

Vernon Chapter

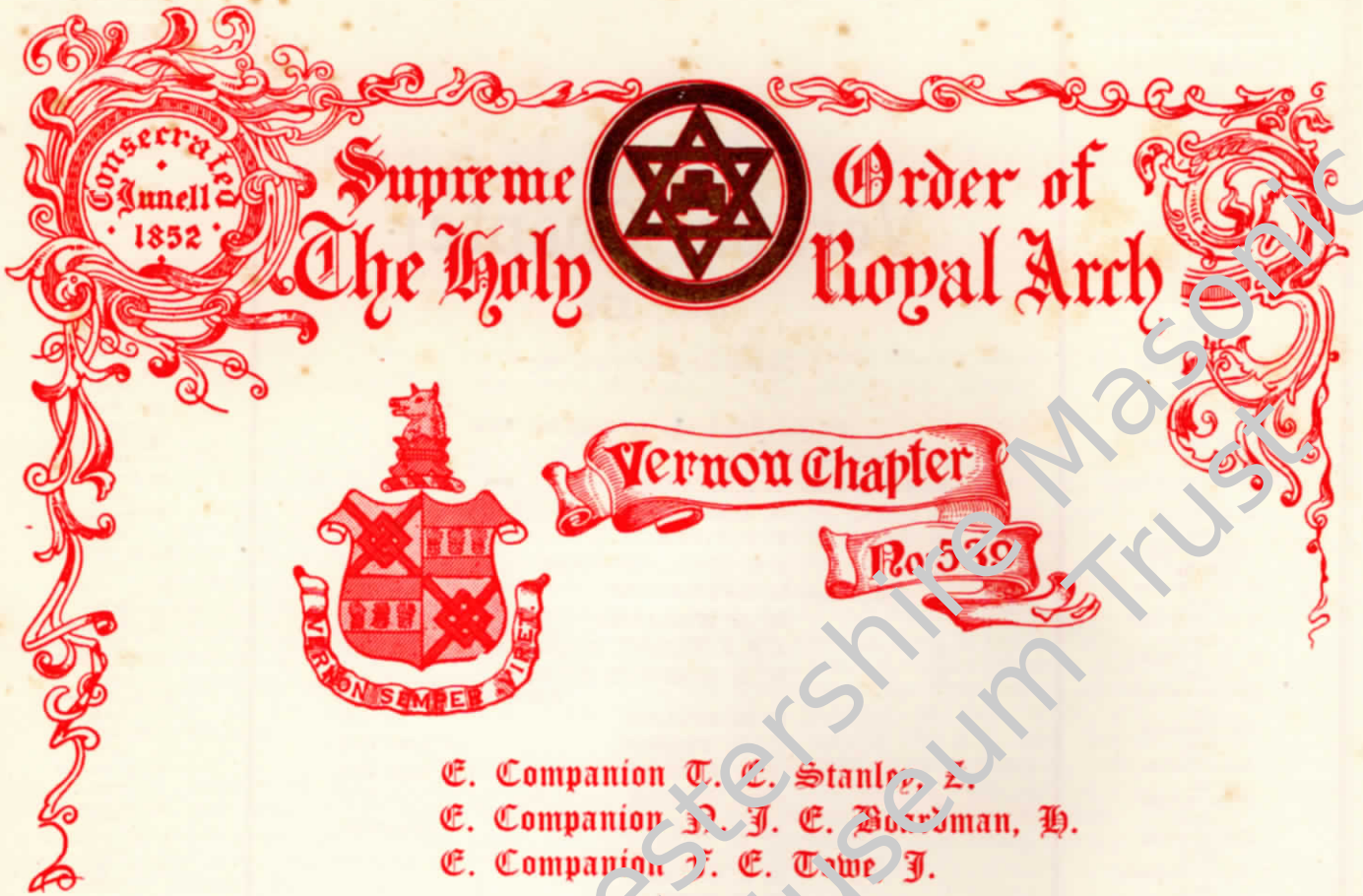
of

Royal Arch Masons

Centenary Celebration

11th June, 1952

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust



E. Companion T. C. Stanley, Z.
E. Companion J. J. E. Boardman, H.
E. Companion J. E. Lowe J.

Dear Companion,

You are summoned to attend

The Centenary Convocation

of the Vernon Chapter, on Wednesday, the 11th day of June, 1952,
(By Dispensation) at the Hatherton Masonic Temple, Freer Street,
Walsall, at 5-30 p.m. precisely.

By desire of the Principals,

Yours fraternally,

H. Gate-Jones,

Scribe E.

"Hillcroft," Skip Lane,

Walsall, 22nd May, 1952.

Telephone: GREAt Barr 1637.

*Dinner Jackets or Morning
Dress and White Gloves.*

Owing to the lamented death of the Grand Superintendent M. E. Comp. Rev. Preb. A. T. S. Talbot, P.G.Std.B., the Chapter will be in Mourning.

Past Principals

- 1852. Thos. James.
- 1853. Jno. Burton
- 1854. Wm. James.
- 1855. J. H. Newsam.
- 1856. Howard James.
- 1857. Frank James.
- 1858. R. P. Tallis.
- 1859. J. A. Edwards.
- 1860. David Peacock.
- 1861. G. M. Waring.
- 1862. Thos. Waterhouse.
- 1863. J. J. Cannel.
- 1864. Wm. Lynes
- 1865. G. H. Bayley.
- 1866. E. L. Bullock.
- 1867. E. L. Bullock.
- 1868. Jos. Newman.
- 1869. Jos. Newman.
- 1870. Jno. Burton.
- 1871. Thos. Sneyd.
- 1872. Wm. Bayliss.
- 1873. T. W. W. Bullock.
- 1874. Jos. Newman.
- 1875. Benj. Love.
- 1876. Jas. Symons.
- 1877. W. J. Boys.
- 1878. Jos. Newman.
- 1879. T. M. Humphries.
- 1880. Jas. Rowley.
- 1881. Jas. Rowley.
- 1882. Thos. H. Cope.
- 1883. Thos. H. Cope.
- 1884. J. H. Rowbotham.
- 1885. J. Newman.
- 1886. J. Newman.
- 1887. J. Williams.
- 1888. S. Hildick.
- 1889. S. Hildick.
- 1890. Thos. H. Cope.
- 1891. S. B. Wheway.
- 1892. F. W. Willmore.
- 1893. Thos. Jones.
- 1894. F. W. Gribble.
- 1895. C. A. Loxton.
- 1896. A. Dewsbury.
- 1897. J. Moseley.
- 1898. T. M. Heape.

Vernon Chapter

No. 539

Consecrated June 11th, 1852

PRINCIPALS and OFFICERS, 1952:

E. Companion	T. E. STANLEY	
E. "	N. J. E. BOARDMAN	H.
E. "	F. E. TOWE	J.
E. "	J. S. HICKINBOTTOM	I.P.Z.
Companion	H. BATE-JONES	E.
"	R. L. WILLIAMS	N.
E. "	J. A. J. BRIANT, P.P.A.G.Soj.	Treasurer.
E. "	W. R. WHEWAY, P.G.Std.B.,	
"	3rd P.G.P.	D.C.
"	F. R. BUTLER	P. Soj.
"	D. A. TURNER	1st Ass. Soj.
"	J. E. A. JONES	2nd Ass. Soj.
E. "	GEO. SELDON, P.P.G.Soj.	A.D.C.
"	W. I. GRETTON	Organist.
"	F. T. EWELL	} Stewards.
"	W. T. STEWART	
"	A. GROVES	
"	F. F. BILLY	
"	G. E. STANLEY	
"	R. G. EVANS	} Janitor.
"	A. C. HANDLEY	

Past First Principals:

H. Willis, P.P.G.D.C.	..	1918
Rev. W. E. Wibby,		
P.G.Std.B., P.3rdP.G.P.	..	1928
W. R. Wheway, P.G.Std.B.,		
3rdP.G.P.	..	1930
F. F. Brown, P.G.Std.B.,		
3rdP.G.P.	..	1932
J. J. Briant, P.P.A.G.Soj.	..	1934
G. Seldon, P.P.G.Soj.	..	1935
P. C. Marshall, P.P.G.R.	..	1938
W. Overton, P.3rdP.G.P.	..	1939
H. J. Pinson, P.P.G.S.N.	..	1942
S. G. Wheway, P.G.Std.B.,		
Prov.G.S.E.	..	1943
G. F. Trench, P.A.G.D.C.	..	1944
R. D. Stanton, P.3rd.G.P.	..	1945
S. B. Jagger, P.3rdP.G.P.	..	1946
F. F. Harrison, P.P.A.G.Soj.	..	1947
M. J. Somerfield, Prov. G.Std.B.	..	1949
J. S. Hickinbottom, I.P.Z.	..	1951

Companions not in Office:

- John Salmon.
- A. Beebee.
- J. L. Phillips.
- S. W. Smith.
- A. S. Cartwright.
- R. D. Talbot.
- S. H. Stanton.
- J. H. Hancox.
- H. Parkes.
- G. E. Pugh.
- A. W. Hickinbottom.
- Leonard Brown.
- A. V. Townsend.
- E. W. Pugh.
- A. Kendrick.
- J. H. Purslow.
- J. G. Briant.
- W. F. Stretton.
- W. J. Naylor.
- W. Taylor.
- F. P. Cross.

Past Principals

- 1899. C. Taylor.
- 1900. J. E. Dolman.
- 1901. W. Hebblethwaite.
- 1902. F. Gross.
- 1903. H. Wilkin.
- 1904. W. Albert Goold.
- 1905. J. L. Sanders.
- 1906. Sydney Nicklin.
- 1907-8. Fred W. Cross.
- 1909. J. Carver.
- 1910. F. G. Hill.
- 1911. J. Parkes.
- 1912. J. Hemming.
- 1913. A. D. Belcher.
- 1914. H. J. Nicklin.
- 1915. R. Edwards.
- 1916. R. J. Smith.
- 1917. S. B. Wheway.
- 1918. H. Willis.
- 1919. E. J. Parkes.
- 1920. A. J. Glover.
- 1921. J. H. Hickton.
- 1922. J. A. Picken.
- 1923. H. A. Jowett.
- 1924. Rev. A. T. S. Talbot.
- 1925. A. J. Llewellyn.
- 1926. Rev. W. C. Vaughan.
- 1927. Sir. W. J. Talbot.
- 1928. Rev. W. E. Wibby.
- 1929. C. A. Loxton.
- 1930. W. R. Wheway.
- 1931. J. E. Hartley.
- 1932. E. E. Brown.
- 1933. E. I. Law.
- 1934. J. A. J. Briant.
- 1935. G. Seldon.
- 1936. Rev. A. T. S. Talbot.
- 1937. W. A. Taylor.
- 1938. P. C. Marshall.
- 1939. W. Overton.
- 1940. Fred C. Lowe.
- 1941. Rev. W. H. Hallsworth.
- 1942. H. J. Pinson.
- 1943. S. G. Wheway.
- 1944. G. F. Trench.
- 1945. R. D. Stanton.
- 1946. S. B. Jagger.
- 1947. F. F. Harrison.
- 1948. H. B. Marston.
- 1949. M. J. Somerfield.
- 1950. H. W. Hinchcliffe.
- 1951. J. S. Hickinbottom.

Centenary of the Vernon Chapter

1852—1952

Founders: E. Comps. Thomas James, John Burton, William James, Bassett Smith, Fred Emson, William Totty, Thos. Stevenson, Richard P. Tallis and Frank James.

The first meeting, convened by circular, was held on 1st April, 1850, at the residence of Comp. Thomas James. It was resolved that a Royal Arch Chapter be attached to the Lodge of St. Matthew No. 786 (afterwards changed to No. 539 in 1863) and the following companions were nominated to fill the various chairs: Comp. Thomas James, Z., Comp. John Burton, H., Comp. William James, J. It was also resolved that the Chapter should be named "The Vernon Chapter" in honour of the first Grand Superintendent, Most Excellent Companion H. C. Vernon.

The prayer of the Petition having been granted, the first Convocation took place on Friday, 11th June, 1852, at the Lodge Room of the Lodge of St. Matthew, at the New Inn, Park Street, Walsall. In consequence of the illness of the Prov. Grand Superintendent, M. E. Comp. H. C. Vernon, the chapter was consecrated, by dispensation, by E. Comp. Savage, of London, P.Z., of Royal York Chapter No. 7, who also installed the Principals. It is interesting to note that at the same meeting E. Comp. John Savage also installed the new Principals of the St. Peter's Chapter, Wolverhampton.

In 1853 the Chapter changed its place of meeting to St. Matthew's Hall, situated at the rear of the present County Court. In 1858 the Chapter met for the first time at The Dragon, High Street, the new meeting place of the Lodge of St. Matthew. At about this time Provincial Grand Chapter was held occasionally in Walsall. In October, 1909, the Chapter met for the first time at the present meeting place in High Street.

For several years the Chapter experienced many difficulties due to small attendances; on some occasions no ceremony was performed and at one meeting in 1867 insufficient Principals attended and the Chapter was not held. In 1876 only the three Principals were present when they found that the Lodge Rooms had been let, by mistake, for another purpose.

Dr. John Burton, one of the founders of the Chapter, died in 1891. He and Comp. E. Newman were responsible for the ritual used to-day by Vernon Chapter. In 1926 a committee was appointed to compare the rituals of E. Comps. Burton and Newman together with the Midland

Working then in use in the Province and an old M.S. book of ritual presented to Dr. Burton by E. Comp. Frank James and from him to E. Comp. S. B. Wheway. This old M.S. we have no doubt was the original working. The committee discovered that there was very little difference in these M.S.S. and the Chapter decided to continue with the working then in use by Vernon Chapter. In 1909 Provincial Grand Chapter had requested the Chapters in the Province to adopt the New Midland Working of that time. After much discussion among the P.Z. and correspondence with Provincial Grand Chapter, approval was given in 1911 by the Prov. Grand Chapter for Vernon to use the "Burton Newman" ritual for all its ceremonies—this ritual having been used since its consecration.

During the period 1910 to 1940, E. Comps. Gold, Whby and Loxton, and M. E. Comp. Rev. Preb. A. T. S. Talbot (the late Grand Superintendent of the Province) gave many lectures on various aspects of the Royal Arch.

In June, 1928, the Patent (dated 2nd May, 1849) appointing Henry Charles Vernon as the first Grand Superintendent of Staffordshire was presented to the Chapter; this interesting document is now carefully preserved. In the minutes of January, 1939, reference is made to the valuable Bible (published in 1599) presented to the Chapter by its first M.E.Z., E. Comp. Thomas James.

In October, 1942, M. E. Comp. Rev. Preb. A. T. S. Talbot, P.G. Std. B., Past Z. of Vernon Chapter, was appointed Grand Superintendent of Staffordshire.

At the meeting in April, 1943, the Grand Superintendent presented an Illuminated Address to E. Comp. S. B. Wheway, P.A.G.D.C., to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of his Exaltation into the Chapter and in April of the following year he also presented a similar Address to E. Comp. C. A. Loxton, P.G. Std. B., on the 60th Anniversary of his Exaltation into the Chapter. Many bound copies of lectures and papers by E. Comp. Loxton have been presented to the Chapter and are available to members for reference and study.

Copy of the Original Warrant of Vernon Chapter

ZETLAND Z.

YARBOROUGH H.

ROWLAND ALSTON J.

I.T.N.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.

To all the enlightened our Brethren of the several degrees of the Royal Craft but more especially those Citizens of the World and Servants of the Omnipotent who have been, or hereafter may be honoured by Exaltation to our sublime degree.

HEALTH, PEACE, GOODWILL

BE IT KNOWN that our Excellent Companions Thomas James Z. John Burton H, William James J, Bassett Smith, Fred Empson, William Totty, Thos. Stevenson, Richard P. Tallis and Frank James, having made known to our Supreme Grand Chapter their desire of holding a Chapter of our order for the cultivation of the Grand and Universal Science, in hopes thereby the more to extend their aid to, and promote the happiness of all our brethren and link mankind together by indissoluble bonds of Friendship, Peace and Harmony. And that our Grand Chapter having taken their Petition into consideration and finding it concordant with our Grand System of Universal Benevolence, We do hereby with the consent of our said Grand Chapter, grant unto the said Companions this our CHARTER OF CONSTITUTION to be held with and attached to the Warrant of the Lodge No. 786 called the Lodge of St. Matthew with full power for them, their Companions and Successors to open and hold a Chapter of our Order at the New Inn, Walsall, Staffordshire or at such other place and at such time as our said Companions and their successors shall with the consent of Us and Our Successors, Grand Officers for the time being, think meet. The first Chapter to be opened on Friday the 11th Day of June now next ensuing by the Title of

THE VERNON CHAPTER

with such Privileges, Powers and Immunities, as do of right belong to regular established Chapters and Companions of Our said most Excellent Order Subject nevertheless to the Grand Laws and Ordinances already, or to be hereafter, enacted by Our Most Excellent Grand and Royal Chapter.

Given at London under our Hands and the Seal of Our Grand and Royal Chapter this 5th Day of May A.L. 5852 A.D. 1852.

William H. White E.

William Frank Bindon N

Copy of the Centenary Warrant.

SCARBROUGH Z.

DERBY H.

A. T. A. NAYLOR J.

TO THE PRINCIPALS, OFFICERS and MEMBERS of THE VERNON CHAPTER
No. 539 AND ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

GREETING

WHEREAS it appears by the Records of the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of ROYAL ARCH MASONS of ENGLAND that on the 5th day of May 1852 a Charter of Constitution was granted to certain Companions therein named authorizing and empowering them their Companions and Successors to hold a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at the New Inn, Walsall, Staffordshire and which Chapter was then registered in the Books of the Supreme Grand Chapter as No. 783 AND WHEREAS in consequence of the alteration made in the Numbers of Chapters in the year 1863 it now stands on the Register of the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER as No. 539 meeting at the Masonic Hall, Walsall, in the County of Stafford under the Title or Denomination of

THE VERNON CHAPTER.

AND WHEREAS the Companions composing the said Chapter now that it has completed the Centenary of its existence dating from the 11th day of June 1852 have prayed for permission to wear a Jewel commemorative of such event pursuant to the Resolution of the SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER of the first day of February 1882:

NOW KNOW YE that OUR

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

having taken the Prayers of the said Companions into consideration have acceded to their request and WE do therefore with the consent of OUR said GRAND CHAPTER give and grant to each and all of the actual subscribing Members of the said Chapter permission to wear in all Masonic Meetings suspended to the left breast a JEWEL or MEDAL of the pattern or device that we have already approved of as a

CENTENARY ROYAL ARCH JEWEL

BUT such Jewel is to be worn only by those Companions who are bona fide subscribing Members of the said Chapter and so long only as each shall be duly returned as such to the Supreme Grand Chapter.

GIVEN at Freemasons Hall London this 12th day of June A.L. 5952 A.D. 1952

SYDNEY A. WHITE E.

BURNHAM N.

Order of Proceedings

The Convocation will be opened.

Scribe E will read the dispensation and the Summons.

Scribe E will read the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th April 1952.

E. Comp A. P. Tiley, P.A.G.D.C. Prov. 2nd G. Principal (in charge of the Province) and the Prov. 3rd G. Principal, escorted by the Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter and the Present and Past Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter, will enter the Chapter in procession.

E. Comp A. P. Tiley, P.A.G.D.C. Prov. 2nd G. Principal, and the Prov. 3rd G. Principal, will take the Principals' chairs.

The M.E.Z. will present the Charter of the Chapter and the Centenary Warrant to the Prov. 2nd Grand Principal for his inspection.

Scribe E will read the Minutes of the Convocation held on the 11th June, 1852.

The Provincial 2nd Grand Principal will direct the Prov. Grand Scribe E to read the Centenary Warrant.

E. Comp. George Selton, P.D.G.Soj., will give a short history of the Chapter.

The Provincial 2nd Grand Principal will congratulate the Chapter on its Centenary.

The Provincial 2nd Grand Principal will hand the Charter and Centenary Warrant to the Principals and direct the proceedings to be recorded in the Minutes of the Chapter.

The Prov. 3rd Grand Principal will offer up prayer.

The Prov. 2nd Grand Principal will invite the Principals to resume their chairs.

The M.E.Z. will thank the Prov. 2nd Grand Principal and the Visitors.

The Convocation will be closed.

The Companions will sing the first verse of the National Anthem.

E. Comp. A. P. Tiley, P.A.G.D.C. Prov. 2nd Grand Principal (in charge of the Province) and the Prov. 3rd Grand Principal, escorted by the Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter and Prov. Grand Chapter, will retire in Procession.

FORM OF PRAYERS

for use at the

CENTENARY MEETING

June 11th, 1952

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, Father of All, we unite in hearty thanks to Thee that Thou has been pleased to preserve and direct this Chapter for a hundred years. Grant that our knowledge of Thy goodness and power may inspire us with gratitude for the manifold blessings we have already received AND continue unto us Thy kindness and protection that the works of this Chapter may ever be directed to the Honour and Glory of Thy Most Holy Name.

S.M.I.B.

* * * *

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom all good counsels and just works do proceed, we humbly invoke Thee to give us Wisdom in all our doings, Strength of Mind in all our difficulties, and the Beauty of Love and Harmony in all our communications. Grant unto us every good and perfect gift while travelling the thorny path of Life that finally we may be admitted into the Heavenly Temple to full enjoyment of life eternal.

S.M.I.B.

* * * *

MAY the God of our Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the angel of the everlasting covenant who has redeemed us from evil, the Holy One who sanctified us, bless preserve and keep you evermore.

S.M.I.B.