

Victoria Cross Remembrance Stone



In honour of those
United Grand Lodge of England
Freemasons awarded
the Victoria Cross

27 June 2019
Freemasons' Hall

Unveiling and Dedication by
HRH The Duke Of Kent, KG
Grand Master

2.30pm followed by a formal reception



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

Stone Carved Victoria Cross

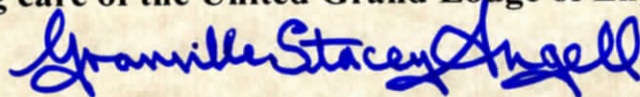
Four years ago I conceived and initiated the "Commission" of producing a Victoria Cross carved from Stone as a tribute to those Freemasons' throughout the world who had been awarded the "Supreme Award for Gallantry", in the face of the enemy.

This idea also coincided with the Provincial Masonic Province of Worcestershire to sponsor an apprenticeship under the directorship of Worcestershire Cathedral and its stone masonry department. The apprentice chosen was a young girl, Emily Draper who progressively revealed an outstanding innate talent as a sculptress and carver of stone designs and images. She utilised her given "commission" as part of her final year dedication to ultimately obtain the rare award of "*Distinction*".

The completed Victoria Cross now awaited a site of recognition and appreciation for those to whom it had been created. It was on the personal inspiration of The United Grand Lodge of England's Grand Secretary, Doctor David Staples that his invitation to place the unique universal recognised tribute to bravery, courage and gallantry within Freemason Hall, Great Queen Street, London. Located in an adjacent position within the main entrance, to be installed in position of the right hand above especially so designed to have a statue or war memorial.

The Dean of Worcester Cathedral, the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire Robert, C. Vaughan, Cathedral Masonry Manager Darren Steele, Emily Draper, Sculptress. Granville Stacey Angell, Commissioner & Facilitator, extend their combined thanks and best wishes to all at Grand Lodge for all their help and support.

I now humbly submit as the projects Commissioner and Facilitator to bestow this gift of a stone carved Victoria Cross, in perpetuity, and the ever lasting care of the United Grand Lodge of England.



Granville Stacey Angell, PAGSwdB, PPSGW (Worcestershire) MEd, BSc (Econ). BA. PProvLecturer Hampshire & Isle of Wight, 2002. Prestonian Lecturer 2006, AGPur (Acting) 2008.

The Annual Investiture Wednesday 24th April 2019

Parchment



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Emily Draper was born on the 02/08/1986 in Truro, Cornwall. Moving to rural Worcestershire in her early childhood, she attended the Chantry High School in Martley. After studying Fine Art at the Barbourne College of Art in Worcester, she undertook an Undergraduate Degree in Fine Art at the Arts University at Bournemouth.

After graduating, Emily pursued a Diploma in Banker Masonry at Bath College and subsequently gained a five year Stonemasonry Apprenticeship with Worcester Cathedral. This Apprenticeship placement was funded jointly by the Worcestershire Freemasons and the National Freemasons' Grand Charity. During her Apprenticeship she completed her level 2 and Level 3 National Diploma in Banker Masonry as well as her National Vocational Qualifications as an Apprentice Mason.

In 2015 Emily was put forward by the Cathedral to undertake a Foundation Degree in Applied Historic Building Conservation and Repair created by the Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship and accredited by the University of Gloucestershire. Completing the Course in 2017 with Distinction, Emily continues to work full-time at Worcester Cathedral as the current Assistant Works Manager.

Of the Victoria Cross commission Emily explains:

"I was approached by Granville Angell, Lord of Cannock in mid-2016 with the proposal to carve a Victoria Cross memorial stone to commemorate the Freemasons throughout history who have been awarded the VC medal. I immediately found it to be a very interesting idea and was fascinated by its design and to learn of the sheer number of brave men who make up this honoured list. The task undertaken by Granville to find and document these men and their achievements has been a lifetime of work and his book is an incredible realisation of this. It was a pleasure to accept his commission.

During the preparation stage, just before my chisel was set to the stone, I learned from my mother that my Great Uncle was one of the men included in this list of Freemason VC recipients. His name was Lieutenant General Sir Philip Neame, VC, KBE, CB, DSO. He was married to my maternal Great Aunt who was a nurse and who, I am told, is very fondly remembered by my mother Cora.

This connection was an incredible surprise with the realisation that the aftermath of War and those great tribulations and deeds have touched so many families, known and un-known.

With a large task looming in front of me, I undertook the carving with determination and laboured to only use traditional methods and tools. Cutting the waste away from the block by hand and carefully mapping the shape, I had to think about how to translate what is, in actuality, a very small item and increase the scale to just shy of a metre squared. I kept in mind during each carving session what those brave men must have been through, I tried to picture them in unfamiliar territory, terrified, facing enemy fire but ultimately I thought of their bravery, selflessness, sacrifice and valour.

The Victoria Cross carving took just over a year to carve. Blocks of time were kindly and generously given to me by Worcester Cathedral to complete this task whilst I still continued to work on the building and complete my CWF Degree. I wish to acknowledge the help and support I was given by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral and especially my mentor Darren Steele, the Works Manager and Master Mason of Worcester Cathedral, who offered me his time, knowledge and guidance.

I dearly hope that my carving does stand as a tribute to these men and that their great deeds are never forgotten."