

## Brigantes – the Lodge Name

The Brigantes was a confederation of smaller tribes which had arisen during the late pre-Roman Iron Age. Roman sources indicate that they were grouped under a single ruler, the Queen Regnant, Cartimandua, and her consort Venutius. She was described by Tacitus as *pollens nobilitate* - powerful in lineage. The Brigantes (singular Brigans) is a Celtic name with a meaning of 'the High Ones' or perhaps 'Hill Dwellers'.

Among the tribes incorporated in the confederation were the Carvetii inhabiting the Eden valley of Cumbria and the Setantii from the Fylde in Lancashire, as well as the Latenses in the Leeds area, the Gabrantovices in East Yorkshire, and the Textoverdi and Lopocares in Northumbria. According to Ptolemy the Brigantes' territory extended from the Mersey in South Lancashire; across to Little Chester and then the Don in South Yorkshire; up to and including Northumbria in the North East; and even over the border to Birrens and Galloway in the North West.

The Brigantian economy appears to have been predominantly pastoral, with livestock as the basis of their social wealth, there being no evidence of coinage having been used. They largely used materials such as wood, leather and wicker in preference to pottery, and their dwellings were constructed with daub and wattle. Evidence for the Brigantes' use of operative masonry has been found in the remains of cattle enclosures, which perhaps verifies the basis of the Brigantian economy.

With the new lodge drawing on Founders from the 3 North Western Provinces of Cumberland & Westmorland and East and West Lancashire, the adoption of the name Brigantes seems eminently appropriate, especially as they lived relatively peaceably with the Romans after the latter's incursions through the North of England in 71AD.

### Presentations to Brigantes Lodge

#### Regalia from Temperance Lodge of Felicity, 3632

A group of Masons in Liverpool wanted to create a new lodge just after the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Some wanted to form a temperance lodge and others did not, and St Michael's Temperance Lodge 3401 of Woolton sponsored Temperance Lodge of Felicity 3632 for abstainers, and Wavertree Lodge 2294 sponsored Lancastrian Lodge 3631 for the others. 3632 was consecrated at the Masonic Hall in Hope Street on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 1913 and had 20 Founders, with Harry Gladstone, PrAGChap as the first Master (he was one of the founders of the Salvation Army), and unusually the ceremony was conducted by John Rutherford, PrSGW as Consecrating Officer.

In the first year the lodge held 5 emergency meetings in addition to the 9 regular meetings, and 18 candidates were initiated with 5 at the first meeting, whilst some evenings saw all 3 degrees being conducted. After the First World War the lodge saw its own Felicity Temperance Chapter 3632 consecrated in January 1919. Shortly afterwards the lodge membership peaked at 149 in 1922, a year when there were 19 initiations. The lodge signed the petition for the Lodge of St Margaret 4619 in

February 1923, and Felicity's Secretary (and a Founder in 1913) Geoff Cheshire, PPrGD was its first Master. Interestingly Felicity was the last of four Liverpool lodges to endorse the petition for the new lodge, the others being Royal Victoria 1013, Mariners' 249 and Anfield 2215. In March 1934 Felicity sponsored Calderstones Lodge 5479 in its own right, and after the Second World War it sponsored its last daughter with Allerton Lodge 6653 in February 1948. The first Master of each lodge was W.Bro Edward Hughes, PGD and later Chairman of the 8<sup>th</sup> Liverpool Group, as Harry Gladstone had been before him.

Over its lifetime Felicity has made many charitable donations, including £500 to the 1937 Festival for the RMBI, and it became a Patron of all of the subsequent West Lancashire Festivals. After an extended period of difficult times towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the lodge decided to cease operation at its December meeting in 2000, so that it would have completed 68 years of Masonic business and could celebrate in some style the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initiation into Freemasonry in 3632 of its Master, W.Bro Don Shingler, PPrGSuptWks. The closure enabled the lodge in its last year to donate a total of over £1,000 to a range of West Lancashire charities and organisations. It was also felt fitting that all of the lodge regalia should be kept, if possible as a set for a new lodge – enter Brigantes. Not only has this act greatly benefited the formation of the new lodge, but as the development of the total abstinence aspect of the Temperance movement in England started in Preston in 1832, and with many Brigantes' Founders coming from that town this gift is perhaps to some extent closing a Temperance circle.

#### Volume of the Sacred Law from Union Lodge, 129

When Bruce Reed, PPrJGW and Master of Union Lodge in 1981, died in 1998 his widow Aileen handed all of his Masonic artefacts to the lodge, and this included a new large American Masonic Bible. When Union Lodge made the decision to sponsor Brigantes Lodge it also decided to offer the bible as a gift, which the new lodge was pleased to accept, especially as Felicity Lodge of Temperance had retained its Volume of the Sacred Law for use in its Chapter of similar name. The bible has been inscribed with an appropriate acknowledgement to Union Lodge.

The Founders of Brigantes lodge gratefully acknowledge the following gifts:

Reparations to inherited lodge furniture and regalia by James Abbot, Chris Oversby, Mrs Annette Kerr and Bill Kerr;

Additional Stewards' jewels from Keith Procter, Terry Walmsley, David Poole, Richard Johnson, Chris Oversby and Fred Mephan, the latter also donating an Organist's jewel and collar;

Refurbishment of the cushion for the Volume of the Sacred Law, bookmark and wardrobe from Mrs Margaret Graham and Keith Graham;

Gavel blocks from Terry Walmsley;

Candle snuffers from Geoff Waters;

Poignard from Patrick Bracewell;

Brigantes' Consecration cake from Mrs Audrey Lowe;

Firing glasses procured and engraved by Martin Wootton, filled by Richard Johnson.



Reply on behalf of the Visitors – Consecration of the Brigantes Lodge No 9734.

Worshipful Master, RWProv. Grand Master, GLO, PGLO, OBrigantes L, W Bre and Bre.

It gives me great pleasure and honour to reply today on behalf of the visitors on this occasion of the consecration of the Brigantes Lodge

As the proud WM of Union Lodge No 129 that is the Mother Lodge of the Brigantes Lodge No 9734, as a signatory to the petition for the Brigantes Lodge and as an individual.

As you know or realise from my accent I come from Greece, the North of Greece, where I also started my Masonic career.

Greece and the Greeks from the ancient times to date had a great interest in the British Isles its people, culture, religions and art.

To be honest when I first heard the name Brigantes I was not exactly sure what it meant.

So having always as reference the Brigantes and using mainly my familiar Greek writers I tried to enlighten myself further

Well this is what I found out:

The Brigantes was probably the largest tribe in Celtic Britain, stretching across northern England from the Irish Sea to the North Sea.

800 BC the Iron Age Celtic culture appears across Europe, and begins to expand.

About 600 BC Greek voyagers write the Massiliote Periplus in the Greek port of Massilia (the modern Marseilles in the South of France) describing two distant islands:

- a) Ireland: the Greeks called Ireland the "Sacred Isle" and "Ogygia" meaning very old, and
- b) England: the Greeks called Albion (like Albino white) from the white cliffs of Dover they first encountered approaching England.

Later the Greeks called Scotland Scotia that means darkness in Greek language.

At 500 BC the Celtic culture spreads in Europe including my birthplace Northern Greece.

The early Iron Age Fryges of Northern Greece were probably the first Celtic tribe known in history. This tribe came down into the Mediterranean from Central Europe probably Austria.

Around the year 450 BC the Greek geographer Herodotos writes of the Celts dwelling beyond "the Pillars of Hercules" (meaning beyond present day Gibraltar) and the Upper Danube.

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The name Celt is what the people called themselves, and when talking to the Greeks they referred to themselves as the "Keltai".

At the same time the Greek writer Hecateus describes in his writings the "KELTOI" – the Celts.

Greeks and Celts were traditional allies against the Phoenicians the Persians and the Carthaginians.

At 335 BC Celts from the Adriatic meet my ancestor Alexander the Great, who is impressed. A year later Alexander the Great made alliance with the Celts, when he was about to embark on his conquest of Asia.

At 325 BC the Greek Massilian traveler and author Pytheas, describes the Pritanic islands (present day Britain). Pytheas called them the "Pretanic Isles" which derived from the inhabitants name for themselves, Pritani. This was mistranslated later into Latin as "Britannia" or "Brittani". So we have to blame the Romans for this mistranslation.

At 150 BC Posidonios the Greek visits the Gauls and describes the Druids.

At 44 BC: The Greek writer Strabo (quoting the chronicles of Posidonios) writes about the Celts.

The Celts were generally well educated, particularly on topics such as religion, philosophy, geography and astronomy. The Romans often employed Celtic tutors for their sons.

Celtic society was typically more equal in terms of gender roles. Women were on more or less equal footing as men, being accomplished warriors, merchants and rulers.

About 50 AD King Caradoc of the Britons in Colchester is driven North by the Romans and seeks sanctuary with Queen Cartimandua of the Brigantes tribe. She arrests him and hands him over to Rome, but the Brigantes were to prove unreliable subjects of Rome for the next 100 years.

The Greek writer Ptolemy attributed nine *poieis* (towns) to the Brigantes located in present day Northumberland, Durham North Yorkshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester including their capital Brigantia.

The Greek historian Pausanias mentions Other Tribal Settlements in the same regions as well as Ribchester in Lancashire, Carlisle in Cumbria and Corbridge in Northumberland.

South Miesgen.

George A. Aggidis – Brigantes Lodge Consecration – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2001.



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The Brigantes appeared to be allies of Rome in the first century A.D. However jealousy between Queen Cartimandua and her husband, Venutius, resulted in intercession by Roman troops on the queen's behalf. Venutius was later beaten in a pitched battle.

The Brigantes of Northern England took their name from Brigantia the Celtic goddess. Shrines to the goddess Brigantia were found at South Shields (Tyne & Wear), Castlesteads, (Cumbria) and Birrens (Dumfries & Galloway).

The word Briga or Brica was used by the ancient inhabitants of Gaul and Germany simply to signify a town or settlement. Although this could be the root of the Brigal name, the Briga- prefix in this instance probably refers to the Celtic goddess Brigit, also known by the name Brigantia.

The name Brigantes, then, should be translated 'The People of Brigit'.

Brigantia was called the "exalted One" or the "High One". She was perhaps the most widespread ancient and revered goddess in Celtic culture.

She was a multi faceted goddess most comparable and equivalent to the Ancient Greek Goddess Athena.

She was also closely associated with fire and health comparable and equivalent to another two Ancient Greek goddesses Hestia and Hygieia.

Religion was a pre-eminent force in the Celtic culture. Their religion was codified in dogma and administered by a priestly caste, the Druids. Caesar wrote an account of the Druids stating that "in almost all public transactions and private accounts the Druids use Greek".

Their mysteries and symbolism were very similar to the Ancient Greek, like the Eleusinian mysteries in Athens, the Kavirian mysteries in the Greek island of Samothraki and the teachings of our quite familiar in masonry Greek teacher Pythagoras.

The Celtic art developed separately from other "classical" cultures, such as Greece. The importation of objects from the Mediterranean gave the Celts contact with Greek art but the Celtic style was unaffected. The pottery of the Celts is never decorated with figurative scenes (as in Greece for example) but always with textural designs and multi-colours. Their metalwork is highly sculptural, rejecting the Greek methods of integrating of form and surface.

Later on, about 300 AD, the Brigantes, the Celtic tribe that occupied almost the whole of the North of England below Hadrian's Wall changed their name to Rheged. This new derivation was formed at a time when the Celtic language was undergoing rapid change. Brigant seems to have become Breged and then Rheged. The kingdom was divided in 535 AD into North Rheged and South Rheged.

You can see brethren the intense interest and contact through the centuries of the Greeks with the British Isles and the Celts, that gave us a better insight into the Brigantes tribe its people, culture, religion, and art.

**And now on a lighter note ....if you could allow brethren a Greek to joke in English language and mentality for the first time...I must add...**

Queen Cartimandua was a close ally of Rome and she also had her own army, knights and

So the town of Brigantia was famous for its ... Knight life.

Queen Cartimandua's Round Table was designed by .... Sir Cuffference.

The Brigantes favourite musical instrument was the .....Anglo Saxophone.

The Brigantes found out that the ancient Gauls wrote their history on ... gallstones.

The Gauls always thought that history is the sweetest lesson because it is full of dates.

The Gauls thought that Rome was built at night because a Brigantes always said that Rome was

The Brigantes enjoyed eating snails because they did not believe in fast foods.

As a close ally with the Romans and also a Roman citizen Queen Cartimandua asked them to build straight roads, so ... no one could hide around corners.

When her husband Verulius had an arrow fired at him and missed she announced to her Brigantes tribe that it was ... an-arrow escape.

Queen Cartimandua also enjoyed wearing Roman togas. The Brigantes tailors were cutting the material to make Cartimandua's togas using ..... a pair of Caesors.

**Now I would like to congratulate ... for the most interesting and well done work during the Ceremony of Consecration.**

Thank you Wbro ... for the way you proposed the toast and you brethren for the way you

  
George Aggido