

B91 3LS.

W.Br. Herbert C. West, PAGDC, Secretary,  
St. Johns Lodge No.279,  
7, Hall Close,  
Leicester Road,  
Glen Parva,  
Leicester, LE2 9HZ.

6, Widney Lane,  
Soulhull,  
Warwickshire,  
B91 3LS.

19th. January 1977.

Dear Brother Secretary,

In collaboration with two other Brethren, I am engaged in trying to write the history of Freemasonry in this Province.

We have some meagre evidence that certain Brethren of your Lodge were Founders of Clive Lodge No.285 (renamed "Vernon" and now numbered 560) in 1849. Also some Companions from the Chapter of Fortitude No.279 were Founders of our St. Wulstans Chapter No.280 in 1844. Certain of these Brethren and Companions were said to have been Coachbuilders and came from Leicester to work at the Railway Carriage Works in Bromsgrove (Worcs.) which no longer exists.

It is possible that the Founders of St. Wulstans Chapter No.280 (or some of them) were also Members of St. Johns Lodge. The Companions named as Founders in the Warrant of St. Wulstans Chapter were:-

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Joseph Bennett, "Z" | William Gorles, (jnr.) |
| James Knight, "H"   | Richard Lockett,       |
| Robert Rising, "J"  | Richard Masters,       |
| Benjamin L. Stable, | Richard Gibney,        |
| and J. Cox.         |                        |

It is possible that there were more than nine Founders but the Chapter records provide no information on that point and it is not known which of the abovementioned Founders were members of the Chapter of Fortitude No.279, Leicester and or St. Johns Lodge No.279.

I should be greatly obliged if you would refer to your Lodge records covering the years 1840 to 1850 to ascertain if any of the abovementioned Brethren and Companions were, in fact, members of your Lodge and, if so, to advise me:-

- (a) of the date of their initiation
- (b) respective places of residence
- (c) of the occupation of each brother.

P.T.O.

I should add that I have been in correspondence with the Scribe 'E' of the Chapter of Fortitude No.279 and have been informed that the old Minute Books were deposited at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester but owing to the recent extensions to the premises he does not know where they are.

Any help in this matter that you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Fraternal regards,  
Yours sincerely,

(R.G. St. George.),

F.G.D., P.A.G. Socy'r

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum Trust