

26th April 1991.

THE EARLY FREEMASON

Bro. F. Apperley

Silver Jubilee Lodge, No.5531.

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In the 1700s -

Clothing was different to our own; Trousers were unknown, close fitting breeches with buckles at the knees and stockings, silver buckles on shoes, longtype dress coats with full pleated skirts and pockets with ornamental flaps on the outside. Wigs were commonly worn with pig tails at the back, and hats were cock and (tri-corn) pinched three cornered. Swords were not uncommon in the Lodge.

See picture on front W. Bro. Carrs book, "The Freemason at Work." circulate cards. **

Workers average wages would appear to be between 9/- and 12/- a week, obviously this is a difficult thing to put a price on owing to the differing types of work, as indeed is the case today. However food seemed to be cheap, Beef, mutton and veal were 2d a lb. Pork 3d a lb. A goose could be bought for 1/6d, a duck for 8d., eggs were 40 for a shilling and milk 1/2d per quart. Ale was 2d a quart. Bread 1 1/4 p. lb. work people generally wore clogs. Rent for a small cottage with a little land was around 6d a week. (Mind you that seems high to me I was only paying 7/2d a week for a three bedroomed flat, with all mod. cons. in 1930.)

Travelling was extremely difficult the pack horse, the Sedan chair, carriers wagon and the stage coach for carrying goods or passengers, however most travelling was done on foot or horseback. Roads still tended to follow the line of the old roman roads, and indeed in parts were not much better, if indeed as good. Canals started to appear in 1761, railways were a long way off, 1830. Virtually all our forms of communication were a long way off.

No matches, flint and tinder boxes were used. Washing was rather infrequent, Baths were very rare indeed. Heads were shaved, and powdered, wigs were also powdered. (In George II reign the British army used 65,000 tons of flour each year for powdering wigs.) Night caps were used for sleeping, water in wash basins would be frozen in the mornings. Sanitation was dreadful, water closets in gardens, a bow shot away was recommended, sometimes called the Necessary house or Jericho - (Jerry) used indoors, often thrown from windows - Hogarths painting "Night", shows the Master and Tyler of the Rummer and Grapws, No. 4. Lodge, Channel Row, Westminster. The figures wear aprons, various emblems, one carries a mop. The contents of a "Jerry" are being from the first floor over the Master. The picture was painted in 1738.. William Hogarth was a Mason. P12**

Proper sanitation was far off in the future, the flushing system that we know was to be invented by one Joseph Bramah. (Its a Bramah meaning something special. Capital punishment was common, 200 hundred offences warranted hanging.

In fact one W. Bro. the Rev. William Dodd, who was a Grand Chaplain who had officiated Consecrations in George III time, was hung for the crime of embezzlement. £1000. Macaroni! Hanging was looked upon as a public entertainment - Gallows day was shortened to gala day - rather different to our galas today. Skate driving. Very good cards showing very beautiful and elegant Court Gals.

Fires were generally catastrophic - there were no public fire brigades, insurance companies had their own men, and hand operated engines, water would be carried in buckets and poured into the machine, water would squirt from a nozzle on the top, 30' to 40' hight could be obtained. However if you had not paid the insurance co. You had to come to some arrangement whilst the fire burned. The rival companies would often fight over the right to deal with the fire. All companies had their own mark. Sun mark of 1710 is just to remind me of the year

Sandals!

Need to check

the clubs

the

If I could now for a few minutes give you an old fashioned type history lesson and a few dates in the 17th Century that affect my Lodge in Rome,

- 1642 The Battle of Edgehill in the Cotswolds, the first in the Civil war.
- 1649 King Charles the I executed.
Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans in charge.
- 1660 Charles theII restored to the throne.
- 1665 The Great Plague, Sam. Pepys. 70,000 died in London alone.
(Started in the shanty towns that surrounded the city)
- 1666 The Great Fire of London. Hand squirts and leathorne buckets. more later
- 1670 Sir Christopher Wren started work on St.Pauls Cathedral. he was a F.M.
- 1678 The Popish Plot. Bogus plan to assassinate the King. Titus Oates.
- 1685 Battle of Sedgemoor. Prot. v. Cath. if you were on the wrong side and were captured you might be strangled or beheaded.
- 1688 Protestant Revolution. James II out and William and Mary in.
- 1715 George I crowned King of England (Couldnt speak english) the Protestant House of Hanover.
- 1715 Prince James Edward Stuart a Catholic (The Old Pretender) arrived in Scotland, to raise his standard. Supported by the Scots. in 1716 the
*Page 9. * rebellion was crushed. ** Para. Top page 9
- 1717 The Grand Lodge of England was Formed. More later.
- 1721 Dr. Stukely was made a Mason, but had difficulty in finding enough members to form a Lodge.
- 1736 James watt was born.
- 1745 Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charles) (The Young Pretender) landed in Scotland. Finally defeated at the Battle of Culloden Moor 1746
(He was athletic, Good Looking, a Golfer and an expert with the Crossbow.)
- 1753 Sir Robert de Cornwall was made Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire + Shrops. + Monmouthshire + Herefordshire.

I am sorry to have to use so many dates but I feel that you should know how far back our Speculative Masonry goes, there were masons meeting before 1646, but records before that date are very rare. No doubt there were but they have all been lost. Up to now that is, Shakespeares unknown manuscripts still appear from time to time, so all may not be lost, time alone will tell.

17th and early 18th c. 4

The modern history of speculative Freemasonry starts, so almost all books of Freemasonry tell us begins in the year 1646, when Elias Ashmole was made a Mason in a Lodge at Warrington, he was known as a learned antiquary and Scholar, he was born at Lichfield in 1617, was a choirboy at Lichfield Cathedral, (this for the benefit of our Bro. Junior Warden, Hank Vyse) After his education at Lichfield he travelled to London and became a Solicitor at the age of 21 years. In the same year 1638, he married the daughter of Peter Mainwaring, a Cheshire landowner. He saw military service, and had a successful career at Brasenose College, Oxford. In 1646 he visited his father in law in Cheshire, and was made a Freemason at Warrington. The first extract from his diary being made on the 16th October 1646.

4.h.30' p.m. I was made a Freemason at Warrington in Lancashire, with Coll. Henry Mainwaring, (his father in law), of Kenilworth in Cheshire. The names of those that were then of the Lodge; Mr. Rich: Penket Warden, Mr. James Collier, Mr. Rick; Sankey, Henry Littler, John Ellam, Rich: Ellam and Hugh Brewer.

(It is thought that Rich: Ellam was an operative mason)

He does not refer to Freemasonry in his diary for 36 years. then on the 10th March 1682;

10th about 5H.p.m. I received a summons to appear at a Lodge to be held the next day at Masons Hall London.

11th. Accordingly I went & about noone were admitted into the fellowship of Freemasonry, Sir William Wilson Night, Capt. Rich. Borthwick, Mr. Will Woodman, Mr. Will Grey, Mr. Samuel Taylor and Mr. William Wise, I was the Senior Fellow among them (it being 35 yeares since I was admitted)

There was present beside my selfe the Fellowes named after.

Mr. Thomas Wise, Master of the Masons Company this present yeare.

Mr. Thomas Shorthose, Mr. Thomas Shadbolt, Mr. Thomas Wainsford Esq.,

Mr. Mich; Young, Mr. John Shorthose, Mr. Will; Hamon, Mr. John Thompson, & Mr. Will: Stanton.

Wee all dyned at the halfe Moone Taverne in Cheapeside, at a Noble Dinner prepared at the charge of the New accepted Masons.

(Admitted or accepted then meant the same as initiated)

Again for Bro. Hank ; The Sir William Wise who was admitted on the 11th March 1682, was a well known sculpture and stone masn, he was the scuptor of the statue of King Charles the II, in Lichfield Cathedral.

It is thought that he and Elias Asmole were good friends.

Finally, Elias founded the Ashmolean Museum, at Oxford in 1677. He was also a good friend of Samuel Pepys as you expect of a Lichfield lad.

would

A few notes at random ,

Moderns - The Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717.

The premier Lodge, - The Mother Lodge of all the Worlds Masons.

Antients - Antients Grand Lodge - formed in 1751.

Joined together in 1813 to become

The United Grand Lodge of England.

Problems in 1725 - 'A Masons Examination' and in 1730 "Masonry Dissected", included details of the Third Degree. Anyone could pass themselves off as a Mason, and indeed did so. Lodge Relief chests were under threat. So on the 5th Dec. 1730 Vouching as we know it today was introduced.

* *Lodges usually met in Ale houses - Congenial etc. + coffee houses etc.*
← *Initiates - maps - etc. = Spectator 1710 + Bernard Jones - Guides & Comped*
Quoting from "Two hundred years of Freemasonry in Bolton," published in 1941,

The plate for the Lodge Summons engraved in 1767. Copy. **

The Lodge of Antiquity. 1786. Chas, Aldcroft initiated, passed and raised and made Secretary in 9 days. and became w.m. eleven months later., and was Grand Master at the Constitution 15 months after his initiation.

Five Ceremonies worked for many years. 1st and 2nd and 3rd degree. Passing the Chair and R.A. (Passing the Chair - explain the system.)

A peculiar custom of taking minutes, had to be made out during the evening and signed by the Master later. Many were brief and beer stained. Some humorous Minutes from Lodge 146 Bolton

31 Jan. 1786 Bro. T fined 1d for swearing

14th April 1786 One Bro. fined 1d for whispering and another 2d for sleeping while the Lecture was giving and a question was put to him.

Ale 20s a quart.

8 Sept, 1786 Bro. P. fined 2d for impropriety in his expressions, and Bro. C. fined 9d for refusing to accept the books and perform his duties as Secretary.

7 Oct. 1786 Bro. Aldcroft signs himself as **Junior** ^{Warden} He was the fined 2d for swearing.

17 Dec, 1786. At a meeting of Emergency "Bro. Grundy attended the Lodge, and having enquired for what purpose it was called, on being informed it was to pass Bro. Secretary, he swore that he would be passed likewise, and on the Worshipful informing him he should not until his behaviour better deserved it, he then took up the poker and swore he would be passed before he left the room, or if any Bro. offered to put him out of the room before he had been passed he would knock their brains out.

At the next Lodge meeting he was admitted again on asking pardon of the W.M. and the rest of the Officers and Brethren.

2nd Mar. 1787. Bro. Horridge was fined 6d. for sleeping in Lodge house, and Bro. Grundy was fined 3d. for assualting Bro. Horridge in his sleep.

27 Dec. 1787. Bro. Grundy fined 3d. for calling Bro. Adcroft Red Charles in open Lodge.

24 Jan. 1788. The W.M. was fined 2d. for writing a letter in Lodge house. also 2d. for not being cloathed; also 6d. for not appointing a Deputy during his absence.

21st Mar. 1788. The Sec. concludes his minutes as follows"

Closed the Lodge at 10 o'clock, but not in as good harmony as could be wished.

Below this in the Masters writing appears:

"In good harmony with all mankind".

The Sec. then adds:

"As an individual in good harmony with all mankind, but as a Mason a detester of Quarrels and irregularities in a Lodge.

20th June, 1788.

Bro. Jas.M. was fined 2d. for leaving the Lodge Room without permission.

In signing the minutes of this meeting Bro. Aldcroft says:

Chas. Aldcroft, Secretary for the last time, God be thanked,

and in the roll of members he writes opposite his name,

Declared off for ever".

21 May, 1789 The bad copper in the Lodge chest to be melted down (10/- worth) *** Coins.
1st. June 1796. Bro. Richard D. fined 2d for a matter of smiling when on

a particular duty.

2d coin weighs 20 grs. = 10/- = 8 1/2 lb weight

11th Oct. 1799 The Worshipful was fined 2/6d for being absent one hour, and being rather intoxicated was ordered to sit as a private member.

27 April 1802 In contempt of this Lodge Richard Clarkson said that he was cleared of the Lodge, and should mend his old breeches with his Apron tomorrow.

and so they go on, but I am sure you have had enough.

I thank you for your patience in listening to ~~this~~ my first paper.

Something to remember Masonic Boys and Girls Schools

Rory Underwood, England record try scorer and

his brother Tony, who represent England

, were both

educated at the Masonic Boys School.

Back

Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page, appearing as bleed-through. Some words like "The Lodge", "Masonic", and "Worcestershire" are partially visible.

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Lodge of Scottish Gentry. Now down to our sort or level.

Some hopefully humourous notes to finish on;

If you remember last talk, Bro.Grundy who threathened to bash the brains out, etc. He did become w.m. of the Lodge Passing Chair business

Antient Lodge No.39. in the 1700s.

May 11th. Emergency meeting. After enquiring into the conduct of two Brethren, it was agreed by ballot that they should for ever be excluded, and reported to the Grand Lodge not being worthy to sit in any Society Whatever.

I wonder what they did.

July 19th. Agreed to two new rules, and some few members who do not attend regularly to have their names dormant until such times they have cleared.

a salutary effect: Dec.5th. Present: the W.M. Senior and Junior Wardens absent. Opened the Lodge at 6 O'clock when it was agreed that the S. and J. Wardens had no right to stand Candidates for the Chair, when Bro. Barlow was chose Master. Bro. Barlow continued as Secretary, and all continued in office for a further six months. Bro. John Connolly as J. Warden. Closed the Lodge at nine with good harmony.

Dec.29th. All were installed as they should have been in July.

Mar 14. Bro.Conolly was charged with violating his obligation when in Liquor, at the "Fleece" in the Shambles and a good deal of company that were not Masons. Severe Rep. and told to resign as J.W. Bro. McAvoy took his place.

April 23rd. A charge brought by Bro. McAvoy against Bro Conolly for assault.

May 16th. The Charge against Bro. Conolly by Bro.McAvoy was justly and fairly stated, and Bro. Bro.Conolly was excluded not being fit to sit in a Brotherly Society.

Nov.7th. R.W.M.J.Martin having signified to the Lodge that all Lodges in Town had withdrawn their aid from the Fund for interring deceased Brothers, it was unanimously carried in future that the Lodge should intere their own deceased Brothers till such time that a general Regulation takes place upon that point.

Two Brothers appointed Stewards every 3 months, to visit and pay the Sick Bros. If they declined. fined 2/6d. If failed to visit fines 2/6d. Really Benefit.S. The Lodge had its own grave for the internment of Bros. Funereal Procs.

Noted that one initiation could not go ahead - the Candidate was too inebriated. Perhaps it is as well that we do not have a bar at K.H.

Rulers of England

James I	1603 - 1625.	
Charles I	1625 - 1649.	
Charles II	1660 - 1685.	Commonwealth - Cromwell.
* James II	1685 - 1688.	Stuarts. Catholic.
* William III & Mary	1689 - 1702.	
Anne	1702 - 1714.	
George I	1714 - 1727.	
George II	1727 - 1760.	House of Hanover.
George III	1760 - 1820.	
George IV	1820 - 1830.	
William IV	1830 - 1837.	
Victoria	1837 - 1901.	
Edward VII	1901 - 1910.	
George V	1910 - 1936.	
Edward VIII	1936	
George VI	1936 - 1952.	
Elizabeth II	1952 -	

Start of talk
Return was in

4th para - Page I

James II, last Stuart King to rule Britain. Very pro-Catholic.
 William of Orange and his wife Mary landed at Torbay, Proclaimed King & Queen
 (Protestant.) in 1689.

James Edward Stuart. Landed in Scotland 1716. Proclaimed King, within six weeks
 (The Old Pretender) back to France, in exile.
 → Roma.

1745. Charles Edward Louis Philip Casimir Stuart, Son of the Old Pretender.
 (Bonnie Prince Charles) Landed in Scotland. 14 months later sailed fro France.
 Lived for 42 years more, became a rambling drunkard. Never in the Roman Lodge.

Rev. William Dodd, Grand Chaplain, also Chaplain to the King. 1776, Forgery,
 tried and Hanged. £4000. 25p. 250 hanging offences. Macaroni. Ladies.