



Grenadiers Lodge

No. 66

Bicentenary

1739 - 1939

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"THE FREEMASONS' CHRONICLE,"

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Bi-Centenary of

Grenadiers Lodge. No. 66.

DEFERRED CELEBRATION ATTENDED BY THE M.W. GRAND
MASTER, THE EARL OF HAREWOOD, K.G.

ALTHOUGH may come to be doubted at times the truth of the old adage that "Hopes deferred are best," they have certainly brought to the Grenadiers Lodge, No. 66, in the enforced deferment through the War of the holding of the celebration meeting of its Bi-centenary, full compensation and the privilege of adding further prestige to its already notable Masonic history. Like the instances recorded in Biblical times, seven years of trial and waiting, which have been its lot, since the anniversary date in February, 1939, of its two-centuries old foundation, have brought their reward and made well worth while their deferred hopes, as proved the twice-postponed gathering at long last held in celebration of the event on Thursday, 5th September, at Freemasons' Hall, London, in receiving the signal recognition of the attendance of the M.W. the Grand Master, the Earl of Harewood, K.G., and the added honour conferred by him upon the Lodge of accepting its Honorary Membership.

Well over 200 Brethren were gathered in Temple No. 10, when soon after the Emergency Meeting of the Lodge had been opened by the Master, W. Bro. Ronald H. Allen, supported by his Officers, the arrival of the M.W. Gd. Master, was announced by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Philip Bull, D.S.O., and the Earl of Harewood, who only the previous day had presided at Grand Lodge after a prolonged absence through illness, entered, escorted by a number of distinguished Grand Officers, including R.W. Bros. A. Burnett

Brown, P.G.W., Prov. G.M., Middlesex; C. R. I. Nicholl, P.G.W., Prov. G.M., Berkshire; Lieut.-Col. H. A. Mann, O.B.E., M.C., Prov. G.M. Surrey; Sir Reginald Spence, P.Dist. G.M., Bombay; V.W. Bros. the Rev. J. Moffett, B.A., Grand Chaplain; Rev. Canon W. T. Money, M.A., P.G. Chapln.; Sydney A. White, M.V.O., Grand Secretary; among the numerous other Grand Officers present being W. Bros. Brig. Gen. the Hon. A. V. F. V. Russell, C.M.G., M.V.O., E.C.D., late of Grenadier Guards, and a younger brother of the late Lord Ampthill, Pro. Grand Master; Instr. Rear Admiral Sir Arthur Hall, C.B., K.B.E., P.G.D., and Lieut.-Col. N. Hamilton Wedderburn, O.B.E., P.G.D., who is Hon. member of the Chapter as one of its Consecrating Officers in 1922.

The M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Harewood, himself a former Grenadier Guards' Officer, may be said also to have represented, with other attending, the regiment with which the Lodge had links, though indirect, in its original membership. He was observed to be wearing the Hall Stone Collarlette as present Master of the Household Brigade Lodge, No. 2614, while it was a significant coincidence that three other Grand Officers of active rank were similarly denoting their present mastership of Lodges by wearing the distinctive badge, namely, the Grand Secretary, now in the Chair of Royal Somerset and Inverness, No. 4; the Grand Director of Ceremonies, in that of Jubilee Masters, No. 2712, London's Lodge of Installed Masters, and the Grand Tyler, Major Peel, as Master of Letchworth Lodge, No. 3505, recruited from the Staff at Freemasons' Hall. The Grenadiers Lodge, No. 66, itself is among those which qualified as a Hall Stone Lodge, and enjoys the now much prized privilege.

To deal comprehensively with the information of the Visiting Brethren with the countless features of traditional or historic interest when records extend over two hundred years presents no mean task if their presentation is to be made in a manner proving attractive and arresting to the listener, and without incurring a risk of the weariness unavoidable from the long recital of details and vital facts, not all possessing perhaps the spice of archaic quaintness of instant appeal. Bearing such handicap in mind, the Lodge is to be congratulated upon the solution it brought to the problem, by allocating the presentation in four chapters, each

covering 50 years of its history, to four of its Past Masters who are Grand Officers, each dealing in his own way with the recorded facts, and avoiding the often monotonous process of hearing but one voice.

1739-1789.

First to make his contribution was W.Bro. Stanley Palmer, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., who passing in review the first half-a-century of the Lodge's existence, recalled that its first meeting had taken place on 26th February, 1739, at the house of William Burridge, in Mayfair, there being 20 Founders. From its inception, the Lodge had been known as the Grenadiers Lodge although it was the custom in those early days and for some time afterwards for Lodges merely to be known by numbers. Since the Lodge met at the home of Bro. Burridge until 1742, it was quite obvious that its title was not derived from the name of an Inn, and the probability was that it originated in the founders being active or retired officers and N.C.Os. of the Grenadier Guards, and their friends. The reason for such a supposition found support in the fact that the Guards had their stables next door but one to the house.

The Lodge met several times before petitioning Grand Lodge for a proper constitution which was granted on 27th October, 1739, when the Deputy G.M. William Graeme, duly constituted the Lodge, then with No. 189, successively altered in later years. In the Engraved Lists of Lodges, it first appeared in 1745, when the Lodge is shown as then meeting at the Sun and Falcon, where it had, removed three years before, and which Bro. Burridge occupied. There ensued several changes of meeting places, the moves following those made by "mine host" of the Inn.

About 1789 a resolution was adopted raising the initiation fee, which originally was fifteen shillings and three for "raising." At some unknown date they had become one guinea and five shillings respectively, and in 1759 increased when the Lodge was made a "wine" instead of a "beer" Lodge. By 1787 the combined fee was £2 5s. 0d.

Original By-laws laid down a scale of fines for various offences, such as "4d. for cursing, swearing or bawdy discourse," "6d. for

getting drunk or calling a brother names," or "2d. for talking in Lodge." They also provided that on second offence, the guilty member should be "seized on by the rest of the Brethren and by them dragged or pushed to the door and then kicked or pushed downstairs and for ever expelled this Lodge." In 1754 a new set of By-laws enacted that all Visitors had to pay their own visitors fees, whilst there was also imposed a fine of 2d. for "prompting in Lodge."

1789-1839.

W.Bro. A. W. Lipsham, P.M., P.G.St.B., who followed the previous speaker, in dealing with the next 50 years of the Lodge's history, first commented upon its continued prosperity and increasing membership, to which came to be admitted noted Masons connected with the Scientific and Professional World. Such prosperity was reflected in the frequency with which places of meeting were changed. Another instance was found in the record that there was provided a "plunge of feathers" in honour of the then Grand Master, the Prince of Wales afterwards George IV, and the securing of his portrait in oils, both of which possessions, together with furniture and other relics belonging to the Lodge at that time, had since disappeared.

Early evidence of the practice of Masonic benevolence was found in support given to the Royal Cumberland School for the education of daughters of Freemasons, of which the Lodge became subsequently Life Governor. The forerunner of the present Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, it had been founded in 1708, and named after its original Patron, H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, a brother of George III, and then Grand Master.

An instance of the pride and interest members of those days took in their Lodge was provided in the handsome and unique Master's Jewel, still worn to-day by the Master of the Grenadiers, No. 66, and which was presented in 1810 by Brother Moore.

With the experiences of the last two World Wars still fresh in mind, and the knowledge of the assistance given by Masons to prisoners abroad, there was interest in recalling that in 1811 the Lodge subscribed to a fund for the relief and aid of prisoners-of-war in France, the only evidence, incidentally, found in the

Minutes of the devastating wars in which the whole of Europe had been for so long engaged.

Among notable personalities who became members of the Lodge was the Hon. Washington Shirley, who was admitted in 1815. He was alleged to have been initiated at the age of 17 in the famous Lodge of the Nine Muses in Paris, among the members of which had been Benjamin Franklin and other celebrities, and which witnessed also the initiation of Voltaire. The Hon. Washington Shirley became subsequently Senior Grand Warden, and at times acted as Deputy Grand Master, whilst he took a prominent part in the negotiations which led to the Union, and it was by him that was seconded the election of the Duke of Sussex as Grand Master.

In the Lodge had also been admitted Hippolyte Jose Da Costa, who became noted as a martyr of the Inquisition in Portugal in 1802, and for his courage in refusing to divulge Masonic secrets, but whose release was obtained after many years, when he returned to England and took an active part in Grand Lodge matters. A refined scholar, his experiences and torture formed the subject of a well-known book he wrote later.

No history of the period would be complete, suggested the speaker, without reference to the Neate family and the keen interest, father, son and grandson took in the Lodge and contributed to its prosperity, in continuous succession, from 1788 to 1876, in the positions of Master, Treasurer and Secretary.

1839-1889.

V. Bro. S. J. Millington, P.M., P.G.St.B., by whom was next dealt the period of the ensuing 50 years of history, first expressed gratification at having to dwell upon what was its most interesting and progressive period, beginning with the celebration of the Centenary in October, 1839, when a Committee was formed to arrange details. The outcome, however, was a quiet family party at which took part 15 members, 11 guests, Grand Lodge being represented by the then Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. W. H. White and W. Bro. Dr. R. T. Crucefix, P.G.D., a noted Mason of his day, who four years earlier had began his championing of the cause of the "Old People," ultimately resulting in the present

Institution. There was also present a member of the Grand Stewards Lodge, a gathering somewhat smaller than the present one, commented the speaker in looking around the Temple.

A curious entry in the Minutes of 1841 was worth noting, and referred to a German subject, Israel Mucke, who had been elected as a candidate for initiation, but not being sufficiently acquainted with the English language to comprehend the Ceremony, it was recorded that two Brethren, named Schlesinger and Schroeder undertook to translate to him the Obligation, and the answers required, under the penalty of their own Obligations. Although he was duly initiated under these conditions, he did not seem to have ever become a member of the Lodge.

During 1842, the membership could only muster 15 subscribing members, but as there was always the desire to keep the Lodge small and select, it gave no cause for anxiety, and it could be truly claimed that it had always been free from cliques. In April, 1847, it was recorded, neither the Master nor S.W. were present, and after confirming the Minutes, with six members present, the Lodge closed. The average attendance from 1847-1850 was shown to have been seven only.

Ten years later, the number of meetings was reduced from seven to six annually, and in 1863, the numerotation of the Lodge was altered from 79 to the No. 66 it now bore. For the first time the Lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, in April, 1866, but it was not until 1873 that application was made to Grand Lodge for the award of a Centenary Jewel, although it had been eligible for over 30 years for the distinction, the Warrant, permitting it being written, being signed by the then Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII, whose installation had taken place in April of that year.

For a time, the original Warrant of Constitution is shown to have been mislaid and presumed lost, for a Charter of Confirmation was obtained, but in 1878 the Secretary of the Lodge reported that he had discovered it in searching among old papers, and the fact was ordered to be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting on 28th February of that year.

On 27th November, 1879, a proposal was made to form a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to the Lodge, but only three members could be found to vote for it, and nothing further was done until nearly 50 years later, when several enthusiastic Brethren became Founders and in 1922, the Chapter was consecrated by the late Grand Scribe E., Sir P. Colville Smith, and has since flourished.

1889-1939.

Coming to the last fifty years of the Lodge's history, down to the attainment of its bi-centenary, shortly after the outbreak of war in 1939, W.Bro. Norman C. Tremellen, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., to whom their summing up was entrusted, aptly remarked that from the point of view of the present members, they offered, perhaps, greater interest as affecting them more intimately.

Reference sometimes was made to "the good old days," he remarked, but there was the record during that period of one Brother serving the office of Master for no fewer than 11 times. Fortunately there was little or no chance of that happening again, and no one was likely to quarrel with what could only be regarded, in the light of present-day Masonry, as contrary to the intentions of the Craft.

The first initiate of the Lodge to be appointed to Grand Rank was in 1875, prior to the period under review, and he had received the high rank of Junior Grand Deacon.

Many illusions were made in the records to various Brethren as being "father" of the Lodge, but, of course, their place as such came to be taken in time by others, and as one eminent Brother had laid down the burden of office, so another had taken it up, and so must it be hoped would continue to be the case in the Lodge, as in others.

Among men of eminence initiated in the Lodge or who joined it as Master Masons, quite a number had achieved distinction in public life, some receiving titles, others being appointed to professorships of Universities, while others again had just been content to carry on the good work of the Lodge as ordinary individuals, knowing that doing the right thing by their fellowmen,

in conformity with Masonic principles, was of itself sufficient reward. There was one personality, however, whose name should not be passed over as his memory was still much treasured by many of the present members, and the speaker himself remembered in his early days in the Lodge, labelled as a "Pillar of the Lodge." It was the late W.Bro. A. F. Dicken, who became well known for his active interest in the "People's Dispensary for Sick Animals."

In regard to the Ritual, "Emulation," at present used by the Lodge, had taken place of "Logic," formerly worked, but it was always a very controversial topic as to which form had the greatest merit.

Whilst the members to-day liked to think of their predecessors as great men and great Masons, yet had they proved themselves, at times, very fallible mortals, even going so far in one recorded instance, as to provoke the Book of Constitutions, and incurring a fine on the Lodge of two guineas from Grand Lodge. The case was one where a Candidate regularly proposed at the previous meeting, when ballot was taken at the next, it was discovered that his name had been omitted from the Summons, and though the irregularity of proceeding with the initiation was pointed out by the J.W., the objection had been overruled by the Master.

One of the prized possessions of the Lodge was its ballot box, presented by the late Bro. Dicken, jointly with Bro. Gardner, and made from timbers of the famous frigate "Lutine," which foundered in the North Sea with its £100,000 bullion cargo, and the bell of which recovered in salvage operations, in which the latter joint donor had been engaged, today added to the traditions of Lloyd's by being rung on special or momentous occasions.

Concluding with references to old-time toasts observed at after-proceedings of the Lodge, the speaker alluded to "Quantum," as the name of an honoured institution of the Lodge, it being that under which five enthusiastic members some 14 years ago had formed themselves into a Club of Instruction which had since proved of invaluable help and guidance to younger members and their natural ambition that by their endeavour they may prove worthy of those who had preceded them.

Resuming afterwards the Agenda, the Master, W.Bro. Ronald H. Allen, announced to the great appreciation of the members the graceful decision of Lord Harewood to accept honorary membership of the Lodge, and asked his acceptance of a large bound copy of the History of the Lodge, published in 1939, in anticipation of the celebration, then of its Bi-centenary. In a brief but spirited acknowledgment of the tribute, the M.W. Grand Master spoke of the anticipated interest he felt sure to find in these records of the activities of the Lodge, and had already shown the many striking incidents and features of the Lodge's history to which the meeting had just listened.

The proceedings afterwards being closed, members and their numerous guests repaired to the Connaught Rooms where dinner was served, and provided the opportunity for many manifestations of the happy fellowship existing in the Lodge, the speeches being few but of an unusually high standard of entertaining interest and sparkling wit, the M.W. the Grand Master showing himself in high spirits.

Proposing the loyal toast of his health, the Master, W.Bro. Allen, first alluded to the long and curious game of chance which had culminated in his being privileged to-day to propose on such an eventful occasion in the history of the Lodge, and in the presence of the Grand Master himself, a toast recognised as the most important and significant throughout English Masonry. As many present were aware, the celebration of the Bi-centenary was to have taken place in October, 1939, during the Mastership of W.Bro. Alfred G. Mason, now Almoner of the Lodge, whom the war had thus deprived of a great privilege which had now descended to him as the present occupant of the Chair.

On several occasions recently the holding of the anniversary celebration had to be postponed owing to the state of health of the Earl of Harewood, for the Lodge had been most anxious that he should be able to honour the gracious promise he had given to attend, and now to their delight the members were able to greet him in person, and to find him restored in health. It was impossible, added the Master, with the limited ability he felt at his command, to do full justice to such an occasion, and

express adequately the depth of the feelings in the hearts of all present at the M.W. Grand Master coming among them at a time when he had to fulfil so many engagements, and thus adding yet to the stress on his health while still not fully recovered. Never before in its history had it been given to the Lodge to have the privilege of entertaining the first Mason of the land, and indeed, the whole world where English Freemasonry held sway, and to this had now been added the yet higher privileges of his accepting to become an Honorary Member. Whenever in future the toast of his health was honoured at the meetings of the Lodge it would be invested with a deeper and peculiar significance.

A prolonged ovation greeted the M.W. Grand Master as he rose to make acknowledgment, and after expressing his thanks for the felicitous words used in submitting the toast and its reception by all present, Lord Harewood said that he held to the view that Freemasonry should be practised joyously and that a light heart and without making heavy weather of it, for the way to render its appeal enduring was a judicious admixing of labour with refreshment, both in the material and spiritual senses.

He first owed apologies to the Lodge he added, for having been unwittingly the cause of the postponement, more than once, of the celebration which was now taking place of its 200th anniversary, but he could assure the Brethren that it had not been through any real fault of his.

The interesting insight which had been given in Lodge into the past history of those 200 years, had certainly revealed a great deal of labour, as also a certain amount of refreshment, he added with laughter, and he had been left in doubt before coming to the dinner table, especially under present conditions, whether the Lodge was now a "wine" Lodge or had reverted to being a "beer" Lodge, as recorded its Minutes at one time. Without the opportunity as yet of delving into the sumptuous volume of its History with which he had been presented, there were many features of its past with which he had to make himself acquainted and he promised himself much interesting reading.

He was so very glad to come and join in the celebrations of a Lodge of such a venerable age, and which was known to have proved a factor in the progress of Freemasonry, and one felt confident would continue to do so. At different periods of its history, Freemasonry under our Constitution had been called upon to play a large part in meeting the demand for the spiritual associations and guidance its fellowship offered and to-day again it should be ready to offer to the young manhood of the country the same privileges and give those proving worthy, the right direction in their lives. We knew only too well how, in some countries abroad, Freemasonry had been ruined by the introduction of men who had proved unworthy and thus was it made the more essential that English Freemasonry should remain the leader of pure Masonry for, good as were the great principles of the Craft, when wrongly interpreted or prostituted they could cause untold harm. It was our bounden duty, therefore, to watch happenings in other countries and assure ourselves that none of our Brethren were led into error by following associations there, where none should exist, except if true and officially recognised Masonry was practised.

In asking all Visiting Brethren present to rise and drink to the continued prosperity of the Lodge, let them form the hopes for its determination that its influence should continue on the right lines, and prove yet better and better year by year.

Great applause followed the honouring of the Toast, the M.W. Grand Master as a typical gesture, himself directing the "fire." With the toast was coupled for response the name of W.Bro. Norman Freeman, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., whose first words were to give assurance that any feelings of apprehension he might have felt were more than off-set by the pride he must feel in being the spokesman for his mother Lodge, on such an event in its history. In the long course of years of its existence its records offered many sources of inspiration, but none to compare with that which had come to the Lodge that day of a toast proposed in its honour by the M.W. Grand Master himself and the remembrance of it would be cherished down the long years to come and spur the members to be deserving of such a mark of encouragement and the distinction bestowed of numbering him as an Honorary member.

To W.Bro. Stanley Palmer, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., fell the privilege afterwards of offering welcome to the many Visiting Brethren present, to many of the more distinguished among them he referred individually, coupling with the toast for response the name of W.Bro. H. L. O. Flecker, P.G.D., Headmaster of Christ's Hospital, the "Bluecoats" School, of which, he disclosed, the Master of the Lodge had himself been a pupil, and also that of W.Bro. Capt. W. Lowry-Corry, of the Grenadier Guards, and P.Dep. Master of the Household Brigade Lodge, of which the Earl of Harewood is the present Master.

In a reply reviewing at length in witty and amusing vein many aspects offered by the Lodge's past records, W.Bro. Flecker kept the gathering in almost unbroken laughter by his comments and humorous sallies, but concluding on a more serious note and referring to the state of flux in which the world found itself to-day, he stressed how the more welcome must be held any factor making stability, such as had proved Grand Lodge or an institution which had endured the test of time, as the Genadiers Lodge. The occasion had been one of much education for the guests and they had enjoyed to the full the privilege in which they had shared on such an historic event.

Much interest was evinced in the archaic design used for the Lodge's Summons, and which dates back many years, surrounding a central medallion containing the convening of the meeting, being the allegorical classical figures of Hope, Faith and Charity, and surmounting it a representation of the Tree of Knowledge, with the Serpent entwining its trunk, on which appears the biblical reference: Hosea 14, 6, viz., "*His branches shall spread and his beauty shall be as the olive tree . . .*" a lion being shown walking under its shade. The usual Masonic emblems and various Working Tools are included in the design, as also, and not without a little incongruity, making obvious their addition at a later date in years past, as is said to be the case, suspended each from a ribbon, the respective insignia of office of the Treasurer and Secretary.