop of Coventry, D.D., Prov. G. Chap.

Wor. Bro. The Rev. Dr. J. N. Frankland, D.Sc., M.A., Prov. G.
Chap.

Wor. Bro. J. B. Wilson, Prov. G. Sec.

Wor. Bro. E. S. Stamp, Prov. G.D.C.

Wor. Bro. A. Cunningworth, Prov. G. Purs.

Wor. Bro. P. H. Muirhead, Prov. G. Purs.

The Birth of an Idea that became an Ideal

From existing records connected with the Lodge, one gathers that in 1925 three Brethren of an existing Lodge conceived the desire to be Members of a small body of Freemasons, who would be mainly interested in pure Masonry than in the social amenities. They approached Wor. Bro. DR. GEORGE THOMAS in November, 1925, with a view to him becoming their master if the ideal they held received his accord. The ideals were also those held by our First Master, who, though appreciating the tremendous task of forming a new Lodge, gathered around other Brethren to join with him and the three originators.

Meetings were held at which the Petition for the proposed Lodge was agreed. Additionally, the Principles and Ideals were drafted before the Consecration. Copies of these are given in extenso for all Brethren to read and digest.

Principles and Ideals

LAI D DOWN AND ADOPTED BY THE FOUNDERS OF THE LODGE OF ST. FRANCIS No. 4899. PRIOR TO ITS CONSECRATION.

1. The Lodge shall be very small, aiming at "quality" rather than "quantity."
2. For the same reason it shall be very "exclusive"; being open only to those who are known to be fired with the "genuine Spirit of Freemasonry" and a keen desire for perfection in the work of the Lodge, and are prepared to do all in their power to give expression to the true spirit of Masonry in its most ample sense, and to make sacrifices to that end.
3. It shall be a Lodge of the *very strictest moderation* as regards its banquet, even to the point of *frugality*.
(N.B. This would deter an undesirable element from seeking admission to the Lodge).
4. That Dignity, which should at all times distinguish Masonic proceedings, shall be strictly observed, both in the Lodge Room and Dining-Room.
5. Noisy behaviour, shouting or other ribald hilarity, shall not be tolerated, and "challenging" shall only be in moderation, and with due decorum.
6. The Brethren must show "HUMILITY," "ZEAL," and "TOLERATION."

7. It shall be a Lodge of "UNITY" and "EQUALITY," and an air of superiority shall not be tolerated, and any brother who manifests such attitude, no matter what his rank or office, may be called upon to resign from the Lodge.
8. Any Brother failing conspicuously in our ideals, or indulging in conduct contrary to those ideals, or acting in any manner likely to bring discredit upon the Lodge, may be requested to resign.
9. No one can be admitted a member of the Lodge unless all the members are satisfied that such a one is prompted by the same high ideals as are herein laid down, and is prepared to eliminate all motives of personal aggrandisement, and work with that unity, zeal and harmony, without which we cannot achieve our ideals.
10. That our motto shall be :—" FOR SERVICE."
11. All Founders must be unanimously elected by those already elected, and will be selected with the utmost care, having regard to their qualifications to fit in with our high conceptions and ideals.
12. That the number of Founders shall be limited to fifteen.
13. That the expense of founding the Lodge shall be borne equally by the fifteen Founders.
14. No office, or other favour shall be promised, offered, implied or granted to any Founder or member on account of his making any contribution towards the expense of founding the Lodge or its upkeep.
15. The first list of Officers shall be at the sole discretion of the first Master ; he having regard only to the capability and desirability in the Master's opinion—of Brethren to fill the offices to which they may be called.
16. Founders, or members, of whatever rank or office in any other Lodge, may, at the sole discretion of the first Master, be omitted from office, or requested to accept junior office in this Lodge, and they will be expected to cheerfully accept any such office that it may please the Master to offer them, and to work for the achievement of our ideals and the success of the Lodge and the Craft without thought of personal advancement.
(N.B. It is the success of the Lodge and the Craft that matters—not the individual.)
17. All the members of the Lodge must make themselves proficient in the work of the Lodge.
18. All members must give an undertaking to learn the work, so far as lies within their capacity, and plead no excuse save that of illness.

19. Any member failing to carry out the above clause may be requested to resign.
20. All Brethren must give proof of their ability to do the work before appointment to any office.
21. Promotion of the Lodge can only be obtained by *seniority combined with efficiency*.
22. Brethren failing to keep their work up to the highest standard of efficiency will not be retained in office.
23. The Lodge shall not be made expensive ; but Brethren will be expected to make reasonable sacrifices.
24. The number of members shall not exceed Forty.
25. Candidates for Initiation shall be strictly restricted to those who are known to possess those characteristics peculiar to our Lodge ; besides conforming in all other respects to the usual standard of qualifications required by the Craft. Such Candidates will be required to attend a joint Meeting of the Master, Past Masters, Officers, and Founders of the Lodge, who shall enquire very searchingly into the Candidates' qualifications for admittance into the Lodge. Such Initiates shall be strictly limited to not more than three per session.
26. Brethren wishing to become Joining Members will have to undergo a similar examination by the Committee of Enquiry.

Petition

Having conceived the idea, laid down the principles and visualised the ideals of this small body of craftsmen, the Founders then Petitioned for a Charter or Warrant of the proposed Lodge. Here follows a copy of the letter accompanying the Petition and the names of the Petitioners :

TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF WARWICKSHIRE :

The Petitioners for this Charter are a body of Freemasons, who are more interested in pure Masonry than in the social amenities, following the usual Lodge Meeting, and are animated by the desire to obtain greater facilities for pursuing Masonic studies than are at present available for them, that they may develop the intellectual side of the Craft.

It is intended that at every Meeting, excepting Installation Meetings, a short paper shall be read, or lecture given, on some subject of Masonic interest, by which means we hope to make advancement in Masonic knowledge.

The Petitioners desire to meet at such time in the evening, . . . say six o'clock, or six-thirty o'clock, as shall not necessitate their leaving business to attend the Lodge, and, by curtailment of the after proceedings, the Meetings would terminate earlier than usual. Moreover, in place of expending the Lodge funds in social amenities, it is intended, by self denial, to extend the contributions to the three Masonic Charities, collectively, in greater measure than a Lodge would normally be able to do. The Petitioners desire to be formed into a Regular Lodge of which the outstanding characteristics shall be "Service and Sacrifice," in this way following the noble example of the Patron Saint of the proposed Lodge.

Emulation working would be strictly adhered to. It is intended that a Past Master shall not take the Chair, with the exception of the first and possibly, second Master, so that those Brethren who have not passed the Chair, may be provided with an opportunity of attaining it.

It is intended not to initiate more than three candidates per Session, that their progress in Masonry may not be unduly retarded.

The Petitioners desire to meet temporarily at the Masonic Hall, Erdington, Birmingham, until such time as a suitable opportunity presents, of meeting at the new Masonic Temple.

THE PETITIONERS.

GEORGE THOMAS
JOHN SUTTON
CHAS THOMAS BARLOW
JOHN RUBERT BARLOW
GEO. ROLLETT
HERBERT PERCY ALLDRITT
RICHARD FORTUNE
ALFRED WALTER ROBINSON
PERCY FRANK ROSE
CHARLES HENRY WILLIAMS
CECIL WATSON
THOS. HIGGINSON FURBER
JOHN HILL
THOMAS REGINALD SPARKES
GEO. THOMAS CHESHIRE

Endorsed By : " FAITHFUL LODGE "—No. 473.
14th September, 1926.

(Signed) JOHN B. WILSON, P.G.A.Sec.
WILLIAM ED. JUDGE, S.W.
J. J. JACOBSEN, J.W.

Founders

It would appear from the records that the List of Founders varies somewhat as the following columns show. The names of J. Macrea and R. G. Robinson appearing in two columns only :

Petition	Consecration	In Register of Members	G. V. Return 1928
G. Thomas	G. Thomas	H. P. Alldritt	G. Thomas
J. Sutton	J. Sutton	R. Fortune	G. H. Williams
C. T. Barlow	C. H. Williams	G. Rollett	J. Sutton
J. R. Barlow	C. T. Barlow	G. Thomas	J. Hill
G. Rollett	T. H. Furber	C. H. Williams	C. T. Barlow
H. P. Alldritt	P. F. Rose	P. F. Rose	T. H. Furber
R. Fortune	R. Fortune	A. W. Robinson	P. F. Rose
A. W. Robinson	G. Rollett	R. G. Robinson	G. Rollett
P. F. Rose	T. R. Sparkes	C. Watson	J. Macrea
C. H. Williams	C. Watson	T. H. Furber	R. Fortune
C. Watson	A. W. Robinson	J. Sutton	A. W. Robinson
T. H. Furber	J. Hill	C. T. Barlow	R. G. Robinson
J. Hill	G. T. Cheshire	J. R. Barlow	J. R. Barlow
T. R. Sparkes	J. R. Barlow	J. Hill	C. Watson
G. T. Cheshire	H. P. Alldritt	T. R. Sparkes	G. T. Cheshire
		G. T. Cheshire	T. R. Sparkes
		J. Macrea	H. P. Alldritt

From the Foundation Stone

The following record is intended to bear witness of the growth and progress accomplished by the Brethren past and present, and of the events and ceremonies which make up the history of the Lodge from the 12th September, 1927—the date of its Consecration—to the 13th September 1948—the date this Brochure is intended to commemorate. Here then is a chronological account as recorded in Minutes taken at Regular Lodge Meetings :

FROM MINUTE BOOK—REGULAR LODGE.

Consecration at Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham, on Monday, the 12th September, 1927.

Founders as Page 5.

- 10.10.27 First Regular Meeting at Masonic Temple, Broad Street, Birmingham.
- 14.11.27 W. J. Moriarty—was Initiated. (Lodge Crest in Green from 3.10.27 to 14.5.28).
- 9.1.28 J. Dyehouse Initiated.
- 13.2.28 Lodge honoured with presence of Wor. Bro. J. S. Pritchett M.A., P.G.D. Ass. P.G.M. Warwick.
- 10.9.28 Lodge Crest in Blue—8th Regular Meeting. J. Sutton installed 2nd Master. (Lodge Crest in Silver Grey from 3.9.28 to 28.2.30).
- 8.10.28 L.O.I. Proposed at Regular Meeting. G. Rollett seconded.
- 12.11.28 P. Rose, S.W., and H. F. Alldritt, J.W., who had died within a few days were commemorated.
- 3.12.28 L. Clarke initiated.
- 9.9.29 J. Hill installed 3rd Master. Lodge honoured by R. W. Bro. Col. Wyley; Wor. Bro. J. S. Pritchett; J. B. Wilson; E. S. Stamp; F. S. Stamp; F. S. Rawson; Col. Hawkins.
- 14.10.29 J. Hill PROV. G. TREAS. First L.O.I. Annual Report given at Regular Lodge. (Lodge Crest in Blue from 4.4.30 onwards).
- 8.9.30 C. T. Barlow installed.
- 13.10.30 E. O. Taylor initiated.
- 9.2.31 A. H. Hoggins initiated.
- 14.5.31 G. Rollett installed.
- 12.10.31 W. Johnson initiated.
- 9.11.31 W. R. Green initiated.
- 8.2.32 Bro. J. H. Spence as joining member.

- 12.9.32 J. Macrea installed. R. W. Bro. Col. Wyley and Wor. Bro. E. S. Stamp honoured lodge.
- 10.10.32 H. W. Green initiated.
- 12.12.32 Lodge honoured by visit of Dep. Prov. G. Master Brig. Gen. M. Quayle Jones.
- 13.3.33 W. Kings initiated.
- 11.9.33 R. Fortune installed.
- 11.12.33 J. A. A. S. Vinrace initiated.
- 12.2.34 H. Walker and W. H. Walker initiated.
- 10.9.34 J. R. Barlow installed.
- 9.9.35 A. W. Robinson installed.
- 13.1.36 W. E. Kennerley initiated.
- 14.9.36 R. G. Robinson installed.
- 12.10.36 E. Fox initiated.
- 11.1.37 W. Roberts initiated.
- 13.9.37 J. Dyehouse installed.
- 11.10.37 T. E. Gibbs initiated.
- 8.11.37 82nd Regular Meeting held at 12.30 p.m. (Shortest Work).
- 14.3.38 J. T. Bradshaw initiated.
- 11.4.38 Album for W.M.'s portrait presented to Lodge by Mrs. George Thomas
- 12.9.38 Lawson Clarke installed.
- 2.3.39 J. Hill, P.A.G.Std.B. P.P.G.W.
- 9.1.39 M. E. Smith initiated.
- 19.4.39 95th Regular Meeting held at Edgbaston Ass. Rooms, on Wednesday instead of Broad Street, on Monday, the 10th.
- 11.11.39 A. H. Hoggins installed. 96th Meeting at Edgbaston Assembly Rooms.

- 9.9.40 W. R. Green installed.
- 7.4.41 L. C. Wilkinson initiated.
- 8.9.41 J. H. Spence installed.
- 13.10.41 Bro. Alexander presented Oak Statuette of St. Francis to the Lodge.
- 9.3.42 G. E. Grainger initiated.
- 11.5.42 G. A. Wheway initiated.
- 10.8.42 L. Rutter initiated. (Last entry in 1st Minute Book)
- 14.9.42 W. J. Moriarty installed. (First entry in 2nd Minute Book).
116th Meeting.
- 7.6.43 Principles and Ideals formulated by Founders—read in Open Lodge.
- 12.7.43 Paper given by Wor Bro. J. Sutton, on the life of St. Francis.
- 11.10.43 H. Pryor initiated.
- 6.4.44 H. J. Cox initiated. H. S. Hull joined
- 11.9.44 W. E. Kennerley installed.
- 11.6.45 W. Roberts installed.
- 10.9.45 J. H. G. M. Southall initiated.
- 11.2.46 J. L. Lees initiated.
- 11.3.46 H. S. Gwilliam initiated.
- 9.9.46 M. E. Smith installed.
- 14.10.46 F. L. Bentley initiated.
- 11.11.46 F. C. Foster initiated.
- 10.2.47 W. Hardiman initiated.
- 10.3.47 S. H. Britton initiated. (Proposed change to By-Laws made in Open Lodge.
- 8.9.47 H. W. Green installed.

- 13.10.47 John Hill made Honorary Member of Lodge on his retirement.
- 8.12.47 R. G. Wheway initiated.
- 12.1.48 A. Spencer initiated.
- 9.2.48 H. Bateman initiated.
- 12.4.48 J. C. Metson initiated.

Officers' Meetings

As no Lodge can be successfully carried on without its Officers Meetings, a precis of the decisions made in the former years of the Lodge's history is here recorded :

- 28.9.27 First Meeting at Imperial Hotel, Temple Street—decided to place a Founders' Jewel with Warwick Museum and Library Committee.
- 24.10.27 Procedure of Candidates laid down. Decided that gifts to the Lodge be presented to W.M. at forthcoming Ladies' Evening.
- 28.11.27 At Masonic Temple—decided a Menu of 2/- per head as standard for future Regular Meetings. L.O.I. first considered
- 29.12.27 L.O.I. idea dropped—but Preparation Class suggested.
- 23.1.28. Preparation Class discussed in preference to L.O.I.
- 26.3.28 Benevolent Fund rules agreed.
- 7.5.28 Rota for Candidates agreed.
- 29.8.28 Visitors' Fees raised from 3/6d to 5/-.
- 24.9.28 Agreed to form L.O.I.
- 23.12.30 Agreed to send Circular to each Brethren regarding Candidates.
- 24.2.31 Draft of Confidential Circular agreed (as above).
- 23.4.31 Draft Form for inviting guests approved. Lodge property insured for £100.
- 22.9.31 Insurance taken out for Tyler under Workman's Compensation Act.
- 28.11.33 Agreed to change style of "type" on Summons. To read Principles and Ideals in Lodge.

- 25.3.35 Trust Deeds of Benevolent Fund agreed. P. 111
 28.3.38 Reported J. Hill, P.A.G.Std.B.—Grand Lodge. P. 112
 23.1.39 Date of last Officers' Meeting recorded in First Book.

The L.O.I.

THE MASONIC WORKSHOP

Who among us would be able to make the daily advancement or estimate the value of Freemasonry but for the all important generating and stimulating influence of The Lodge of Instruction. Brethren of this Lodge, as doubtless of all other Lodges, testify to the great help derived in what might aptly be called the Masonic Workshop, where practice makes perfect. Thus is recorded the formation of a Masonic Rehearsal Class, which afterwards became and still is known as The St. Francis Lodge of Instruction :

- 21.11.27 First Meeting (Unofficial) as the Priory Masonic Rehearsal Class.
 23.7.28 Ninth (and last) Meeting of the Priory Masonic Rehearsal Class.
 1.10.28 First Meeting of the St. Francis No. 4899 Lodge of Instruction.
 19.11.28 J. Hill elected Preceptor. Resigned 26.2.46.
 22.11.37 Agreed to purchase Working Tools for L.O.I.
 29.8.38 100th Meeting L.O.I. held.
 26.8.40 115th Meeting.
 4.4.45 116th Meeting.
 26.9.46 C. Rollets elected Preceptor.
 23.8.48 148th Meeting.

Secretaries :

1st R. G. Robinson	21.11.27 to 16.11.31
2nd R. Fortune	21.12.31 to 24.5.37
3rd W. E. Kennerley	24.5.37 to 20.4.40
4th W. Roberts	20.4.40 to date.

Epilogue

Throughout this Brochure no special reference has been made to any individual Brother, but one feels unable to refrain from paying tribute to our beloved FIRST MASTER, the late Dr. George Thomas, whose gracious influence and inspiring words are ever in our minds.

The Past Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Lodge desire to record their thanks to Brother G. Wheway for his expression of goodwill to the Lodge by generously defraying the cost of this Brochure.

Lodge of St. Francis

No. 4899

21st ANNIVERSARY

INSTALLATION OF

Bro. G. E. GRAINGER, S.W.

at

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th 1948.

Officers for the evening :—

Installing Master Bro. H. W. Green, V.M.
Senior Warden Wor. Bro. G. Rollett, P.P.G.P.
Junior Warden Wor. Bro. J. R. Barlow, P.P.G.Std.B.,
Worcs. P.P.D.G.D.C.
Director of Ceremonies Wor. Bro. E. S. Stamp, P.G.Std.B., Prov.
C.D.C.

Inner Guard Wor. Bro. A. H. Hoggins.

To present the Master Elect Wor. Bro. Lawson Clarke, Prov.A.G.D.C.

To present Working Tools :

Third Degree Wor. Bro. J. H. Spence.
Second Degree Wor. Bro. W. J. Moriarty.
First Degree Wor. Bro. Lawson Clarke, Prov.A.G.D.C.

To address :

The Worshipful Master Wor. Bro. David Mitchell, Prov.J.G.W.

The Wardens Wor. Bro. G. Rollett, P.P.G.P.

The Brethren Wor. Bro. J. R. Barlow, P.P.Std.B., Worces.,
P.P.D.G.D.C.