



“Comin’ thro’ the Rye”

being

**an informal account of the
affairs of the**

Rye Lodge – No 2272

From
Consecration in 1888
Until
January, 1950
.....

Now including the succeeding 50 years



Presented to the Lodge on 13th February, 1950

For private circulation only.



“Gin a body meet a body comin’ thro’ the Rye”

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HARDNAN JAMES SLADE, LR.
Assistant Grand Standard Bearer Of England.
(1934)

FOREWORD
BY
THE REVEREND GEORGE BRANSON, MA.
Vicar Of All Saints, Sydenham.
Canon of Southwark.
Past Master and Chaplain of the Lodge.

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IT IS AN ILL wind that blows nobody any good. The appearance of this book proves that even the blast that fanned the flames that destroyed the records of our worshipful Lodge has been productive of some good. For it was as a result of that catastrophe that the Masonic spirit of W. Bro. Arthur Buddell was stirred to make diligent search to re-discover our foundations and to bring light to bear upon some of those early developments which were becoming somewhat obscure with the passing of time. In the course of the account of his discoveries, which he gives in this book, he also allows us to get a closer acquaintance with the living personalities of some in the past whom we only knew by name; he helps us to more appreciate the character and services of others who are still with us, and he puts forward suggestions which are well worthy of consideration by all who have at heart the interest and well being of the Lodge.

W. Bro. Buddell may be said to be very susceptible to breezes. At times he seems to revel in them. They have an invigorating effect on him and that effect, as in the present case, has always been productive of some good to the Lodge.

By the production of this book he lays present and future members of the Lodge under a great obligation to him.

He has laid a foundation on which future brethren may build. Long after we have passed on, brethren of the **RYE** Lodge will benefit from his work.

It was no easy task which he undertook. Some people, when they lay a foundation stone, find all the labour of the preparation done for them. Their own task is a very light one. W. Bro. Buddell had to delve into the debris, extract therefrom the necessary materials, and fashion these into a presentable form. The measure of his success is to be seen in this most interesting book.

I hope that the Lodge will see its way to make it possible for every one of its members from now onwards to be the proud possessor of a printed copy.

George Branson.

February 1950.

Footnote ; The Rev Canon George Branson, Canon Emeritus of Southwark, former Vicar of All Saints, Sydenham, Died 4th Aug 1961.

INTRODUCTION

“I have no doubt at all the Devil grins
As seas of ink I spatter;
Ye gods, forgive my ‘literary’ sins –
The other kind don’t matter”...

R. W. SERVICE.

FOR MANY YEARS it has been my desire to write an account of the activities of my Mother Lodge, but the urge was not sufficiently strong to move me to do so until the incident happened in 1940 which robbed us of all our records. Then came the realisation of how imperative it was, while memories were still fresh, that known facts should be collected and presented for the benefit of any of our successors who might, in future years, become sufficiently interested to want to know “the beginning of things.” But with the Second World War upon us, literary effort on my part was then impossible. There was no time for delving into the past – we were faced with a grim future and a struggle for our very existence. Now, however, that we are “a little less than more” back to normal, the self-imposed task must no longer be postponed.

As a result of my researches extending over a period of three years, I have real pleasure in presenting to the Lodge this booklet which I dedicate, with fraternal affection, to the Diamond Jubilee Master, W. Bro. A. L. Button. I refrain from calling it a history because, owing to the incident recorded in the first chapter, authoritative details are mostly missing and the account must, in consequence be of an informal nature.

The task has been a labour of love for, during my researches and enquiries, it has been possible to re-live my Masonic career. May my Brethren share with me, through the medium of these pages, happy recollections of those who have gone before and appreciate the labours of those Elder Brethren who, happily, are still with us. Printing and production are now most expensive processes; yet I trust that every Brother will procure a copy and that a stock of some fifty or more will be laid aside to present to Initiates as they enter the Lodge. By this means it is my hope that, thirty-eight years hence when the Lodge celebrates its Centenary, some Brother (maybe as yet uninitiated, or even unborn) will take up his pen and complete the story of the First Hundred Years of a fine old London Lodge.

In the foreword to a book written by Mr. WYN GRIFFITHS entitled:- “The Board of Inland Revenue, 1849-1949,” SIR ERIC BAMFORD says :-

“He gives us no dull chronicle of events but gradually, with odd details of old affairs and glimpses of robust personalities, he builds up a picture of Departmental life which is vivid and enduring.”

While I cannot claim literary equality with my distinguished Civil Service contemporary, I sincerely hope that my effort is free from dull, chronologically arranged historic facts and that it really does give a vivid picture of the RYE Lodge as it has been throughout the years. Broadly speaking, the Lodge cannot boast of an exciting career because, like many other stationary lodges under one hundred years of age, its existence has not been materially influenced or affected by world-shattering events; moreover, dead bones yield dull reading. I therefore hope that those who come to read this record will agree that personalities really are an absorbing study, for they make history – and history makes them.

To what extent a chronicler is at liberty to comment on events – or, shall we say, draw conclusions from known facts – is debatable. I therefore apologise for any opinions expressed which may not meet with the full concurrence of the Brethren; however, if they result in healthy and helpful discussion within the Lodge, they will have done no harm.

We look to the young members of the present and Initiates of the future to cherish and prosper this lodge. Theirs will be a fine heritage which they must never disgrace, for in its making have gone the strivings, yearnings and good-will of their predecessors. I commend to these young Freemasons another couplet from that old Scottish song which gives this book its title :

“Yet a’ the lads they smile at me
When comin’ thro’ the rye”

As well as the wisdom of PLUTARCH when he said: “It is pleasing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.”

One last duty remains – and a most pleasant one – namely, to thank the Grand Librarian for permission to search among Grand Lodge records; to express my keen appreciation of the assistance rendered by Bro. S. A. MAYCOCK in reading the proofs and to place on record the help given W. Bro W. J.

KILLINGBACK, C.B.E., P/A.G.Std.B., formerly Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen, whose Assistant I was during the recent war, and who has given me most valuable advice in producing this book.

CROYDON, *January 1950.*

Arthur Buddell.

I 1940 – DISASTER*

The London *Times* of 12th September, 1940, reported as follows –

NINETY RAIDERS DOWN BIG BATTLE NEAR LONDON TERRIFIC NIGHT BARRAGE

“It was announced by the Air Ministry this morning that reports up to midnight showed that at least ninety enemy aircraft have been destroyed during the day. Seventeen of our fighters were lost, but the pilots of three are safe.

“Almost immediately after the warning siren was sounded in London last night the most violent anti-aircraft barrage that the Capital had yet heard began. Some of the guns appeared to be heavier than any used before, and they seemed to be firing from all points. The barrage continued almost unbroken for more than two hours and buildings were shaken by the intensity of the concentrated fire.

“Faintly above the guns’ roar the engines of an approaching raider were heard and at once shells were bursting continuously at various heights every few seconds, and the German aircraft could be heard for some time cruising around endeavouring to find a spot where he could get through the barrage.

“After dying down for a time the barrage became more violent than ever soon after midnight, when a German aeroplane appeared over the Central London area. Its course was marked by a continuous line of bursting shells. Flashes from the guns grew so great as the raider flew over the Central area that the district was almost continually lit up. The raider, evidently harassed by the barrage, soon sheared away still followed by bursting shells.

“Early reports were received of bombs – in two cases incendiaries – being dropped in three South London districts and one area in West London; when the barrage opened no searchlights could be seen, but there was a clear sky and a strong moon. Some searchlights came into action later. The night-time warning, which was sounded at 8.37 p.m., was the fourth of the day.”

And this was just one episode in the mighty aerial battle of Britain – a battle in which, little though we knew it at the time, the whole future of our historic and proud Nation was at stake. But how did this concern The RYE LODGE, No. 2272, on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England?

In this way; some of the incendiary bombs which, according to the *Times*, fell in South London Districts on the night of Wednesday, 11th September, 1940, landed on “Arbor Lodge,” The Retreat, Queens Road, Peckham (adjoining the Marist Convent), the home of our then Secretary, W.Bro. GEORGE J. NORTH.

In his house were stored all the papers and documents relating to our Lodge (and The RYE Chapter as well) comprising records of pre-Consecration meetings of the Founders; Minute Books since the Lodge’s inception; membership records; summonses; annual financial statements; and every sheet of correspondence since 1888 – all were destroyed in the fire. The house became a total loss for the purposes of War Damage Compensation. However, not quite *all* was lost for the book of Initiates’ Declarations was safe and sound in our Box at the Holborn Restaurant while the Warrant, most fortunately, was in safe custody elsewhere.

Equally fortunately, our genial Bro. HUCKLE was one of those sentimental people who have the habit of hoarding souvenir programmes and such like. This propensity served us in good stead for he had preserved every Lodge summons since his initiation in the year 1921. Most willingly he surrendered then and, by his foresight, we are now in possession of some intimate records of the last 28 years. On the basis of the Declaration Books and these summonses the membership records were reconstituted after long search through the files of Grand Lodge. At least we are certain of the principal Founders and the Initiates but can only hope that we have accounted for all the joining members. But our Minutes (the really authentic records of a Lodge) are irretrievably lost and much that follows in this book is culled from the memories of the Elder Brethren and from correspondence which has been entered into with many persons who were thought likely to have knowledge of the early affairs of the Lodge. Disaster, indeed !

But what of our worthy Brother Secretary?

The first person to hasten to our distressed Brother’s assistance was a Mr A. E. BALAAM, who has known him for many years. Between these two there grew up a remarkable friendship, which lasted until the closing days of our Secretary’s life.

In 1942 Mr. BALAAM was initiated into our Lodge and the young Mason was thus able to keep a fraternal eye on his elderly Brother while Bro. FRANK NORTH, his son, was serving his Country in India, Bro. BALAAM acted as a guide, philosopher and friend, reminiscent of the manner in which Bros. PHILLIPS and NASH, many years earlier, used to constitute themselves the guide to the former Secretary, W.Bro. DEWSNAP, on his journeys between Holborn and his home in Forest Hill.

Bro. NORTH emerged from the burning debris of his house in a dazed condition and made his faltering way to a nearby air raid shelter where friends provided him with clothing. He had suffered a severe mental and physical shock and had lost all his worldly possessions; but he still retained his indomitable pride and this brave old chap faced the future with equanimity, living for seven years to continue serving the Lodge as Secretary and to enjoy those Masonic associations, which meant so much to him.

II 1888

“O peaceful England –
Sleep on a little while
And, in thy slumber, smile”
BASIL HOOD – “Merrie England”

A PERIOD of sixty-two years is not, in human understanding, a very wide span of time; yet it is wide enough for much to happen to the character of a locality.

Peckham is a very different place now, being chiefly characterised by old, over-crowded houses, busy streets reverberating the hurly-burly of trade and commerce, clanging trams and huge motor buses careering down the narrow streets, and accommodating cinemas, cafes, retail shops and light industries. An atmosphere of drabness pervades all And this has been greatly enhanced by the devastating aerial bombing to which it was subjected in the Second World War.

But it was not always so for, by the year 1888, London has hardly begun to spread its tentacles to embrace parts of Kent and Surrey in the South, and Peckham was a highly respectable residential suburb near the heart of the Great Metropolis, yet still on the fringe of the country. One could walk towards Honor Oak, Brockley, Forest Hill and the old-world village of Dulwich and, in a short while, leave all but isolated groups of houses behind. The railway from London to the South Coast passed through the populated spots but, beyond, were the wide open spaces.

Thirty years earlier Peckham was, in fact, decidedly rural in aspect and the High Street, lined with quaint old houses, had every appearance of a country village. Nearby was “The Rye” (first mentioned in documents of the thirteenth century – the word probably deriving from “rhe” or “ree” the Saxon for water-course and, by extension, “land liable to flood”). This

fine open space of about fifty-five acres in extent has been common land from time immemorial, though suffering many encroachments through the ages. Perhaps, by now, through the operation of Town Planning legislation, it has reached its irreducible minimum and is safeguarded for ever from the predatory raids of the builder.

In the year 1850, THOMAS TILLING removed from Walworth (where he has started business five years earlier with one horse) to Peckham when he purchased his first omnibus which he called “The Times” and began to develop a great passenger transport business. In 1880 his now historically famous “Knifeboard” omnibus was running along Rye Lane and road passenger communication with the City and the West End was firmly established – soon to become a commonplace feature. Before that time people walked to work simply because people who worked in London lived in London.

All was well with the world. QUEEN VICTORIA occupied the throne with still thirteen years of her long and glorious reign before her. Tranquility also reigned supreme among the British aristocracy and the stolid business world; yet, although the Empire prospered there was, alas, an extremity of dire poverty among certain classes, albeit a pound earned in those days was probably worth four or five times its present-day value.

There were wars and rumours of wars but, for all their seriousness, little more in the light of current understanding than extended military campaigns which created some occasional

excitement in the daily press and resulted in more grievous casualties and suffering from the effects of Nature than the machinations of the enemy. But wars of the magnitude and terror of the Twentieth Century were, as yet, beyond comprehension except in the imagination of those few dreamers who foretold, with amazing clarity of vision, the shape of things to come.

What were the topics of public interest of the day?

Income Tax was sevenpence in the Pound.

A coal strike was threatening.

There was a universal shortage of water.

Staid ladies were playing lawn Tennis in absurdly tight-fitting, long dresses and straw boater hats.

A Conservative Government was in Power with the MARQUESS OF SALISBURY as Prime Minister.

Free elementary education was in contemplation.

There was unrest in Ireland.

Some of these problems seem to strike a familiar chord even after sixty years.

Peckham Public Hall, in which the RYE Lodge

was consecrated, was situated at No. 164, Rye Lane near "The Heaton Arms" (probably named after the peculiar church-like building known as "Heaton's Folly" which stood nearby) and was built in the early 1880's by WILLIAM LEONARD DOWTON an Oil and Colourman who was initiated into the Lodge in 1897 and became Mayor of Camberwell in 1912. The Hall was intended for political meetings and general assemblies, concerts and lectures; in effect, a kind of civic centre. It no longer stands and its site is occupied by the Annexe to the Tower Cinema.

Maybe our Founders as youths played their games on the Rye – for they were all local men – and when they grew to manhood and embraced the Craft, determined that their own immediate neighbourhood should have its own Masonic Lodge. Here were Assembly Rooms with catering facilities just built near their homes. What more convenient meeting place what more appropriate name for their Lodge than "RYE"? Brethren were keen for a new Lodge, for fifty-two members of the Craft had supported the Petition. Thus, in this prim and proper atmosphere of Victorian England, in the year of Grace one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, The RYE Lodge was conceived, the like of which we of this age may never see again.

III CONSECRATION

"Consecration is going out into the world where God Almighty is, and using every power for His glory."

WARD BEECHER

IN URGING the Petition and expressing the desire that the new Lodge should meet at the Peckham Public Hall, the following arguments (set out in W.Bro. DEWSNAP'S handwriting) were used:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) The convenience of the respective dwellings of our Brethren (The Surrey Masonic Hall in the Camberwell New Road, but a mile or so away, was not considered to be within the locality and suitable for the purpose).</p> <p>(b) Peckham has been made a Parliamentary Division of the Borough of Camberwell and elects a member to serve in Parliament.</p> <p>© The area of Peckham exceeds 1910 acres and has a population of upwards of 143,500.</p> | <p>(d) Great objections are made by many members of the Craft, and a considerable number of gentleman desirous of joining the Craft, to the holding of Lodges at Taverns. (Note: These misgivings were shortly to be allayed).</p> <p>(e) The rooms which would be capable of being used at the Public Hall are on the top of the building entirely isolated from the portion used for entertainment by a separate and independent staircase. (Note: Was this the winding staircase referred to by W.Bro SLADE up which the stewards had to climb with the wine and viduals?).</p> <p>(f) As a memento of the Silver Wedding of our most Worshipful the Grand</p> |
|---|---|

Master. (Note: The Prince of Wales, later KING EDWARDS VII and his wife, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA of loving memory.)

These convincing arguments evidently persuaded Grand Lodge to issue a Warrant, which was granted on 10th July, A.D. 1888, in the year of Masonic Light, 5888. The Warrant cost fifteen guineas, plus a similar sum paid in dues by the Petitioners, and the number 2272 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England was allotted.

The Consecration was duly carried out at the Public Hall on 22nd October, 1888, at the conclusion of which the Installation took place and the following brethren were appointed to their respective offices:

Worshipful Master-J. W. Dewsnap
Senior Warden-W. Cock
Junior Warden-F. Dunn
Treasurer-G. S. Mansell
Secretary-T. G. Collier

Senior Deacon-G. P. Nightingale
Junior Deacon-P. G. Philps
Inner Guard-W. Castledine
Director of Ceremonies-T. Cray
Steward-S. C. Greenfield
Steward-W. T. Warner
Organist-E. Pettit
Tyler-T. Bowler

The following were the Consecrating Officers:

V.W.Bro. Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D.,
Grand Secretary
S. W.-V.W.Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.,
Grand Registrar
J.W.-W.Bro. Dr. Turtle Pigott,
P.A.G.D.C.
Chaplain-V.W.Bro. Rev. G. W. Weldon,
P.G.Ch.
D.C.-W.Bro. Frank Richardson,
P.G.D.
I.G.-W.Bro. Mostyn T. Pigott,
P.G.O. (Oxon).

The founders were:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Profession</i>
William Castledine	1329	
Williams Cock (P.M.)	1597, 2024	Medical Practitioner
Thomas G. Collier	101	Gentleman
Thomas Cray	1441	Solicitor
John William Dewsnap (P.M.) ..	188, 1839	Agent for Leather Goods
Frederick Dunn (P.M.)	72	
S. C. Greenfield		
*William Jeffery		
Lemuel F. Littell (P.M.)	800	
George S. Mansell (P.M.)	1329	
George P. Nightingale (P.M.) ...	193	Leather Factor
Edward Pettit		
P. G. Philps (P.M.)	1297	Surgeon
F. Templeman		
W. T. Warner		Bank Manager

*See reference under "The Warrant".

Full reports of the proceedings at the Consecration and the banquet, which followed, will be found in *The Freemasons* and the *Freemasons Chronicle* for October, 1888, copies of which are available in the Library at Grand Lodge. They do not differ very much from what is usually recorded at such events.

Colonel Shadwell Clerke in his opening address said that it happened that in that part (of London) there was a considerable area which was not occupied by a Masonic Lodge and a large number of brethren in the district had been anxious, for some time past, to have

a Lodge meeting in their midst. He made a reference to "some fifty founders" but, so far as records take us, there were only fifteen and he was probably thinking of the 50 or more brethren who signed the Petition. In proposing the toast of the Master at the banquet he said that, though young in masonic years (he had been a mason only for twelve or thirteen years), W.Bro. DEWSNAP was a very experienced Craftsman for this, The RYE, was the third Master's chair he had filled. Indeed, he said, "the bloom *is* on the rye" (this had reference to a popular Victorian song). The Grand Secretary was not to know that in five

years' time Bro. DEWSNAP was to be a Master yet again and to occupy his fifth chair in 1913.

In addition to the six Consecrating Officers and twelve Founders, there were also present 32 visitors (several of whom subsequently joined the Lodge) making some sixty in all with the Press and musicians.

IV PARENTAGE

“Here is a fix unprecedented”

W. S. GILBERT

SATIRICAL DOUBT is often cast upon the ability of a father to recognise his own son, but seldom is the same misgivings entertained in the mind of a mother in respect of her own daughter; nevertheless, doubt still seems to exist in the minds of several of our older members as to which Lodge is the Mother of RYE.

The writer has inspected a document at Grand Lodge which states that on the 15th June, 1888, The BEADON Lodge, No. 619, meeting at the Greyhound, Dulwich, London, S.E., petitioned Grand Lodge for the formation of a new Lodge to be known as “The RYE Lodge” to meet at the Peckham Public Hall, S.E. There were 52 signatures to the Petition, five of whom subsequently withdrew. This document has caused much surprise, since it has always been assumed that the SELWYN Lodge, No. 1901, were our progenitors.

An enquiry of the Secretary of the BEADON Lodge brought the following reply:-

“I have in my possession the old Minute books but there is no record of the Petition to which you refer; in “I do not think there can be any doubt but that the SELWYN Lodge sponsored the RYE. Bro. DEWSNAP, who was our first Master, so often referred to the fact and he was so keen on keeping up the custom of the two Master visiting one another's Lodges. This has been going on annually since the formation of RYE and the visiting Masters always referred to it. I well remember visiting SELWYN when I was in the Chair as the representative of the RYE at their Installation Meeting in 1915. This pleasant custom was dropped – maybe through forgetfulness on the part of the Secretaries.”

fact, for some years prior to 1888 there is no mention of any members being interested in RYE Lodge, neither can I find any member of the RYE Lodge who joined the BEADON.”

The Secretary of the SELWYN Lodge replied to a similar enquiry:-

“Unfortunately, the Minute Book for 1888 was stolen from a cab outside the East Dulwich Hotel in 1890, so I cannot help you.

Nevertheless, he goes on to mentioned several members of our own Lodge who were regular visitors to SELWYN in 1891 and 1892, which points to there having been a close fraternal, if not a family link between SELWYN and RYE in the years immediately following our Consecration.

The information so far obtained was then put to one of our oldest members who was initiated in the year 1904, but his reply tends only to deepen the mystery:-

In view of the doubts thus expressed and in deference to the long-recognised monumental memory of the Brother in question (whose recollections are confirmed by our oldest member, W.Bro. SLADE) Grand Lodge was formally asked to endorse the result of the writer's researches at Great Queen Street and the Grand Secretary replied as follows:-

- (a) Sponsored by BEADON Lodge, No. 619,
- (b) There were 52 Petitioners, one of whom was a member of the BEADON Lodge and three of the SELWYN Lodge, No. 1901.

© various Lodges are represented by the Petitioners; there being not more than three or four Petitioners common to any one Lodge.”

W. Bro. SID TAYLOR did, in fact, attend the Installation of SELWYN in April 1915, but, although he responded to the Toast of the Visitors, his speech is not on record. However, twelve years earlier (on 16th April, 1903) our then Master (G. J. NORTH) was present at the SELWYN Installation when, according to *The Freemason* (25th April, 1903, page 261) he said : “It gives me the greatest possible pleasure to be present because of the reciprocity of feeling which exists between *the sister Lodges*, RYE and SELWYN, and I hope these sentiments will long remain.” Were we “sisters! Territorially (both being south-east London Lodges) or did we spring from the same stock?

This provided another source of enquiry and it since appears that SELWYN was sponsored by The ROYAL LEOPOLD LODGE, No. 1669. The possibility of SELWYN and RYE being “sisters” therefore no longer exists and we must be content in the knowledge that we are merely “neighbours and near bred.”

Here then, is a mystery or, rather, a Gilbertian situation. It seems that for many years the SELWYN Lodge has been innocently blamed for our conception although, no doubt, they would be proud to

know that they have acted *in loco parentis* to so worthy an offspring. Yet it is odd that the BEADON Lodge were prepared to back a petition which contained the name of only one of their members and, furthermore, that that one member does not appear to have taken an active part in the formation of the Lodge neither was he, nor any other members of BEADON, present at our Consecration.

By the year 1888 Gilbert and Sullivan has reached the zenith of their fame; indeed, nineteen days before we were consecrated “The Yeoman of the Guard” was launched on its career at the Savoy Theatre. Gilbert, who based two of his operas on the “cradle farce” that is, the mixing of children at birth, could have found a plot for yet another work in the predicament of the RYE Lodge. In view of the fact that at least thirteen Lodges were, through their respective members, indirectly connected with our coming into existence perhaps, between them, they did not think that “it would be hardly delicate to toss up” and our parenthood may therefore have been decided quite by chance – the honour thus descending upon the distinguished BEADON Lodge.

The mystery must now be left for some more skilled or zealous brother to unravel, or until time or circumstance offers a solution, Wits may retort that we bear a remarkable resemblance to the mule, inasmuch as we neither enjoy pride of ancestry nor entertain hope of posterity for, in our sixty-one years of existence, we have not as yet sponsored another Lodge.

V THE WARRANT

“It is open for your inspection at this or any subsequent meetings of the Lodge”

IT IS LAID down in the By-laws of the Lodge and elsewhere that those By-laws shall be read at last once during the Master’s year of Office. But how often do we hear of the Warrant being read to the assembled brethren at any time after the Consecration ceremony? Certainly, never in the RYE Lodge. It may therefore be assumed that very few brethren – other than those who have passed the Chair – have ever perused our Warrant. This omission can now be repaired to some extent because a copy is produced below.

In reading it the keen, observant eye will detect an error inasmuch as Bro. COCK is described in the Preamble as WILLIAMS COCK, but in the Text as WILLIAM COCK.

The letter “s” in the first citation seems to have been inserted in different ink from that employed originally – maybe at a later date – but the “forger” only half completed his job. To avoid all doubt as to the correctness of this Brother’s name it has been ascertained from several sources that his Christian name was “WILLIAMS”.

Another error in the Warrant centres round the name of Bro. W. JEFFERY. It seems that he withdrew before the ceremony of Consecration and thus cannot strictly be regarded as a Founder. No doubt the Warrant had already been inscribed before his resignation was received.

The parchment is in an excellent condition and free from endorsement of any kind. Fortunately it escaped the conflagration, which robbed us of all our other records.

ALBERT EDWARD, G.G.

To all and every our Right Worshipful

Worshipful and Loving Brethren

WE

Albert Edward Prince of Wales

Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

etc., etc., etc., etc.

Grand Master

of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity

of Free and Accepted Masons of England

SEND GREETING

Know Ye – That we by the authority and under the sanction of the United Grand Lodge of England vested in us for that purpose and at the humble Petition of our Right Trust and Well Beloved Brethren John William Dewsnap, Williams Cock, Frederick Dunn, William Castledine, Thomas Cray, William Jeffery, George Prime Nightingale, Lemuel Frederic Littell, *P. G. Pursuivant*, and others DO HEREBY CONSTITUTE the said Brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the Title or Denomination of

No. 2272 THE RYE LODGE

The said Lodge to meet at the Peckham Public Hall, Rye Lane, Peckham in the London District on the first Saturday in October, November, December, February, March and April empowering them in the said Lodge when duly congregated to make pass and raise Free Masons according to the Ancient Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations throughout the known World – And further at their said Petition and of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the above named Brethren WE DO APPOINT the said John William Dewsnap to be the first MASTER, the said William Cock to be the first SENIOR WARDEN, and the said Frederick Dunn to be the first JUNIOR WARDEN, for opening and holding the said Lodge and until such time as

another Master shall be regularly elected and installed strictly charging that every Member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge and who must previously have duly served as Warden in a Warranted Lodge shall be installed in Ancient Form and according to the Laws of the Grand Lodge that he may thereby be fully invested with the dignities and powers of his Office. And we do require you the said John William Dewsnap to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that you and they and all other the Members of the said Lodge do observe perform and keep the BOOK OF CONSTITUTION and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or transmitted by us or our Successors Grand Masters or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being. And we do enjoin you to make such By-laws for the government of your Lodge as shall to the majority of the Members appear proper and necessary the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the General Laws and Regulations of the Craft a copy whereof you are to transmit to us. And we do require you to cause all such By-laws and Regulations and also an account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a Book to be kept for that purpose. And you are in nowise to omit to send to us or our Successors Grand Masters or to our Deputy Grand Master for the time being at least once in every year a List of the Members of your Lodge and the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon. It being our will and intention that this OUR WARRANT OF CONSTITUTION shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of our Grand Lodge. And you the said John William Dewsnap are further required as soon as conveniently may be to send us an account in writing of what shall be done by virtue of these Presents.

GIVEN under our HANDS and the SEAL of the

GRAND LODGE at LONDON this 10th July
A.L.5888. A.D.1888

By command of His Royal Highness the M.W.
Grand Master,

SHADWELL H. CLERKE, G.S. LATHAM,
D.G.M.

VI MEMBERSHIP

"There was Rundle, Station Master,
 An' Beazeley of the Rail,
 An' Ackman, Commissariat
 An' Donkin o' the Jail;
 An' Blake, conductor-Sargent
 Our Master twice was 'e,
 With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,
 Old Framjee Eduljee,"
 Outside ... "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
 Inside ... "Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
 We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square
 An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother Lodge out there!

RUDYARD KIPLING.

(Barrack Room Ballads – "The Mother Lodge.")

AS AN APPENDIX to this Record will be found a list, alphabetically arranged, of all past and present members of the Lodge from Consecration until 9th January, 1950, shewing their dates of joining or initiation and indicating those who are still members. Each initiate is numbered in the chronological order of his initiation. From this list it will be deduced that:-

- (a) 346 members in all have comprised the Lodge;
- (b) Of these 346 members, 42 have joined from other Lodges,
- (c) 290 were Initiates, and
- (d) 14 were Founders.

The following indicates the effective strength of the Lodge at various times in its history:-

1888	.....	14
1892	.....	40
1900	.....	46
1910	.....	55
1920	.....	93
1930	.....	96
1940	.....	96
1949	.....	87

Of the last recorded membership of 87, eighteen were non-dining (or Country) Members.

The huge jump from 55 in 1910 to 93 in 1920 reflected the influx into Freemasonry (common to most Lodges) which immediately followed the war of 1914-1918; a growth of popularity for the Craft which has since been maintained so far as our Lodge is concerned. The position might be watched for the time

may come when The RYE may think it appropriate to petition Grand Lodge for the honour of sponsoring an offspring, for it is the considered opinion of many experienced Freemasons of high rank that a Lodge should not, ordinarily, exceed seventy dining members because, above that number, the organisation tends to become unwieldy, brethren cease to know one another intimately; progress to the Chair is very slow and coteries inevitably form.

No attempt seems ever to have been made to restrict the size of the Lodge and the number of new members admitted must, perforce, be regulated by the Standing Committee and the rate at which the Master for the time being feels disposed to initiate candidates. An ideal which would give full force to the solemnity of the ceremonies would, of course, be one degree for one candidate at a Meeting but, with four working meetings per year, this would permit of only five initiates in every four years and, on that basis, the wastage would rapidly exceed the intake and self-dissolution would result.

In contrast to this impossible ideal it is interesting to record the following "mass production" of Freemasons in our Lodge. At the first regular meeting on 11th December, 1888, three candidates were initiated. This performance was repeated on seven subsequent occasions, the most recent being in the year 1917. This excessive number was, however, surpassed on three occasions in each of the years 1891, 1904 and 1905 when four candidates were initiated at a meeting.

The greatest influx occurred in the three post-war years referred to above, namely 1918/1919, 1919/1920 and 1920/1921 when there were, respectively, 13, 16 and 13

Initiates. One can only hope that this acceleration in the accretion to the strength of the Lodge will not be repeated.

In December 1921, the Lodge had reached a state of congestion. Seven candidates were awaiting their Third Degree and two their Second. An Emergency meeting was held at which a Dispensation was obtained for four candidates to be Raised.

The opposite swing of the pendulum was recorded in the years 1909/1910, 1936/1937 and 1939/1940 when the respective Masters were so unfortunate as not to have any Initiates.

The oldest recorded Initiate was the late EDWIN JOHN DYNE, a gentle soul, aged 60, who entered in the company of his son EDGAR (aged 25) on 14th April, 1930. EDGAR was a fine musician whose business, unfortunately for the Lodge, took him to Devon where he joined another Lodge of which he is now a Past Master.

The list in the Appendix does not indicate the cause through which the past members of the Lodge terminated their connection. Alas, both by the march of time and prematurely, a large number have passed to the Grand Lodge Above while many, for various reasons, has resigned and others have just left – more or less without notice. This is a matter for great regret for no secretary of any Lodge can be prouder than he who is in the happy position of being able to report at the end of each year: “No arrears of contributions.”

We have never been a “closed” concern; that is to say a Lodge which restricts its

membership to some defined group of the population. On the contrary, we have been quite catholic in the choice of our candidates for many professions, trades and callings are represented by our members, thus ensuring a wide cross-section of the community. We have had, for example, in our ranks surgeons, physicians, dental surgeons, solicitors, musicians, entertainers, engineers, salesmen, students, shopkeepers, naval, military and flying men, school teachers, bankers, cinematographers, actors, company directors, municipal employees, theatrical agents, secretaries, licensees and builders as well as one who adopted the Victorian style of “gentleman.” Oddly enough, there has only been one Clerk in Holy Orders and he, happily, is still with us as our popular and gifted Chaplain. In 1889 Bro. J. (later Sir JOHN) BLUNDELL MAPLE, Member of Parliament, was elected as a joining member.

In December, 1891, two Indians were initiated – PARTAP SINGH (a student) and PURAM GHAND (a merchant). They both came from Amritsar in the Punjaub (place of unhappy memory) and were, presumably, Sikhs. One can only imagine the manner of their O. They were passed to the Second Degree by another Lodge (CONFIDENCE, 193) in the following month but, for some unknown reason, resigned from RYE a few weeks later; their membership lasting for only three months.

Our records do not show the age of Initiates until the year 1909; it is therefore difficult to say whether any Lewises have been admitted under the age of twenty-one but the youngest known candidate was W. E. DUNNETT whose career is outlined elsewhere in this book.

VII THE FIVE GREAT PILLARS

“If the king is in the palace, nobody looks at the walls. It is when he is gone – that we turn – to find relief in the majestic men that are suggested by the pictures and the Architecture.

EMMERSON

AS NO STATELY and superb edifice can resist the destroying hand of time unless its foundations are secure and its superstructure impenetrable, so no Masonic Lodge can continue successfully through the years unless it is launched in the right atmosphere and there arise among its members from time to time, strong energetic men to bear the heat and burden of the day and carry the torch by night.

The RYE Lodge, in its sixty-one years’ experience has been fortunate in having been able to produce, at the right moment, a commanding character to guide it through its difficulties and point the way of the future to the younger men.

A Masonic pillar allegorically derives its greatness from its wisdom, strength and beauty. Distinctions among men are often

invidious; yet it is impossible within the limits of a record such as this, to extol to the full the virtues of each individual brother who, during his term of office or simple membership of the Lodge, has displayed wisdom and strength, albeit in a marked degree. The field can only be narrowed by applying the third prerequisite to greatness, namely, beauty: and for our purpose “beauty” must be interpreted as “adornment”. The greatest adornment which can grace a Freemason is the honour of Grand Rank; therefore, in selecting our Great Pillars of the Lodge our choice is confined to Five within recent memory and they are Brother DEWSNAP, NORTH, SLADE, BAKER and TAYLOR whose careers are detailed below.

Each figure as a distinctive personality in himself. DEWSNAP, a courtly Victorian gentleman who loved his Lodge as he did his Church. NORTH, for many years a retired official of an Insurance Company, most happy perhaps when singing with the old South London Music Club. Maybe, a little dour at times but always determined and imperturbable in the face of misfortune. SLADE, a retired schoolmaster and the oldest member (both by age and membership) of the Lodge; beloved by all for his selflessness; admired for his simple faith and envied for his ability at the age of 88 to take an efficient part in any Masonic ceremony. Fourthly, BAKER, a generous hearted, resolute man who has done so much for the Charities and sets such high Masonic ideals; ever ready to give practical help and advice on difficult matters of procedure and one who, in his influential business, is known as a man of integrity and enjoys the high regard of all his associates. Lastly, TAYLOR, genial by nature, indefatigable in his work, the possessor of a monumental memory and one who has schooled more candidates for the Master’s Chair than any other member of the Lodge.

These five Brethren are the personalities which make the history of our Lodge. Of the three who are still alive may they be spared to continue with us for many years to come for the Lodge will be poorer without them.

Captain JOHN WILLIAM DEWSNAP, V.D.

Born 1848. Died 9th December, 1928

The Craft

JOPPA LODGE, No. 188 – Initiated, 1875; Master, 1886.

DUKE OF CORNWALL LODGE, No. 1839 – Founder, 1879; Master, 1884; Secretary, 1886 to 1928.

RYE LODGE, No. 2272 – Founder, 1888; First Master; Secretary, 1889 to 1928; Master again in 1913.

AETOS LODGE, No. 3702 – Founder, 1914; Secretary, 1914 to 1928.

CHOUGH LODGE, No. 2264 – Founder, 1888; Master, 1893; Secretary.

EARL OF CHESTER LODGE, No. 5013 – Founder, 1928.

Appointed Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer in 1916 and was one of the first recipients of London Rank. He had the distinction of being installed in the Master’s Chair by three Grand Secretaries of England, namely, W. Bros. SHADWELL CLERKE, SIR EDWARD LETCHWORTH and SIR P. COLVILLE SMITH. In all, he occupied the Chair of King Solomon for the period of five Masterships and, at the time of his death, was Secretary of four Lodges. An earlier writer stated that he served in the capacity of Secretary and Scribe E. for an aggregate of 135 years. Surely, a record in the whole of Freemasonry.

Royal Arch

JOPPA CHAPTER, No. 188 – Exalted, 1887; M.E.Z., 1893 and 1894.

DUKE OF CORNWALL CHAPTER, No. 1839 – M.E.Z., 1886, 1891 and 1895; Scribe E., 1912-1928.

RYE CHAPTER, No. 2272 – Founder, 1893; First M.E.Z. and in 1896

He was thus Z on seven occasions. Appointed Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in 1916.

* * *

FRANCIS WILLIAM BAKER – Born 1879

The Craft

RYE LODGE, No. 2272 – initiated, 1911; Master, 1922; Asst. Director of Ceremonies; Director of Ceremonies; Preceptor of Lodge of Instruction for 3 years.

ANIMA LODGE, No. 3634 – Founder, 1912; Master, 1923 Past Grand Standard Bearer. Member of the Lodge ANIMA, No. 1223 (Scottish Constitution) since 1924.

Royal Arch

RYE CHAPTER, No. 2272 – Exalted, 1922; M.E.Z., 1930 Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

HARDMAN JAMES SLADE – Born 1862

The Craft

RYE LODGE, No. 2272 – Initiated, 13th March 1895; Master, 1903; London Rank, 1918; Steward, 1913-1945 (32 years); Almoner, 1935 to date (14 years).

Assistant Grand Standard Bearer, 1934; Past Asst. Grand Director of Ceremonies, 1942; President of the London Rank Association, 1931.

Royal Arch

RYE CHAPTER, No. 2272 – Exalted, 1903; M.E.Z., 1907 and 1912; Treasurer, 1912 to date.

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, 1934; Past Grand Standard Bearer, 1942.

* * *

GEORGE JOHN NORTH

Born 28th April, 1861. Died 23rd February, 1947

The Craft

RYE LODGE, No. 2272 – Initiated, 1892; Master 1902; Asst. Secretary, 1926/1927; Secretary, 1929-1947.

London Grand Rank, 1916; Past Grand Standard Bearer, 1935.

Royal Arch

RYE CHAPTER, No. 2272 – M.E.Z., 1906; Scribe E. for many years.

* * *

SIDNEY EGBERT TAYLOR – Born 1878

The Craft

RYE LODGE, No. 2272 – Initiated, 1904; Master, 1914; Director of Ceremonies, 1920-1945 (25 years); Asst. Director of Ceremonies, 1946-1947 (2 years); Preceptor, Lodge of Instruction (17 years).

Past Grand Standard Bearer, 1949. He installed four Masters of the Lodge.

Royal Arch

CRUSADERS CHAPTER, No. 1677 – Exalted, 1921; M.E.Z., 1927.

RYE CHAPTER, No. 2272 – joined, 1932; M.E.Z., 1948 and 1949.

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, 1949.

VIII

AFTER LABOUR . . . REFRESHMENT

“Tonight we hold an accustomed feast,
Whereunto we have invited many a guest
Such as we love.”

- *Romeo and Juliet*

We have always been a Dining Lodge with an inclusive annual subscription and have, almost invariably, adjourned to refreshment after labour; an exception, however, being the Installation Meeting of 1946 when a strike of hotel waiters made dining impossible.

In the Victorian and Edwardian days banqueting was a solemn ritual and, when occasion demanded, dining was practised as a fine art. In the present days of austerity and strict food rationing the following menu of W. Bro T. M. Wright’s Installation at the Peckham Public Hall on 21st October 1896, reads almost like a page from a fairy tale.

OYSTERS

SOUPS

Thick Ox Tail. Clear Spring

FISH

Boiled Turbot and Lobster Sauce
Fried Smelts

ENTREES

Braised Sweetbreads. Oyster Patties

JOINTS

Roast Beef and Horse Radish
Roast Saddle of Mutton and Red Currant Jelly

POULTRY

Capon. Stewed Pigeons
Ox Tongue. Mushrooms

GAME

Roast Pheasants and Chips
Vegetables in Season

SWEETS

Cabinet Pudding. Wine Jellies
Blanc Mange. Ice Pudding
Cheese : Celery
Dessert. Coffee

And this was all possible on an annual subscription of three guineas, which covered six meetings. No mentioned is made of wines but W. Bro SLADE, who was initiated a year earlier, often avers that Champagne was served at every Installation Meeting Banquet in those days of peace and plenty.

There has also been preserved the menu of the October, 1914 meeting when, though at war, the Lodge was able to provide a banquet comprising eight substantial courses – no less, in fact, than in 1896.

By way of contrast, consider a Menu produced after a meeting held at the conclusion of the 1939-1945 War:-

Tomato Soup
Sausage and sauté potatoes
Ice cream and wafer
Black Coffee
Beer

(The absence of bread, sugar, butter, milk, wines and spirits will be particularly noted.)

This menu was varied at succeeding meetings by the introduction, by means of substitution, of roast pigeon, rabbit pie and meat roll as the main dish. Yet, through the ages, food and wine have always been prominent features of Masonic Meetings. They do create an atmosphere of good fraternal feeling and make glad the heart of men, at the same time enabling one brother to show hospitality to another in fair measure. May they always be associated with our gatherings.

With good food and good wine are linked good music, and the Lodge has never been found wanting in this respect. Several experienced musicians vocalists and entertainers have been numbered amongst us. The first on record was Bro. ARTHUR SWINFORD SMITH, one time out organist and a composer and singer of note. Later we recall the joyous rotundity of W. Bro “BILLY” MANATON at the piano – a capable organist who carefully selected our professional artistes and accompanied them. Indeed, “BILLY” himself had for long been a professional artiste “after school hours” and was well known in the concert world. Amongst our voluntary vocalists have been Bros. STEVENTON, PITT and REYNOLDS while two present-day famous entertainers have been of the Lodge, namely, Bros. RONALD FRANKAU and NAUNTON WAYNE, the latter still being a subscribing member. When their professional duties permitted they attended Lodge and gave generously of their talent. We also have with us Bro. AL COLLINS a well-known violinist who used to broadcast with the Savoy Orpheans in the earliest days of the British Broadcasting Company. Mention must also be made of two accomplished conjurers, W. Bro. STANLEY COLLINS and Bro. EDWIN MILBURN as well as Bro. BENNET SCOTT, the composer of several famous war songs in 1914-1918.

Installation night has always been a special musical event, but it is doubtful if the record set by the Master of 1931-1932 has ever been eclipsed for, on that occasion, no less than eleven professional artistes voluntarily gave their services and entertained the brethren and their guests after dinner. If memory serves, due honour was done to all recognised toasts and the meeting broke up well before midnight; indeed an achievement in those times of late dining. Now a day, people are

expected to be clear of restaurants as soon after nine o'clock as possible.

One of the most difficult social accomplishments to acquire is the art of brilliant after-dinner speaking. Indeed, it is open to question whether the art really can be acquired – it is rather a talent which one inherits at birth, remaining dormant until middle age when it blossoms forth to the delight of all concerned. The RYE has had its share of post-prandial orators and the two brethren who readily occur to the mind in recent years are W. Bros. F. E. DUNNETT and W. E. MANATON. These two worthy Past Masters were born artists and when they rose to speak one could be assured of hilarious entertainment. One invariably followed the other, but did they “prepare” their speeches beforehand and consult one another on points of repartee or lines of attack or defence? One never knew but their cut, thrust or riposte at one another bore every resemblance of spontaneity. Many a wise Master, when he found the proceedings becoming a trifle dull, would call upon Billy and Fred to propose and respond to a Toast and if no legitimate Toast were available one was slyly invented. The perky, birdlike and often audacious humour of MANATON lightly ricocheted harmlessly of the ponderous sincerity of DUNNETT. Visiting brethren often became uneasy until it suddenly dawned upon them that here was rich humour quite devoid of all venom and spite.

However, it would not be doing justice to these fine Masons were it not recorded that, when occasion demanded and a topic required serious treatment, they could be equally successful in a solemn vein and produce the best of after-dinner speeches. The tribute paid by DUNNETT on the passing of MANATON was moving in the extreme and the dissolution of this extraordinary partnership was a loss which the Lodge has never yet replaced.

To the two former names of entertaining speakers must be added that of W. Bro H. R. GEDDES. His manner of delivery, enhanced by a deep sonorous voice, has been described as of machine gun velocity. His method is quite easy and simple to acquire. He first takes a deep breath, rattles off his speech at great speed, takes a second breath and then sits down; not, however, until he has regaled us with some clever topical verses of his own composition. It is a pity that this popular brother who first joined the Lodge in 1915, has never found it convenient to occupy the Chair

of the RYE for in him we would find a masterly Master.

Other Brethren who rank high among our speakers are W. Bro BAKER, from whom one can always expect and receive a capable and helpful speech in reply to the toast of Grand Lodge; W. Bro. SLADE, the Father of the Lodge whose affection for every member is apparent; our Chaplain, W. Bro Canon BRANSON, M.A. (a writer of several books on Theology); W. Bro. FRANK BUTCHER; W. Bro PALER who replies so capably on behalf of London Grand Rank and W. Bro. STEVENTON whose histrionic ability made him an outstanding Master as well as a convincing speaker.

No note on after-dinner speaking would be complete without a reference to the Initiate's speech – “the most important toast of the evening.” How often does one hear him say: “I understand that I am not expected to say much in reply to this Toast”? – after which he lamely thanks everybody concerned, sits down and holds his peace for many years to come. Sponsors are much to blame for this position when they advise their candidates to “Hear all, see all and say nowt”. Nothing is more enjoyable than to listen to a reasoned speech by a newcomer and, if he *can* speak, he should not be discouraged from doing so, for the quality of a newly-made brother's response is very often an indication of his future activities and usefulness in the Lodge. One of the most outstanding replies of many good speeches heard from Initiates during the last thirty years was that given by Bro. J. MURRAY-SMITH at his Initiation in 1938. Here was a man who had travelled far and wide on many hazardous ventures and his reply was obviously the revelation of one who had sought and, at long last, found truth. It augured well for what is proving to be a fine Masonic career. Equally impressive was the reply of Bro. S. A. MAYCOCK in 1931, an experienced and polished speaker of whom, unfortunately, we hear far too little at the dining table although he is a fairly regular attendant.

Ladies' Festivals have always been a homely feature of the Lodge. It appears that they were started in the year 1904. There was, naturally, a break in 1939, for people disliked venturing out o' nights and the Nation was face to face with sterner realities; but they were resumed in 1947 at the instigation of W. Bro DAY when a special tribute was paid to the wartime Masters who has not had the usual opportunity of entertaining the distaff side. For many years

the organising genius behind these happy evenings was W. Bro. SLADE ably assisted by a small, hardworking committee. The proceedings followed a set line. First, the Brethren formally met in Lodge, the Minutes of the preceding Meeting were read and the Lodge was then closed. At the foot of the Agenda appeared the injunction: - "The Brethren will join the Ladies." Then followed a reception by the Worshipful Master and his Lady; introductions among all and sundry ensued or old acquaintances were revived, aperitifs were served and the company sat down to a sumptuous meal accompanied by good wine. Delightful souvenirs were provided for the Ladies with felicitous speeches from Members of the Lodge. It was customary for the principal Lady Guest at the Master's right to receive a special personal present and to respond to the Toast of "The Ladies". Sometimes the "command" was accepted with alacrity; more often, however, with diffidence and shyness and not infrequently with feelings of apprehension; nevertheless, the speaker always did justice to her "Master". The evening continued with entertainment from vocalists, a jolly old-time dance to the accompaniment of a Ladies' Orchestra until the small hours of the following morning, terminating with Auld Lang Syne with the Master and his Partner in the centre of a joyous circle.

These Festivals leave happy recollection of sociability and good fellowship. Perhaps a dress; perhaps a song or a speech; a splendid dance with a special person; maybe a present, or a particular acquaintance, or the occasion of a Brother bringing his young daughter to her

first dinner and dance – all these have created memories that bless and will never fade.

Ladies' Festivals are not. Of course, strictly Masonic functions but who will say that they do not further the cause and ideals that we hold most dear? Moreover, they bring the Brethren into closer amity and give happiness in the knowledge that by this means we are able to make some recompense to the Ladies who, because of the very nature of Freemasonry, are precluded from representation at our more formal assemblies. Some, Lodges, for a variety of reasons, do not hold these Festivals. The loss is theirs – and the Ladies.

The financial side of these pre (1939) war Festivals may be worth recording. The tickets were 25/- each which was inclusive of wines at the Table and all subsequent musical and dancing entertainment as well as the Ladies' presents – in fact, "all in." Any fully subscribing member of the Lodge who attended the Festival did so free of charge to himself, there being a financial adjustment between the Festival Fund and the Lodge Account because the Festival was held on the night of a Regular Meeting of the Lodge. In the light of current day values W. Bro. SLADE was undoubtedly a financial genius.

It is on record that a Dispensation was granted to the Brethren to wear Masonic clothing and jewels at a dinner held at the Holborn Restaurant on 13th May, 1913, in January, 1914 and again on 14th April, 1919, when non-masons were present. These were probably the occasions of Ladies' Festivals – a pretty gesture that probably gave pleasure to the Ladies and pride to the Brethren; but the practice is no longer popular.

IX

PAST MASTERS AND OFFICERS

"Some are born great; some achieve greatness"

- Twelfth Night.

IN WRITING OF Past Masters one may ignore the time-worn clichés which describe them as "ornaments on the shelf" and "the backbone of the LODGE" (clichés which have endured from time immemorial and will doubtless continue in the repertoire of the breezy after-dinner speaker for generations to come) and state quite frankly that, so far as RYE is concerned, the Lodge could not exist

without the knowledge and assistance of its Past Masters.

In that delightful book "Now we are Six", written by MR. A. A. MILNE, for children young and old, Christopher Robin is asked where he is going. "Just to the top of the hill; upping and upping until I am right at the top" replies the stout little adventurer. But the

questioner says: There's nothing to see; so when you get to the top, what then, Christopher Robin?" And Christopher philosophically replies: "Just down to the bottom again."

And that is the fate of many a Past Master – to the top of the hill and just down to the bottom again. Yet it need not be so.

Certain offices in the Lodge go automatically to Past Master and one cannot but admire the devotion to duty and powers of endurance of those warriors who, not only in our Lodge but in many others, fill the same office year in and year out. They perform a most valuable function in their Lodge's existence and the worth of their labour and experience is inestimable; yet there are young and capable Masters leaving the Chair who are exhilarated by success and eager to continue "doing something for the Lodge" but more often than not have to sink into oblivion simply because there is not the slightest prospect of their ever obtaining another office.

As it is the hope of re-employment that sweetens retirement so should young Past Masters have the opportunity, in due course, of taking an active part in the affairs of the Lodge while they are still keen – if only to obtain the necessary qualifications for those higher honours which should, in the natural course of time, become their reward for services rendered.

Certain offices naturally fall to brethren with special qualifications as, for example, the Chaplain and Organist; while it is for the ultimate good of the Lodge that there should be continuity in the post of Secretary; other

offices might, however, rotate with more frequency without sacrificing efficiency.

Only on two occasions has the Lodge, for short periods, thought is desirable to have an Assistant Secretary, yet the post is a real essential if the burden on the Secretary (undoubtedly the hardest worked officer) is to be relieved. Not only for this purpose alone is the appointment of an Assistant desirable, but for the fact that it provides an excellent training ground for future Lodge activities. It is worthy of note that in the Lodges of South Wales the office of Assistant Secretary is one of the regular steps of accession to the Chair and is placed between the Senior Deacon and Junior Warden. Thus a brother destined to be Master obtains a valuable insight into the administration of his Lodge which stands him in good stead when his great moment arrives.

Below is printed a list of Masters of the Lodge since Consecration. It is set out in such a manner as to give aspirants an indication of the time likely to elapse between their entering the Lodge and succeeding to the Chair. Excluding those Brethren who joined the lodge in its first year the average time has been eleven years. It should be noted, however, that no brother has achieved this rapid progress since the year 1935 and a fair average might now be taken as thirteen years.

Bro. MCDOWELL who reached the Chair at the age of 32, after eight years' membership of the Lodge, has been our youngest Master, but three others attained the Chair after only six years' membership. Twenty-three of our Past Masters are still members, nineteen of whom take an active part in the life of the Lodge.

Past Masters of the Lodge

Name	Year of entry into the Lodge	Year of Office	Age on taking the Chair	Time taken (in years) to reach the Chair
J. W. Dewsnap, P.A.G.Sw.B.L.R.	1888	1888	40	First Master
F. Dunn, L.R.	1888	1889	-	1
W. Cock, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.D. (Mdx.)	1888	1890	-	2
G. P. Nightingale	1888	1891	-	3
F. G. Philips	1888	1892	-	4
W. Castledine, P.A.G.D.C., L.R.	1888	1893	-	5
W. T. Warner	1888	1894	-	6
W. R. Dunn, L.R.	1888	1895	-	7
T. M. Wright	1888	1896	-	8
H. E. Reed	1889	1897	-	8
A. S. F. Smith, P.P.G.Org. (Mdx.)	1890	1898	-	8
J. A. Fletcher	1890	1899	-	9
G. E. May, L.R.	1891	1900	-	9

Name	Year of entry into the Lodge	Year of Office	Age on taking the Chair	Time taken (in years) to reach the Chair
E. Lawrence	1892	1901	-	9
G. J. North, P.G.St.B., L.G.R.	1892	1902	-	10
*H. J. Slade, P.A.G.D.C., L.G.R.	1895	1903	41	8
W. H. Walker	1897	1904	-	7
J.C. Lake, L.G.R.	1891	1905	-	14
H. J. Taylor, L.R.	1899	1906	-	7
H. A. V. Burt	1900	1907	-	7
G. E. Harris	1900	1908	-	8
H. E. A. Franks	1903	1909	42	6
*J. B. McDowell, <i>M.C. B.E.M.</i> , L.G.R.	1902	1910	32	8
F. G. Fletcher		1911	-	-
W. Argent	1903	1912		9
J. W. Dewsnap, P.A.G.Sw.B., L.R.	1888	1913		Second occasion
*S. E. Taylor, P.G.Std.B., L.G.R.	1904	1914	36	10
J. W. Jamieson	1904	1915	47	11
A. R. Hakoumoff	1906	1916		10
W. E. Manaton L.R.	1906	1917		11
*T. G. Paler, L.G.R.	1907	1918		11
A. E. Drury	1909	1919	38	10
B. Hooper	1914	1920	34	6
J. C. Scott	1915	1921	38	6
*F. W. Baker, P.G.St.B., L.G.R.	1911	1922	43	11
F. E. Dunnett, L.R.	1915	1923	57	8
S. M. Collins	1915	1924	42	9
*W. E. C. Harding	1915	1925	47	10
A. J. Nash	1916	1926	51	10
J. G. Farquhar	1916	1927	54	11
*T. P. Cooper	1918	1928	42	10
*S. G. Nash	1919	1929	43	10
*A. J. Norman, L.G.R.	1921	1930	34	9
*A. E. Buddell	1921	1931	36	10
W. A. Phillips, L.G.R.	1922	1932	62	10
*W. E. Huckle, L.G.R.	1920	1933	52	13
G. A. Smith	1923	1934	60	12
*H. J. Long	1924	1935	-	11
*G. Branson	1924	1936	53	12
J. G. Skittrell	1924	1937	55	13
F. E. North, <i>O.B.E.</i>	1918	1938	43	20
*O. C. Goodwin	1926	1939	55	13
*A. E. Florey	1926	1940	47	14
*F. N. Butcher	1926	1941	54	15
*H. F. Plant, L.G.R.	1922	1942	52	20
*J. Steventon	1926	1943	46	17
*S. H. J. Brown	1927	1944	54	17
*A. Thuey	1932	1945	42	13
*P. L. Day	1931	1946	48	15
T. W. Tarring	1934	1947	72	13
*A. L. Button	1936	1948	50	12

* Still active or non-dining members of the Lodge.

We learn from the Book of Constitutions after 1908, that the Grand Master may, once a year, confer the designated London Grand Rank on Past Masters of London Lodges who have rendered long and meritorious service to the Craft in London. It should be noted that

the honour is conferred upon individuals and not upon a Lodge. The Constitutions do not tell us how candidates for this honour are to be chosen but it usually happens that an invitation is issued periodically to nominate a worthy

Brother and the invidious task of selection is left to the Master and Past Masters, in special committee, to perform; subject, of course, to final approval by the Grand Master himself. Methods of selection vary. Some lodges adhere strictly to seniority and, provided a Past Master has served his lodge honourably and well, he receives the honour in rotation. Other Lodges select the one who appears to the majority of the Committee to be the most deserving brother – regardless of his seniority of passing the Chair – and recommend him. The latter method certainly ensures that an outstanding brother receives early recognition but tends to relegate to oblivion those Past Masters who, through probably quite as meritorious, have had no opportunity of demonstrating their full worth. The RYE Lodge in the course of its career has practised both methods of selection.

Obviously, not every Past Master can receive the honour for life is too short. Some we know are diffident and do not seek limelight; some

Name	Year of Mastership	Year of Appointment to Rank	Time taken (in years)
†W. Castledine	1893	1908	15
†G. J. North	1902	1916	14
H. J. Slade	1903	1918	15
†J. C. Lake	1891	1920	29
†H. J. Taylor	1906	1923	17
†G. E. May	1900	1924	24
J. B. McDowell	1910	1927	17
S. G. Taylor	1904	1930	26
†W. E. Manaton	1906	1933	27
T. G. Paler	1918	1936	18
†F. E. Dunnett	1923	1938	15
†W. A. Phillips	1932	1941	9
A. J. Norman	1930	1944	14
W. E. Huckle	1933	1947	14
H. F. Plant	1942	1950	8

† Deceased

(Other members of the Lodge who hold the honour received it at the instigation of other Lodges.)

The value of a possession is often enhanced by its scarcity. W. S. GILBERT in his libretto of “The Gondoliers” exemplified this fact when he averred that, in the State of Baratania, bishops in their shovel hats were plentiful as tabby cats and dukes were two-a-penny; and finally came to the conclusion that when everyone is *somebody* then no one’s *anybody*!

One can hardly say that members of London Grand Rank in the RYE Lodge are “in point of fact too many”. They are, indeed, far too few in view of the number of deserving Brethren;

for business, health or private reasons are unable to continue regular attendance; while Others, alas, are called to Higher Service before their turn comes for worldly honours. But having once obtained this honour it is not one to be lightly borne for it imposes its own obligations. Its bestowal signifies primarily the approval of the body of Past Masters for services rendered and its acceptance implies, aye, demands – continuous duty to the Lodge. Not only in the Temple itself, but at Committee Meetings, at the dining table and in the Lodge of Instruction must these honoured Brethren ever be on duty. The younger members constantly look to their seniors for help, guidance and encouragement and, in RYE, never look in vain.

The following is a list of appointments to London Rank and its present equivalent of London Grand Rank in our Lodge :-

but their very rarity gives them a distinction above all others, well merited because of their achievements in the Lodge and outstanding service to the Craft.

Seven of the Brethren mentioned in the above list are still, happily, among us while three of them hold Grand Rank.

Of those who occupied the Chair from 1910 onwards the average time taken by them to receive the honour has been fourteen years. If, therefore, a Master is installed in his mid-

forties (or even later) he has little hope of preferment until he has reached the sere and yellow and his physical activities have, inevitably declined. Superior rank bestowed during a man's prime is a great asset to the Craft for he is then best able to further the good of the Cause. High Masonic honours do not rest gracefully on very young shoulders yet there comes a time, late in life, when a Brother, so far unrecognised for what he consciously believes to be devoted service, no longer desires honours nor is awed by them.

The most rapid London Grand Rank promotion was gained by Bro. PLANT in 1950 for he received the honour in a little over seven years from his Installation. His immediate senior in the rank occupied the Chair nine year earlier. This unusual promotion was richly merited for his success both as Treasurer of the Lodge and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction.

At the Annual Grand Festival held on 27th April, 1932 LORD AMPHILL (the Pro-Grand Master) announced (probably in reply to questions already raised) that Grand Rank was not conferred upon Lodges or even upon individuals because of their association with any particular Lodge, but in recognition of a Brother's outstanding services to the Craft in general; nevertheless, he went on to explain that the Grand Master looked to Lodges to recommend candidates for this most superior honour. The RYE Lodge lost no time and, in the same year, the name of W. Bro. GEORGE J. NORTH was put forward with a particularly strong plea. He was successful in 1935 when he was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer. Steps were also taken at about the same time to recommend W. Bro. H. J. SLADE but, as he was then President of the London Rank Association we deferred to that August body in submitting a concurrent application. This was not the end of our efforts to gain recognition for our well-beloved Brethren for, in 1946, a submission was made on behalf of W. Bro. S. E. TAYLOR who was successful in obtaining

an appointment as Past Grand Standard Bearer in the year of our Diamond Jubilee.

Secretaries of the Lodge

1888	... ..	T. G. Collier
1889	... ..	P. G. Philps
1890	... ..	J. W. Dewsnap
1913	... ..	G. J. North
1914	... ..	J. W. Dewsnap
1929	... ..	G. J. North
1947	... ..	A. J. Norman
1948	... ..	A. E. Florey

Treasurers of the Lodge

1888	... ..	G. S. Mansell
1993	... ..	F. Dunn
1913	... ..	W. Castledine
1915	... ..	J. C. Lake
1936	... ..	W. A. Phillips
1945	... ..	H. F. Plant

The Diamond Jubilee Officers, 1948-1949

W. Bro. A. L. Button	<i>W.M.</i>
W. Bro. T. W. Tarring	<i>I.P.M.</i>
Bro A. H. Loasby	<i>S.W.</i>
Bro. A. E. Balaam	<i>J.W.</i>
W. Bro. Rev. G. Branson	<i>Chaplain</i>
W. Bro. H. F. Plant	<i>Treasurer</i>
W. Bro. A. E. Florey	<i>Secretary</i>
W. Bro. F.W. Baker, P.G.St.B., L.G.R.	<i>D.C.</i>
Bro J. Murray-Smith	<i>S.D.</i>
Bro T. G. Smith	<i>J.D.</i>
W. Bro. A. Thuey	<i>Asst.D.C.</i>
W. Bro. H. J. Slade .A.G.D.C.,L.G.R.	<i>Almoner</i>
W. Bro. W. E. C. Harding	<i>Organist</i>
Bro. C. L. J. Reynolds	<i>I.G.</i>
W. Bro. A. Thuey	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. W. E. Brown	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. K. E. Roberts	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. A. E. Ellis	<i>Steward</i>
Bro J. H. Clark	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. W. Waddington	<i>Steward</i>
W. Bro. R. C. Rouse, L.G.R.	<i>Tyler</i>

X

BY-LAWS AND FINANCE

"Money comes, but does not stay;
It is round and rolls away."

THE FIRST SET of By-laws was submitted and approved soon after the Lodge was formed. Though it generally conformed to

type, it contained at least one interesting feature, viz.:-

“By-law XXII. – Any brother interrupting the Worshipful master or any other officer in the discharge of his duties, or using unbecoming language or maintaining disputes, so as to interrupt the business of the Lodge, shall be duly admonished by the Worshipful Master.”

The draftsman of this law either slavishly copied the code of an older Lodge or entertained apprehensions in his mind as to the future behaviour of the members of his new Lodge.

The by-laws were reprinted in 1903 and again in 1921. The writer remembers the irrepensible W.Bro. MANATON condemning the 1921 edition as “archaic in purpose and expression” and, himself, undertaking to revise them, - a task which he completed in the year 1930. A fourth reprint was made in 1942 (though with little amendment) and a fifth and last in 1947. This last edition embodies two important additions (passed by the Lodge a few years earlier after long and serious discussion) providing for two Master Masons to serve on the Lodge Standing Committee and also prescribing a set of Regulations for the control and administration of the Benevolent Fund arising out of the appointment of an Almoner – an office which had never before been held in the Lodge. These provisions (quite new to our Lodge) have worked most satisfactorily and, no doubt, have met a long-standing need.

In 1930, Bro. MANATON made specific provision for a General Purposes Committee. Hitherto, the only recorded committee of the Lodge was the Audit Committee; although a standing committee seems to have existed in all but name.

The 1921 By-laws may have been considered “archaic” in the Thirties but, in 1947, the same expression was also applied to the “up-to-date” edition of 1930 ! A clean sweep was therefore made (much being omitted from the earlier editions which was clearly covered by the Book of Constitutions) and an entirely new code was drafted which should last for many years to come. Brothers BAKER and PLANT, assisted by a third, were responsible for this effort.

It is interesting to note that, prior to 1947, two black balls had to be cast to disqualify a candidate, but this was subsequently reduced to one. Why, it is difficult to say for, within

memory, only one candidate has been blackballed in the Lodge. This particular act gave rise to a peculiar set of circumstances for it was customary to call a candidate for initiation on the night of his election. The possibility of blackballing apparently was not foreseen when permitting this to be done and the unfortunate gentleman had, on this occasion, to be sent home again – possibly disillusioned and at some loss to explain to his intimate circle why he was not being made a Freemason. An amendment was immediately made to the By-laws, which required that a candidate could not be initiated on the night of his election. This, alas, was not always observed to the letter. At the instigation of W.Bro. BAKER the position was further tightened by the adoption of an “understanding” of the following nature which has since appeared on all summonses but was not permitted by Grand Lodge to be inserted in the 1947 revision of the By-laws.

“Intending proposers of candidates are advised that the name of every suggested candidate for initiation or joining must first be considered by the Standing Committee who shall decide whether the Secretary shall supply a proposal form or otherwise. If such proposal form is supplied and duly returned to the Secretary, the Candidate must then be presented to the Standing Committee for consideration 24 days prior to the date upon which it is proposed to nominate the candidate in Open Lodge. Prior to the next Regular Meeting following such proposal or nomination the name, age, private and business addresses and occupation of the candidate shall appear on the Summons.”

The object of this was to regulate the flow of candidates and, secondly, to ensure that if objection to a candidate were likely to be advanced, a proposal form could be refused and a nomination in Lodge could not, in consequence follow: thus enabling a would-be mason honestly to assert that he had never before been proposed in a Lodge as a candidate for Freemasonry – a very humane provision. This “understanding” virtually removed the need to ballot for and initiate on different nights and a candidate may now submit himself to both requirements concurrently.

The following Table shows the various fees and subscriptions charged since the Lodge’s inception:

Year	No. of Meetings	Initiation fee		Annual Subscription		Joining fee		Non-dining fee		Visitors	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	Ordinary Meeting	Installation Meeting
1888	6	6	6 0	*3	3 0	+4	4 0	10	6	10	6 15 0
1892	6	8	8 0	*3	3 0	+4	4 0	10	6	10	6 15 0
1903	6	10	10 0	*3	3 0	+4	4 0	10	6	10	6 15 0
1921	6	15	15 0	#3	8 0	#5	5 0	1	16 6	According to nature of refreshment	
1922	6	21	0 0	#3	8 0	#5	5 0	1	16 6	15	0 1 1 0
1938	6	21	0 0	#4	9 0	#5	5 0	1	16 6	15	0 1 1 0
1940	6	21	0 0	#3	8 0	#5	5 0	1	16 6	15	0 1 1 0
1945	6	21	0 0	#3	8 0	#5	5 0	1	1 0	15	0 1 1 0
1948	6	21	0 0	#4	9 0	#5	5 0	1	1 0	1	1 0 1 5 0
1949	5	21	0 0	#5	10 0	#5	5 0	1	1 0	1	1 0 1 5 0

* Payable in two instalments

Five shillings allocated to the Benevolent Fund

+ One guinea to be deposited by the proposer as a guarantee and to be taken as part of the joining fee.

Precise data with regard to the various increases in subscriptions and fees are not available throughout the Lodge's career but the above details are as near as can be determined. It is interesting to note that the Initiation fee has risen from six to twenty guineas while the annual subscription, at first three guineas for six meetings, is now five guineas for five meetings plus five shillings for the Benevolent Fund.

In order to appreciate the reason for the several increases one should consider the following figures which give an indication of the rapidly diminishing value of the pound sterling during the last 35 years, the purchasing power of which has been officially assessed at :-

Year	1914	1939	1945	1948
	100	63	42	36

(The last mentioned figure does not reflect the further drop in the value of the pound consequent upon the devaluation which took place in the Autumn of 1949.)

No figures are available to show the purchasing power in 1888 but, as Income Tax was then only seven pence in the pound, it was obviously much greater than it was even in 1914. A reasonable guess would be that the pound in 1888 was four times its present-day value.

When the full force of the financial stringency began to make itself felt in the Country in 1945 our Officers had to consider how best the Lodge subscriptions could be

kept down or, at least, prevented from soaring to impossible heights. Gone were the days of feasting and banqueting; no longer could wine, food and spirits be provided *ad libitum* and W. Bro. SLADE'S accounts of champagne being served at the meetings at Peckham at the equivalent of ten shillings charge per meeting were but memories of the past, which may never occur again.

W. Bros. NORMAN, PLANT and THUEY between them, guided by the advice of the Committee, readjusted our finances and kept us on a level keel; but only at the expense of increased subscriptions austerity banquets, limited refreshments, no stage entertainment and a reduction from six to five meetings per year. This was the wisest course to pursue because it brought us in line with the general trend of living and brethren, many of whom were pressed by their own personal economies, were spared the payment of heavy subscriptions; moreover, newcomers could still go through their Initiation as no greater cost than did their predecessors twenty-seven years earlier. The members rallied loyally to this call for economy as, indeed, did the entire nation accept the new order for existence forced upon them by the devastating war of 1939-1945. Our after-Lodge proceedings are now adequate as fitting into the general scheme and level of existence.

The earliest Financial Statement which Bro. HUCKLE rescued for us was that for the year 1920-1921. In that year the Lodge Account showed a credit balance of £231. By 1929 it had jumped to £553 when the sum of £100 was

donated to the Freemason's Hospital. After that the balance gradually dropped until it reached £286 in 1936. It recovered to £282 in 1943 but then the economic conditions began to reflect themselves and, in November, 1948, it reached the lowest of all records, namely £113. At this stage the annual subscription was raised from £4 9s 0d. to £5 10s 0d. and the September regular meeting was surrendered. It is hoped that as a result of these adjustments much of the lost ground will be regained.

One cannot dissociate from the halcyon days of financial prosperity within the Lodge the name of JAMES CALDECOTT LAKE who was initiated in 1891 and remained a member for 57 years until his death in 1948. He was Treasurer for many years prior to 1936 and was responsible for building up our big financial reserve in the twenties. Bro. LAKE was, to use his own words, "immensely jealous for the financial integrity of the Lodge." It was his invariable custom at the first Committee following each Installation to address the new Master in intensely serious tones, express the opinion that the Lodge was rapidly heading for bankruptcy and enjoin all concerned to the strictest possible economy. Though we accepted his lectures light-heartedly at the time we nevertheless owe that lovable Brother a debt of gratitude for his business acumen (he was the head of an old-established firm of Paper Merchants and Manufacturers – Lakes o' London), which saved the Lodge from unnecessary expense.

Towards the end of his life he suffered from chronic ill-health yet his interest in the Lodge never diminished. Brethren such as he have earned a place of honour in the records and memories of the lodge.

W. Bro LAKE was followed as Treasurer in 1936 by another man of wide financial experience who, in business, was the Registrar of a Continental Utility Corporation. W. Bro PHILLIPS took over from Bro. LAKE when the signs abroad were ominous and a heavy depression had begun to descend upon

industrial England. He, too, with his vast experience guided us along wise paths for a period of nine years, when his health failed and he was obliged to resign his Office. Bro. PHILLIPS, who died a year later, will ever be remembered by all who had the honour of his acquaintance as a devout Christian, a charming and generous friend, and a Freemason who, during his twenty-four years' association with the Craft, set a high example to every member of the Lodge. The writer, who knew him for forty years, has particular reason to be grateful for innumerable kindnesses and toleration shown towards a headstrong youth.

By the time our present Treasurer, W. Bro. H. F. PLANT, came to take over the financial direction of the Lodge in 1945, Austerity, Economy and Retrenchment were the Political Shibboleths of the day. He was faced with rapidly diminishing reserves and mounting costs of administration but, here again, we were well served in that Bro. PLANT is the Secretary of an influential Public Limited Company. He can rest assured that the Brethren, though naturally loath to accept restrictions, will readily co-operate in all that he demands so that the Lodge can withstand that national upheaval which threatens to engulf all and sundry.

Members with long memories will recall the annual tussles, which ensued over the Balance Sheets presented to the Audit Committee and the Lodge many years ago. Our cheery Bro. MANATON was generally the centre of these little comedies and one can visualise him on a famous occasion when he, himself, had taken the books home and prepared the Annual Statement, rising in the Lodge and naively enquiring whether a Balance Sheet should balance. Bro. MANATON always excelled on Accounts Night and many a Master has glanced apprehensively towards the Organ stool to see if "Billy" were still alert before calling for the Auditors' report. But the Financial Watch Dog of the Lodge was seldom wrong!

XI

IN COMMITTEE

"Let us grasp the situation, solve the complicated plot:
Quiet, calm deliberation disentangles every knot."

W. S. GILBERT

WERE ALL THE affairs of the Lodge to be discussed in minute detail and in solemn conclave, regular meetings would, on every

occasion, exceed the record of six hours set up in 1904. Much work, therefore, has to be remitted to a "standing" or "general purposes"

Committee for preliminary digest or examination.

The By-laws are purposely vague as to the functions of our Committee: they merely indicate that the Committee shall interview candidates for initiation and *consider* business connected with the Lodge. This restriction of functions merely defers to the Master's prerogative and recognises the Lodge's right to control its own affairs. Thus, the Committee is, in effect, a fact-finding body constituted for the purpose of advising the Master and the Lodge on the several matters referred to it. It cannot pledge the Lodge to any specific line of action.

These limited terms of reference might suggest equally limited activity, but this is far from the case. Every topic of interest to the Lodge and every proposal affecting its procedure and well being come under the Committee's closest scrutiny. Questions of Finance receive special attention and regularly each year the Treasurer presents his budget of estimated receipts and expenditure. In consequence, no proposal every goes to the Lodge for final decision until it has been thoroughly examined. This does not preclude any individual member of the Committee from expressing his personal views on any topic; although it is an unwritten law that any agreement reached in Committee by a majority receives the support of the entire Committee.

The Committee consists of the Master, his two wardens, the Treasurer and Secretary, Past Masters of and in the Lodge and two Master Masons of at least three years' standing who are not otherwise eligible to be members. Naturally, in such a body of men of different

callings, varying experience and holding diverse opinions, unanimity of thought is not always to be expected. As a result, discussion in committee is open and free and, not infrequently, personal views are expressed. Nevertheless, the members have but one aim in view, namely, the well being of the Lodge. Much could be written of the debates, which take place from time to time, and of the lengthy arguments, which ensue, yet the ultimate result always works out for the benefit of the Lodge.

The Committee is required to meet at a fixed time before each regular meeting of the Lodge and it is gratifying to note that, over a very long period, attendance has averaged out at fifteen members at each meeting.

Prior to the year 1934 the lay members of the Lodge had no direct representation on the Standing Committee. The change was introduced only after considerable discussion in the Lodge extending over a period of nearly two years. Young brethren eagerly welcome the opportunity of becoming a member of the Committee and the training in Masonic procedure that they receive through this association stands them in excellent stead when they are called to superior duties; moreover, representation of the views and opinions of the lay members of the Lodge is assured by having two of their numbers on the Committee.

For many years it was a pleasant custom for the Committee after the Annual Audit Meeting to adjourn for supper but this commendable practice ceased in 1948 in an endeavour to conserve funds because of the heavy increase in the cost of maintaining the Lodge.

XII

INSTRUCTION

"To make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge."

IT IS BUT natural that in the long life of a Lodge the standard of work will vary from time to time according to the degree of instruction available to, and the assiduity of, the Brethren; rising to great heights on

occasions, but sometimes falling sadly below the criterion expected of an efficient and capable Lodge.

W.Bro SID TAYLOR writes:-

“Until we had our Lodge of Instruction our Brethren used to attend the United Mariners, No. 30. For many years this Lodge of Instruction was kept going by members of our own Lodge; in fact, on one occasion, of the nineteen present, eighteen were RYE members. We met at “The White Hart”, New Cross Gate, until a move was eventually made to the City of London.”

It is worthy of note that this friendly Lodge of Instruction with which W.Bro. TAYLOR and several other members of our Lodge were for so long honourably associated, first met in the year 1827 as appears recorded in the Minutes of the United Mariners Lodge:-

“2 Oct., 1827; W.Bro. J. WESTERMAN, W.M., announced his intention to hold a Lodge of Instruction at “The Dial”, Long Alley, Moorfields, under the sanction of the United Mariners Lodge, to commence on Sunday next, October 7th, 1827; and continue each Sunday at 7 o’clock.”

“The Dial” in question, is now part of the site of Broad Street Station. It is interesting to conjecture how our wives would react to a suggestion that we should hold a Lodge of Instruction in the City on each succeeding Sunday evening!

By the year 1929 initiates were joining us from all parts of London and the Home Counties, and the Lodge could no longer be exclusively identified with that neighbourhood of southeast London from which the Founders and earlier members were drawn. The Brethren needed a more central venue than New Cross Gate and, because they no longer lived in the same locality, desired to meet and know one another socially more frequently than six times a year.

For several years prior to this date Masters were conscious that the work of the Lodge was gradually falling below the desired standard and they each (particularly W.Bro. F. DUNNETT) made personal endeavour to remedy this effect. Without a Lodge of Instruction under our own direction and guidance it was evident that no serious effort could ever be made to co-ordinate the training of the younger members. So far, either no opportunity had occurred or none had been created until Bro. STANLEY NASH, Worshipful Master during the year 1929/1930

determined, with the advice of his Past Masters, to take a decisive step.

The tremendous difficulties he had experienced in completing his team of officers was evidence that far too many of the young brethren were not properly equipped to accept advancement towards the highest honour the Lodge could confer. Two examples alone will show how, in such circumstances, quite junior members may be called upon to fill senior positions at little or no notice. In 1928 Bro. NORMAN was a steward; in 1929, Senior Warden and in 1930, the Master; while another Brother was a steward in 1928, Senior Deacon in 1929, Junior Warden in 1930 and, on the Election Night one month before the 1931 Installation, found himself, without any warning, Master Elect.

The meteoric rise of Bro. NORMAN (lay member to Master in a year and a day) did not in any way affect the splendid way in which he fulfilled all his duties yet, with a landslide such as was experienced in this period, the position could have been very serious indeed had not a few junior brethren, through attending Lodges of Instruction of their own choice, suitably equipped themselves for sudden and rapid promotion. There really is no great pleasure in scaling the ladder of promotion too quickly and the young brethren of today are fortunate in that succession is slow and offices are filled in strict rotation for only by this means can the fullest enjoyment be derived from each progressive step and the best possible experience obtained to fit one for the supreme year.

W.Bro. NASH says that the impasse with which he was faced caused considerable apprehension in his mind as to the future of the Lodge. It certainly was a most embarrassing experience to be forced to telephone a Brother and enquire what was the highest office he would be prepared to take. Having eventually formed his team of offices he decided, as in the case of the Master of the United Mariners Lodge, one hundred years earlier “to form a Lodge of Instruction under the sanction” of The RYE Lodge. First it was ratified that the recognised working was that known as “M.M. TAYLOR.” Hitherto, it seems that each Brother chose his own working and followed it through his career. Hence, a degree might often exhibit traces of Metropolitan, Emulation, West End, Taylor’s and, on one occasion, even a semblance of Bristol working interspersed with personal, but unrecorded, figments of a Brother’s own imagination.

Regularity having been established, the next step was to find a suitable home for the new Lodge of Instruction. "The Bedford Head," Maiden Lane, Strand, was chosen for the purpose and, on 6th December 1929, a meeting was held there to discuss preliminaries. At that meeting, which was attended by seventeen members of the RYE Lodge, it was resolved to form a Lodge of Instruction and the following officers were thereupon elected:-

Preceptor – W. Bro Sid Taylor
Asst. Preceptor – W. Bro. F. W. Baker
Secretary – Bro. A. Collins
Asst. Secretary – Bro. D. Arram
Treasurer – W. Bro. W. E. C. Harding

The last named still occupies his original office.

Enthusiasm ran high and on 7th January 1930, the first regular meeting was held. As this was an historic occasion it is right to record the names of those who were present. They were:-

W.M. Stanley Nash	
Past Masters	Farquhar, Harding, McDowell and Paler
Brothers	Brown, Buddell, Burt, Collins, Ellis, Florey, Goodwin, Harding, Huckle, Jones, Levick, Norman, Plant, Schouten, Scott, G. Smith, Tack, Turner.

Making twenty-three in all.

The first ceremony rehearsed "in a very able way", was that of Initiation, fittingly by W. Bro. STANLEY NASH to whose credit must be accounted the energy and determination in founding the Lodge. In the Minutes is recorded a sincere vote of thanks to Bro. COLLINS for his generous gift of the Lodge furniture including the officers' collars. Since that early date contributions in kind have also been made by W. Bros SLADE and HUCKLE and Bros. BALAAM, LEVICK and TACK.

Thus was launched The RYE Lodge of Instruction which still flourishes successfully and, at the time of going to press, has held its four-hundred and sixtieth meeting, having maintained throughout the years an average of twelve members attending each meeting.

Meetings continued smoothly until September 1939, when the Lodge had to close temporarily because of the unsettled state of the Country. Brethren did not feel content, however, to await the end of hostilities, so in 1942, when black-out was at its intensest and Air Raids nightly becoming worse, the members again foregathered at their old headquarters in Maiden Lane in order to carry on with their work. A change became necessary in 1944 and, in March of that year, temporary accommodation was found (free of charge) in the school room attached to St. Giles Church, Endell Street, Long Acre, but, three months later these premises sustained serious air-raid damage and new accommodation had to be found. After being homeless for a few months a large room was hired on licensed premises at "The Newcastle-on-Tyne," Lexington Street, W., and this remained the headquarters until the summer of 1949 when a transfer was made to the present home at "The Star and Garter," Poland Street, W.1.

When, during the war, attendance began to suffer almost to the point of extermination, forces were joined with Era Lodge of Instruction (Province of Middlesex) which was also meeting at "The Bedford Head." Their Preceptor, the late W. Bro. W. GILBERT, became Assistant Preceptor of the joint Lodge and a happy and efficient association was established which endured for many years. The death of W. Bro. GILBERT in 1947 was a great loss for "his kindly help and advice inspired many on the road to achieving that quiet dignity in the execution of those duties of which he was such a master."

The Past Masters of the RYE Lodge have always strongly supported and encouraged the Lodge of Instruction since its inception. Occasions have been recorded when the Lodge's three Grand Officer's have been present together and, on one evening in 1948, five of the six brethren present were Past Masters. This is greatly to the credit of the elder brethren of the Lodge, but sight must not be lost of the fact that the primary object of a Lodge of Instruction is to provide guidance for those younger brethren who are yet to enter the Chair and, unless there is a steady flow of "lay" brethren of the parent Lodge from the time of their completing their third degree, there is little hope of the Lodge of Instruction surviving. The appeal to young brethren to support their Lodge of Instruction is hackneyed (one hears it in every Lodge) nevertheless, its force does not diminish by

repetition; indeed, the fact that repetition is so often necessary only emphasises the urgency of the appeal.

All honour to that happy band of Brothers who are keeping the Lodge virile. They do not ask either for praise or thanks; the pleasure deriving from the work is its own reward. Nevertheless, they must have taken justifiable pride in an after-dinner speech made at Lodge in 1949 by one of the Elder Brethren when he said "One often hears laments at the passing of the old days and harsh comparisons made between then and now. In my view (and I can go back further than most) the general standard of the work in the RYE Lodge has never before been so high, and this is due entirely to the training and encouragement received at the Lodge of Instruction."

No better example of the value of the Lodge of Instruction can be found than in the person of W.Bro. A. H. LOASBY, M.S.M., who, at the time of writing, has just been installed as Master of the Lodge. His quiet confidence and deep sincerity, coupled with a fine knowledge of the ritual, should make the Lodge of Instruction very proud of one of its graduates.

The accounts for the year 1948-1949 disclose the following interesting facts: -

	£	s.	d.
Contents of the Hospital Charity Box since the inception of the Lodge of Instruction	89	7	6
Additional Benevolent donations			
From dues, etc.-			
The Royal Masonic Hospital	63	0	0
The Benevolent Institution	10	10	0
Grand Total	£162	17	6

As a result of donations of £152 7s. 6d. the Lodge of Instruction has qualified as a Patron of the Hospital.

The present officers of the Lodge are:-

Preceptor – W.Bro H. F. Plant
Asst. Preceptor – W.Bro. A. E. Florey
Treasurer – W.Bro. W. E. C. Harding
Secretary – Bro. A. E. Balaam

XIII

WAR

"A manly and determined resistance to lawless violence."
 R.A.

WAR IS INIMICAL to the spirit of Freemasonry and Universal Brotherhood yet, when a man homeland is in dire distress and threatened by a ruthless invader, a Mason would be the last to hesitate in hastening to the defence of the land which gave him birth and infant nurture.

The Brethren of the RYE Lodge can be justifiably proud of their achievements in the two great wars of the Twentieth Century. The details, which follow, are confined to those who were actually members of the Lodge while serving. Many others, of course, who subsequently joined the Lodge had already seen active service with the Armed Forces of the Crown, in one war or another, but their deeds must be chronicled elsewhere.

Nothing is known of any who may have participated in the Boer War (it is probable that none did because of the high average age of our members so soon after the Consecration, and the fact that volunteers were confined in London mostly to the Yeomanry and the City Imperial Volunteers and were comparatively few in numbers) but we know from Grand Lodge Annual Returns that the Lodge provided its fair quota of men for the 1914-1918 war.

An unique distinction was held by W.Bro. J. B. McDOWELL who first went to France and operated in the Front Line as a civilian. In his case "operated" was the correct word for he filmed the battles of the Somme and Arras.

In those far off days of the soundless film, when Charlie Chaplin was the master of slapstick comedy and battles were fought only

in the Studio, the cinematograph had not assumed the sensationally spectacular and the "shooting" of a real war had never been attempted. Bro. McDOWELL went forward with the troops, without even the slender protection which was afforded them, and the epic films which he created are now stored in the archives for future generations so see, in vivid detail, the bloodiest and most costly battles of all times. For these remarkable services he was recommended for the newly instituted Military Cross but, as civilians were not entitled to participate in this award, the difficulty was overcome by commissioning him a Lieutenant and he was duly decorated. Later on, the Foreign Office showed their appreciation of the propaganda value of his film work and he was awarded the Medal of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire known, alternatively, as the British Empire Medal (B.E.M.).

Other Brethren who served in the first world war, making fifteen in all were:-

F. W. Baker, Flight Sergeant, Royal Flying Corps, Aerial Photographer, Salonika
 S. W. Bishop
 S M. Collins
 T. P. Cooper, Surgeon Lieut-Commander, R.N.V.R.
 H. R. Geddes, Chief Petty Officer, R.N.V.R. (The Dover Patrol)
 W. Gibson
 W. E. C. Harding, Royal Army Service Corps
 G. E. Harris
 H. A. Howlett
 C. J. Lytle
 H. T. Mallons, Royal Garrison Artillery
 F. E. Mason
 F. E. North, Lieutenant, Indian Army Reserve
 E. H. Poole, Lieutenant
 Bro. NORTH, though initiated in the RYE Lodge, was passed and raised in India during the war while at Ferozepore.

Although not actually initiated until 10th February, 1919 (that is between the Armistice with Germany and the Declaration of Peace) space must be found to record the career of a remarkable young man, WILLIAM ERNEST DUNNETT, the second son of W. Bro. F. E. DUNNETT, nephew of Bro. T. NASH and cousin of Bro. STANLEY NASH. The writer knew him well as a daring schoolfellow. He joined a London Territorial Regiment as a private soldier early in the war and served beside his brother who was killed in action in France. He must have been under age when he enlisted for, in February 1919, he was recorded

as being but 21 years of age, thus being our youngest initiate. In December, 1915 he was a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and, in his career, won the Military Cross and Military Medal. He left the Lodge in 1924 to practice journalism in Australia.

Curiously, in view of the fact that compulsory National Service was imposed on the younger section of the population at the outbreak of the Second World War, the number of Brethren who left us for Active Service was small. This again may have been due to the high average age of our members or, more probably, to the failure of the Brethren to respond to the Grand Secretary's appeal for details of personal records of service. However, it is known that the under-mentioned seven Brethren saw service:-

W. E. Brown, Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force; five years
 W. E. Kelsey, Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force
 R. S. Lyons, Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force; four years; Mediterranean, Italy and Greece
 F. E. North *O.B.E.*, Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force (also served in the 1914-1918 war)
 T. G. Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Corps of Signals; six years and ten months; West Africa, North Africa, Malta, Italy and Germany
 J. Murray-Smith, Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force; five years and six months; Europe and Middle-East
 F. J. Wilkie, Royal Corps of Signals; four and a quarter years.

Many Brethren also served with distinction in the Home Guard (one, Bro. NORMAN, a Major in the earlier war, attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel), Fire Service, A.R.P., and other voluntary organisations. Indeed, no brother failed to perform some service of National importance, whether in his own neighbourhood, in the Provinces, or abroad, in a civilian capacity.

It does not seem that the Lodges meeting in London during the first war experienced much inconvenience. True, there was a black-out of sorts and, although there were Zeppelin raids and occasional visits by enemy aeroplanes, both by night and day, London life was not unduly disturbed and the dead hand which was to descend with such terrifying effect on the Metropolis twenty-five years later, was far beyond the comprehension of those hordes of Servicemen and their friends, young and old,

who, in 1914-1918, thronged the West End of London in search of that wild gaiety which would either ease the intense pain of their suffering or deaden the awful fears which the future held for many of them.

At the outbreak of the second war, however, the population had a clearer conception of what would happen. On the day following the 3rd September, 1939, Grand Lodge issued an order temporarily suspending all Masonic meetings. This was followed, at the end of the same month, by a directive giving certain discretionary powers to Masters enabling them to continue with Lodge meetings according to the conditions obtaining in particular districts of the Country. In consequence of this Order, the September and October 1939, meetings of our Lodge were cancelled but we resumed our activities in the following November and continued with our regular meetings in the very heart of London, without cessation, until the conclusion of hostilities.

One feels considerable sympathy for those Masters who held office during this war. They had little chance of performing under congenial conditions. Some had to hold their meetings and “banquets” in the middle hours of the day because of the grave risk of wandering too far afield in the “black-out” or, for the more laudable reason, that the services of all the Brethren were required in the evening either fire-watching, training and parading with the Home Guard, or manning the anti-aircraft guns. Installations were reduced to the utmost simplicity and meetings were often carried on to the wailing accompaniment of the warning siren, the roar of artillery and, not infrequently, the sickening crash of bombs.

Although these Masters were deprived of many of the pleasantries that help to make “a happy year of office” they are to be greatly admired for keeping the Lodge active and affording opportunities “for fraternal gatherings from which we derive so much of our moral support and comfort.” These wartime meetings were not free from danger and they certainly called for considerable personal sacrifice. It is, therefore, pleasant to record that post-war Masters willingly gave their war-time predecessors those opportunities of conducting ceremonies of which the war had deprived them.

The cessation of hostilities did not call an end to our discomforts – indeed, some of them became more intensified as, for example, stricter rationing of food and commodities and the marked scarcity of fuel which made it impossible to heat buildings frequented by the public. Because of this, Brethren often dined in their overcoats and, on one occasion, when the temperature in the street was below zero and but little higher in the Restaurant, they actually wore their outdoor garments while in the Temple.

So much for our wartime experiences. But what of the future? Time alone will prove whether the lessons taught in the first half of the tragic Twentieth Century have been well and truly learnt. If the principles upon which Freemasonry rests become universal, both in belief and practice, then posterity has little to fear. If, however, the Rule of Gold supplants the Golden Rule then, with the terrifying advances which Science has made in this New Atomic Age, posterity is to be pitied.

XIV

BENEVOLENCE and CHARITY

“And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity”

THE LODGE HAS liberally supported the three Institutions and the Hospital but it has always been difficult to make an over-all survey of the entire field of our charitable activities because no comprehensive record

ever seems to have been prepared. However, it has now been possible to compile, from information supplied by the respective Institutions, full details of the contributions made by the Lodge. They are as follows:-

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls

Stewards Lists brought up on behalf of the RYE Lodge											
Year	Lodge representative	No. of Stewards	Lodge Grant			Brethrens' donation			Total		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1890			10	10	0	-	-	-	10	10	0
1893			-	-	-	73	15	0	73	15	0
1894			10	10	0	-	-	-	10	10	0
1896			10	10	0	-	-	-	10	10	0
1899			5	5	0	35	14	0	40	19	0
1903			10	10	0	65	12	6	76	2	6
1907			5	5	0	-	-	-	5	5	0
1908			21	0	0	54	1	6	75	1	6
1910			52	10	0	28	7	0	80	17	0
1917			10	10	0	44	12	6	55	2	6
1921			12	0	0	89	5	0	101	5	0
1923	F. W. Baker		21	0	0	184	2	6	205	2	6
1927	A. J. Nash	12	21	0	0	149	2	6	170	12	6
1930	S. G. Nash	9	21	0	0	121	4	6	142	4	6
1932	A. E. Buddell	4	26	5	0	76	2	6	102	7	6
1935	G. A. Smith	4	26	5	0	108	3	0	134	8	0
1936	"Chairman's List"		26	5	0	-	-	-	26	5	0
1938	J. G. Skittrell	7	26	5	0	111	6	0	137	11	0
1941	A. E. Florey	2	26	5	0	68	15	0	95	0	0
1946	A. Thuey	7	26	5	0	116	12	6	142	17	6
	Grand Total		£ 369	0	0	1,327	6	0	1,696	6	0

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys

Stewards who have represented the RYE Lodge and details of their Lists											
Year	Lodge representative	No. of Stewards	Lodge Grant			Brethrens' donations			Total		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894	Bro. W. Castledine		10	10	0	64	1	0	74	11	0
1898	Bro. T. M. Wright		10	10	0	39	10	0	50	0	0
1905	Bro. W. H. Walker		10	10	0	42	10	6	53	0	6
1907	Bro. H. J. Taylor		21	0	0	54	1	0	75	1	0
1909	Bro. G. E. Harris		21	0	0	28	7	0	49	7	0
1911	Bro. J. B. McDowell		21	0	0	24	13	6	45	13	6
1913	Bro. W. Argent		15	15	0	22	1	0	37	16	0
1916	Bro. J. B. McDowell		10	10	0	135	9	0	145	19	0
1919	Bro. T. G. Paler	*8	10	10	0	100	5	6	110	15	6
1926	Bro. W. E. C. Harding	10	21	0	0	159	12	0	180	12	0
1929	Bro. T. P. Cooper	4	21	0	0	85	1	0	106	1	0
1931	Bro. A. J. Norman	4	45	3	0	63	0	0	108	3	0
1934	Bro. W. E. Huckle	2	30	19	6	52	10	0	83	9	6
1937	Bro. G. Branson	5	26	5	0	101	6	6	127	11	6
1940	Bro. O. C. Goodwin	3	26	5	0	58	16	0	85	1	0
1943	Bro. H. F. Plant	6	26	5	0	132	6	0	158	11	0
1947	Bro. P. L. Day	6	52	10	0	116	11	0	169	1	0
	Totals		£380	12	6	1,280	1	0	1,660	13	6

*Two of whom were Ladies.

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution

RYE Lodge Lists

Year	Lodge Representative	Donation
1892	Bro. G. P. Nightingale	60 18 0
1897	Bro. W. R. Dunn	70 7 0
1901	Bro. J. A. Fletcher	60 7 6
1904	Bro. W. H. Walker	93 9 0
1906	Bro. J. C. Lake	61 8 6
1915	Bro. S. E. Taylor	42 0 0
1918	Bro. W. E. Manaton	59 17 0
1924	Bro. F. E. Dunnett	221 11 0
1928	Bro. J. G. Farquhar	109 14 6
1933	Bro. W. A. Phillips	100 0 0
1936	Bro. H. J. Long	135 17 0
1944	The Lodge	52 10 0
1945	Bro. S. H. J. Brown	153 16 6
1948	Bro. T. W. Tarring	129 13 6
1949	Bro. A. L. Button	171 11 0
Total		<u>£1,523 0 6</u>

Of this total amount, £294 was donated by the Lodge.

The Royal Masonic Hospital

	Lodge	Brethren	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Donations previous to March 1929 (Old Hospital in Fulham Rd., Chelsea)			155 10 0
Donations since 1929 (New Hospital at Ravenscourt Park)	141 15 0	256 5 2	398 0 2
			<u>£553 10 2</u>

(The name of our Lodge appears in the "Book of Honour" which is exhibited in the entrance Hall of the Hospital and the leaves of which are turned daily.)

Charity should not be regarded in the light of a Profit and Loss Account for it is far better to give than to receive, yet it is interesting to consider what has been the result of casting our bread upon the waters if only, in doing so, it has the effect of impressing upon members *our* indebtedness to the Institutions and stimulating us in our charitable activities.

The Royal Benevolent Institution has made to the Brethren of our Lodge and their dependants lump sum grants amounting to £4,114, in addition to which one brother and three widows are at present receiving annuities totalling £259.

Our donations to the "Old Peoples" Institution amount to only £1,523.

The Girls School. Four daughters of deceased Brethren have received out-education

grants amounting to £918. None has received institutional education. Our donations amount to £1,696.

The Boys' School. Three sons of deceased Brethren have been educated at the Bushey School, the cost of which cannot be determined, while two of our boys have received out-education at a total cost of £563. Our donations amount to £1,660.

The Masonic Board of Benevolence. The Board has made grants since 1914 in 19 cases at a total cost of £1,580.

The London Rank Fund. No details are available of grants received before the year 1933, but since then the sum of £260 has been allocated to Brethren of our Lodge and their dependants.

Fund	Summary					
	Support given by the Lodge and its Members on Annual Lists			Grants or assistance received by Brethren and their Dependants		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
R.M.I.G.	1,696	0	0	918	0	0
R.M.I.B.	1,661	0	0 (a)	563	0	0
R.M.B.I.	1,523	0	0 (b)	4,114	0	0
R.M. Hospital	554	0	0 (c)	-	-	-
Board of Benevolence	(c)	-	-	1,580	0	0
London Rank Fund	(d)	-	-	260	0	0
Totals		<u>£ 5,434</u>	<u>0 0</u>	<u>7,435</u>	<u>0 0</u>	

- (a) Does not include the cost of Institutional education of three boys over a total period of 12 years.
- (b) Annuities amounting to £259 at present in payment.
- (c) Cannot be determined.
- (d) Possible receipts from Fees of Honour and Annual subscriptions to the London Rank Association.

The conclusions to be drawn from these figures is that distressed brethren and their dependants have benefited to the extent of *at least* £2,000, more than the Lodge and its members have donated as a result of appeals organised by respective Masters. The Institution, which has been given least support but has accorded most benefit, is the "Old People's." It is our practice to support each of the three main charities once in every three years, but it will be appreciated that each Master may have sentimental reasons for supporting a particular charity and the Lodge, naturally, defers to that wish. So far as the Boys and Girls are concerned the arrangement has worked out very well for our total contributions to each, spread over sixty years, closely approximate to one another, but the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution has not, apparently, fared so favourably.

Like most other Lodges the RYE has its own Benevolent Fund for the relief of distressed past and present members of the Lodge, the needy widows or children of deceased members or for the benefit of such Masonic or other charitable institutions, societies or objects as the Lodge, in duly constituted meeting, may from time to time declare. The method of replenishing this Fund differs, however, from the usually accepted practice. Many Lodges pass round the Charity Gavel or "broken column", at their meetings and all present (whether members or guests) have an opportunity of giving what they feel they can

afford and, be it noted, guests of a Lodge often feel hurt if the Almoner tactfully tries to pass them by, for they regard a charitable appeal as a clarion call to all members of the Craft present on the occasion. In our Lodge, however, the Gavel does not regularly pass but, instead, a sum of five shillings per annum is deducted from each member's subscription and credited to the Benevolent Fund. This practice certainly enables those brethren (particularly non-dining members) who do not attend regularly, to make a fixed donation to Benevolence. Sixty years ago five shillings was a considerable sum but now its purchasing power is about one quarter of its Victorian equivalent and will buy about thirty cigarettes in a shop. It is open to question, therefore, whether the annual "levy" is sufficiently high in its yield when one remembers that every other year the Lodge donation to the Master's charity List is taken from the Benevolent Fund. It might, therefore, be augmented by the Charity Gavel at every meeting.

Our Elder Brethren of the "nineties" and the early part of the present century were evidently not of the type, which took pleasure or even interest in rules and regulations for, apparently, no By-laws existed to regulate the Benevolent Fund. Indeed, the Fund existed only in name, for no mention appears of it in any of the Lodge's transactions and all the securities of the Lodge were vested, personally, in the name of the Treasurer. Obviously, this arrangement had serious drawbacks, not the least being the

unfair burden of responsibility placed on the shoulders of the Treasurer and, in the event of his demise, his executors. The defect was corrected in the year 1931.

In the year 1934 a Brother in distressed circumstances appealed for assistance shortly after the April regular meeting. According to the practice then in vogue it was necessary to give notice of motion for any money to be paid out of the Benevolent Fund and this notice had to come up for discussion at the meeting following that at which the notice was given. In this particular case no assistance could have been voted until the following October – much too late to be of any use. The position was met by one or two Brethren advancing assistance from their own pockets but the incident, unfortunately, gave rise to some discussion in the Lodge. The outcome was the complete separation of the Benevolent Fund from all other monies of the Lodge, the drafting of a code of By-laws to regulate the Fund and, what is most important, the appointment of an Almoner (an office never before existing in the Lodge) and power given to him to grant relief at his discretion up to the amount of £25 subject to the subsequent approval of the Lodge. This discretion has since been exercised on several occasions and, needless to say, the Almoner's decision has never been questioned.

Our own Benevolent Fund seems to have remained in a reasonably healthy state throughout the Lodge's existence yet it would be a most satisfactory position if we were, through the medium of this Fund, able to make more extensive grants to the four recognised Masonic Charities. However, since the year 1921 the Fund has dispensed in benevolence to distressed members the total sum of £626 11s 0d. and, in addition, One Hundred Guineas to the Million Memorial Fund which was raised to build the Masonic Hall and headquarters in Great Queen Street. Appearing among the donations are:- The Prince of Wales' Scouts "1 1s 0d., the Quetta Earthquake Fund £2 2s 0d., and the Dover Patrol Fund £2 2s 0d. In the last-named donation one can detect the influence of W.Bro. Petty Officer GEDDES!

Our Almoner, W.Bro. SLADE, is a Prince of Beggars and he spares no effort in investigating and advocating an appeal for assistance in every case of hardship and distress brought to his notice. We are, indeed, fortunate in having one who can present a case

so appealingly to the Lodge and so forcefully to the Board of Benevolence.

There is one matter for regret in the field of our eleemosynary activities, namely, that we rarely hear anything of the sons and daughters whom it has been our privilege to assist with their education. Is the Lodge at fault in this respect? The Institutions do their utmost to keep in touch with the scholars when they go out into the world and it appears that three of "our boys" served in the Second World War while one obtained his medical qualifications with financial assistance from the Boys' Institution but, alas, only to die at an early age. If any of our boys are now members of the Craft we shall be more than delighted to see them and if any of the girls will come to our Ladies' Festival they can be assured of a most cordial welcome.

It is worthy to record that one of our members (Bro. N. S. Heegaard WARNER, a dental surgeon) received his early education at the Boys' School – a fact of which is immensely proud.

On two occasions within recent years attempts have been made to inaugurate a Charity Association (an organisation in existence in most Lodges) whereby brethren are encouraged to donate small sums at frequent intervals, which can be held to their credit until sufficient has been saved for a Stewardship of one of the Institutions, but each attempt has failed. Nevertheless, no harm will be done in commending it once more to the Brethren as a simple and satisfactory way of "Saving to Give".

The Lodge has the following Charitable qualifications:-

Founding Lodge and Patron of the
Royal Masonic Hospital

Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic
Institution for Girls

Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic
Institution for Boys

Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic
Benevolent Institution

Recorded Lodge of the Masonic
Million Memorial.

XV

THE RYE CHAPTER, 2272

“Brethren are informed that there is a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with this Lodge, particulars of which may be obtained of the Secretary.”

(vide each Summons of the Lodge.)

THE DISASTER in the year 1940 which deprived us of all our records befell the Chapter in the same way for Bro. NORTH, the Lodge’s Secretary, occupied a similar position in the Chapter. We are indebted for much of the information, which follows to Ex. Comp. BERNARD J. CURRY, the present Scribe E. of the Chapter who, like the writer, has explored the vaults of Freemason’s Hall in the hope of being able to reconstruct his records.

does not restrict its membership to Brethren of the sponsoring Lodge but it will be observed from the following list of First Principals how closely the Lodge has been identified with the Chapter throughout the latter’s fifty-six years’ existence and how the First Principal’s Chair has been occupied by a member of the Lodge on forty-three occasions.

List of First Principals

The Chapter was consecrated by Sir EDWARD LETCHWORTH (Grand Scribe E.) assisted by four other Supreme Grand Chapter Officers on Monday, 12th June, 1893. It will thus be seen that the Lodge lost only four-and-a-half years in sponsoring and bringing the Chapter into being.

- 1893 Cock, Dr. W.
- 1894 Cock, Dr. W.
- 1895 Cock, Dr. W.
- 1896 Dewsnap, J. W.
- 1897 Warner, W. T.
- 1898 Wright, T. M.
- 1899 Thomson, C.
- 1900 Dunn, W. R.
- 1901 Smith, A. F. S.
- 1902 Fletcher, J. A.
- 1903 Bacon, W.
- 1904 Castledine, W.
- 1905 Reed, H. E.
- 1906 North, G. J.
- 1907 Slade H. J.
- 1908 Walker, H.
- 1909 Dunn, F.
- 1910 Fletcher, F. G.
- 1911 Lake, J. C.
- 1912 Slade, H. J.
- 1913 McDowell, J. B.
- 1914 Argent, W.
- 1915 Harris, G. E.
- 1916 May, G. E.
- 1917 Geddes, H. R.
- 1918 McDowell, J. B.
- 1919 Geddes, H. R.
- 1920 Argent, W.
- 1921 Reed, H. E.
- 1922 Lake, J. C.
- 1923 Webb, G. C.
- 1924 Williams, A. M. H.
- 1925 Bradley, F. G. E.
- 1926 Low, G.
- 1927 Roof, R. D.
- 1928 Bassill, F. A.
- 1929 Baker, F. W.
- 1930 Manaton, W. E.

The twelve Founders were:-

- E. Comp. Dr. W. Cock
- E. Comp. J. W. Dewsnap
- E. Comp. H. G. Philps
- E. Comp. F. Dunn
- Comp. A. Swinford Smith
- E. Comp. W. T. Warner
- Comp. T. Piper
- Comp. T. M. Wright
- Comp. W. H. Mackley
- E. Comp. C. Thomson
- Comp. R. Lyon
- E. Comp. J. Allsopp

All of whom, with the one exception of Ex. Comp. THOMSON, were members of the RYE Lodge.

The newly-formed Chapter met at the Peckham Public Hall in January, May and July of each year and is assumed to have changed its venue to the Holborn Restaurant (where is still meets – though in the months of December, March and June) concurrently with the Lodge.

Dr. WILLIAMS COCK was the first to occupy the First Principal’s Chair and held that position for three years. A Chapter, of course,

1931 Manaton, W. E.
 1932 Manaton, W. E.
 1933 Low, G.
 1934 Liddle, A. J.
 1935 Liddle, A. J.
 1936 Phillips, W. A.
 1937 Phillips, W. A.
 1938 Smith G. A.
 1939 Branson, Rev. G.
 1940 Huckle, W. E.
 1941 Skittrell, J. G.
 1942 Roberts, J. W.
 1943 Florey, A. E.
 1944 Curry, B. J.
 1945 Goodwin, O. C.
 1946 Thuey, A.
 1947 Plant, H. F.
 1948 Taylor, S. E.
 1949 Taylor, S. E.

A. A. Richardson – *Third Principal*
 B. J. Curry – *S.E.*
 C. H. Champion – *S.N.*
 H. J. Slade – *Treasurer*
 A. E. Florey – *D.C.*
 A. E. Balaam – *P.S.*
 C. J. Hunt – *1st A.S.*
 H. E. Driscoll – *2nd A.S.*
 W. E. C. Harding – *Organist*
 A. L. Button – *Steward*
 P. H. Harden – *Steward*
 C. S. Bell – *Steward*
 E. J. Mills – *Janitor*

Many of the Elder Companions have been approached in the hope of obtaining news of the Chapter's career, but they all confirm that it has had an unchequered and most happy existence. Its present strength is 38, twenty-one of whom are members of the Lodge.

Officers, 1949

S. E. Taylor, P.A.G.D.C. – *First Principal*
 P. L. Day – *Second Principal*

Throughout the whole of the Lodge's record the name of SLADE has been pre-eminent. Here, again, we see this Grand Old Man taking active part in the Chapter and still occupying the office of Treasurer which he has held for the past thirty-five years.

May this happy little Chapter continue to flourish and celebrate with joy and rejoicing its Diamond Jubilee in a few years' time. But it can only do so with the continued support of the Brethren of the Lodge; some of whom should not wait to enter the Royal Arch (as they often erroneously think they should) until they have passed the Chair of King Solomon.

XVI

MISCELLANY

"A wand'ring minstrel, I –
 A thing of shreds and patches".

W. S. GILBERT

OCTOBER 10TH, 1904, was Installation Night when W. Bro H. J. SLADE placed Bro. W. H. WALKER in the Chair of King Solomon. Bro. SID TAYLOR writes as follows: – "Bro. WALKER initiated me at his Installation Meeting and I believe that after the Installation Ceremony, he worked the three degrees. The Lodge opened at 3 p.m. and closed at 9 p.m." According to the Book of Declarations, however, *four* brethren (JAMIESON, TAYLOR, LEE and NORMAN) were initiated on that evening and one other brother (RALPH) took his Third Degree. Beyond expressing the hope that such a thing will never again happen in the Lodge, comment is superfluous.

* * *

In the year 1900, W. Bro. CASTLEDINE presented the Lodge with a banner depicting a man with a scythe cutting and stacking rye – a most appropriate emblem, beautifully worked and similar in design to that used on the Past Masters' jewels. As all honourable banners should be, ours became battle-scarred in the Second World War and it is now in tatters and quite unrepresentable. Owing to the scarcity of silks and the prohibitive cost, replacement at the moment is out of the question but one day, perhaps, we shall again have a banner to precede the processions in and out of the Lodge.

* * *

There is an impression among junior members that to occupy the Chair is a costly procedure. This may have been the case in the early days of the Lodge but, for the last thirty

years, at least, steps have been taken to make it possible for any brother to become a Master without undue expense to himself. In normal times a liberal sum is voted for the provision of musical entertainment during the year but the Master has been expected to provide his own artistes on Installation Night. The practice has ceased, for the time being, owing to the financial stringency but, no doubt it will be revived in the future when it is hoped that the Lodge will assume responsibility for *all* the music.

Whatever the Master gives to the Charity, which he sponsors, is a matter entirely for himself; so also, is the number of guests he invites over and above those for which the Lodge allows him at each meeting. Beyond this there should be no personal expense, for the Lodge discourages Masters providing any extraneous refreshment or entertainment whether at Regular Meetings or at Ladies' Festivals. This explanation is given for the benefit of those who have not yet been through the Chair but who might fear that heavy expense will preclude their doing so. Poverty is no bar to a brother attaining the highest honour, which the RYE Lodge can bestow on one of its sons.

* * *

Much of this Record has been devoted to the personalities and achievements of Masters and Past Masters. This is understandable for a Freemason has never really completed his Masonic education until he has ruled and governed his Lodge. Nevertheless, this might tend to do injustice to those many worthy Brethren who, for reasons beyond their control, have never seen fit or found it possible to offer themselves as Master. Without the support and appreciation of an audience (visible or invisible) the actor's work is in vain; a debt of gratitude is therefore due to those humble lay members who, though life-long members of the Lodge, are content to occupy an insignificant place in the audience and support the Craft to the utmost of their ability. Their names are many but prominent among them were the late Brothers E. G. BURT, T. J. FLOREY, S. E. G. GLASSCOCK, G. R. J. KILMARE-BROWNE, and J. ROBINSON; and our contemporary Brothers COLLINS, DOBBY, MAYCOCK, MIZEN and WARD. May we always be assured of the latter's continued and unstinting support; may they derive great pleasure from their associations and never regret the day they decided to remain "just lay

members." Among the ten brethren mentioned were, and are, some outstanding men in their respective profession and their Masonic modesty has resulted in the Lodge's loss.

In an earlier chapter two of the arguments adduced in the Petition for the founding of the Lodge were: _

- (1) Objection is entertained to the holding of Lodges in Taverns,
- (2) The Peckham Public Hall is ideal for a Masonic meeting place.

Opinion on these points was not maintained for long for, in 1899, the Lodge sought permission to move its Headquarters to the Holborn Restaurant (licensed premises) for the following reasons:

- (1) The rooms at present occupied are totally unfit for the purpose.
- (2) No arrangements are possible at the Public Hall for the comfort of the Brethren after the Lodge is closed.
- (3) Fire risk – no adequate exits.

Permission for the move to the Holborn Restaurant was granted and we have now been there for fifty years. At first, four meetings were held on Mondays and two on Fridays.

* * *

The following is an interesting point culled from the records of Grand Lodge:

5th April, 1889. W.Bro. Dr. WILLIAMS COCK asked permission of Grand Lodge to occupy the Chair of the RYE Lodge, overlapping for a period of six months his Mastership of the RAYMOND THRUPP Lodge. This was refused because "The Grand Master never allows more than two months' overlap in Masterships." But for this Dr. COCK would have been our second Master instead of third, for it will be observed that he was the Lodge's first Senior Warden.

* * *

The RYE Lodge has not been one to join in demonstrations but we find that a dispensation was granted to the Lodge on 10th December

1894, for Masonic clothing to be worn at a service held in the Church of St. Helens, Bishopsgate, at the unveiling of a mural tablet erected to the memory of Dr. Cox. The reason for the Lodge's participation in this ceremony is obscure for Dr. Cox was not a member of the RYE. It may be that he had some associates in our Lodge because the tablet read:

"This was erected by a few Masonic Friends to the memory of the REVEREND JOHN EDMUND COX, D.D., of All Souls College, Oxford, who for 24 years was Vicar and subsequently for 14 years Vicar-in-Charge of this Parish and for 10 years Grand Chaplain of the Freemasons of England.

Born October 9th, 1812

Died October 29th, 1890."

* * *

Annual Returns disclose the fact that several of our members entered one or two of their Craft Degrees in Lodges abroad. For instance:

Bro. R. J. FLOREY was raised in KERANG Lodge, Melbourne.

Bro. RONALD FRANKAU was initiated in HOPE Lodge, Karachi.

Bro. O. E. JOSEPH was raised in ORIENTAL Lodge, Michigan.

But in 1894 permission was refused for Bro. C. D. COCKS to be passed and raised at one and the same meeting because he was sailing for the Cape. A certificate was offered as an E.A., which he could take with him but a letter of introduction to Brethren abroad was refused. The difficulty seems to have been overcome for it is recorded that Bro. COCKS was passed and raised in the MUSGRAVE Lodge, Hampton Court.

* * *

The Lodge has had four Tylers in its career. The third Brother to hold this office succeeded his father in 1896 and served us for 51 years. On his leaving us the Lodge gave him a handsome honorarium in recognition of his long service.

* * *

The writer, recently a guest of another Lodge, heard a Brother say, when acknowledging the gift of Grand Lodge clothing from his Brethren, that he had attached a note to his will requesting his executors to hand to the Lodge all his Masonic clothing and jewels. A morbid thought, forsooth, but nevertheless a kindly gesture, for there can be no greater honour than to wear the clothing (whether it be a master mason's apron, London or Provincial Grand Rank or Grand Lodge Regalia) of a famous brother of the same Lodge, particularly if that brother happens to have been a relative of the recipient.

The silver Jubilee of the Lodge was marked by Sir EDWARD LETCHWORTH placing W.Bro. DEWSNAP, the Lodge's first Master, in the Chair. Our Golden and Diamond Jubilees passed without any special celebration; chiefly because of the conditions obtaining at the time. The omissions, however, are regrettable and perhaps they will be remedied when the Centenary is celebrated.

* * *

Several Past Masters of the RYE has been Masters of other Lodges but the record of five masterships held by Bro. DEWSNAP is nearest approached by Bro. McDOWELL who, in addition to having been our youngest Master, has passed the Chairs of the WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC and DUCHY of CORNWALL Lodges. He was also a Founder of this latter Lodge as well as OUTRE MANCHE Lodge ("across the Channel") of Calais.

* * *

Sometime between 1888 and 1894 a brother, by name Dr. ROBERT ESLER, joined RYE. Little is known of him save that he was initiated in **BALLYMEIRA Lodge, No. 776**, of Ireland, in the year 1862. It is doubtful if he were less than 21 years of age at the time of his initiation; therefore, having been born well over one hundred years ago, he was probably the first born of all our members.

* * *

In the second Appendix to this book provision is made for brethren to keep a personal record of their career in the RYE Lodge. If this is brought up-to-date from time to time the record will prove of considerable value and interest.

* * *

In the Summons for the Meeting held on 13th March, 1895, there was a Notice of Motion by Bro. CASTLEDINE as follows:

“That, considering the value honorary service of the Secretary (W.Bro. DEWSNAP) since the formation of the Lodge, some suitable recognition be made to him for same.”

What form this recognition took is no longer known (it was a purse of money, according to a later discovery by the author); but it is certain that the memory of this distinguished Brother will be preserved for many years to come as a result of the following ceremonial:

Guests visiting the Lodge often remark upon our curious manner of proposing the Nine o'clock Toast to absent brethren. The organist goes to the piano, while the brethren stand silent, and plays one verse of that beautiful old Scottish sing:

Mary

“Kind, kind and gentle is she,
Kind is my Mary;
A tender blossom on the tree
Cannot compare wi' Mary.”

Bro. DEWSNAP passed to the Grand Lodge Above in December of the year 1928. The funeral service was held in the Church of St. Saviour, Forest Hill, S.E, where he had

worshipped and served as a Warden (in company with our late W.Bro. PHILLIPS) for many years. When his body was taken from the Church on its last earthly journey the Organist played this song. No. doubt it had some special significance for the members of our late Brother's family and it also struck a peculiarly poignant note in the breasts of those many members of the Lodge who were present for it was recalled that Bro. DEWSNAP (who had been the fortunate possessor of a very sweet tenor voice) used to sing this song at all the Installation meetings of the Lodge. We saw him then, once more in our mind's eye, standing on the platform, the frail figure of one who had been in his young days a Captain of Royal Engineer Volunteers, singing to his Brother Masons whom he loved so well and served so long and faithfully.

So impressed was one Brother by this incident that he proposed in Lodge that, as long as possible, the memory of Bro. DEWSNAP should be preserved by playing this song after the toast of absent brethren. As time advances all those who knew him will, themselves, have passed on and the custom may itself die out – it is hoped not, for it is a beautiful tribute to the Father and First Master of the Lodge and one who was, undoubtedly, a very great Freemason. However, the song itself is so perfect in its simplicity and beauty that its own preservation is assured for many generations to come.

XVII

FINALE

“Happy have we met, happy have we been

Happy may we part and happy meet again.”

NO MORE FITTING end can be given to this Record than the following beautiful peroration to the Centenary Address delivered to MOUNT LEBANON Lodge, No. 73, in the year 1870 (eighteen years before our Consecration), By W.Bro. Dr. JOHN DIXON* which is produced by kind permission of the Worshipful Master and Members of that ancient and distinguished Lodge – a Lodge which has had so much, territorially, in common with our own. The full text of the Address is contained in the Lodge’s excellent History.

“In conclusion, allow me to observe than on an occasion of this kind our joy must necessarily be mingled with serious and solemn reflections . . . Man, as an individual, is but an atom in the infinity of space. His life, when protracted to its utmost span, is but as the lightning’s flash in the infinity of time. The material works of his hand, however grand and noble they may be, inevitably decay. The noblest and most age-enduring of them all are found in works of operative Masonry. Time – often called all-destroying time – which slowly but surely crumbles into dust the most solid structures of human art, and spares not the massive rock itself, add link upon link to the chain of intellectual and moral progress. Freemasonry is a grand link in the chain of human progress; each Masonic Lodge is a link in the chain of Masonry; each member of a

Lodge is a link in the chain of the Lodge’s existence; or, in other words, a fibre in a strand of a rope of many strands; the excellence, and strength, and durability of which depend on the excellence and perfection of its component parts.

The Lodge of which we have the honour to belong, though humble in its origin, and humble in the social position of many of its members has, upon the whole, played no unworthy part in the history and progress of English Freemasonry. If it has done no more, it has helped to ass lustre to the brightest jewel in the crown of English Masonry – I mean charity. We have drunk of prosperity. We have also tasted the bread of adversity . . . I hope I may say that we have many members who are anxious to emulate the good deeds of those who have gone before us. One thing more is necessary, and that is, we should introduce as our successors only such as are likely to do honour to the Lodge and the Craft.

I thank the brethren for the kind attention I have received, and I now conclude this centenary address with the prayer which was doubtless uttered at the Consecration of the Lodge, ‘MAY PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND HARMONY ATTEND THIS LODGE.’

SO MOTE IT BE.”

*Dr Dixon practised for many years in Bermondsey and died at the great age of 97 being, at the time of his death, the oldest known Freemason in the world.

BUILDERS

“Isn’t it strange that Princes and Kings,
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
And common folk – like you and me –
Are builders of Eternity ?

To each is given a set of tools,
Head, heart, hands and a Book of RULES,
And each must make, ere life is flown,
A stumbling block – or a stepping stone.”

GRETA WOODBRIDGE

Appendix I

Rye lodge, 2272

Alphabetical List of Founding, Joining and Initiate Members from October 1888, to January 1950

Present members are shown in capitals J=Joined I=Initiated

The number in the second column indicates seniority by Initiation

Name	Initiation No.	Entry to Lodge
Abley, W.A.A.G.	165 I	13.9.1920
Allsopp, J.	- J	1890
Anderson, J. H.	38 I	14.2.1894
APPLETON, D. H.	284 I	13.9.1948
Archer, A. W.	195 I	12.11.1923
Argent, W.	- J	12.10.1903
Arram, D.	214 I	11.4.1927
Arram, M.	228 I	12.1.1931
Athrie, H. E.	20 I	11.11.1891
Ayers, E.	40 I	14.11.1894
Bailey, J.	73 I	14.10.1901
BAKER, F. W.	107 I	10.4.1911
BALAAM, A. E.	257 I	12.1.1942
Barton, G. J.	- J	1890
Bascombe, J. R. H.	147 I	8.9.1919
Bax, P. A.	130 I	11.2.1918
BELL, C. S.	261 I	14.2.1944
Bell, R. E.	93 I	8.10.1906
Benson, H. A.	258 I	9.11.1942
Bishop, S. W.	117 I	11.1.1915
Bloomfield, A. H.	105 I	11.11.1910
Bonsall, R. T.	30 I	13.4.1892
Boon, J. E.	100 I	13.4.1908
Brabazon, P.	55 I	17.3.1897
Bradford, H. M.	56 I	17.3.1897
Brandon, O. A.	90 I	10.11.1905
BRANSON, G.	197 I	11.2.1924
Brearley, M. J.	205 I	8.2.926
Bridger, R.	- J	1890
Briginshaw, J. W.	69 I	14.1.1901
Brown, A.	177 I	12.9.1921
Brown A. E.	68 I	9.11.1900
Brown, B.	- J	1893
BROWN, S. H. J.	213 I	10.1.1927
BROWN, W. E.	268 I	9.4.1945
Buckland, C. E.	58 I	17.11.1879
BUDELLE, A. E.	175 I	11.4.1921
Burlingham, J. G.	67 I	8.10.1900
Burt, E. G.	201 I	12.1.1925
Burt, H. A. V.	65 I	9.2.1900
BUTCHER, F. N.	208 I	13.9.1926
BUTTON, A. L.	249 I	17.4.1936
Campbell, H.	- J	1894
Castledine, G.	11 I	10.12.1890
Castledine, W.	- I	Founder
Caulfield, S.	- J	13.1.1919
Chand, P.	22 I	9.12.1891
Cheshire, W. E.	62 I	15.3.1899
Christopher, W.	- J	9.1903
Clark, J. A.	106 I	9.1.1911
Clark, J. A. R.	97 I	8.2.1907

CLARK, J. H. Name	275 I Initiation No.	9.9.1946 Entry to Lodge
Cloke, W. G.	18 I	14.10.1891
Cock, W.	-	Founder
Cocks, C. D.	39 I	10.10.1894
Coe, J.	- J	1891
Collier, T. G.	-	Founder
COLLINS, A.	203 I	14.9.1925
Collins, S. M.	115 I	11.1.1915
COLLIS, F. E.	270 I	12.11.1945
Colliver, F.	169 I	6.12.1920
Comer, D.	176 I	11.4.1921
Cooke, E. L.	191 I	9.4.1923
COOPER, T. P.	129 I	11.2.1918
Coplans, J. M.	210 I	8.11.1926
Cordell, E. A.	171 I	10.1.1921
Cordner, G. F.	24 I	9.12.1891
Couch, H. W.	190 I	12.2.1923
Cousins, G. F.	77 I	14.2.1902
Cowlin, F. E.	157 I	9.2.1920
Cray, T.	-	Founder
CURTIS, C. G.	- J	13.1.1947
Davis, W. W.	46 I	11.12.1895
Davison, R. W.	113 I	14.5.1914
DAY, P. L.	- J	10.10.1931
Dewsnap, J. W.	-	Founder
Dickson, J.	- J	1891
DOBBY, W.	179 I	10.10.1921
Dowton, W. L.	59 I	17.11.1897
Drury, A. E.	103 I	5.4.1909
Dubery, J. W. H.	109 I	8.7.1912
Dunn, F.	-	Founder
Dunn, W. R.	1 I	1.12.1888
Dunnett, F. E.	119 I	11.10.1915
Dunnett, W. E.	144 I	10.2.1919
Dyne, E. J. (junr.)	224 I	14.4.1930
Dyne, E. J.	223 I	14.4.1930
Eames, F.	89 I	9.10.1905
Edwards, G. W.	91 I	18.12.1905
Elliott, S. H.	131 I	11.3.1918
ELLIS, A. E.	271 I	12.11.1945
ELLIS, R. C.	282 I	12.1.1948
Ellis, T. P.	183 I	10.4.1922
EMMOTT, B. W. G.	243 I	12.11.1934
Epps, W. C.	216 I	14.11.1927
Esler, R.	- J	Pre-1894
Fairweather, J. F.	36 I	8.11.1893
Farquhar, J. G.	123 I	11.9.1916
Feldman, B.	118 I	12.4.1915
Fisher, A. R.	192 I	9.4.1923
Fletcher, F. G.	- J	
Fletcher, J. A.	13 I	10.12.1890
FLOREY, A. E.	207 I	12.4.1926
Florey, R. J.	251 I	14.2.1938
Florey, T. J.	80 I	13.2.1903
Foggo, A. R.	230 I	11.1.1932
Ford, H. W.	159 I	15.3.1920
Forte, F. H.	132 I	11.3.1918
France, W. H.	146 I	25.5.1919

Name	Initiation No.	Entry to Lodge
Frankau, R. H. W.	- J	9.2.1925
Franklin, W. H.	174 I	15.3.1921
Franks, F. W.	81 I	12.10.1903
Franks, H. E. A.	71 I	9.9.1901
Gale, F. E.	70 I	8.2.1901
GARDEN, J. B.	254 I	9.1.1939
GEDDES, H. R.	- J	9.1915
Germain, H. T.	42 I	12.12.1894
Gibson, W.	139 I	11.11.1918
Gideon, C. G. A.	222 I	13.1.1930
Gilbert, F.	- J	11.1902
GILL, J. H.	235 I	10.4.1933
Gillingham, G. F.	259 I	12.4.1943
Gittens, C. W.	163 I	4.6.1920
Glasscock, S. E. G.	181 I	9.1.1922
Goldsmith, C. J.	221 I	11.11.1929
Goldstein, H.	154 I	1.12.1919
GOODWIN, O. C.	206 I	12.4.1926
Govan, R.	161 I	12.4.1920
Green, F. W.	- J	Pre-1921
Greenfield, S. C.	-	Founder
Gregory, H. E.	162 I	4.6.1920
Hakoumoff, A. R.	94 I	8.10.1906
HALL, S. R.	255 I	8.1.1940
Hanwell, A. W.	- J	1916
Harding, W.	215 I	12.9.1927
HARDING, W. E. C.	114 I	11.1.1915
Harris, A. L.	239 I	8.1.1934
Harris, G. E.	66 I	9.4.1900
Hart, A. R.	61 I	21.12.1898
Hart, A. T.	33 I	9.11.1892
Hazell, A. E.	102 I	12.2.1909
Hazle, R. E.	78 I	13.10.1902
Henry, H. L.	120 I	11.10.1915
Highland, G. W.	152 I	10.11.1919
HIND, J. F.	289 I	14.11.1949
HINGE, H. S.	153 I	1.12.1919
Hobman, A. C. W.	- J	1890
Hogben, B. T.	226 I	10.11.1930
Hogg, C. B.	196 I	14.1.1924
Holbrook, F. J.	88 I	10.2.1905
HOLMES, S. T.	237 I	13.11.1933
Hooper, B.	112 I	9.2.1914
Hosgood, J. T.	124 I	9.10.1916
Howlett, H. A.	122 I	10.4.1916
HUCKLE, W. E.	167 I	11.10.1920
Huggins, J. T. C.	57 I	20.10.1897
Humphries, G.	246 I	9.9.1935
Hussey, F.	4 I	2.2.1889
Jamieson, J. W.	83 I	10.10.1904
Jefferis, S.	234 I	14.11.1932
Johnston, T.	7 I	13.11.1889
Jones, C.	- J	9.9.1918
Jones E. W.	233 I	14.11.1932
Jones, H. S.	141 I	13.1.1919
Jones, J. C.	133 I	8.4.1918
JONES, W. E.	273 I	8.4.1946
Joseph, O. E.	168 I	8.11.1920

Kane, E. M.	108 I	8.7.1912
Name	Initiation No.	Entry to Lodge
KELSEY, W. E.	267 I	9.4.1945
KEMP, H. W.	287 I	8.11.1948
Kilmare-Browne, G. R. J.	236 I	10.4.1933
Lake, H. W.	92 I	8.10.1906
Lake, J. C.	23 I	9.12.1891
Lally, A. V.	227 I	10.11.1930
LAMBERT, P. F.	264 I	8.1.1945
Lawrence, E.	32 I	12.10.1892
LAXTON, L. R.	262 I	11.4.1944
Lee, F. M.	85 I	10.10.1904
Lee, L. C.	266 I	12.2.1945
Leng, J. E.	99 I	13.4.1908
Levick, E. V.	212 I	10.1.1927
LEVY, S. J.	238 I	13.11.1933
LEWIS, H. N.	189 I	12.2.1923
LEWIS, R. H.	248 I	11.11.1935
Lindus, H. J.	37 I	14.2.1894
Line, H.	51 I	15.4.1896
Littell, L. F.	-	Founder
LOASBY, A. H.	245 I	9.9.1935
LONG, H. J.	- J	14.1.1924
Long, R.	54 I	17.3.1897
Lott, W. A.	- J	9.1929
Lumaye, G. J. W.	101 I	14.9.1908
Lyon, R.	- J	1890
LYONS, L. P.	277 I	11.11.1946
LYONS, R. S.	242 I	10.9.1934
LYTLE, C. J.	125 I	13.11.1916
MCDOWELL, J. B.	74 I	13.1.1902
Mackenzie, A.	182 I	13.2.1922
Mackley, W. H.	14 I	11.2.1891
Mallons, H. T.	- J	1918
Manaton, W. E.	95 I	9.11.1906
Mansell, G. S.	-	Founder
Maple, Sir John B.	- J	1890
Markillie, J. A.	31 I	12.10.1892
Martinek, O. H.	110 I	14.10.1912
Mason, F. G.	128 I	16.4.1917
May, G. C.	- J	1890
May, G. E.	17 I	14.10.1891
MAYCOCK, S. A.	229 I	13.4.1931
Milburn, E.	172 I	14.2.1921
MIZEN, H. E.	166 I	11.10.1920
Mills, F. J.	202 I	12.1.1925
Mills, T.	45 I	13.11.1895
MONEYPENNY, W. L.	283 I	9.2.1948
Monks, J.	- J	1890
Moore, R. G. Adey	111 I	13.12.1912
Morton, A. S.	188 I	8.1.1923
Morton, W. J.	79 I	13.10.1902
MUNDY, R. C. H.	272 I	11.2.1946
Nash, A. J.	121 I	14.2.1916
NASH, S. G.	149 I	10.10.1919
Nelson, H. V.	137 I	14.10.1918
Nightingale, G. P.	-	Founder
Norman, Alex James	86 I	10.10.1904
NORMAN, Alex John	178 I	12.9.1921

North, F. E. Name	134 I Initiation No.	15.7.1918 Entry to Lodge
North, G. J.	34 I	9.11.1892
Oldershaw, H. L.	200 I	10.11.1924
Olphin, H. K.	219 I	12.11.1928
PALER, D. R.	285 I	13.9.1948
PALER, T. G.	96 I	8.2.1907
Palmer, H. E.	250 I	8.11.1937
Parker, J.	16 I	11.3.1891
Peacock, J. C.	87 I	11.11.1904
Peake, T. J.	49 I	18.3.1896
Pearce, E.	35 I	14.12.1892
Peck, F. W.	10 I	12.11.1890
Percy, Edwin G.	143 I	10.2.1919
PERCY, Eric G.	281 I	8.9.1947
Pettit, E.	-	Founder
Phillips, G. R.	6 I	2.3.1889
Phillips, H. H.	138 I	14.10.1918
Phillips, W. A.	185 I	13.11.1922
Phillipson, P.	- J	9.1.1922
Philps, P. G.	-	Founder
Piper, T.	- J	1892
PITT, W. G. G.	193 I	10.9.1923
PLANT, H. F.	180 I	9.1.1922
Poole, E. H.	135 I	15.7.1918
Pratt, F. P.	60 I	14.9.1898
Preator, H. L.	164 I	13.9.1920
PRENTICE, W.	- J	10.11.1947
Proe, W. S.	8 I	11.12.1889
Pugh, J. H.	25 I	10.2.1892
Ralph, J. L.	82 I	11.4.1904
Reed, H. E.	5 I	2.2.1889
REYNOLDS, C. L. J.	265 I	8.1.1945
Rickman, J. P.	- J	1890
RICHARDS, G. H.	290 I	9.1.1950
ROBERTS, K. E.	269 I	10.9.1945
Robertson, C.	41 I	12.12.1894
Robinson, J.	104 I	5.4.1909
Rodley, R. A.	72 I	9.9.1901
ROGERS, A. P. O.	288 I	11.4.1949
Rogers, J. W.	26 I	10.2.1892
Rose, J.	48 I	18.3.1896
Rowland, A. E.	2 I	1.12.1888
Russell, F. S.	98 I	13.1.1908
Sansum, W. H.	- J	10.10.1910
Scale, J. B.	- J	1890
Scammell, S. T.	29 I	9.3.1892
Schouten, N.	217 I	9.1.1928
Scott, B.	- J	2.1918
SCOTT, C. H.	274 I	8.4.1946
Scott, J. C.	116 I	11.1.1915
Scott, M.	- J	12.1.1920
Seaman, R.	218 I	8.10.1928
Shalders, H. W.	160 I	15.3.1920
Shears, R.	15 I	11.2.1891
Sherwood, W. M. F.	155 I	12.1.1920
Singh, P.	21 I	9.12.1891
Skittrell, J. G.	198 I	8.9.1924
SLADE, H. J.	33 I	13.3.1895

Name	Initiation No.	Entry to Lodge
Slight, E.	136 I	9.9.1918
Smith, A. J.	199 I	10.11.1924
Smith, A. S. F.	9 I	12.3.1890
Smith, E. E.	28 I	9.3.1892
Smith, G. A.	186 I	13.11.1922
Smith, G. H.	50 I	18.3.1896
Smith, H. R.	150 I	13.10.1919
SMITH, J. MURRAY	252 I	11.4.1938
Smith, N. S.	145 I	5.5.1919
Smith, O. J.	127 I	16.4.1917
Smith S. J.	247 I	11.11.1935
SMITH, T. G.	260 I	17.12.1943
Spinney, W. S.	156 I	12.1.1920
Stevens, F. J.	63 I	12.10.1899
STEVENTON, J.	211 I	8.11.1926
Street, W.	4 I	13.11.1895
Strevens, E. J.	12 I	10.12.1890
Tack, J.	209 I	13.9.1926
TAYLOR, A. R.	253 I	12.9.1938
Taylor, G. H.	52 I	21.10.1896
Taylor, H. J.	64 I	12.10.1899
TAYLOR, S. E.	84 I	10.10.1904
TEBBUTT, E.	263 I	11.4.1944
Templeman, F.	-	Founder
TERRANEAU, A. H. R.	225 I	8.9.1930
TERRANEAU, E. G.	244 I	8.4.1935
THOMAS, R. G.	194 I	12.11.1923
Thorn, S. L.	158 I	9.2.1920
THUEY, A.	231 I	11.4.1932
Thurstans, L. J.	204 I	14.9.1925
TOMSETT, M. J.	280 I	8.9.1947
TORRING, T. W.	241 I	9.4.1934
TORRING, T. W. (Junr.)	- J	8.9.1947
Tuite, M.	76 I	13.1.1902
Tunbridge, J. A.	- J	13.11.1920
Turner, A.	170 I	6.12.1920
Turner, G. E.	- J	11.1928
TWOGOOD, M. E.	151 I	10.11.1919
UNWIN, F. A.	256 I	13.10.1941
WADDINGTON, W.	276 I	11.11.1946
Walker, W. H.	53 I	17.2.1897
Waller, W.	- J	13.11.1889
WALLER, W. A.	286 I	8.11.1948
Walton, W. S.	142 I	13.1.1919
WARD, A. F.	187 I	8.1.1923
Ward, J.	240 I	8.1.1934
Warner, H. G. T.	19 I	11.11.1891
WARNER, N. S. H.	126 I	16.4.1917
Warner, W. T.	-	Founder
WAYNE, N.	220 I	11.11.1929
WEATHERHEAD, R. C.	278 I	10.2.1947
WEAVERS, A. C.	173 I	14.2.1921
WELHAM, L. P. G. A.	279 I	10.2.1947
WILKIE, F. J.	232 I	11.4.1932
Wilkinson, N. T.	- J	1900
WILLIAMS, P. R.	140 I	11.11.1918
Wilmore, A. J.	184 I	10.4.1922
Winder, H. H.	- J	8.9.1919

Winder, J. C.	148 I	8.9.1919
Name	Initiation No.	Entry to Lodge
Wood, E. J.	27 I	10.2.1892
Workman, E. H.	75 I	13.1.1902
Wright, T. M.	3 I	1.12.1888
Young, H.	47 I	11.12.1895

Tylers of the Lodge

T. Bowler	October 1888 - March 1895
J. Whiteman	November 1895 – April 1896
R. B. Whiteman	October 1896 – September 1947
R. C. Rouse	October 1948 –

It is the author's melancholy duty to have to record that, between the completion of this work and receipt of the Printer's proof, the under mentioned distinguished and beloved Brethren (two of whom were "Great Pillars") have been called to Higher Service. The loss to the Lodge is incalculable, but the memory of these Good Companions will remain ever green among those of the Brethren who knew them until, in turn, time with us shall be no more.

F. W. BAKER	4/5/1950
W. E. C. HARDING	5/6/1950
H. E. MIZEN	12/3/1950
H. J. SLADE	31/10/1950

THE SECOND FIFTY YEARS

A continuation of the history of the



Rye Lodge No 2272

From January 1950 until January 2001

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During the editing of this history it was necessary to rewrite the whole of the “First 50 Years”. Which has been done without disturbing the lay-out and feeling of that work to the best of my ability.

Cliff Brown
Thursday, 29 April 2004

INTRODUCTION

At the time of the centenary meeting it was assumed that one of the Brethren would take on the task of writing a sequel to "Coming Thro' the Rye", that excellent work written by the late W/Bro. Arthur Buddell OBE, MC, PAGSw.B

When I eventually agreed to take on the task several Past Masters offered me advice, which usually implied that I could do a lot worse than emulate his work.

Although I had read Coming Thro' the Rye three or four times it wasn't until I read it when I started work on my task, that I realised its true value. Not only is it a record of the early years of Rye Lodge but an insight into life as it was at that period in time.

Society has advanced by leaps and bounds since 1950. The spread of Television, the introduction of the mobile phone and the personal computer. to name but a few. Freemasonry has changed also with the loss of its own Hospital and some of the individual Charitable Institutions, the formation of London Management to give London Lodges their own identity and the proposal for a Metropolitan Grand Lodge for London.

I feel that it is only right to reflect those major changes and I hope that when Brethren read this work in the future, they will be able to experience through the written word, not only what it was like to be a member of the Rye Lodge during the second half of the twentieth century, but also to be able to compare it with that of the first half.

January 2000

Derek Ryder

CHAPTER ONE

THE RYE LODGE

1950 – 2000

In 1950 the Lodge was still meeting at the Holborn Restaurant where it had met since 1900. In 1954 it moved to the Oxford Street Corner House and in 1957 to the Mostyn Hotel.

This remained the venue until 1968 when a move was made to the Great Western Royal Hotel. After only three years the Lodge was obliged to move again to the Tower Room in 1971.

Four years later following constant increases in price at almost every meeting, it was decided that the future of the Lodge would be best ensured if it moved to a Masonic Centre. Several venues were considered and eventually Southgate Masonic Centre was chosen and the Lodge moved there in 1975, where it still meets today.

The centre is situated in the North London Borough of Enfield, formerly part of Middlesex, but has a dispensation for London Lodges to meet there. Consequently the Lodge still retains its status as a London Lodge.

In the 1950's the majority of the members of the Lodge either lived or worked in London, now however whilst some members work in London, in keeping with population trends the majority of members live outside of London.

There have on some occasions been short discussions as to whether or not the Lodge should join the Province of Middlesex, but these were always one sided, in favour of staying in London.

The Lodge has seen the number of its members slowly drop and in keeping with other London Lodges, suffered following the country's financial crises of the 1980's, when Membership was reduced by 40%. Jobs in London virtually disappeared overnight and with interest rates rising, people found new words in their vocabulary such as negative equity, which became the dread of every homeowner with a Mortgage.

To add to these problems the Lodge also lost several younger past Masters either to the Grand Lodge above or because they moved too far away to remain members. Of the 13 Lodges consecrated in 1888, only 6 survive, Rye fortunately is one of them. The variation in the number of members can be clearly seen from the table below: -

Numbers of members: -

	1888	- 14 (Founders at Consecration)		
1892	40		1949	87
1893	46		1955	83
1910	55		1963	84
1920	93		1980	75
1930	96		1988	46
1940	96		2000	35

Due to the drop in numbers it has been necessary for Past Masters to take Office in Lodge again and in due course pass through the Chair of King Solomon for a second and sometimes a third time as can be seen from the list below. Whilst this was a most pleasant experience for the Past Masters concerned, Masonry being a progressive Science, it is a very unhealthy situation for the Lodge.

Below is a continuation of the names of those Brethren who have served the Office of Master.

A. H. Loasby	1949	J. J. Taylor	1975
A. E. Balham	1950	A. J. Hurved	1976
J. Murray-Smith	1951	S. P. Curson	1977
C. L. J. Reynolds	1952	D. W. Ryder	1978
T. G. Smith	1953	D. Brett	1979
K. E. Roberts	1954	R. C. Robbins	1980
A. E. Ellis	1955	T. R. Blakeney	1981
W. Prentice	1956	A. J. Hurved	1982
D. H. Appleton	1957	J. W. Andrews	1983
C. H. Richards	1958	T. N. Godfrey	1984
W. Waddington	1959	C. G. Brown	1985
W. Edwards	1960	J. R. Keenleyside	(Died in Office, Dec 1986)
R. S. Lyons	1961	E. G. Sturgess	1987
J. L. Johnson	1962	A. D. Marriott	1988
F. E. A. Farrow	1963	A. J. Olive	1989
G. T. Paler	1964	J. R. Miller	1990
J. F. Shawyer	1965	H. R. Gooderham	1991
T. R. Blakeney	1966	S. J. G. Whyman	1992
E. A. Franklin	1967	I. A. Roberts	1993
H. Johnson	1968	A. D. Marriott	1994
S. P. Curson	1969	K. L. Moakes	1995
D. F. Fadden	1970	C. G. Brown	1996
S. C. W. Jenkins	1971	D. W. Ryder	1997
H. R. Gooderham	1972	D. W. Ryder	1998
D. H. Reef	1973	K. L. Moakes	1999
K. A. Beaney	1974	E. G. Sturgess	2000

In addition to those who have served the Office of Master, it takes a dedicated number of Brethren who are prepared to give up their own time, to keep the Lodge on a regular course and running smoothly. Unless a Brother has carried out these Offices they have no way of knowing what is involved. Many of them do not receive the proper recognition for their devoted service to the Lodge.

Secretaries

1948	A. E. Florey	1973	W. Edwards
1964	W. Edwards	1976	K. A. Beaney
1968	A. E. Ellis	1998	C. G. Brown

A special tribute must be paid to W. Bro. K. A. Beaney, who having served the Office for 22 years is the longest serving Secretary during the second fifty years of the Lodge.

Treasurers

1954	A. H. Loasby	1982	R. C. Robbins
1962	K. E. Roberts	1995	A. D. Marriott
1969	R. S. Lyons	1998	S. C. Curson
1976	K. E. Roberts	1999	D. Attwood

The longest serving Treasurer during this time was W. Bro. R. C. Robbins who was a very laid back character. He always had a smile when giving notice of motion that he would be proposing a rise in Fees. None the less he was astute and a very worthy Treasurer.

Lodges are now encouraged to donate to non-Masonic charities more than ever. The Rye Lodge has been particularly successful in this area mainly due to the efforts of Brethren, who organise the Ladies Festivals, which are dealt with in another chapter.

Our present Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent has made Freemasonry more open than it was in 1950. Subtle changes have modified parts of our ritual, probably the most important one being the removal of penalties from our obligations as these are no longer considered necessary.

Albeit that changes have taken place, one thing has remained constant, that of the enjoyment of being a Freemason, particularly as a member of the Rye Lodge.

The majority of the traditions established in the early years have been passed down from Brother to Brother and are still carried on. The most well known one being the playing of 'Mary' immediately following the toast to absent Brethren, thereby fulfilling the hopes expressed, for this old Scottish Air is still played at every meeting. The origin of this tradition is fully explained in Part 1.

An event which took place on 10th June 1992, was the 275th anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. This also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the accession of HM the Queen and the 25th anniversary of the Installation of HRH the Duke of Kent as Grand Master.

It took place at Earls Court Exhibition centre and was attended by over 5000 Brethren. The Lodge was represented by the then Worshipful Master W. Bro. H. Gooderham and the Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. D. Ryder

There were representatives and deputations from Grand Lodges throughout the world and the ceremony was televised.

The Lodge purchased the commemorative medallion, which now adorns the Masters collar. Proceeds from the sale of these were in aid of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.

As well as maintaining the old traditions the second Fifty years has produced traditions of its own era. The most popular one being the annual visits to the Senlac Lodge No.5273 at Hastings in the Province of Sussex.

The origin of this annual visit dates from sometime in the early sixties when W/Bro. Tom Turner was a member of both Lodges. It was his custom to invite a few members of Rye Lodge to the meetings of the Senlac Lodge and vice versa. The Senlac Lodge was originally a Military Lodge and has kept many of its Military traditions. In particular the very moving ceremony at the Festive Board following the November meeting, known as the Armistice meeting.

After a few years the visits were made official and every year since then members of the Rye Lodge have visited Senlac in November and members of Senlac Lodge have visited Rye in April.

With Britain's deep involvement with Europe a more recent exchange of visits with a French Lodge, "La Lumiere de la Tierache N.F.1337" of which W. Bro. David Attwood is a Founder member and W. Bro. Cliff Brown designed and made their banner. Such visits could well become a tradition in the future.

Other traditions and visits such as these can only serve to strengthen the Fraternity of Freemasonry and contribute towards the continuing existence of the Rye Lodge and the happiness of its Members.

CHAPTER TWO

BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY

During the second fifty years of the existence of the Lodge, the Brother who took on the duties of Charity Steward was recognised as an Officer of the Lodge and officially invested with the Collar and Jewel (a Trowel) of his Office.

The Lodge has continued to support the Charities although with the demise of some of the older Masonic Charities and their replacement with new ones, the Honours and Award system is not quite the same. However the Lodge did merit the Bronze award for its efforts during the London Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund and the Jewel now adorns the Masters Collar.

Covenants were very popular amongst Brethren. On signing a written undertaking the relevant Charities benefited from being able to reclaim the Income Tax paid by individual Brethren. At the turn of the Century this scheme was replaced by a simpler gift declaration

The Office of Almoner has been given more importance and now ranks immediately beneath that of Director of Ceremonies. Part 1. Refers to a Benevolent Fund which was wound up in the late 90's, being replaced by an Almoners Account.

Whilst this has given the Almoner more freedom to act quickly, it has brought far more responsibility to the Office.

The old saying that "Charity begins at home" is practised by the Lodge for at Christmas the Almoner sends a cheque to every widow. As the number of these ladies has consistently been between 20 and 25, this is no mean feat. The money is usually raised by raffles at the Festive Board, prizes for which are donated by the Brethren.

Letters received from the Widows, some of which are extremely moving, show just how much this gesture is appreciated and a vote of thanks must go to all those Brethren who have so generously donated the prizes.

All Masonic and other Charities were badly affected by the problems of the 80's and dealt a further blow with the introduction of the National Lottery. However, the Lodge continues to raise money for both Masonic and Non-Masonic Charities and assist Brethren and their dependants in their time of need.

CHAPTER THREE

THE CENTENARY MEETING

Without doubt the most important event in the second fifty years of the Lodge was the Centenary meeting, which was held at the London Masonic Centre Clerkenwell Green London EC1 on Monday 24 October 1988.

Fortunately due to the foresight of a brother many years ago a Centenary fund had been set up whereby monies were allocated each year towards the costs incurred in the necessary requirements of a Centenary meeting. This considerably reduced the financial implications to the Brethren

As is usual on these occasions the meeting was an emergency meeting the business being as follows: -

- 1. To open the Lodge.*
- 2. To read the Dispensation.*
- 3. To receive the guest of Honour V. W. Bro Sir John Welch. Bt. And other grand Officers.*
- 4. To read the Warrant.*
- 5. To receive the Centenary Warrant.*
- 6. To dedicate a new Banner and attend to an Oration by the Rev. A. W. S. Brown, Deputy Grand Chaplain*
- 7. To Close the Lodge*

The Officers were:- Worshipful Master W. Bro. A. D. Marriott

<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Bro. A J Olive</i>	<i>A.D.C.</i>	<i>W. Bro. T.N. Godfrey</i>
<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>Bro. J.R. Miller</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>W/Bro. E.A. Franklin</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>W. Bro.D. Brett</i>	<i>Asst.Secretary</i>	<i>W. Bro. S.C.W. Jenkins</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>W. Bro. R. C. Robbins</i>	<i>Inner Guard</i>	<i>Bro. I.A. Roberts</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>W. Bro.K. A. Beaney</i>	<i>Stewards</i>	<i>W. Bro. J.J. Taylor</i>
<i>D.C.</i>	<i>W. Bro. S. P. Curson</i>		<i>Bro. H. Hull</i>
<i>Senior Deacon</i>	<i>W. Bro.H.R. Gooderham</i>		<i>Bro. M. Bridgeland</i>
<i>Junior Deacon</i>	<i>Bro. S. J. G. Whyman</i>		<i>Bro. F.J. Maund</i>
<i>Charity Steward</i>	<i>W. Bro. T.R. Blakeney</i>		<i>Bro. M.T. O'Reilly</i>
<i>Almoner</i>	<i>W. Bro. J.W. Andrews</i>	<i>Tyler</i>	<i>W. Bro. T. Whitbread</i>
	<i>Immediate Past Master</i>		<i>W. Bro. E.G. Sturgess</i>

There were 23 Officers, 9 Members of the Lodge and 56 guests present at the meeting and the atmosphere was one of importance and celebration. It was also the first time that the Lodge had ever been privileged with a visit from anyone of importance from Grand Lodge.

It is pleasing to note that prior to the Festive Board the distinguished visitors from Grand Lodge mingled freely with all the Brethren.

Of the items on the summons undoubtedly the most moving was the dedication of the magnificent Centenary Banner, which was made and donated by W.Bro. C.G. Brown. The banner with all its intricate work and the excellent artistic representation of the Lodge emblem is displayed at every Lodge meeting and many comments have been passed as to its excellence.

It is difficult to imagine the patience and the hours of devoted work that it must have taken to complete and the Lodge will forever be grateful to W. Bro. Brown for his efforts.

Footnote by W. Bro. Cliff Brown

I feel that it is only right that it is pointed out that the painted central motif on the banner is a copy by me of the original banner that was made and presented by one of our founders W. Bro. W. Castledine PAGDC. LR. and I repeat the paragraph in Chapter XVI of the original first 50 years history, hoping that our predecessors would be well pleased

In the year 1900, W. Bro. CASTLEDINE presented the Lodge with a banner depicting a man with a scythe cutting and stacking rye – a most appropriate emblem, beautifully worked and similar in design to that used on the Past Masters' jewels. As all honourable banners should be, ours became battle-scarred in the Second World War and it is now in tatters and quite unrepresentable. Owing to the scarcity of silks and the prohibitive cost, replacement at the moment is out of the question but one day, perhaps, we shall again have a banner to precede the processions in and out of the Lodge.

I also used this same motif for the Lodge logo, which is on the first page of this half of our history and came into use in the Millenium year 2000.



Pre A.D. 2000



Post A. D. 2000

CHAPTER FOUR

THE RYE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

In 1950 the Lodge of Instruction was meeting at the Star & Garter PH, Poland Street W1. where the landlord of that venue was Bro. Fred Curson who was the father of one of our present Grand Officers W. Bro. Stewart Curson PAGDC. this proved to be a very popular and happy venue with very good attendances and remained so until 1956. Bro. Fred moved on to another public house at Greenford Middlesex. (Bro. Fred Curson later passed to the Grand Lodge Above in 1961), but sadly the new landlord did not want the L of I. so it moved around the corner to the Blue Posts PH Berwick Street.W1. They met there until the retirement of the Landlord in 1974.

In 1974 the Lodge of Instruction moved to the George and Dragon PH, St. John Street, EC.1. However in 1978 the Brethren became concerned when it was discovered that the Landlord was allowing an extreme Political Party to hold meetings at the Pub. Consequently the Lodge of Instruction moved to the nearby Crown and Woolpack PH, also in St Johns Street.

Whilst not quite so popular as the Blue Posts, none the less it was generally liked by the Brethren, who were well looked after by a succession of landlords. The attendances at this time although not as good as before were still very healthy with an average of 14.

Unfortunately this venue was eventually sold and closed for re-development. Consequently it became necessary to move again. Finding a suitable new home proved very difficult as most of the approved venues in the city area were either closed to Masonic business or in the case of those remaining, had increased their prices by such an amount that they were unaffordable.

Several Past Masters spent a lot of their own time trying to find a suitable venue, but without success. Eventually it was suggested that a move should be made to a Pub in South London where the Landlord was prepared to offer accommodation at a very reasonable rate.

With some reluctance, particularly from the Brethren who lived North of the River, the move was finally made in March 1990 to the Two Eagles PH, Austral Street SE.11. Although average attendances of seven were maintained, the venue changed Managers frequently and slowly deteriorated to such an extent that it became unsuitable.

On 20th January 1999 the Lodge of Instruction moved to the Thurrock Masonic Centre where it still meets today. Sadly the average attendance is now five but at least it still continues to teach and encourage Brethren to go on to better things

The following Brethren have given their services as Preceptors or Deputy Preceptors during the second fifty years: -

<i>H. Plant</i>	<i>A Hurved</i>
<i>A. Buddell</i>	<i>K.Beaney</i>
<i>W. Prentice</i>	<i>D.Ryder</i>
<i>W. Edwards</i>	<i>D Brett</i>
<i>T. Blakeney</i>	<i>C. Brown</i>
<i>H. Gooderham</i>	

One thing that has not changed is an observation made by almost every lay Brother who starts to learn the ritual in earnest and when corrected by the Preceptor on a certain point, replies saying "that's not what the book says". The usual answer to this response is that it is traditional and in Rye we do it this way. Eventually lay Brethren accept this and when they become Past Masters, say exactly the same thing to the new lay Brethren.

I can't recall a preceptor (myself included) advising a lay Brother to read the detailed account of the origins of the Lodge of Instruction in Part.1. of "Coming Through The Rye". From the record given we learn that in the early years of the Lodge, Brethren attended another Lodge of Instruction where several different rituals were used. It wasn't until 1930 when the Lodge formed the Rye Lodge of Instruction, that M.M. Taylor's version of the ritual was officially adopted. However, unofficially parts of other rituals seemed to have been adopted likewise.

As an amusing footnote W. Bro. Curson relates that as a young boy in the between 1950 and 53 he was employed by his father to take two trays of drinks into the L of I, whose numbers were similar to a regular meeting at the time of writing, he was rewarded for this service with 3old-pence and also he often earned a clip around the ears for using the correct degree knocks to gain entry.

CHAPTER FIVE

LADIES FESTIVALS

Ladies Nights were revived following the Second World War in 1947 and by the 60's they had become very well established. They were immensely popular with the Brethren and their wives and until the late 70's it was quite common for the numbers attending to be in excess of 250.

Also during this time there was born a second social function which owes it's beginning to some time in the early 50's when an L of I night at the Star and Garter was given up to a sausage and mash supper, this went on to become a social evening with the Ladies on a Saturday. When the L of I left the Star and Garter in 1956 the event continued and gradually evolved into, the Lodge of Instruction Supper and Dance or as it was affectionately known "The Rough Do". So named because the dress for men was lounge suits and not evening dress as at Ladies Festivals. These would be presided over by the Master Elect and was looked upon as a rehearsal for the Ladies night.

The sole purpose of the event was to raise money for the Masonic Hospital. Two Nurses would be officially invited and they would sit on the top table as guests of honour, having been brought to the venue by a special hire car, which also took them home.

During the course of the evening they would be presented with a small personal gift as a memento of the occasion and a cheque for the Hospital funds.

Although a few toasts were taken the event was informal and there were several Brethren who would attend this event, in preference to the rather more formal Ladies night.

In the late 80's as attendances at both events began to fall drastically, it was decided to drop the Lodge of Instruction Supper and concentrate every effort to ensure the future of the Ladies nights. This decision proved to be a wise one as Ladies Nights still continue today, but with greatly reduced numbers of between 80 – 100.

Undoubtedly one of the most time consuming and unrecognised jobs is that of the Festival Secretary, yet the efforts of these Brethren often produce considerable sums of money for Charity. There are also the other helpers who should not be forgotten, Stewards who will sell raffle tickets etc., the Festival Treasurer and the faithful band of Brethren who donate prizes to the raffle

By far the greatest responsibility falls on the Festival Secretary. His job is a thankless task involving much of his own spare time, which is seldom appreciated and sometimes, devoid of well deserved thanks.

The list below is of the names of some of the Brethren who have been involved in Ladies Festivals during the second fifty years: -

T.Turner, S.Jenkins, H.Gooderham, D.Reef, D.Ryder and C.Brown

Although changes have been made over the years, the main one being a relaxing of some of the formality of those of the first fifty years, Ladies Nights still follow a similar pattern which the majority of Brethren and their guests enjoy.

However a special event did occur on one occasion in the early 80's. At that time there was a regular guest who was in her late 90's who loved Ladies Nights and even enjoyed a dance. This particular year the date of the Ladies Night fell on the Saturday before the day of her 100th birthday.

A special exemption was sought and granted by the Court so that the premises could remain open until 12.30am. The Band agreed to perform for an extra half-hour free and the Management of the Venue donated a large Birthday cake.

On the stroke of Midnight the lady was ushered into the centre of a circle of all the guests and the usual songs were sang. A Toast was drunk to her health and the telegram from the Queen was read after which, there was three very loud cheers.

At the present time the resolve is still there to enjoy oneself and raise money for Charity. The majority of monies raised are now donated to non-Masonic Charities, although a token donation still goes to the Masters list.

CHAPTER SIX

THE RYE CHAPTER

As stated in Part.1, the Rye Chapter was Chartered on 3rd May 1893 and consecrated on 12th June 1893 at the Peckham Public Hall, Rye Lane, Peckham. Sadly little is known of the early years as the Chapter records were destroyed during the war, including the original Charter of Constitution.

In December 1940, Grand Chapter authorised an Installation meeting to be held at the High Holborn restaurant, pending the issue of a Charter of Confirmation. The minutes show that at that time, the Chapter met in March, June & December, as it still does today and that all Officers were elected on a show of hands. The Charter of Confirmation was received in March 1941.

March 1943 saw the first Exalte for three years, following which there was a steady intake and attendance's during the 40's rose to an average of 26. Dining appears to have recommenced in June 1946 and in 1948 the dining fee rose to 3 Guineas. A regular item on the summons at that time was "To receive Subscriptions".

A regular intake continued during the 1950's and attendance's rose to an average of 30. In June 1950 the then treasurer was re-elected for the 37th.year! The minutes of a meeting held in June 1953 record a proposal that the appointment of Officers should be left in the hands of the Principals.

March 1955 saw a move to another venue the Mostyn Hotel, Portman Street, W.1. A regular practice during this period was to donate equal amounts of money to the Worshipful Master's lists for both the Rye Lodge 2272 and the Anima Lodge 3634 i.e. the two Lodges that provided the majority of Exaltees. Another practice was for Companions who were honoured with London Grand Chapter Rank to be presented with their regalia by the Chapter; sadly today Companions have to pay for their own Regalia.

The early 1960's saw the complete revision of the bylaws and an agreement to adapt the Installation working to the then new Domatic standards. Although Exaltation took place at almost every Convocation during the 1960's, the average attendance dropped to 22. An item in the minutes for June 1967 records the displeasure of a senior member of the Chapter at what is referred to as "*The slovenly nature of a particular part of the ceremony*". As is usual in these instances the diplomatic way out was

taken by the matter being referred to the Chapter Committee. However it should be noted that at that time, the Chapter of Improvement met regularly, once a month.

After several references in the minutes to “increased hotel charges”, the Chapter moved again to the Great Western Hotel, Paddington.

During the 1970’s a steady intake continued and the average attendance remained in the 20’s. Following warnings on the escalating costs of meals a small dining charge was introduced in 1976, which by the end of the 70’s had risen tenfold.

The 1980’s saw a Companion celebrate 50 years as a member of the Chapter and the occasion was suitably marked. The move to the Shaftesbury Hotel, which took place in December 1982, was short lived, as the venue closed for extensive alterations in December 1984.

The Chapter was in a similar situation to the Lodge in that commercial venues were either closing or charging fees that were beyond what was considered reasonable. A decision was made to move to a Masonic Centre. Consequently the London Masonic Centre Clerkenwell became the new home in December 1985 where the Chapter still meets today. The 1980’s and 90’s were bad times for London Chapters who suffered the same as London Lodges and attendances dropped to an all time low.

The Centenary of the Chapter was celebrated on Monday 21 June 1993 at Clerkenwell Masonic Centre, the distinguished guest from Grand Chapter being The Third Grand Principal, ME Comp the Reverend P. Hemingway

There were present 11 Officers, 4 members and 12 Guests

By the year 2000 the total membership of the Chapter was 12. Fortunately 11 of these are active members and so the Chapter survives. As in the case of the Lodge, members have had to go back into Office for a second and sometimes a third term. Sadly the Chapter of Improvement no longer meets on a regular basis, as it has proved impossible to arrange a venue that suits the majority.

For the Rye Chapter, as with many others, these are difficult times but the enthusiasm of the present Companions is no less than our predecessors. The resolve is there to weather the present storm and all the Companions look forward to the continuing existence of the Rye Chapter.

CHAPTER SEVEN

PRESENT AND PAST

This record provides a link from the first fifty years to the end of the second fifty years and it is pleasing to be able to record some instances that take us back to our very foundation.

Part one gives a detailed account of discussions that took place and the general agreement that Beadon Lodge is our Mother Lodge. Until very recently the Masters of Rye Lodge and Beadon Lodge exchanged visits on Installation nights, however in the last few years although still in contact with Beadon Lodge, the visits have dropped off.

However in 1979/80 during his official visit as Master of the Rye Lodge W.Bro. D. Brett was given the Genealogy, which is shown between the Histories of the first 50 years up to now, this shows the relationship of the Lodge back to St Luke's Lodge No. 144 and the many Lodges formed on the way.

A Founders Jewel recently came into the possession of the Lodge, in a poor condition. This has been refurbished and is worn on the Masters collar. As some of the Brethren had never seen a Founders Jewel, it now provides a link with the early years of the Lodge.

Several brethren who regularly attend our Ladies Nights and bring guests are members of the United Mariners Lodge No.30, whose Lodge of Instruction this Lodge shared in the early years.

Out present Organist Bro. Terry White plays the accompaniment for several Entertainment Artistes and whilst returning from a concert one evening he mentioned that he played the Organ for the Rye Lodge. The Lady told him that she had a book about the Rye Lodge called "Coming Thro' The Rye" He asked her how she came by the book and she replied that her Father had written it.

She was of course Mary Buddell, daughter of W.Bro Arthur Buddell, which takes us back to our very beginning.

Footnote : Since the completion of this book Mary Buddell has died, but her step son-in-law W. Bro. R.L. Sharp discovered in her personal effects W. Bro. Arthur Buddell's own copy of his history of the Lodge's first fifty years, together with the Summons and Menu regarding his Installation meeting on 12th October 1931.

Also in these effects was the Menu for his Ladies Festival on 8th February 1932 and as a point of interest part of the entertainment listed was a humorist by the name of Bro. Arthur Askey.

CGB

Rye Lodge No2272	First Names	Surname
Date of birth		

<p><u>PROFESSION</u></p> <p>Proposed by Seconded by Initiated (date) By</p> <p>Passed (date) By</p> <p>Raised (date) By</p> <p>JOINED Lodge from</p> <p>Proposed by Seconded by Elected (date) Rank</p> <p>HONORARY MEMBERSHIP Elected (date)</p> <p>NON- DINING LIST (date) Resumed (date)</p> <p>Ceased Membership (date) Rejoined (date) Proposed by Seconded by Elected (date)</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP of OTHER LODGES</p> <p>LAST KNOWN ADDRESS</p> <p>Phone Nos e-mail address</p>	<p><u>OFFICES AND APPOINTMENTS</u> (insert years).</p> <p>Auditor</p> <p>Committee Member</p> <p>Senior of the Stewards</p> <p>Steward</p> <p>Inner Guard</p> <p>Junior Deacon</p> <p>Senior Deacon</p> <p>Junior Warden</p> <p>Senior Warden</p> <p>Master</p> <p>Installing Master</p> <p>I.P.M.</p> <p>Chaplain</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>D.C.</p> <p>A.D.C.</p> <p>Almoner</p> <p>Asst. Sec</p> <p>Organist</p> <p>Charity Steward</p> <p>Ladies Festival Sec.</p>
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Professional Qualifications

Services & Civil Honours

Masonic Honours (with dates)

L. of I. OFFICE