

**The History of The**  
**UNION WATERLOO LODGE No 13**

**1761 – 1961**  
**and**

**1961 - 2000**

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# Introduction

To write a detailed history of the Union Waterloo Lodge No. 13 would be to write virtually a history of modern Freemasonry, and this has been done by writers more expert and authoritative.

We have therefore endeavoured to weave a picture of the Lodge from the threads of the human incidents - the grave and the gay, the successes and the reverses, the creditable and the discreditable.

It might seem indeed, that we have dwelt unduly on the scandalous side of Lodge affairs. Yet there is a lesson to be learned from these incidents. In their time many of them must have seemed absolute calamities to the brethren concerned. Yet the Lodge has survived and flourished.

It emphasises that the Lodge is superior to the frailty of any member and that our Order has grown in strength by overcoming adversity

The preparation of this history has been a fascinating though a formidable task. The ancient books we have perused are a tribute from the past to the men who have served our Lodge in so many ways through two centuries. The worth of their work is self-evident and we could ask no greater tribute than that some future Lodge historian will look on our work and the work of our brethren with the approbation we have felt for our ancient brethren. in preparing this story.

## The Historical Sub - Committee

1959-1960

W. Bro. H. S. Darwood  
(Lodge Treasurer)

W.Bro W. H. Morley  
(Lodge Secretary)

W. Bro. R. J. Wood Bro.  
(W. M. 1959)

W.Bro. C. R. Hicks  
(W. M. 1960)

Bro. W.A. Hearn  
(S.W. 1960 )

Bro. G. J. I. Jones  
(S. D. 1960)

Bro. F. H. Christian  
(J. D. 1960)  
Editor.

## Foundations of the Lodge

For a proper appreciation of our Lodge's history it is necessary to know some thing of the early history of English Freemasonry, and to recall the historical scene 200 years ago.

Can you visualise life in 1761? The American colonies were still in our possession and would remain so for another fifteen years; the horror of the Black Hole of Calcutta had occurred only five years before and was still fresh in people's minds; the terror of the French Revolution was still more than thirty years ahead and the battle of Trafalgar would not occur for more than forty years! This was the world of Hogarth the artist, George Washington and Captain Cook. These facts may best bring to life the contemporary scene.

There was then no United Grand Lodge. Our Lodge pre-dates it by more than fifty years. In those early days there were several Grand Lodges in England:

1. The Grand Lodge of England (1717)
2. The Grand Lodge of All England (Yorks) (1725)
3. The Grand Lodge of Antient Masons (1752)
4. The Grand Lodge of England South of the River Trent (1779)

Prior to these Grand Lodges, Freemasonry existed in Lodges of an independent nature and many of these continued to exist outside any official constitution in later years.

Our Lodge derives its descent from Lodge No.86 of the Grand Lodge of the Antients which had come into being because of dissatisfaction by many masons with the conduct of the Grand Lodge of England. Due to certain 'Exposures of Freemasonry' which had been published in certain journals about 1730, the Grand Lodge of England had changed certain parts of the old ritual and indeed reversed certain words and signs to prevent unauthorised persons gaining entry to its lodges.

As champions of the old ways and usages the Grand Lodge of Antient Freemasons came into being and they dubbed their opponents the 'Moderns.' There followed nearly half a century of bitter controversy but finally an approach to unity began to evolve, largely through the good offices of members of the Royal Family.

In 1813 a Grand Lodge of Reconciliation was held, attended by delegates from 641 Modern and 359 Antient Lodges. Two Grand Masters, the Duke of Sussex of the Moderns and the Duke of Kent of the Antients, took their places in the East. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent then proposed the Duke of Sussex to be Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and this was greeted with acclamation.

The seniority of the various lodges, it was agreed, should be given alternately, the decision to be by chance. The Antients had the luck of the draw and their Lodge No. 1 became No. 1 on the United Grand Register. The Moderns No. 1 became No.2. the Antients No.2 became No.3 and so on. By this time our

Lodge had acquired the Antient No.7 by the purchase of a vacant warrant and thus in the renumbering of the lodges we became No. 13.

This then was the Masonic setting of our early years. The picture of the time we have endeavoured to bring to your mind. They were the days of slow communication: wooden walled sailing ships, horse and stagecoach transport. Illiteracy was still the rule rather than the exception, yet a flowing sonorous style was employed by the literate. The ancient Minute Books contain astonishing variations, from beautiful flowing copperplate writing to crabbed almost indecipherable scrawls. The vagaries of spelling, even of names, made it difficult to follow incidents through their development. Minutes which no doubt appeared an adequate record of the events to members who were aware of what had transpired can be exasperatingly vague at a distance of 200 years. Nevertheless in these ancient books is the very heart and lifeblood of Freemasonry and of our Lodge, and it has been a heart-rending job to reduce the enormous record to the limited confines of these pages.

It was only in recent years, in fact as late as 1938 that the date of our constitution was raised by Grand Lodge itself. Our former banner bore the date 1785 and it was only when our present banner was ordered that Grand Lodge drew our attention to the fact that the date should be 1761.

We hold a Centenary warrant, but it is dated 1886. We have no Centenary warrant for 1861 nor is there any record of one being applied for.

In earlier days the purchase of Warrants vacant through the demise of a lodge was common and we had in fact purchased such a warrant to become Antient Lodge No.7.

Had we then “purchased” our birth-date of 1761 in such a way? This was the problem which the committee had to face at the very start of its investigation. In their efforts they have received the greatest assistance and kindness from the staff of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum.

The seal of approval on our researches, and those of the Grand Library staff, was set in 1959 when the Most Worshipful the Grand Master signified his intention to issue a bi-centenary warrant to the Lodge in 1961.

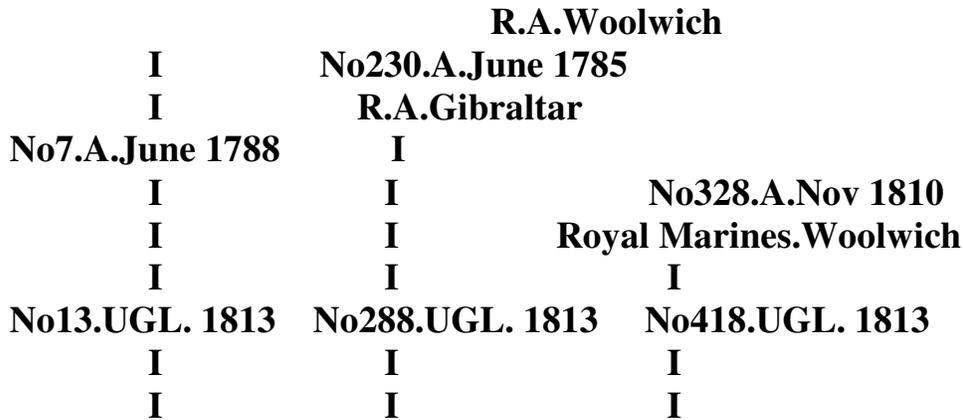
Let it be stated plainly. We date our existence in direct continuity from Lodge No.86 of the Antient Grand Lodge, with a Warrant of Constitution dated the 6th March, 1761. Later, on the 4th June, 1788 we purchased the vacant warrant of Lodge No. 7 (Antient), which was first constituted on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. 1751. We assumed its number in 1788 but we did not assume its age. In 1813. No.7 Antient Lodge became No. 13 under the renumbering system on the formation of the United Grand Lodge and in 1826 it merged with Lodge No.288 (formerly No.230) and with Lodge No. 418 (formerly No. 328) to become The Union Waterloo Lodge No. 13. Not until this time did the lodge bear a name.

Lest any brother should be led astray, it should be pointed out that while we are no. 13 on the United Grand Lodge Register there are in fact 74 existing lodges older than ours, and four which share our birth year. This paradoxical situation stems from the early practice of buying vacant warrants. Had Lodge 86 retained that number, and not bought Warrant 7, its number on the United

Grand Lodge Register would now in fact have been about 74. Many lodges were erased at the time of the Union. But this has no bearing at all on the age of the lodge.

The diagrammatic family tree included here will illustrate this descent more clearly.

**No86.A.March 1761**



**UNION WATERLOO LODGE No 13 DECEMBER**

All our constituent lodges were Military lodges.

Antient Lodge No.86 was constituted on the petition of qualified masons in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, to hold a Lodge at Woolwich.

The warrant of Antient Lodge No.230 was granted to the masons of the 1st Battalion, Royal Artillery, when they were garrisoned at Gibraltar.

The third of our lodges, Antient No. 328, was a Royal Marines Lodge at Woolwich.

Although no record exists of why the name Union Waterloo was chosen, with the military background of the three lodges there seems little doubt that it commemorates the battle of Waterloo, fought eleven years before in June 1815.

It is an interesting fact that Lodge No.86 sponsored Lodge No.230 and both in turn sponsored Lodge No. 328, so that the Union Waterloo Lodge represents Mother. Daughter and Granddaughter lodges.

While the 6th March, 1761 is thus clearly established as the date from which we have existed without interruption, it is yet possible that we had an earlier existence under the warrant of a 'Modern' lodge. There are suggestions that this may have been so in pencilled notes made by an earlier Librarian at Grand Lodge but the record cannot be established without question and we would not wish to claim that which lacks positive proof.

The committee have had at their disposal the complete Minute Books of all our constituent lodges, with the exception of the first Minute Book of Lodge No. 86 from 1761 to 1783 and the book covering the formation of the Union Waterloo in 1826.

This indeed might have been a very serious impediment to our claim, but fortunately the undoubted existence of the first book is clearly established by references to it in the Grand Library records and elsewhere and there has never been any doubt about our continuous existence in the period covered by the second book. It seems highly likely that these books disappeared when made available at some time to some other Masonic researchers. They would undoubtedly be a mine of information for historians.

The invaluable assistance of the Grand Lodge Library staff has enabled us to elicit a substantial record of our early years.

There is no evidence why our origins in 1761 became obscured nor why our centenary was not celebrated in 1861. The centenary warrant which we already hold was undoubtedly to mark the 100 years continued existence of Antient Lodge No.230.

We have in this bi-centenary year, therefore, the opportunity to make good. in auspicious solemnity and celebration, the omission of our first 100th anniversary celebrations as well as our 200th birthday. For in all we can claim four birthdays:

6th March, 1761 - Formation of Lodge No.86

25th June, 1785 - Formation of Lodge No.230.

13th November, 1810 - Formation of Lodge No.328.

1st December, 1826 - Formation of Union Waterloo  
Lodge No.13.

## **Antient Lodge No. 86**

Later No.7 (Antient Lodge)

Later No. 13 (United Grand Lodge)

It is safe to say with all modesty, that few members of the Lodge today realise how influential was our Lodge in the early days of English Freemasonry, or the important part it played in the development of the Craft.

This is not only because it is an old Lodge. Two other factors combined to give it an important status. First it was a stationary lodge, in days when travelling military lodges were comparatively common, and it was within easy reach of London and the Grand Lodge of the Antients. Second it was an Artillery lodge in a garrison town, and so its existence became known in every part of the world where men of the Royal Regiment of Artillery were called upon to serve.

Thus it became a channel for lodges here and abroad to make diplomatic approaches to Grand Lodge on various matters. It is impossible to trace with certainty how many lodges we have sponsored, but in a letter to Antient Grand Lodge in 1787, in support of a case we were presenting we claimed “all the warrants now in the Regiment in different parts of the world *has* been transmitted through the channel of this lodge.”

For the first thirty or so years of our existence we were in close and constant contact with the Antient Grand Lodge, and were clearly held in high esteem. It would be pleasant to record a continuing growth of this power and influence, but truth is an essential part of history and it is clear that we reached a proud position in the councils of the Craft only as the prelude to a fall.

The first forty years of our life can be summarised as a rise to power and influence, from which unfortunately developed an arrogant defiance of constitutional authority which nearly led to disaster for the Lodge. It was saved by devoted and wise leadership at a late stage of the proceedings, and by the magnanimity of Antient Grand Lodge once its authority had been acknowledged. This is both jumping swiftly into a summary of our early years, and projecting material which is not actually recorded in the Minute Books, but it is we think a fair picture of our early years. The construction of the history of these first years has much of the element of a detective investigation, for the minutes are sparse at all times, and apparently deliberately so when matters were going against the lodge, but the evidence is overwhelming as one probes the moves over the years.

## OUR BIRTH

The records of Grand Lodge register our birth with a Warrant of Constitution dated 6th March, 1761, at Woolwich.

Volume I of the Minute Book of Antient Grand Lodge records a meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 4th March, 1761, at 'Bells Tavern,' with the R. W. William Osborn, Deputy Grand Master, in the Chair. 'Heard the petition of our Worthy Bro. Peter Ireland and other Qualified freemasons, in his Majesty's Royal regiment of Artillery praying to be warranted and Constituted into a regular Lodge in the Town of Woolwich. That petrs shall be form`d. Constituted and Warranted a regular Lodge at the sign of the Salutation in Woolwich aforesaid, on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March inst. At 12 o`clock at Noon.

In the Atholl Register of the Antients, 29 names were registered on the 6th March, 1761; 8 names were registered in January, 1762 and 25 names in 1763. Between 1774 and 1777, 12 names were registered and contributions paid.

Our copy of 'Ahiman Rezon' - the model Bye-Laws under the Antient Grand Lodge constitution, which is still preserved in good condition, was issued to the Lodge on the 13th April, 1774 by Grand Secretary William Dickey.

Our earliest Minute Book still available starts at the date 7th November, 1783, so there is no doubt of our continued existence during the period. The membership roll and record of contributions kept at the back of this first Minute Book show that there were 8 officers and 38 members of the Lodge in June, 1783. One sad link of evidence of continued existence is contained in a record of an emergency meeting in June, 1785 for the funeral of the late Bro. Peter Ireland. One can fairly assume that this was our founding Master.

Although it is not contemporary evidence a lecture given in 1929 to the Ubique Lodge No.1789, on Freemasonry and the Royal Regiment of Artillery, by W. Bro. Lt. Col. J. H. Leslie, P.Dist. G. Warden, Punjab, contained the following interesting references to our "missing years":

In 1761 the fees for the degrees were Initiation £1 ls. 0d.: Passing 10/6d.:Raising 5/-.

In August 1763 the Worshipful Master was absent 'having deserted the Regiment.'

In June 1764 the Junior Warden was granted 21/- from Lodge funds for subsistence while on furlough 'and to work it out as Tyler.'

June. 1766 5/- sent to a brother in Maidstone gaol 'as a gift of charity.'

1774. 'Attended the Grand Lodge held on Blackheath.'

1775. 'Grand Lodge certificates received for brethren under command for North America.'

It would appear that the lecturer had had access to our first minute book at some time, but all efforts to trace it have failed.

The first of our extant Minutes is a very simple record of a very ordinary meeting. The only point of interest is that the Lodge opened on the 'third step' of Masonry, and this expression and not 'degree' is used until the 1800's. At the Installation in December, 1783, the officers were as today, with the exception of the Inner Guard and Director of Ceremonies who did not appear on the list. There were two Stewards at this time. Offices were served for six months.

Even allowing for the different value of money in those days, the Lodge was by no means wealthy. Dues were 1s. 0d. per meeting. At the foot of the Minutes at the time, the financial position of the Lodge was recorded and the first note of this kind reads 'Good in the treasurer's hands £0. 19s. 0d.' The sum is not recorded as rising much above £2 while these entries continued and there is no record of banked funds or investments. The Lodge apparently drew its income at its meetings, paid its accounts from the dues on the spot, and when any special expense arose, levied the members accordingly. Charity payments, which were usually of only a shilling or two, were met in the same way or by a list sent round the members for voluntary contributions.

In March, 1787 we agreed to support a petition 'respecting the Antient craft in North America.' There are references in September, 1790 to a Warrant we had obtained for Lodge No.262 at Port Royal, Jamaica. At the request of this lodge we agreed, without taking any authority in the matter, to amend the Warrant for that lodge to be held 'at Port Royal, Jamaica, or elsewhere in the Royal Regt. of Artillery'

In April, 1791 the former Grand Secretary, Bro. McCormick, requested one of our members to convey his warmest and sincere thanks to Lodge No.7 (which by then we had become) - 'for their generous and firm support in the Grand Lodge which was the means of procuring him so ample a provision for the rest of his life.' This then, was the small, not very wealthy Lodge of the early days. What evidence is there of influence or importance?

Our first recorded contact with Grand Lodge is indeed of an economy measure:

'Agreed that in future one (or two) members from this body is sufficient to attend Grand Lodge, by which means it will be less trouble to the brothers and can afford to support the attending member in genteeler manner and less expense to the Lodge than the attending of three or four.'

In June, 1784, Lodge No. 213 of Sorel, Canada, thanked us by letter for the trouble we had taken in procuring their Warrant, and asked us to place before the Grand Lodge, the peculiar position they were in by the lodge being separated by the members being sent on different Commands. In November of that year they wrote us again sending £2 17 0d. 'dues and registering' to be transmitted to the Grand Lodge.

The lodge thus sponsored was to figure very prominently and far less happily in our history within a very few years.

In September of the same year (1784) we recorded the expenses incurred in forwarding the Warrant of Lodge No.230 to Gibraltar. This lodge later became one of the constituent lodges of the Union Waterloo Lodge.

Frequent invitations to dine with Grand Lodge and to join them for special processions were received. These were sometimes treated in what can only be described as cavalier fashion as the following instances will show: -

In December, 1785 we were invited to dine with Grand Lodge on St. John's Day "but it appearing not to be convenient to any of the members on account of the duties of our own Lodge to attend, the Secretary answered with proper apology.'

In June, 1786. a committee was called as a result of a summons from Grand Lodge which had arranged a public procession, sermon and visit, for the honour of the craft in general, requesting the attendance of our lodge and ordering the sum of 10/6d. should be levied from the Warrant towards defraying the extraordinary expense thereof. Only two members of the committee of eight were of the opinion 'that the request and order was reasonable and should be complied with.' It was decided to send an apology which stated - "the lodge at this time is so much decreased by differing commands that they are scarcely able to support the necessary expense of keeping up the Warrant; is sorry they are obliged to hope this will be received as sufficient apology."

The Grand Secretary replied expressing his sorrow and surprise at our apology; his letter desired the lodge "to consider it; the particular disappointment they would experience in case of non-attendance and the Deputy grand Master expressing himself in Grand Lodge the particular satisfaction he would find in having the Artillery lodges in the procession; and further requesting that the secretary should show this letter to all the worthy brothers."

The Lodge then decided by a majority, that the order and request should be complied with in sending up the 10/6d. and recommending to the members as many as could conveniently attend should join in the procession.

In September, 1787, the Lodge complained to the Grand Secretary at a demand for 10/6d. from Grand Lodge for St. John's Day of the previous June. 'We having a procession at Woolwich on that day for the honour of the craft, and attended with a great deal of expense and we think it does not consist with the rules of Masonry that we are to distress one and other.'

Again we apologised for not attending Grand Lodge on St. John's Day of December, 1787, our letter this time pleading "a great many of our members is dispersed at this time through Great Britain on the recruiting service for the Regiment, and the few remaining at Woolwich intend to celebrate that day at our own lodge room."

When St. John's Day of June, 1788 came round, the Deputy Grand Master of the time, John Perry, meant to have no excuses. He invited the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to join him and to give leave for the Artillery Lodges to join in the procession - which was granted.

Accordingly, we agreed to meet at our lodge room at 6 o'clock in the morning to proceed to join the Grand Lodge at Newington Butts at the 'Black Prince.' We opened on the first step of Masonry in our lodge room and then marched from Woolwich in procession with Lodge No. 9. Having joined Grand Lodge

at Newington Butts, we then went in procession to Camberwell Church for a sermon by the Grand Chaplain after which we proceeded to the 'Grove House' where we were dismissed by the Deputy Grand Master and returned in procession to Woolwich and dined in our lodge room.

The officers were then installed, and this rather monumental day's labour ended with the closing of the lodge at 12 *o'clock midnight* !

But we were in dispute over St. John's Day celebrations again in 1792 when Grand Lodge informed the Lodge of a fine for non-attendance on that day the previous year, and for the Grand Installation in January, amounting to 10/6d. – “which fine is by the Lodge deemed as a grievance and therefore agreed that the same be not paid as having before never demanded.” If the reply drew the response which might be expected, it is not recorded and there is no further reference to the matter.

A waterborne excursion to Grand Lodge was undertaken for St. John's Day in June. 1795, when we were invited to meet the Grand Lodge at the “Golden Eagle” Gardens, Mile End, at 10 o'clock to march to Bethnal Green for a sermon, and thence to the “Mermaid” at Hackney where Grand Lodge would dine. Two brothers made an offer of a boat each, “with sufficient hands to work them,” and it was agreed that one of the brothers “should get a flag and have it painted against the time.” This might be considered our first lodge banner.

We duly attended and were dismissed at Hackney where “the Grand Lodge returned thanks in a very polite manner for our attendance and attention. Refreshed ourselves and returned to Blackwall, and then took boat to Woolwich and clothed ourselves in our new aprons and hangings and jewels and formed a procession from the end of the Dockyard to the lodge room.” It is therefore quite clear that our lodge played an important, if at times less than polite, part in the activities of the Antient Grand Lodge. What of our fall from grace?

Jealousy, perhaps well founded but unwisely expressed, started the sequence of events, which opened with a letter to the Deputy Grand Master, Lawrence Dermott on 10th September, 1787. It stated - 'Having information that a vacant Warrant No.9 has been disposed to a travelling body No.213 at Woolwich - We the W.M., Wardens, etc. of No.86 having been established in Woolwich 50 years and has transmitted thro the channel of said lodge all the Warrants now in the Regiment in different parts of the world - the transfer renders us the junior body, therefore hopes that your worship will take such measures as may be most expedient so as to render such transfer abortive otherwise it will cause the final dissolution of Lodge No.86 who has always supported the mother lodge with becoming dignity.'

This was a very unhappy development of an association which had started so happily with our sponsorship of Lodge 213 less than four years before, when it was in Canada with the Regiment to which it was attached.

But our letter was by no means diplomatic, however outraged our feelings. Yet on the 1st October, less than one month later, and before any reply had been received, another, even sharper letter was dispatched, this time to Bro.

McCormick, the Grand Secretary "I am directed by the W.M. (John Wilson) to inform you that he has not received an answer to a letter that was left at the Deputy Grand Master's, the 10th September, at his lodgings - an answer was expected long e'er this time - I expect you'll see into it - the heads of this letter was respecting Warrant No.9 being disposed to Lodge No.213 who is a junior body to us and a travelling one." A stern rebuke for this letter might have been expected, but none is recorded. On the 2nd November, a letter from Deputy Grand Master Dermott is noted only as a stern rebuke for this letter might have been expected, but none is recorded. On the 2nd November, a letter from Deputy Grand Master Dermott is noted only as 'being read.'

Another 'dig' at the position was made in February, 1788 when in making a return of 25 members we added a sharp postscript - 'I am further sorry to acquaint you that you have been very neglectful in sending us a list of the Grand Officers for this present year -you was kind enough to send No. 213 a list; where we have offended I cannot say as lodge 213 should have the preference.'

We were making our bitter jealousy very obvious and Grand Lodge were not to be drawn. In March the minutes duly record the receipt from Grand Lodge of a return of Grand Officers. Our persistence in referring to Lodge no. 213, when it had already become Lodge No. 9, was a rather puerile defiance of a fait accompli.

Although no further moves in the matter were recorded, suddenly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1788 appears a minute. "A motion was made and balloted around the lodge for the transfer of No. 86 for No. 7 which was agreed upon." The minute has a note appended: "The transfer of No. 86 for No. 7 took place on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1788, and received by our W.M. John Deare from the Deputy Grand Master J. Perry."

This Warrant No. 7, which was issued to us, had itself quite a history. It was first issued to "the Lodge meeting at the "Fountain" in Monmouth Street, Seven Dials, constituted on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1751." This lodge was erased on the 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1752. It was re-issued to a lodge at the 'Temple and Sun,' Sheer Lane, Temple Bar on the 29th January, 1752 until the 27th December, 1783 when it fell vacant and remained so for five years until it was purchased by us for five guineas on the 4th June, 1788.

Obviously the full story is not disclosed. There must have been much correspondence or many interviews to arrive at this conclusion in the eight months that had elapsed since our first letter. We know from Grand Lodge records that Warrant No.7 was granted to us 'for the sum of five guineas to the Charity' but the fact is not entered in our Minutes, nor is the financial transaction.

On the face of it, Lodge No.86 had won the day, but it was not an unmarred triumph. From this matter sprang many instances of unfriendly and unmasonic behaviour between Lodges No.7 and No.9, and their members. In the end we were to have to account for our churlish behaviour.

In December of 1788 at an emergency meeting, the Worshipful Master laid before the Lodge the intention of Lodge No.9 reporting us to Grand Lodge if

we persisted in initiating members for only one guinea, contrary to the by-laws. The Lodge decided 'they had the right to make this alteration and that so far from intentionally doing it to prejudice their brother lodge, the alteration was made 5 years before the arrival of said lodge at Woolwich.' For all our arrogant attitude, we took the precaution of writing to Grand Lodge on the matter, for at a meeting in March 1789 a letter was read from the Deputy Grand Master acknowledging receipt of our application for reduction of fees to enter. He advised the lodge to settle the matter in a private manner as several lodges in marching regiments had such indulgence(reduced fees), at the same time recommending to the lodge to make it up (raise the fee). The lodge decided to ignore the good advice and await the decision of Grand Lodge.

With this matter still pending, yet another dispute arose when Lodge No.9 complained that our Senior Warden had misrepresented the proceedings of Lodge No.9 at which he was a visitor, and had been guilty of words tending to foment and disturb the harmony of the two lodges.

The 'harmony' is doubtful, but a committee of our lodge appointed to investigate, reported that the Senior warden "without any authority from us is highly culpable in mentioning to the Deputy Grand Master we would apply to another constitution; that in misrepresenting the proceedings of No.9, and of his own accord telling Bro. Darling none of the members of No.9 would be welcome in No.7 is a breach of his obligations and tended to make dissension between the two lodges and therefore thinks him unworthy any longer to remain in his place as Senior Warden."

Our brother Senior Warden was undoubtedly unwise and indiscreet but is there not a strong suspicion that he was voicing views that had been expressed by our members?

At this same meeting the Worshipful Master reported the advice of the previous and the present Deputy Grand Masters that the two lodges come to a friendly understanding among themselves without a public hearing, and that what was past might be buried in oblivion and that in future no person ought to be made under two guineas.

There is no resolution recorded to adopt this wise advice but this matter is not raised again and we therefore presumably had to yield. Strangely enough, having won our battle for seniority two years earlier, we seemed to have second thoughts on the matter, and in April, 1790 a minute appears: - 'A controversy took place respecting the transfer of name from No.86 to 7 and it was agreed to remain in the present state till such time as the opinion of Grand lodge be taken thereon, thinking that such mode does not consist entirely with the rules of Masonry.' This delayed attack of conscience however produced no concrete result and the matter is not referred to again.

Difficulties still existed and in December, 1791, Bro. Darling of Lodge No.9 is reported as delivering a letter from the Deputy Grand Master 'concerning some differences having arisen between 9 and this lodge, to which the W. M.

and Wardens mean to return answer when they attend Grand Lodge.' This letter seemed to have provoked a series of personal attacks on the innocent bearer Bro. Darling. Although a frequent visitor to our lodge, in April, 1792 the minutes record that 'for the future satisfaction of the lodge he did upon the penalty of his obligation declare that he is at this time a contributing member of the said lodge (No.9). In spite of this unusual declaration required from a visitor, in November of the same year, when he sent his compliments 'to visit this night,' it was agreed by the majority that 'he must give further proof of his being a subscribing member of No.9, and his greater friendship to this lodge before he is admitted as a visitor.'

Meanwhile, in July of this troubled year 1792, there is reference to still another dispute between the two lodges, the details undisclosed. It was agreed to send a letter to the Deputy Grand Master requesting 'he might order the brothers of No.9 to attend the Stewards Lodge, when the brethren of No.7 will attend in order to have every matter adjusted.'

There is no indication whether this meeting took place, or whether the dispute was settled. The matter is left 'in the air' as the lodge plunged into still more trouble.

A minute of a committee of Past Masters (the first reference to such a meeting), in September 1792 considered a charge 'exhibited against Bro. Wilkinson for breach of his obligation as a Past Master.' He did not answer the summons to appear and it was unanimously agreed that he was guilty, 'in not supporting the Master in the Chair.' A Master Masons' Lodge, then convened, agreed that 'Bro. Wilkinson is guilty of a breach of his Master's Obligation in endeavouring to overturn this lodge without acquainting those concerned.' He was excluded and Grand Lodge was informed. What did this brother do, and how did he try to 'overturn' the Lodge? There is not the slightest detail of his crime, but the matter became progressively more serious.

The following month, October, 1792, the W.M. 'put to the lodge at large whether Bro. Wilkinson should be reinstated in Lodge No.7 agreeable to a letter received from the D.G.M. It was unanimously agreed that he should stand as in the former transaction' (that is excluded).

In December, an emergency meeting agreed to send two brothers to attend Grand Lodge, agreeable to summons 'at the same time to exhibit a true state of the cause of excluding Bro. Wilkinson.' In the same month it was reported that a memorandum of the facts had been delivered to Grand Lodge. (A search of the Minutes of the Antients Grand Lodge has failed to disclose any information on the matter).

At a third meeting in this same anxious month, a Bro Betts, who is to figure prominently later, was called upon to report the proceedings of the Stewards Lodge in the affair of the *late* Bro. Wilkinson. Beyond this reference to his doing so, there is no detail of what had occurred, nor is it

made clear whether Bro. Wilkinson was now dead or was merely so referred to in the sense of being an ex-member.

There is an indication that the deliberations of the Stewards Lodge had gone against us for our decision at this meeting was that 'a full statement of the whole transaction relating to the late Bro. Wilkinson should be laid before the Worshipful Grand Master, and each of the lodges of the Antient Masons within the bills of mortality.' (The 'Bills of Mortality' defined an area around London over which Grand Lodge exercised authority. This curious phrase originated 500 years before, when lists or bills of deaths were issued within the area.)

We were now clearly embarking upon a serious challenge to constitutional authority. On the 9th January, 1793, the Worshipful Master 'laid papers relating to the late Bro. Wilkinson which was accordingly read, and it was agreed that four brothers should wait upon the Worshipful Grand Master and present a petition to him praying that we might be heard in open Grand Lodge relative to the affair between us and the late Bro. Wilkinson.'

Our request was presumably not granted for in February, 1793 two brothers were appointed to go and see the Worshipful Grand Master and report the proceedings to him. Apparently the visit did not avail our cause, and on March 1st, the following minute is recorded: -

'It was also taken into consideration that as Lodge No.7 was under the censure of the Grand Lodge, steps should be taken to support the honour and dignity of our lodge respecting our conduct towards Richard Wilkinson, when a letter containing our unanimous opinion was produced by a member of the Lodge, stating our sentiments on the point. It was read, approved of, ordered to be printed and distributed amongst the lodges, the purport of which is as follows (see printed paper).'

But there is no printed paper in the Minute Book, and this vital document which might have thrown light on the whole matter is not available to us. And there, mystifyingly, the whole matter comes to an end. Not one further direct reference to it is made. Was the letter ever printed, or distributed to the Lodges? Did Grand Lodge take steps to end this defiance by the Lodge? Did we ourselves see the error of our ways?

There are two small clues and two big ones which follow this sudden end to this matter and the quarrel with Lodge 9.

In April, 1793 the lodge agreed 'each brother would contribute according to his abilities for to defray the expenses lately incurred by the lodge.' These were undoubtedly the expenses of the dispute, and indicate that the matter had reached an end, whatever it was.

In June, 1793, the Lodge recorded 'Whereas on the 2nd November, 1792 a minute was made respecting Bro. Darling of No. 9, very detrimental to his character and feelings as a mason, and having given every satisfaction required by this lodge not only by his own declaration but as well by letter from his lodge, this lodge therefore rescinds everything respecting Bro. Darling that may appear injurious to him as a mason.

Had we acquired a more generous and responsible frame of mind or

were we under discipline? Certainly the lodge was remarkably quiet during the remainder of 1793 and all of 1794 and as already mentioned, supported Grand Lodge on St. John's Day in June, 1795.

Then in July, 1795 came an honour, which seems surprising after the events that had occurred. An emergency meeting was informed that a visit of the officers of Grand Lodge, 'who had long promised to visit us, now stands fixed for August 7th.'

We agreed to order a supper, with tickets at 5/- a head, and the Tyler was ordered to carry a summons to every member. The Chaplain to the Royal Regiment of Artillery agreed to preach a sermon. In August another meeting decided that all Royal Arch masons should assemble with other masons to be ready to meet the Grand Lodge Officers, and it was also agreed that the company of every mason in or near Woolwich was to be asked. The Tyler was given the formidable task of going round for this purpose.

And so on 7th August, 1795 the Grand Lodge Officers came to visit us. They first attended a private lodge room where the Royal Artillery Chaplain, Dr. Turner was exalted into the Royal Arch, and then joined by Master Masons of our own and other lodges, proceeded to the Church of Scotland for a sermon by Dr. Turner. 'We then proceeded in procession to the established lodge room at the "Prince of Wales" where an excellent supper was prepared and served up in a very handsome manner. The W. M. was pleased to give up the Chair to Bro. Robert Gill, J. W. of the Grand Lodge of England who favoured us with some excellent masonical toasts.'

Seven visitors from Grand Lodge were listed on this great occasion, but in spite of the labours laid upon the Tyler there were only five other visitors. Perhaps our brother masons of local lodges were not so forgiving as Grand Lodge.

For can there be any doubt that the visit was a sign of reconciliation with Grand Lodge after we had spent a probationary period following the many disputes? We could hardly have claimed to have earned the honour, and the only reasonable explanation is that it was an outward and official sign that we were restored to grace.

The view is supported by another minute which appears in March, 1796. Reference has been made to the effusive language of the time, but even so the following testimonial is quite extraordinary:

'It would be almost endless to enumerate the many worthy brothers that have presided in our lodge, yet we cannot omit for the following reasons to name our worshipful Past Master Bro. John Betts, who at a time when the lodge was involved in very serious and almost inextricable difficulties, was prevailed upon to ascend the chair, an office which many at that critical time would have declined. Yet he with a zeal truly masonical and an unceasing assiduity often attended with personal fatigues, surmounted every obstacle which even seemed to bid defiance, and restored the lodge to the respectability and splendour equal to anything it had ever experienced on any former occasion. We have therefore by unanimous consent agreed to enter

this acknowledgement in the minutes of the lodge as a testimony of our respect for the person and the service of our truly valuable Past Master Bro. John Betts, whose exemplary conduct we warmly recommend to all masons for imitation.'

The significant facts about this matter are that Bro. Betts became Master in December, 1793, when the lodge was clearly in the black books of Grand Lodge, and he was elected Master again in June, 1795 and was in the Chair for the visit of Grand Lodge.

It seems fair to assume therefore that he both guided the lodge back into the fold, and was in part at least, responsible for the honour done to us in 1795. He was by then a member of the Grand Chapter and there will be other references to his good work for Masonry.

Following this climax to a most strenuous and testing time in the lodge's history, there was a marked change in the tempo of the lodge business, and in the handling of disputes or disagreements which arose.

In July, 1796, we received a summons to attend Grand Lodge committee. The Worshipful Master reported that he had reason to suppose from a conversation with Bro. Betts that it originated from some slighting expressions which had fallen from Bro. Wharton of Lodge 304, and pointed at the military brethren of this lodge.

Bro. Gibson, a Past Master and others testified that remarks had been made.

What violent reaction there would have been from our members in earlier years! But on this occasion the lodge decided that we had no ground of complaint of any kind, and no difference or animosity whatever against Bro. Wharton of Lodge 304, 'and if there is any complaint it did not come from us and it is an entire mystery to us how such should come to the knowledge of the Grand Lodge.'

This meekness of the lodge, in a case where they had apparently every right to be aggrieved, suggests more strongly that anything else that we had had more than our fill of disputes, and were prepared to go to great lengths to avoid any more.

There was in fact no major issue recorded for the next nine years, and when further incidents did occur we had gained a great deal in wisdom and discretion.

In December, 1804, a Bro. Lumsden who had petitioned to join this lodge and had afterwards become a member of Lodge No.304, was ordered in. He stated that he was never recommended to any lodge but No.7 to his knowledge, nor sent a petition to any other, 'but having been sent for by Bro. Clarke of No.304 he attended and was made an entered apprentice, not knowing the lodges were distinct and separate, and they both holding their lodge in the same house. He wished to transfer to No.7 as that is the lodge he wished to become a member of.' The lodge accepted that he was in no way to blame, and agreed to demand an explanation from No. 304 of their conduct in admitting Bro. Lumsden, without a petition from him, or recommendation from any brother, or any communication with this lodge which he wished to join.

This unusual 'poaching' of a member was certainly a cause of serious and justifiable complaint, but again we acted with restraint. Although we summoned the Master and Wardens of Lodge No. 304 to appear before our lodge, we celebrated St. John's Day, December. 1804 with them in great amity, and in fact there is no further reference to the incident, so we may assume it was settled privately and without fuss.

These later incidents were part of a clear pattern of growing responsibility and constitutional behaviour by the lodge, evolving towards those standards which we accept as natural today, but which this stormy period shows, were not lightly established.

And so we moved to an end of this phase of our existence. We duly became Lodge No.13 on the Union of the Grand Lodge in 1813, but it is clear that following this there was a temporary recession in Freemasonry in the district, in which Lodge No. 13 shared. Possibly the regulations of the new Grand Lodge, and its greater control. themselves contributed to a reduction in the rate of extension of the Craft.

The future lay in amalgamation and first talks on the subject were recorded in 1825, leading to the formation of the Union Waterloo Lodge in 1826. But this is really the start of another chapter of our existence, and before we leave this early period of our history there are details of the domestic scene that should be told.

## **Modern and Antient Masons**

It will be recalled that there have been references to a suggested earlier existence of the lodge as a "Modern" lodge. It is believed that this is mentioned in the first Minute Book which is missing.

There is also our claim in our letter to Antient Grand Lodge in September, 1787, that Lodge No.86 had been established in Woolwich for fifty years. Such existence would have placed our birth about 1737, and Antient Grand Lodge was not established until 1752, so that also would have made us either a 'Modern' lodge or an independent lodge.

Yet throughout our earliest records there are frequent references to 'Modern' masons which indicate that we held them in the greatest disrespect. It would seem therefore that if we did have an earlier Modern ancestry there was probably a break in continuity of existence prior to 1761. One must remember that the formation of our lodge under the banner of the 'Antient' traditionalists was at a time when objections to 'Modern' practices were at their peak.

Some references to the 'Moderns' are worth quoting:

August, 1787: 'Agreed to accept a Modern mason as a candidate and gave him two steps.'

December, 1791: 'Modern Mason applied to become an Antient mason and was admitted Entered Apprentice.'

March. 1796: Bro. Betts (our great worthy) requested sanction of the Lodge to get another Warrant from Antient Grand Lodge. He assigned as a

principal reason for the step that he had observed with pain, many inhabitants joining the Modern lodge lately sprung up in this town. The reason for forming a new lodge was that No.7. being a military lodge, 'many gentlemen not yet knowing the Masonic parallel would come forward as masons but for that objection.' He meant to establish it as a lodge for the inhabitants of Woolwich, still preserving all masonical harmony with his mother lodge.' We agreed to support Bro. Betts "in this pure method of extending Antient masonry."

March 1796: Proposed that no brother shall be a member of this lodge and of a 'modern' lodge at the same time. One of our members was, and it was agreed to summon him at the next meeting to discuss the matter.

April. 1796: it was agreed that 'we could not take any cognisance of any other constitution and that all that had passed should be buried in oblivion.' In other words we ignored "modern" masons, and membership of the 'moderns' was not therefore a bar to our membership. The brother concerned thanked the lodge for their decision

June, 1797: Several brothers of this lodge having lately become 'Modern' masons it was agreed to write to Grand Lodge to know how we should act in future with respect to 'Antient' masons becoming 'Moderns.'

July, 1797: Grand Lodge's reply was that we were not authorised to interfere but should incline 'Moderns,' if possible, towards us.

August 6th, 1802: Agreed that 'every candidate who happens to be what is called a Modern mason shall pay the sum of £1. 7. 0d. which sum includes all the expenses he shall he put to for making.' (This was a reduction in the normal initiation fee and indicates a beginning of the rapprochement between Antient and Moderns.)

## **Dining Habits and Lodge Meeting Places**

Dining was a regular part of our meetings when our minutes open, but the meal was not covered by the dues. A typical entry was in December 1785:

'At 8 o'clock ordered in the bill which amounted to the sum of £4. 14. 7d. The sum was defrayed by a subscription of 3/6d. each from 17 members and 12 visitors amounting to £5. 1. 6d. Gave the servants of the house 4/- and spent the rest.'

In March, 1786 our treasurer was apparently the landlord, at the 'Salutation.' When he left the house and removed from the lodge, the new landlord, formerly of Lodge 17, joined our lodge, and to mark his first meeting with us made a present of 'a handsome supper and a crown bowl of punch.'

In May, 1786 several brethren were under orders for Gibraltar and the minutes close 'As this evening was intended for the enjoyment of the company of our brothers going to Gibraltar the same was devoted to social mirth and cheerfulness such as suited the occasion with decency.'

At the St. John's festival in December, 1790 it is recorded 25 sat down to

dinner 'genteely served in at 2 p.m.' The installation of officers followed, after which the brethren 'sat down to regale, and many excellent toasts were drunk.' The lodge closed at 11 pm. At this period it was clearly the practice to serve the meal in the lodge room during a break in the business.

In May, 1792 we settled the bill with the landlord for a sum of £2. 8. 6d.

What, we wonder, was on the menu in June 1808 to inspire this record in the minutes? 'The members partook of a most excellent dinner composed of every delicacy the season could produce.'

Disputes with our various landlords occurred from time to time. An emergency meeting was called in January, 1789 when a Past Master and other brethren petitioned for the removal of the lodge on account of the entertainment on the last St. John's Day. A majority of the lodge agreed we should remove, so the lodge settled the business with the landlord and straightaway walked in procession to another house, where it was agreed by the emergency meeting 'that the expenses of the night should be paid out of the box'

In June, 1795 another 'emergency' was called after several complaints of uncivil usage which brothers had met with from the landlord. On investigation we found

'there was no other way whereby to preserve the cement of the lodge than by removing the same.' We agreed on a new meeting place and called in the landlord 'who seemed very well satisfied as the lodge was determined to move.' We then closed the lodge, packed up the jewels, and removed the lodge chest and implements to the new house, and gave the new landlord 'such necessary instructions as the lodge thought proper.'

In February, 1799 the lodge was informed that 'in consequence of our landlord having absconded his house' the chest and other property of the lodge was removed to a private store room.

## Charities

In the surviving minute books, the first record of a charitable grant of any kind was in May, 1786, when a subscription for a sick brother amounted to 11/- This may not sound a great deal but it can be measured against a special allowance made to the Secretary in June, 1784, 'for his extraordinary expenses in stationery the past half year.' This allowance? One shilling! We 'made a motion' to the Grand Lodge in August, 1786 'certifying the 'widow of a brother, she now being in need of charity,' the first reference to Grand Lodge charities.

Some indication of the nature of masonic funerals in those days is given in October, 1788, when the lodge received a bill specifying the funeral charges of the late Tyler of the lodge, which amounted to £3. 11. 10d. The minutes record 10/6d having been previously advanced towards the above and it likewise appearing that three articles, viz. six hoods and scarves and six bearers in black were unnecessary and not by or with the consent of this lodge and amounting to 16/6d., it is therefore unanimously agreed to have the said

sum of 16/6d. deducted from the original expenses and that the remainder of £2. 4. 10d. be defrayed by the lodge out of the general stock, and to be paid in the space of six months.'

A brother of our daughter Lodge No.230, in October, 1790, 'being at Wakefield in a state of indigence,' applied for charity to our Worshipful Master, 'who thought it proper to advance him 2/9d. to defray his expenses to London.' In December, 1790, the members agreed to pay 6d. each to defray the expenses of a brother's funeral, and it is recorded we submitted a petition to the Stewards Lodge for relief of the widow.

We agreed to subscribe to the charity fund for Distressed Masons' Children in May, 1802, and in November, 1806 we raised the lodge subscription to 2/- monthly, of which 6d. was to be appropriated 'to the education of female orphans of Masons till a further subscription or fund can be formed for that purpose.'

Far from charitable appears the minute of the 7th March, 1806, when it was proposed to the lodge 'for to give something for the *relief* of the widows and orphans of them that fell in the *lett* (late) Lord Nelson's victory, but it was unanimously agreed by the body that there should nothing be given.' Without any explanation this appears to be both an extraordinary and an unpatriotic decision, particularly by a Service lodge.

## **Officers and Worthies of the Lodge and Membership**

Apart from the half-yearly elections, there appears to have been little unusual about the officers of the lodge in the earliest records apart from the fact that the officers were appointed by 'election' with the exception of the Treasurer and Tyler who were picked by "general choice." The distinction is not made clear. Later the Master and Wardens were elected by ballot and the other officers by 'general choice,' and by 1785 it is recorded all officers were balloted for. In this year it was agreed that the Stewards in future 'act as Pursuivants of the lodge in time of refreshment that no-one but brothers be ever admitted on any pretext whatever.' This appears to have been a necessary precaution for there are several references to impostors presenting themselves and being ejected.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge in December, 1788 was judged guilty by the lodge in emergency meeting of 'error in soliciting votes for his election' but it was nevertheless agreed he should remain 'in his present election.'

The first occasion on which we honoured an officer for his services was in November, 1791, when the Master proposed 'that our worthy brother King, Secretary, to have a *meddle* made, with the device he thinks most proper to his opinion. in honour to Lodge 7, and to wear the same in token of his friendship to Lodge 7'

The famous Brother Betts, already referred to, reported in April, 1795 "the high honour that the Grand Chapter was pleased to confer on the lodge by appointing Bro. Betts and Bro. Reed as two of the nine *Worthys*."

(The Nine Worthies, sometimes styled the Nine Excellent Masters, were

appointed annually by the Antients Grand Lodge from representatives nominated by their Lodges in London and Westminster. Their duty was to visit Lodges and report to the Grand Chapter or the Deputy Grand Master, their object being to preserve a general uniformity of ceremonial. The appointment was terminated on the Union of the two Grand Lodges.)

It comes as something of a shock to read in December, 1802 that Brother Cohen, P.M. 'should be furnished with hanging at the expense of the lodge.' But this was the start of the practice of providing Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter regalia for our members thus honoured. Brother Cohen had been appointed 'one of the worthys' by Grand Lodge, and the 'hanging' referred to was the collar of his rank.

The exigencies of the Regiment's duties were undoubtedly the cause of some unusual examples of rapid progress in the Craft. In August, 1794, for instance, a candidate 'being under orders to sail to America the next day, was accordingly brought forward and received in due form the *three* first steps in Masonry.'

For similar reasons in May, 1800 one brother received the second and third steps, and another received the first three steps at the same meeting.

Large scale ceremonies appeared to start in the Lodge in the early 1800's and a record was set in December, 1804 when seven candidates were initiated together. In the same month seven of them became Fellowcrafts together. It is therefore not surprising that in spite of the constant movement of personnel of the Regiment, by the end of our second Minute Book, in August 1808, our membership had risen to 97.

In a return of members two years previously the lodge is revealed as having 48 military members of various ranks, and 33 civilian members ranging from carpenters (6), to publicans (3), and including ships captain, farmer, collarmaker, brush-maker, schoolmaster, banker, blacksmith and others.

## Funerals

One of the most notable features of these early days was the great respect paid to departed brethren, although it was rather more publicly demonstrative than would meet with approval nowadays. Our ancient brethren were prepared to go to great lengths to participate in these mournful occasions, and not only on the decease of our own lodge brethren. Funerals were usually the occasion for emergency meetings of the lodge.

One such meeting in March, 1786 records that the funeral procession was honoured with brethren from the Royal Arch Lodge 226 Greenwich, 'who were pleased to honour the procession with their standards, shields, escutcheons, etc. of the Grand Order.' There were 18 members and 11 visitors present on this occasion.

At another in February, 1787 we were joined by Lodges No.213 and No. 148 and proceeded to Greenwich, where we were joined by brothers of No. 113, and then proceeded to Shadwell "the house of Bro. Mason at the "George,"

where is held Lodge No. 3, where many of the lodge joined us in procession. Proceeded from thence to the parish church at Shadwell amidst a numerous concourse of people assembled on the occasion.”

The wording of another occasion strikes a discordant note. In November, 1790 at a brother's funeral it is stated 'the procession moved in form and proceeded to the late residence of the deceased and from thence to the place of interment. No greater regularity could ever be observed, and which was *unanimously applauded* by a crowded multitude of spectators.'

A meeting in October, 1808, however, suspended a brother from the lodge for three months for 'having behaved unbecoming the character of a mason' at the funeral of a brother of another lodge.

## **The Changing Scene**

Some understanding of the vagaries and incompleteness of the Minutes is given by the following example, which illustrates there were obviously so many changes going on in the Lodge that the members lost track of incidents within a very short time.

In January, 1791, the Worshipful Master reported forwarding the Warrant of Lodge No 262 to Jamaica by the ship the “Three Sisters” and that the expense amounted to £1. 1. 0d. It was agreed to send the account to Jamaica. and that Lodge

262 would meantime be debtor to No. 7 for the amount.

In June, 1794 a Brother Ferris of Lodge No. 262 deposited the sum of £1. 1. 0d. on behalf of the said Lodge, 'but for what account is uncertain, as the letter which accompanied same was lost by the bearer Capt. Thomas. being shipwrecked.'

So in the space of three years the earlier incident had apparently been entirely forgotten. Small wonder that the historians of 1960 have had such a difficult task in following the threads of our existence.

## **The Union Waterloo Lodge No. 13**

From which of our three lodges came the first move for the Union of the lodges is uncertain, but we do know that merger talks started early in 1825.

Our junior lodge No. 418, may well have initiated the matter for they were obviously having great difficulty in keeping going at the time. Several meetings in 1825 were cancelled because of non-attendance, and even the lodge offices were not fully manned, no Senior Deacon or Junior Deacon being named in the list of officers elected in December, 1824 and 1825. We do know that at the Union, 26 members were transferred from Lodge No.288, and eleven from Lodge No.418, but it is not possible to ascertain the membership of Lodge No.13 at the time.

The terms of Union however were clearly dictated by Lodge No.13, as was due to their seniority and were apparently happily accepted by the other two

lodges. The terms provided among other things the following:

Each lodge was to settle all arrears due to Grand Lodge or otherwise 'in order that each may meet on the *Level*,' and to bring their regalia, boxes and all other articles of the lodge. A selected number of jewels etc. would be retained, and the others sold, the proceeds to form a benevolent fund.

To provide a fund for the United Lodge, each lodge should put down three pounds to meet the current expenses of the lodge.

Each brother should pay on each lodge night one shilling and sixpence (with the exception of written excuse pleading sickness or duty), one shilling of which to be spent and sixpence to be added to the fund. All initiates were to pay £4.

All members joining the United Lodge, being residents of Woolwich were to pay 2/6d. Grand Lodge dues and 7/6d. to the lodge box, but military men were to be admitted by paying 2/6d. Grand Lodge dues and 2/6d. to the box.

Each lodge was required to address Grand Lodge separately on the proposed union, the two junior lodges to express their desire to work under Warrant No. 13 and to request permission to return their Warrants and to be transferred to Lodge No.13.

No objection was raised by Grand Lodge and the union was happily effected. The first meeting of the Union Waterloo Lodge No.13 was held in April, 1826, and

the Warrant of Consolidation was issued to John Bell, the first Master of the united lodge on the 1st December, 1826.

The by-laws of the Lodge are printed in the front of the Minute Book. Although there are differences, it is remarkable how similar in effect they are to those of today.

Items of interest in them are:

A fine of 1/- on officers not present within half an hour of the time of meeting. Waiters at the tavern where the lodge was held to receive 1/6d. for monthly meetings and 5/- at Festivals.

The Tyler received 2/6d. for each meeting and 1/- in addition for every Initiation.

The Master was to call the monthly bill for refreshment at 11 o'clock and anything had after that time was not to be charged to the lodge.

Members on voyage, journey, or command exceeding one month, paid 6d. a month subscriptions.

Our history after 1826 is of a different character to the tempestuous years that went before, though by no means lacking in incident and interest. The difference lies mainly in the fact that the incidents were now of a domestic character within the Lodge, and did not bring us into conflict in any serious degree with Grand Lodge.

Although nothing in our records indicates any association with Kent Province, we were apparently ranked as a Kent lodge on the Union of the Grand Lodges, a resolution to become a 'Town Lodge' (London Lodge) was carried in April, 1828, and this is confirmed by Grand Lodge registers which record us as being a London Lodge from June, 1828.

Six years later, in 1834, we were summoned to attend Provincial Grand Lodge, and dine with the Provincial Grand Master at Chatham, and also to attend an excursion with him to Margate. We declined the invitation as 'now belonging to London.'

The boot was on the other foot however, in 1889, when the Lodge agreed to take steps to remove to the Masonic Hall, Plumstead. Grand Lodge declined sanction 'as Plumstead was placed within the Province of Kent 25 years ago, and has at the present moment 2 lodges meeting there belonging to the Province. Lodge 13, being a London Lodge, could not therefore be removed into the Province of Kent and thus become a country lodge, without the special permission not only the Most Worshipful Grand Master, but also of the Provincial Grand Master of the Province.'

Following this letter, our Worshipful Master, together with representatives of the Nelson Lodge represented the circumstances more fully and received permission to move to Plumstead. The first meeting was held there on the 13th March, 1889.

Our tradition as a Wednesday lodge dates from about 1839, when an amendment to the by-laws which had provided for Tuesday meetings, was made.

Meetings were still irregular and far more frequent than now. In the 1820's the number ranged around fifteen or sixteen a year, including emergencies, later dropping to about eleven or twelve a year during the 1840's, though there were twenty meetings in the year 1840.

The Inner Guard appeared in the list of officers after our Union, but there was still no mention of the Director of Ceremonies, nor were any Stewards appointed. The Director of Ceremonies does not make his appearance until the 14th July, 1880, when the first brother appointed was described as 'M.C.,' the post becoming that of 'D.C.' a year later, but still appearing at the foot of the list of officers. Stewards did not re-appear in the Lodge until 1882, and only one was appointed for many years. One wonders how our brethren fared without the services of that "fine body of men"

Although the year 1861 slipped by unmarked by ceremony, the celebration of the one hundred years continuous working of 'Antient' Lodge No. 230 (later No. 288) was observed in 1886. At the November meeting that year it was agreed "that the usual

ceremonies be observed' in connection with the Centenary; that a banquet be held 'to celebrate the auspicious occasion'; that it be held in London "charge not to exceed 10/6d," and that the usual invitations be given to Lodges in the locality, and also to the Principals of the Union Waterloo Chapter (two only were named).

On the 8th December, 1886, the Lodge was opened in three degrees and resumed to the first. The "celebration of the centenary of the Lodge was then proceeded with" and a Brother Aker, I.P.M. 'then gave the history of the Lodge.' It is unfortunate that the history was never committed to paper, for it would have been a valuable contribution to this present record.

After closing the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to the "Holborn

Restaurant" for a banquet, attended by 90 brethren and 42 visitors. It is recorded that 'all the officers of the Kent Lodge, No.15 paid their respects to the W.M. and the Lodge.' Lodge No. 15 was itself celebrating its Jubilee that same evening. W.Bro. Arthur Cleall was our Master in this centenary year.

It seems highly possible, in view of this celebration, that in the passage of time and through the demands of the Services, the original members of Lodge No. 13 and its predecessors were either out-numbered or had faded from the scene completely. No other explanation seems to account for the daughter Lodge's centenary being remembered when that of the Mother Lodge was overlooked.

The Festival of St. John the Baptist (24th June) is last mentioned in 1846, but the Feast of St. John the Evangelist (27th December), on which our installations were held, continued to be celebrated until 1862. Various changes in the date of the Installation Meeting were then made over the years, until we settled on November, in 1900, the practice now pursued.

For the Installation Banquet of 1869 the fee was 5/-. After the Installation meeting of July, 1882, held at the Masonic Hall, Woolwich, the brethren went to the "New Falcon Hotel" Gravesend for the banquet. It is not disclosed how they journeyed, nor the reason for this unusual venue. The first record of an Installation banquet at the Old Holborn Restaurant, where they were held for many years until its demolition in 1955, is in July, 1884.

The sixty years of the 20th century, which would represent a history in themselves for many lodges, have passed in comparative quiet after the earlier years, but there were still items of note. The two World Wars which dominated this period did not, in fact, bring vicissitude to the Lodge. On the contrary it flourished in both conflicts, undoubtedly due to the influx of population in Woolwich, both of Servicemen in the barracks and skilled workers in the Royal Arsenal.

There was indeed no reference in the Lodge Minutes to the outbreak of the First World War until in October, 1914 we agreed to dispense with our Installation Banquet and devote 50 guineas instead to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.

In January, 1915 it is recorded "no meeting was held, the hall having been taken , for military purposes." In June of that year a Grand Lodge circular was recorded, banning all brothers of German, Austrian, Hungarian or Turkish birth from attending any masonic meeting during the continuance of the War. This ban was not rescinded until 1927.

Members of our Lodge in the Second World War may smile at the Minute of October, 1915, when it was agreed 'that there be recorded on the Minutes, an appreciation of the calm and dignified manner in which the W.M. carried out the ceremony of Raising during the Zeppelin raid over the town and district.' But our members then did not have the necessity to become hardened to raids as later brethren were to do.

Many of our members must have served in this great conflict, and we must have had our share of casualties but these were not recorded nor was any Roll of Honour compiled.

But a special leaflet enclosed in the minute book indicates that special prayers were said after the close of the Lodge - the brethren standing - and during these prayers first the names of those of our brethren who had fallen were read, followed by the names of those still serving with special prayers for their safety.

An emergency meeting was held on Armistice Day, 1918, but not for this special reason. The Minutes state: - 'This emergency meeting was held on the day the Armistice of the Great War was signed - the Greatest Day of history-making the world had ever known and probably ever would know and our thanks are hereby recorded to the Great Architect of the Universe for the blessings of peace and the victory of righteous endeavour over might.'

What high hopes were then held!

In February, 1922 it was proposed 'that this Lodge in view of its long and honourable history and traditions, considers it desirable to have a full research made into its career from the earliest days to the present time, and that the results of this work be published in book form for the good of the Craft in general and this Lodge in particular.'

W. Bro. Arthur Cleall was asked to undertake the work, but the project unfortunately never materialised. It was certainly a formidable task to place on one man, as the members of the present History Committee will confirm. Correspondence relating to the obtaining of a duplicate Centenary Warrant is mentioned in October, 1927, the Warrant having been lost. The proposal to apply for a duplicate was made by W. Bro. Cleall, who was Master in 1886 when the Warrant was granted. In 1933 however, it is recorded that the Centenary Warrant had been recovered and it was placed in the Treasurer's hands for safe keeping.

Although our Lodge did not become a Hallstone Lodge at the building of Freemason`s Hall, we presented three armchairs for use in the new building in 1932.

The celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Lodge was held in 1935 - again commemorating the birth of Antient Lodge 230. A masonic church service was held on the 16th June, 1935 and a special meeting on the 17th June. The Worshipful Master on this occasion was W. Bro Clynton Hartland, still a member of the Lodge in its bi-centenary year by the fortunate discovery of our Lodge's earlier origin.

An unusual feature of this special meeting, attended by W. Bro. Cartwright. P.G. Chaplain and W. Bro. Bryan, Provincial Grand Secretary, Kent, was the Initiation of two Lewises who were also blood brothers-Bros. Archibald and Leslie Saunders.

It was in October, 1937 that the question of repair of the old Lodge Banner was raised. We were advised it was beyond repair and agreed to purchase a new one, early in 1938, at a cost not exceeding £50. The date on the old banner was 25th June, 1785, but the date of the formation of our Lodge recorded in Grand Lodge and confirmed by the Grand Lodge Librarian was the 6th March, 1761, and it was agreed this date be used.

The new banner was presented to the Worshipful Master in October, 1938

and it was unveiled and dedicated by W. Bro. the Rev. W. T. Money. P.A.G.C.(Eng.), P.P.G.C.(Surrey).

And so we came again to another World War, and again the Lodge was fortunate in suffering very little. A meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1939 but the next was not held until March, 1940. The W.M. elected in November, 1938 was still in the Chair and was re-elected for the remainder of 1940. The March Minute does not even record the outbreak of War, but does contain a reference to an appeal from the Masonic Hospital for the Comforts Fund for members of the Forces. Some of our Secretaries have certainly not aided the historians of the Lodge!

We met regularly in April, May and June of 1940, when a request was received from Grand Lodge to curtail the after dinner proceedings of the Lodge. There was then another gap to March, 1941 with W. Bro. Elms still in the Chair, when an Installation Meeting was held. W.Bro. Elms did not even receive a Past Master's Jewel then, the Secretary reporting the urgent need to conserve metal. Presentation of the Jewels was in fact resumed in 1944, when W.Bro. Elms was the first recipient, but the back-log was not cleared until 1948. From May, 1941 until 1946 meetings were changed, with few exceptions, to Saturdays.

The only reference in the Minutes to the end of the War is a decision in June, 1945 to hold a V.E. (Victory in Europe) celebration day in the following October.

In June, 1946 appears the only record in our history of the suspension of nominations for Initiation, because of the length of the waiting list.

There was a distressing sequence of events in 1950/51. The Master Elect died before his Installation, due in November, 1950 and the Junior Warden was elected at

the next meeting. He too became ill and was unable to attend for Installation and as a

result W. Bro. Darwood. W.M. continued in office for a second year.

During the last ten years of its existence, our Lodge which had always enjoyed the honour of Grand Officers among its members, suffered the loss of all of them. They were all three, great masons, well remembered by many members of the Lodge: - W. Bro. J. H. Attenborough, Treasurer for 22 years and who served the Lodge well into his eighties; W. Bro. Harry Howey, Secretary for 18 years; and W. Bro. Leonard Hackney, for 30 years Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge as his father had been before him. All held the rank of P.A.G.Purs.

It was under the guidance of such worthy men that our Lodge has come to the celebration of its 200th anniversary in such good order and strength.

## Dining Habits of the Lodge

Over the years from 1826 there can scarcely be a tavern in the district at which the lodge has not met at some time. Disputes with the landlord over the standard of the provisions for the lodge were the usual cause of moving.

Some odd arrangements appear to have been made for our refreshment. Old account books show that we frequently purchased the victuals ourselves and paid for their preparation. Token systems for payment by the members were also used for many years.

The festive board was not always a feature of the meetings. There appears to have been a clear distinction between "refreshments" which were always provided at lodge meetings, and formal dining.

A resolution of January, 1845 provided that "no tickets be given for absent brethren, as none would be issued unless the Bro. is present, his dues paid, and his name entered in the signature book.' The ticket system is not explained, but presumably it was some voucher system for the obtaining of refreshments to choice. At the same time, it was agreed the Secretary should 'pay with tickets to the waiter for tobacco and other items, or such as the W.M. may think advisable to order.'

The Lodge was then formally dining only at the two Festivals of St. John, although there is mention of 'hot suppers' at initiations, and at other times the brethren 'partook of refreshment' (presumably liquid), before departure.

In September, 1850 it was agreed that wine for the use of the Tyler should be paid for from Lodge funds.

A committee in February, 1855 decided 'the supply of cigars and tobacco from the Lodge funds should be discontinued, such expenditure not being sanctioned by the byelaws or a vote of the lodge.'

Later it became the custom for the Lodge brethren to decide at one meeting, to take refreshment together after the next meeting, and on these they occasions would adjourn to various local hostelrys.

When they did refresh themselves, our ancient brethren were good bottle men.

At a meeting on the 10th December, 1862, when the Installation meeting was being discussed, there was 'considerable discussion' on the wine allocation. It was agreed that 'each brother should receive a ticket for a bottle of wine as had been the custom.'

An earlier custom of great interest, though it is not fully explained, was the issue to members of 'bone tickets' when they paid their monthly subscription - then 2/6d. The bone tickets, of a nominal value of 6d. were apparently exchanged for refreshment. Over several years there were many attempts to abolish them, which were strongly resisted, but they were finally dispensed with on the 9th May, 1864 when the subscription was fixed at 2/- per month. The keenness with which they were defended, and the many attempts made to revive them, without success, strongly suggest that these bone tickets procured for their possessors far more than the nominal sixpennyworth of

refreshment.

Various explanations of these bone tickets have been discussed by the Committee but the Editor suggests that the name refers to the purpose of the ticket, and not the material of which it was made. The 'bone,' in other words, was a somewhat facetious reference to the food which the ticket procured.

Another theory is that 'bones' was a corruption of 'bonus' represented by the return of part of the subscription 'in kind.'

## **The Work of the Lodge**

Even comparatively new members of the Lodge in this year of 1961 will remember that it was common practice to work three degrees at a meeting, and that a tradition, in fact had been established, for the Worshipful Master to work all three degrees himself and deliver the 'Charge to the Initiate' at his first meeting after Installation. This practice ceased only a year or two ago as a result of general opinion that it was excessive and detrimental to the best interests of the Lodge and the members.

What then of some of the performances staged in our past history?

Outstanding indeed must have been the year 1856.

Only ten meetings were held, it is true, but three of them were adjourned to the day following, and one meeting ran for three consecutive days! At this meeting there were five Initiations on the first day, five Initiations, one Passing and one Raising on the second day, and one Initiation on the third day. All this in addition to considerable general business, such as propositions, joining members etc.

The Lodge also moved home twice during this year, during which there were no less than 38 propositions for membership, ballots for 41 candidates, 40 Initiations (seven at one meeting), 27 Passings and 30 Raisings, plus about 15 joining members. In addition to the work in our Lodge, six of our members were Passed at one meeting of the Lodge of Emulation, No.376, Dartford, and four were Raised at another meeting of the same lodge.

The Master for this hectic year was a veritable 'dynamo.' a Brother Moore. In the three years prior to becoming Master, he served as both Senior Deacon and Secretary, Junior Warden and Secretary, and Senior Warden and Secretary.

He undoubtedly earned the tribute to his 'unwearied exertions' paid him when he was presented with his Past Master's jewel.

Another formidable day's labour was at the Installation ceremony and investiture of officers on the 12th May. 1875. Three degrees were also worked together with the closings in the third and second degrees. It is not recorded how long our brethren laboured on this occasion.

Figures for recruitment varied widely from year to year. In 1860. for instance, there were 22 Initiations, but in 1866 only four were made. In the year 1878/79 there were no degrees worked at all, and thereby hangs a tale.

Apart from working no degrees. there were no lectures during the year nor any other parts of the Ritual. At two successive meetings, candidates for

Initiation were blackballed. At the next election of Worshipful Master, the usual resolution to present a Past Master's jewel to the retiring Master was defeated by 9 votes to 6. The attendance indicates the low state of the Lodge in this year and our brethren expressed their disapproval in the clearest way

Large scale ceremonies however continued in the Lodge until almost the end of that century. Five candidates were Initiated together in 1887 and went through the other Degrees together in the year. Four candidates were Initiated together as late as 1897.

There are many references to the Lodge putting visiting brethren through various Degrees, when their own lodges were 'adjourned.' In 1861 there were seven such 'guest' Degrees.

A note of interest is that in July, 1876, by special dispensation. the reigning Master of the United Military Lodge. No. 1536. a W. Bro. F. G. Pownall, was Installed as our 'Worshipful Master also.

The first World War revived for a short time the practice of mass ceremonies.

Although by change of rule in 1916. meetings were reduced to the present seven a Year, in November of that year five Initiates went through together, were Passed at an emergency meeting the same month and Raised together in February, 1917.

There were another five joint Initiates in March. 1917, a further five at an emergency meeting that month, and six brethren were Raised together in May, 1917. In this year there were in fact seven emergency meetings. Altogether there were 29 Initiations, 30 Passings and 28 Raisings.

In the last 60 years, the homes of the Lodge have been at The Freemasons Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead (to 1915), The Shakespeare Hotel (1915-1922), Masonic Hall, William St., Woolwich (1922-1925), Masonic Hall, Plumstead (1925-1933) and the Shakespeare Hotel, Woolwich (1933 to date).

## **Black Balling**

The black-balling or "negativizing" of a candidate as it was referred to, was by no means the rarity in earlier days that it is now.

Minutes which have been crossed through, but are still legible, reveal an extra-ordinary incident in March, 1850. when five candidates were put to the ballot and four were rejected, one having eleven black balls against him. At a further meeting later in the month, a request was submitted by six Past Masters and the Senior Warden for the same five men to stand as Candidates at the next lodge meeting. In April, a ballot for four of the men was taken which proved in their favour, and they were later Initiated. The fifth man, against whom the eleven black balls were cast, was not submitted to the ballot, and his name was not referred to again.

There was another serious outbreak of this trouble in the 1890's, culminating in an approach to Grand Lodge by the Worshipful Master in 1901 following

four black balls against two candidates “without prior intimation of objection.”

The reply from the Grand Secretary laid down what still appears a model approach to this matter. He stated:

“It has become the custom for any brother who objects to the admission of a candidate, to communicate with the W.M. and to state in confidence his reasons for such objection, so that the proposer may be communicated with, and if he sees fit, the candidate can be withdrawn. This means of dealing with such a case must commend itself to all who desire harmony and good feeling in the Lodge, but it is not obligatory and any member of the lodge has certainly the right to black-ball a candidate should he see fit, without subjecting himself to any disciplinary measures. No-one has the right to question his motives, and if under such circumstances official action could be taken, the principle of the ballot would become nugatory. The case you describe appears to be a particularly unfortunate and regrettable one, but I fear that in its present stage there is no remedy for it. Should, however, such acts continue to take place in the Lodge, and any evidence can be obtained of a conspiracy to indiscriminately blackball candidates, it might well form a ground of complaint to lay before the Board of General Purposes.”

## Membership

For many years in the 1800's the strong military predominance continued, but there was a steady growth of civilian recruitment, and also a large number of Initiations of Royal Naval personnel, recalling the former association of Woolwich and Deptford with Britain's maritime history. Many master mariners of the Merchant Navy were also admitted.

Some idea of the travels of our members is given by even a short selection of the Mother Lodges of our joining members.

They include: -

Lodge Ancient Landmark, No.3. Manitoba. Canada. (PhillipVigeon - 1888).

Lodge Union No.5. Connecticut, U.S.A. (Wm. Abbey - 1892).

Lodge of Australia. No.57. Melbourne, (Charles King - 1894).

St. John's Lodge, No. 486. Calcutta. (James Evans - 1896).

Lodge No.1. Missouri. U.S.A. (George W. Harris - 1897).

Morning Star Lodge, No.552. Lucknow, India. (Henry Harris - 1897).

Oriental Lodge, No.687. Constantinople. (Bro. Lambert - 1897).

Inhabitants' Lodge, No. 153, Gibraltar. (Bro. Oliver - 1868).

Certain niceties had to be observed in the recruitment of military personnel in those days under Grand Lodge rules.

The minutes of the 14th March, 1860 record a dispensation from Grand Lodge 'to enable Mr. Henry Newstead, musician in the Royal Artillery band, but below the rank of Corporal' to be admitted a member. This permission was given only after the Master, on Grand Lodge instructions, had ascertained

that Newstead's commanding officer had no objections. After all this trouble, Newstead resigned while still a Fellowcraft.

Similarly in 1893, when the Librarian of the Royal Artillery band, Woolwich, a bombardier, 'wished to join, the Adjutant General was asked by the Lodge to confirm that the rank of Bombardier was equivalent or superior to that of Corporal.

## **Social Activity**

At the end of the nineteenth century, there was evidently a strong social life in the Lodge, and it was the custom to wear masonic clothing on these social occasions. Dispensations to do so were quite freely given by Grand Lodge until in April, 1902, a circular was received, advising that permission to wear masonic clothing outside the Lodge would in future be granted only in very exceptional circumstances.

The minutes of February, 1893 refer to the 'annual ball' to be held jointly with the Nelson Lodge, but this is the solitary reference to this 'annual' affair. There were frequent references to 'Cinderella' dances at this period - presumably dances held in aid of charities, and the 'soiree' was still in fashion with masonic clothing worn.

## **Charities**

With the Union of the three lodges, Charity began to become much more the prominent feature of the lodge work that it is today, and it also began to become more regularised. An early step in this direction was the decision in June, 1830 'that this Lodge do not relieve any travelling masons who may apply to it for relief, such as may be wandering out of their direct road, and who may appear to be making a trade of begging; except under peculiar circumstances.' Regular contribution to established Masonic Charities started in May, 1838 when it was agreed to subscribe £1. 1. 0d. annually to the Masonic Institution for Girls. Twenty years later, a proposal was made to increase this to £10. 0. 0 a year, to qualify for Life Governorship, but it was rejected, 'the Lodge funds not being adequate to meet the case.'

The lodge agreed in January, 1842 to reduce expenditure in order to accumulate a charitable fund, but this worthy intention appears not to have been carried out, for the same idea was again put forward in 1851. Once more the brethren agreed to it, yet there is no later record of the fund in operation.

Interesting individual charitable instances continued to occur. In 1855 a brother deserted the Regiment and was subsequently expelled from the Lodge, but his wife and children, whom he also deserted, were assisted by the return of the Initiation fees of the deserter.

The Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny are reflected in our pages. In 1854, the time of the Crimean campaign, a special meeting was held 'for the purpose of prayer on behalf of our brethren who have gone or are going to the seat of war.' The Antient Charges were read by the Worshipful Master and a brother delivered a brief Lecture on the Antient Landmarks of the Order.

In 1857 we agreed to give £15 towards the fund for the relief of wives and children of soldiers who had embarked for India.

It is interesting to note that the Charity Box has by no means been a regular feature of our Lodge. There was an agreement in May, 1867 to circulate one, but it was voted to discontinue this in the following year.

Nevertheless our brethren were generous to the needy, and their help was not confined to the lodge, nor the Craft. Sometimes charity outran the bounds of prudence. In February, 1869, the lodge voted £1 to the Woolwich Soup Society, clearly one of the favourite local charities. It was then reported that there was only 19/9d. in the charity fund, but the seconder of the motion kindly gave the missing amount.

We supported many such non-masonic local charities, and there are also frequent minutes of generous donations from Lodge funds to the various Institutions. It was a common practice to vote quite handsome sums to the lists of Masters or Past Masters of neighbouring lodges when these brethren were standing as Stewards, as well as supporting lists of our own brethren.

Some of our charitable acts were unusual. In October, 1861, it was resolved that one pound be given out of Lodge funds towards the subscription being raised on behalf of Brother Miller 'who has been for many years confined in prison and is now about to be liberated.' It sounds strange, but surely our brothers were exercising true charity in extending the helping hand to a brother who had fallen by the way.

In April, 1894, the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys drew our attention to the double votes enjoyed by the Lodge since 1885, which would lapse unless a further 5 guineas he paid, when they would be continued in perpetuity. The necessary sum was voted. The voting system is no longer in practice for the Institution.

An old link with St. Margaret's Parish Church, Plumstead, is established by the minute of the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1902, recording the grant of five guineas to a fund for the erection of a Masonic pulpit in the church. This pulpit is still in use and the observant brother will see the familiar emblems thereon.

By the kindness of the Secretaries of the Masonic Institutions we have been furnished with the following figures for contributions by the Lodge and its members (as at 10th Feb. 1960):

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	£2,522	11	6d.
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	£2,464	17	6d
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	£3,168	8	6d.
Royal Masonic Hospital	£2,135	13	0d.
	£10,291	10	6d.

It should be remembered that of this total, a great deal of the money was contributed in years when its value was a great deal higher than today

The Lodge is a Patron Lodge of all the Institutions and the Hospital, and was a founding Lodge of the Freemason's Hospital and Nursing Home in Chelsea.

An unusual charity case occurred in November, 1948, when an appeal was received from an 87 years old widow who was the daughter of one of our late brothers. It was reported that this brother had been initiated 100 years previously. We granted her 10 guineas and recommended the case to the Board of Benevolence.

In addition to the support of neighbouring Masters' lists when they were serving as Stewards, we supported the Charity Associations of other lodges, instances occurring in 1905 (Ordnance Lodge), 1909 (United Military Lodge) and 1913 (Nelson Lodge).

Among a long list of local charities supported for many years by annual subscription from the Lodge, were the Woolwich and Plumstead Cottage Hospital; Woolwich Rescue Home; Woolwich and Plumstead Nursing Association; Woolwich and Plumstead Soup Societies; Woolwich Tuberculosis Dispensary; Invalid Children's Aid Association; Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich; National Lifeboat Institution; Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney and the Miller Hospital, Greenwich. The Lodge also subscribed 50 guineas to the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital Fund in 1918.

## **Trouble in the Family**

Much of the detail of those unhappy squabbles which are bound to occur in a lodge over such a long period, is hidden by the discretion of the various Secretaries, who kept their records to the minimum on these occasions. But some of them must have caused the utmost consternation in their time.

One Master in 1834 had the unhappy experience of having his Installation deferred for a month because there were insufficient Past Masters present on Installation Night to conduct the ceremony. During the same Master's period of office, in June, 1835, there were insufficient members present to open the Lodge on the regular night. It is not clear whether the Lodge was then thin in numbers or the Master was not popular.

At the January Installation in 1868, when the Minutes came before the meeting, the brethren refused to confirm that portion relating to the election of the Master Elect. The reason is not given, but there was no Installation. At the following meeting another Brother was elected and Installed in March that year.

A Worshipful Brother G. B. Davies was elected treasurer in 1880, but three months later the Master reported him more than twelve months in arrears at the time of election and not eligible by rule. A new treasurer was elected but Bro. Davies appealed to Grand Lodge. Our officers were summoned before the Board of General Purposes, and Bro. Davies' appeal was upheld. He was later re-elected.

A happy end came to this incident in July, 1883, when he was elected an honorary member of the Lodge 'with all the privileges of subscribing

members' as a mark of esteem.

He was further honoured in March, 1897, when a representative meeting of Masters and Past Masters of various Lodges in Woolwich and Plumstead and vicinity, decided to present him with a testimonial. By this time he was recorded as a Past Master of Lodges 13, 700, and 829 and Preceptor of the Lodges of Instruction of Lodges Nos. 13 and 700. The presentation was in appreciation of his services to Freemasonry over a quarter of a century, and the Lodge voted twenty guineas to the fund. During our researches his signed receipt for our now missing 'old Minute Book' was found at Grand Lodge, dated 6th March, 1885.

An emergency meeting was called on the 22nd November, 1880 to consider 'the violent assault upon the Worshipful Master by Bro. Hassall after the closing of the last lodge meeting.' A committee was appointed to investigate and in December that year it was agreed that 'their recommendations be carried into effect.' No details are given.

What must have been a most unhappy Installation is recorded in the Minutes of another Emergency Meeting in July, 1889, to consider 'the violent conduct of Bro. Robert Austin Smith, P.M. at the Installation Banquet held at the "New Falcon Hotel" Gravesend on the 10th July.'

This time the charges are detailed.

It was alleged he:-

1. Offended and insulted the lodge visitors at the Festive Board.
2. Hissed while the toast of Past Masters was being honoured by the Brethren.
3. Used abusive, disgusting and threatening language to the Past Masters Of the Lodge.
4. Refused to obey the commands of the W.M. after being called to order several times, and obstructing the W.M. while giving the toast of the Initiates.

A letter was read from W. Bro. Smith, expressing his regret for this conduct and offering to resign if the Worshipful Master 'thought it expedient' for him to do so. The Worshipful Master did - and the apology was rejected. But against those who failed to live up to their obligations, the Lodge has been served by thousands of devoted adherents of the Craft. One such must have been our Master in 1892. There is an intriguing mystery which must remain unsolved behind the presentation to him of his Past Master's jewel. It is simply recorded that it be granted in recognition of his services as Master, 'despite his physical infirmity.' The Minutes of the year show that he never worked any Degree himself, and yet he won The approbation of his members. There is no clue as to the infirmity he suffered.

In recent years, major disputes have happily been rare but there was an unusual occurrence in 1911 when the Senior Warden levied complaint against the Worshipful Master for excluding him from a meeting of the Lodge until after a ballot had been taken for a candidate the Senior Warden wished to oppose. The Board of General Purposes declared the election void and the W.M. was admonished. The decision of the Board was ordered to be read in

open Lodge.

At the next election of the Lodge, the W.M. however was re-elected as Master by 53 votes against 52 for the Senior Warden. This might well have developed into a serious split in the lodge, but masonic principles seem to have been applied to the situation. The S.W. concerned served the further year in that post and at the next election meeting was unanimously voted as Master Elect.

There were other outstanding figures in the Lodge who should be mentioned:

In 1924 a W.Bro. Syer completed 50 years' membership. He was also Treasurer from 1893 to his death in 1924 (a period of 32 years), and Secretary for three years previous to this. He was offered London Grand Rank in 1924 but declined it on account of his advanced age. He was Master in 1881.

W.Bro. Cleall, our would-be historian of 1922, applied for veteran membership in 1929, with 53 years membership behind him.

In 1947 a radio set was presented to W. Bro. J. H. Attenborough on completing 50 years membership. He was also Treasurer from 1930 to 1952.

As with Treasurers, so with Secretaries, has the Lodge been well served by notable figures, W.Bro. William Dobbing's beautiful handwriting is an ornament of the Minute Books from 1900 to 1922. His successor W. Bro. Charles Goodrick served from 1922 to 1938 and our late W. Bro. Howey was Secretary from 1938 to 1955.

## **Lodge of Instruction**

A committee to consider the formation of a Lodge of Instruction was appointed in December, 1846, and in May, 1847 it recommended that one be formed to meet twice a month, the subscriptions to be 6d. a meeting and a joining fee of 2/-. A Secretary and Treasurer were to be appointed annually, and in the absence of the Secretary, a Past Master was to fill the office for the evening. No mention is made of the now all-important Preceptor. Apparently the Secretary fulfilled this role.

Just how long this first Lodge of Instruction lasted is not indicated, but it must have lapsed, for in November, 1874 it was again agreed that sanction be given for a Lodge of Instruction. In 1875 it was reported in being and meeting at the "Earl of Chatham" Woolwich.

One of the great occasions in the history of the Lodge of Instruction was undoubtedly in March, 1895, when W. Bro. James Terry, Past Grand Sword Bearer, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, worked the ceremonies of Consecration and Installation. More than 200 attended, but at the meeting of the Lodge in May, 1895, the Secretary reported that the ceremony had cost more than the Lodge of Instruction could afford. 'To signify the appreciation of the lodge for the honour conferred upon it by the L.o.I.' 8 guineas was granted towards expenses.

The modern lodge of instruction has been a tower of strength to the lodge, both in the training of officers and in its very generous donations to the Masters' Charity lists.

## **Antient Lodge No. 230**

(Later No. 288-United Grand Lodge)  
(1784-I 826)

On an evening in January, 1784, ten members of the Royal Artillery, on garrison duty at Gibraltar gathered in a house at the foot of the mighty Rock. They were all masons, and they had met to consider the “best and easiest” terms of petitioning a Warrant under the Grand Lodge of the Antients in England.

Six days later, on the 28th January, they met at the house of a Mrs. Nehemiah, and elected a Brother Green their Chairman. Nine were present at the meeting and five more brethren signed the Minute agreeing to the proceedings.

It was the 5th April before they met again, when they balloted for officers and Brother Green was elected Master, Brother Reid Senior Warden and Brother Wyatt Junior Warden. At this time no action at all had been taken to apply for a Warrant, so their action was a little premature, but they also agreed to pay a subscription of three reals each per calendar month, commencing forthwith. A real was a silver coin worth about 2d.

When they met five days later on the 10th April, they agreed on the form of three letters to be sent; one to the Antient Grand Lodge, one to Bro. Richards in England. and the third “to the Master of the Lodge at Woolwich” (No.86).

A great deal of the matter was common to all three letters, indicating there were 16 masons in the same Corps, belonging to six Companies, and that they were seeking a Warrant for a Lodge to be held in the 1st Battalion.

The letter to Bro. Richards suggested he should seek the help of the Lodge at Woolwich, and that sent to Lodge No.86, stated that eight of the petitioners had been members of that body

The letter to Bro. Richards also stated: 'We have sent home by bearer. Bro. Strahan, Master Cooper of this Garrison, the sum of five guineas for a Warrant, a Constitution Book, a book of byelaws, \* Hymen Reasons, and for you to charge all expenses you may be at. If there should be any remains, to expend it in skins (aprons). and if the above sum is not sufficient, Bro. Strahan will advance what may be necessary, and as he expects to return here in short time, should no opportunity offer before, they may be sent out by him.' \* (Hymen Reasons was a corruption by our brethren of the words

'Ahiman Rezon' - the work of Laurence Dermott, Secretary of the Antient Grand Lodge. The book was not only a set of bylaws for private lodges, but the Constitutions of the Antient Fraternity and a code of conduct for Masons. Lodge 230's copy, signed and dated 4th July, 1785 by Grand Secretary John McCormick still exists and is in fair condition considering its subsequent travels with the Lodge).

The sum of five guineas for the Warrant was advanced by a Brother Wright.

The petitioners were not idle whilst awaiting the Warrant. In May, 1784 it was agreed to meet on Monday evenings, 'in default to forfeit one real, duty or sickness excepted.' Later that month it was decided to circularise other Lodges in the Garrison of their intent to form a lodge, and asking them not to admit members of the Corps as Masons without referring to them. Some caution had now occurred to the brethren for John Green signed himself now as Master Mason, not W.M. , and the proceedings were recorded as 'done at our private meeting of Master Masons.'

On the 6th May, 1785 'all members of our private meeting' agreed to pay one dollar, 4 reals, in order to celebrate the Festival of St. John.

A meeting held at Samuel Levy's house in Gibraltar on the 23rd September, 1785 heralded the actual formation of the Lodge. This meeting agreed 'The body to meet on Friday next in order to be constituted at the above house at 11 o'clock. That the Warrant shall be left with the members remaining at Gibraltar belonging to the 1st Battalion, and all expenses relative to the Constituting. Jewels etc. shall be defrayed by them, all of which together with such further sums as was laid out for the Warrant etc. shall be refunded to those brothers as contributed towards the same, when the strength of the box will admit of such distribution. All members leaving Gibraltar belonging to the said body, shall have a demand on the body who retains the Warrant of all their expenses relative to the purchase of the Warrant, and in case of hereafter meeting, that they shall have the privilege of joining without additional expense.'

This Minute also records a receipt from J. King. W.M. of Lodge No.86 for the five guineas sent to England.

The lodge was constituted on the 30th September, 1785 on an Order received from Laurence Dermott of the Antient Grand Lodge, bearing the date 30th June. 1785, and a Provincial Grand Lodge was assembled for the occasion "in ample form" at Mr. Levy's house. The Right Worshipful Bro. David Young, P.M. of Antient Lodge No.202 took the Chair. Twenty-four brethren from eleven different Lodges were also present, and Bro. John Green was installed the first Master of Lodge No.230.

In November of that year a letter is recorded to Lodge No.86, informing them that the Warrant had been received, 'with every other article mentioned in your letter to be sent by Gunner Thornton in very good order, and (we) are fully convinced in the distribution of the money that everything is charged in the most moderate manner.'

In the Minutes of Lodge No.86 it is recorded that the expenses of Lodge

No. 230 were as follows:-

Cash for Warrant	£3. 5. 6d
Journeys to London	6. 0d
2 dozen Skins	£1. 6. 0d
Expenses at Woolwich .	6.10d
Box to hold the Warrant	1. 0d
	£5. 5. 4d

The letter expresses the thanks of Lodge No.230, 'being sensible it is you alone that has been the means of accomplishing our business of the Grand, by taking every method of forwarding it, and should deem ourselves extremely happy to have it in our power to transact any business for any brother of your lodge hereafter. We have forbore writing to the Grand as St. John's is near approaching, when every information deemed requisite will be transmitted as early as possible after that festival . . . We solicit your assistance for information what dues is paid to the Grand by Military Lodges abroad, and the most eligible way of corresponding with them, and should think ourselves happy if a convenient opportunity should offer to keep up a friendly intercourse between the two bodies.'

The letter also mentions that the Worshipful Master, Bro. Green and three other brothers had 'gone to the West Indies,' so that the demands of service life which were to have so much effect on this Lodge, had very soon made their impact.

In October, 1785, a Brother Fortune, 'being under orders for Jamaica' was both Passed and Raised on the same evening, and this double degree progress became quite a feature of the lodge for many years, due to sudden postings etc.

On the 1st December, 1785, the lodge determined 'to endeavour to get a tyler from some other body to do that duty for the ensuing half year.' Election of officers was for six months at this time, and there was no Inner Guard or Director of Ceremonies.

Security was strong in the Lodge. At this same meeting they resolved 'to get three locks for the Ark of different wards,' the keys to be held by the Master and Wardens, and two inside locks, with different keys for the Secretary and Treasurer.

The first gifts made to the young lodge were a tin case for holding the Warrant from Bro. Laidley; a hanger (sword) for tyling from Bro. Chivers on his going to England; a Bible from Bro. Harcourt, and a song book from Bro. Wyatt.

At the Installation Meeting in December, 1785, the lodge met at 11 a.m., opened in the First for an Initiation, closed 'until dinner was over,' opened in the Third to install the officers, and *after 6p.m.* received visitors from six lodges.

In the first half of 1786 the lodge was meeting quite regularly, took an active part in the Quarterly Committee of the Garrison lodges, and supported the petition to Grand Lodge for a Grand Warrant for the good of Masonry at the

Garrison. This Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalusia (one of the old divisions of southern Spain) was constituted on the 24th May, 1786 and No.230 became Lodge No. 8 on that Provincial Roll.

The next entry in the Minute Book is dated 5th October, 1786 and is a copy of a letter written from New Brunswick, North America, to Grand Lodge. There is no mention of the unit leaving Gibraltar and one must assume that there was no time for a formal leave-taking in Gibraltar when the Battalion was posted to America.

This letter has a pathetic air, emphasising the tenuous links that then existed between lodges overseas and the Grand Lodge, and seems worthy of quoting at some length: -

"We, the Master, Wardens and brethren of Lodge No.230, held in the 1st. Btn. Royal Artillery, met this night being our stated lodge night, and being the first time since our departure from Gibraltar but on account of the members of the body being ordered on separate commands on our arrival to the American station we are at present reduced to six members residing with the Warrant at this place, which are as follows.."

Six names are listed and the letter also states that five others are at Halifax, five at Newfoundland, one at Port Cumberland, one at Annapolis and four in Jamaica.

It continues:

'As we have received no letter from you since our receiving the Warrant we are uneasy to know whether our proceedings heretofore have met with your candid approbation: would therefore be happy to hear from you the earliest opportunity, setting to us your true sentiments concerning these our proceedings, for though few in number residing with the Warrant at present, be assured of a due correspondence on our part with every circumstance relating to our Warrant. No doubt we should have wrote you on our departure from Gibraltar but expect the Provincial Grand of Andalusia has done that on our behalf, as we paid to them towards defraying the expenses of that provincial warrant, during our stay in that place, which is the cause of our not send dues to you at this time, which we flatter ourselves we have acted legal in these our proceedings, and beg your sincere and charitable counsel to direct us with the first opportunity, so that Masonry may not suffer thro` neglect but may still he supported by wise and faithful counsel, for all of which we are happy to stand, tho' few in number, as true pillars of Masonry."

When the Lodge next met in November, 1786 the same six brethren only were present, but there were seven visitors. Six of them from the Hiram Lodge No. 17 of the Halifax Constitution, who were to become very regular visitors during our stay in America.

At our first Installation Meeting in the province, it was agreed that 'the members are to toil (act as Tyler) in rotation.' This meeting of the Lodge was closed in due form 'Until God shall enable us to open again,' a form of wording used for many years. Every member with the Warrant was installed in office at this meeting.

The lodge met regularly each month in 1787, though no degrees were worked.

Numbers remained desperately thin, and all the offices could not always be filled. The Senior Warden occupied the Chair in April when the Master was sick and in the absence of Past Masters.

In May, a joining member named Ramsey, our only recruit so far in America, 'being destined for Quebec, declared off and drew a certificate for his good behaviour during his stay with us' and the lodge was down to six members again. At the election meeting in June, the outgoing Master was elected Secretary as the Secretary had to take the Junior Warden's office, and the Junior Deacon's post could not be filled. When the Installation was held, visitors from Lodge No.6 acted as Deacons for the opening. As frequently occurred in the Lodge, the brethren 'ceased and went to hear divine service' returning to the Lodge Room afterwards for dinner.

An Emergency Meeting was held in July, 1787 'to send a letter to the Grand lodge as we thought it our duty to send 2 gns. to the Grand as we have not sent any dues since we received the Warrant, and that sum 'v-is not in the Ark. Bro. Howie was pleased to advance that sum until the Ark is able to pay him.' Each month in 1788 the lodge met regularly with its faithful six members and always with a fair number of visitors, who frequently outnumbered the brethren. Again emphasising the remoteness of the lodge from home and from Grand Lodge guidance is another letter of 1788, which conveyed greetings 'by a ship going to London. Having written previous to this twice since our arrival in America and had no answer as yet it almost makes us suspect of our letters being miscarried. The first of them was sent 5th October, 1786 by a Bro. Goat, Lt. 54th Regt., who was going to London. The latter by Bro. J. McCay, an officer on half pay the 20th July (1788) going also to London on private business. The letter which we sent by Bro.Goat we received account of its safe arrival in your hands, being presented by a worthy Bro. P. Geddes, a Sergt. of Artillery, as he afterwards signified to us himself by letter, and gave us great satisfaction to hear of our letter meeting with your approbation as he expressed to us it did. The one which we sent by Bro. McCay we also sent 2 gns. as dues from this body of which we have received no account whether you have received it or not, which gives us some uneasiness in case it should be lost both to you and to us.'

In August, 1788 we received our first proposition for a new member in America - a Mr. Harry Jackson of the city of St. John, and in September he was initiated, the first degree the lodge had worked in America.

This brought the lodge into conflict with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. In a letter dated 11th November, 1788 they stated: '-A complaint has been received from Hiram's Lodge, No. 17 in the city of St. John complaining of the lodge having initiated into the fraternity a citizen contrary to the resolves and regulations of Grand Lodge.'

They enclosed an extract of their resolutions 'for your better information of what is expected of you as a travelling lodge and at the same time to acquaint you, in consequence, of the officers of your lodge having a right to a seat in the R.W Grand Lodge and to vote in the general concerns of Masonry, though not in the matters of Charity or the Fund of the lodge, because nothing is

exacted from travelling bodys on that account. The R.W. do hold it their inherent right that all such lodges consider themselves under the immediate jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge so far as the Constitutions and regulations of the fraternity have pointed out, and more especially so as this is the only provincial lodge of Antient Masons in the British colonies of North America, as well as from the consideration of the whole territory of New Brunswick being absolutely a part of Nova Scotia at the time this Grand Lodge was instituted.'

The complaint seems a surprising one, coming from the lodge whose members were our most frequent guests. The Grand Lodge letter almost suggests that it was more designed to preserve the territorial status of the Grand Lodge in New Brunswick, than in reproof of our brethren.

For all their comparative Masonic inexperience, our brethren did not yield to pressure and in January, 1789 they replied stating:

'First it will be necessary to observe that the Hiram Lodge and ours are, and ever have been since our arrival here, in closest union and harmony and we agreed we should not enter a citizen into Masonry without first making it known to Hiram Lodge; they on their part promised the like with respect to military men. With regard to the person we have Initiated it was always his wish to become one of our glorious fraternity, but at the same time he was determined to be made in a Military lodge, he having been long in the service and tho' receiving only half pay at present still looks upon himself in every respect in a military line as well as a civil, being liable to be called upon when his service may be required.'

Having given a civil explanation our brothers then stood on their dignity and continued:

'Concerning the part of your resolves which forbids any Military lodge making a citizen a Mason, notwithstanding his character is perfectly upright, we must acknowledge that we dare not acquiese as we have always understood Masonry to be Universal and free to all good men. We hold our Warrant from the Most Antient and Honourable Grand Lodge of England to whom we have paid proper obedience and our regular dues by Suitable conveniences that have happened. We therefore judge it most prudent to lay ourselves under no other jurisdiction till such time as we receive the instruction for that purpose from our Mother Grand Lodge.

There were no further repercussions of this affair, so the Provincial Grand was presumably either satisfied - or Intimidated! Harmonious relations continued with the Hiram Lodge.

In January, 1789 it was agreed that the brethren should attend weekly for instruction and meetings continued regularly that year until 10th August. On that date an emergency meeting was held "being our last we expect to have in this province."

The faithful six members were present, and to wish them Godspeed there were six visitors from lodges of English Constitution, one from Scottish Constitution and the Worshipful Master of the Hiram Lodge with thirteen of his members-21 visitors in all.

The Lodge had laboured in New Brunswick for almost three years, with never more than eight members with the Warrant, but it had maintained its high ideals. Brother Jackson, our one Initiate of the period, who had already attained the rank of Senior Warden, remained in the Province.

## **The Lodge at Woolwich**

On the 2nd November, 1789 the Lodge met at Woolwich for the first time and it then mustered twelve members. In January, 1790 monthly dues were reduced to 1/6d., 'sixpence of which was to be deposited in the box.'

In March, 1790 the Lodge was visited by a delegation from Lodge No.7 (our Mother Lodge) and among the members was the Brother King who had assisted in the formation of No.230. At the end of that year the lodge was twenty-five strong, but in January of 1791 only six were present and apparently because of the falling attendance the fees were reduced to 1/3d. a month. A heavy blow for the lodge came in April, 1791. when eight members under orders for the East Indies made application to the lodge for a recommendation to Grand Lodge for a new warrant. Among them were the Senior Warden, and at the same time it is recorded the Secretary being discharged (presumably from the Regiment) also 'declared off.'

Fate was not dealing gently with the young lodge, but it carried on, and was aided by many joining members, mainly of Irish Constitution lodges and by "sojourners" - who apparently were brethren with the lodge but not joining members. There were two such 'sojourners' with the lodge in June, 1792.

For the first four months of 1793 the lodge met regularly, May meeting though there were only five members at the May meeting.

The next entry on the Minute Book is dated *24th .September, 1801*. Without explanation the lodge was dormant for eight years and four months. What happened to its funds and property we cannot say and we are fortunate the Minute Book survived for this long period. Emergencies of Service life were probably to blame for during those eight years England was at war with France, Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands and Austria. These were the years of the Reign of Terror in France, the execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette and of Napoleon's rise to power.

The Minute of September, 1801 records that Brother Charles Roaberts and others, being informed that the Warrant No230 lay dormant for want of sufficient members to work it, and thinking it detrimental to the ancient craft, proposed to join the same for its revival, and accordingly applied to Grand Lodge for their permission to do so and transfer it to the 6th Battalion of Artillery, which was granted on the following conditions:

- I. The Officers to be installed by W. Bro. Betts, PM. Lodge 304.
2. To pay one pound, one shilling in lieu of back dues.

The petitioners accordingly assembled in due form under W. Bro. Betts, with the W.M.'s and S.W.'s of Lodges Nos. 7 and 304, and nominated officers till

St. John's Day. Bro. Roberts, joined from Lodge No. 304, was appointed Master, and with one exception all the other officers were from Irish Constitution lodges. Five petitions from Artillery men to become members were also received, so the lodge was given an invigorating revival. In fact they met *every week* for the next three months. But difficulties were still ahead, and in February, 1802 another Emergency Meeting was called and the Worshipful Master, Charles Roberts, informed the brethren that he and the Deacon and Tyler were 'under orders to march to Portsmouth.' New officers were elected to replace them and Bro. Charles Roberts then addressed the Lodge:

'When I got this Warrant from the R.W. Grand it was with their approbation that it should be held in Capt. Colebrook's company, the 6th Btn., or the company that Capt. Colebrook commanded at that time, as long as there were masons in the same able to support it. I and the rest of the brethren of that Company, fearing it would be detrimental, have entered into the following resolutions: -'That the same shall become stationary at Woolwich upon the following conditions:

1st. that if upon the division there shall be a majority for its removal it shall be sent to the said company providing there shall be three masons therein:

2nd. If it should become so weak in numbers as not to be able to fill the officers' chairs, it shall be sent to the said company on the same number of masons being in it;

3rd. That upon the company coming to Woolwich one of the masons of the said company shall, if he proves himself able and worthy, be an officer of the said lodge.'

These resolutions were carried unanimously and the lodge resumed a period of weekly meetings.

In May, 1802 the lodge made its first civilian recruit in England, and rather appropriately he was a stonemason, John Hall. He became Worshipful Master in December, 1805 - only three and a half years later!

The end of the Festive Boards which had been a regular feature of the Meetings was heralded in September, 1802 when it was agreed 'that no spirituous liquor shall be drunk during lodge hours, excepting our two annual meetings, but porter and ale.' It was also agreed 'there shall be no eating allowed, but at the times above mentioned, but if a few brothers make an appointment to that purpose such expenses shall be defrayed by themselves.'

Another Master had to resign in February, 1803, 'as he was ordered on recruiting service,' but the lodge seemed to be making steady progress with good recruitment.

In October, 1804, a Bro. W.L. Roberts, who had guided the lodge through many difficulties, was voted a medal in token of 'his innumerable services and attentions to this lodge,' which was agreed 'by the most feeling love and gratitude of every individual of The lodge.' This might be called the lodge's first Past Master's jewel for it was the first such presentation and it still did not become a regular practice. There is no indication whether Charles

Roberts our reviving Master and W.L. Roberts were related, but they were certainly key figures in the progress of the Lodge.

Although relations with the Mother Lodge No7 appeared to be close, in July.

1805, a member of No. 7 was refused admission to our meeting 'on account of his being rejected on a former occasion to become a member of this lodge.'

The lodge was honoured by a visit by the Deputy Grand Master Harper and other Grand Officers in September, 1817 when they witnessed our work 'and in a very polite and flattering manner expressed their high approbation of our proceedings.'

In November, 1811, officers were elected for 'six or twelve' months, and thereafter the appointment was "for the ensuing year".

In November, 1813 the Deacons were for the first time appointed by the W.M., but the Wardens were still balloted for until 1820.

The Minutes are first headed Lodge No.288 in January 1814, and in February, the Worshipful Master is recorded as reading the proceedings of Grand Lodge at the Lodge of Union. A year later, in February, 1815, Bro. McCann of the Grand Lodge of Instruction took the chair at our Lodge 'and gave several instructive lessons on the new mode of working.'

The five years from 1815 to 1820 showed orderly progress with a large number of joining members particularly from Irish Constitution lodges, but very few Initiates. The last five and a half years of the Lodge's separate existence, were unmarred by any untoward incident at all. It met every month, but from the beginning of 1821 until the union in March, 1826, only one Initiate was admitted.

Close links were being forged with No.13 some years before the union. In 1821 the entire lodge dined with No. 13, in 1823 the two lodges held a joint celebration of the Festival of St. John, and in 1824 it was agreed to act in concert with Lodge No.13, and to relieve distressed brethren alternately every six months.

The first lodge record of the Union proposal was on the 16th March, 1826, when the lodge agreed to a proposal made in No. 13 for such a union of the respective lodges in Woolwich. A week later the lodge visited No.13 to forward the proposed union and on the 30th March, 1826 the last Minute as a separate lodge appears:

'The W.M. stated the propriety of assembling in order that a petition should be made and signed in open Lodge by subscribing brethren in order that the same might be forwarded to the Grand Lodge for permission to form a union with the brethren of lodges 13 and 418, which was unanimously agreed to and the same was carried into effect.'

With this rather commonplace entry ends the separate existence of an historic lodge. But the outline of Lodge No. 230 is by no means the whole story. There are many interesting items to tell, and they have been reserved to avoid obscuring the main developments of the lodge.

## Charity

There is no record of a charitable grant until the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1802 when one guinea was voted to relieve a brother of No 7. But after this date charitable disbursements were frequent. It seems highly likely that they were made previously but were not publicly recorded. The grants frequently took the form of a stipulated sum 'from the box' plus the circulation of a voluntary list among the members.

Certainly a charitable thought was the action in postponing the meeting of August, 1803. 'It was thought proper to postpone it on account of the landlady being bedfast and dangerously ill.'

Another meeting was cancelled in September, 1804 'on account of allowing the members of the Lodge the opportunity to attend at the Circus for the benefit of the sons of indigent Freemasons.'

The first recommendation of a dependent child for education is recorded in July, 1809 when the Grand Secretary's attention was drawn to the plight of a widow of a former Master, 'who has been left with three children in very indigent circumstances,' and requesting the Grand Secretary's 'interference on behalf of her eldest son which is now about 7 years old in order to have him entered on the list of scholars belonging to distressed brethren, as the widow, his mother, is *intirely* unable to give him the necessary education.'

In June, 1812 the Lodge agreed to join the other lodges in Woolwich in nominating a brother 'to relieve distressed brethren sojourning through the town.'

The lodge was informed in October, 1813 that a man found drowned had a Grand Lodge certificate upon him whereby it appeared he was a brother of Lodge 113, and it was agreed to state the case to Grand Lodge in order to obtain the usual allowance for the burial of indigent brothers.

## Royal Arch Masonry

There was a much closer interweaving of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in these early years and the practice of lay brothers 'passing the chair' was frequent. On the 7th January, 1802, three brothers 'having solicited to pass the chair,' the W.M. declared the Chair vacant, when the three brothers "were passed the chair in due form, each opening and closing his lodge." This was, of course, a device to enable the brethren concerned to progress in Royal Arch Masonry. An outstanding example was in July, 1811, when no less than 17 brethren passed the chair, and the practice is recorded up till 1824.

It was also the custom for brethren seeking to enter the Chapter, to apply for permission to the Lodge to do so, and in 1802 it was agreed that brethren of the Lodge who were Royal Arch Masons should be registered in the Grand Lodge at the expense of the body.

But the Royal Arch was not clearly understood, as is shown by an incident in October, 1807, when an emergency committee is reported as calling in Bro.

Burkett, our landlord, to ask 'if he had any objections to a meeting of the Royal Arch Chapter, or any other description of masons, held under the sanction of our warrant, provided he had a proper notion of the same; if he has it is positively resolved to withdraw the chest; if on the contrary he says he has not but will do all in his power to make himself and his house as agreeable to the lodge as possible, we will remain, some inconvenience having been found by a certain description of our Order, which is the cause of this committee being convened, to clear up and investigate the difference, and explain to Bro. Burkett an error we suppose him to be in. "Bro. Burkett being convinced that a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is attached to the Warrant of Lodge 230, has consented to do all in his power to make himself and his house agreeable to them."

## **Processions and Public Appearances**

This lodge also conducted itself a great deal more in the public eye, and with much more outward show in those days than is considered proper now.

Sometimes the processions were joyous occasions, but as with the mother lodge they were frequently for funerals, it was the usual custom to hold an Emergency meeting for funerals.

A typical entry is that of July, 1807: 'Assembled at an emergency meeting, in order to attend the funeral of a brother of No.7. Opened on the first degree, attended divine service, seen the corpse interred, returned to the lodge room and closed the lodge. But there were other funerals of much more elaborate character. In May, 1810, for instance the lodge was opened in the first degree, and joined by Lodges 7 and 304 of Woolwich, 113 and 198 of Deptford and 225 of Greenwich. They marched in procession to the church, and 'having interred the body' returned to the lodge room for refreshment.

In September, 1810 for the funeral of a brother of Lodge 113, Deptford, Lodges 7, 230, 312 of Woolwich, 226 Greenwich and 113 and 198 Deptford, walked in procession to the New Church, Deptford, 'saw the corpse interred, returned to the lodge room and deposited the jewels.'

On happier occasions our brethren also loved a parade and on the 24th June, 1802 - St. John's Day, there was a real 'field day.' Having opened in the Third Degree they joined Lodges 7 and 304, 'assembling in the field adjoining the lodge house, when each body was duly marshalled in the following order: - 304 in front, 230 centre and No.7 in the rear, with the Royal Artillery band between 304 and 230. In this form proceeded to St. Mary's Church, Woolwich, and heard divine service.' It must have been a brave show, and after the service they returned to their various lodge rooms for refreshments and exchanged official calls by deputations.

## **Troubles in the Lodge**

Where disputes involved the development of the lodge they have already been

mentioned, but there were others which while serious in themselves had no repercussions on our future.

Soon after the arrival of the lodge at Woolwich, a Brother Betts was elected Secretary in June, 1791. In August of that year, not having attended his duty in that time he was replaced and in September his non-attendance and 'contumacious behaviour' led to him being suspended for six months. The lack of initials in the Minutes make it difficult to identify the various Brothers Betts mentioned in this Lodge and in Lodge No.7, but one feels certain this Brother Betts could not have been the one involved in the revival of the Lodge, nor the worthy Brother who figured so prominently in Lodge No 7.

In October, 1808 a committee of Lodges 7, 304 and 230 inquired into the conduct of Bro. Wilding, Master of Lodge 230 "for admitting Dr. Manapee into Open Lodge, he being known to be a clandestine mason." We are not told the outcome of the committee, which is recorded in No.7's Minutes but not those on No.230.

Later in the same year a baldly phrased Minute records that another committee found 'that the present Master, R. Wilding, is unworthy of presiding as Master any longer.' No details of the offence are then given, but after a committee had investigated the accounts in December of the same year, he was excluded from Masonry for twelve months. Two and a half years later he applied to be readmitted and was refused. Six months later he applied again and this time another committee investigated. The charges against him were then revealed:

1. Receiving from Bro. Cohen £5, and not accounted for;
2. Received at the lecture room, when acting as Steward, the sum of £1 and upwards and not accounted for.

Nearly four years after the event he was unanimously acquitted of both charges and he is recorded as being in the Chair for a meeting in December, 1812.

A complaint of improper conduct by a Brother Goodacre was brought before the Lodge in February, 1813. He was alleged to have used highly offensive language to the Craft 'and burned his Grand Lodge certificate in a public company.' He was reported to Grand Lodge and excluded but seems to have bitterly regretted this extraordinary aberration. He petitioned the Lodge for forgiveness in April, but a committee recommended his sentence should stand 'his conduct being highly unworthy the confidence of masons.' In November he prayed again for admission, but it was not until four years later whilst living at Exeter that he successfully petitioned forgiveness for his offence.

## **Fees, Fines and Dues**

Some indication of these have been given already but there are other interesting items.

In March, 1790 the Master was allowed 3/- expenses if specially

summoned to Grand Lodge, but the allowance was only 2/- each when the Master and Wardens attended together. It was raised to 7/6d. in 1802. What might be termed 'instalment plan masons' were in vogue in 1806, when it was agreed that candidates should pay the whole sum for their Initiation by the time they became Master Masons, 'should circumstances not admit him defraying the whole of the expenses on the evening of initiation....'

The instalments were defined in 1812 thus:- On sending a petition ...

...	10/-			
On Receiving 1st Degree ...	...	...	14/-	
On Receiving 2nd Degree	...	...	...	15/-
On Receiving 3rd Degree	...	...	15/-	
Total				£2
14	0d			

Fines for non-attendance were enforced in 1806 at 6d. in addition to normal dues.

Personal delivery of the Summons by the Tyler was the practice and in 1808 it was agreed "each member on being summoned, is to deliver to the Tyler the sum of 1/- of which 6d. will be returned on his attendance, the remainder being lodge dues." A neat manoeuvre to collect absentee fines in advance!

## Private Lodge Certificates

Light on the private lodge certificates which were much in vogue is thrown by a letter of complaint sent from the Lodge to Lodge No 44 at Nottingham in May, 1806. This lodge had refused a certificate to our Brother Foxley and the grounds of our complaint were:

1st. In refusing him a private lodge certificate which certainly you should have granted as it shows clearly that every contributing member to the Grand Lodge should have a certificate for the time he continues a member of any lodge, as a man may be in possession of a Grand Lodge certificate and after obtaining it never contribute to the Grand charity which is the principle of the Order.

2nd. In censuring the conduct of Lodge 230 for granting private lodge certificates; questioning the authority of our lodge is equally absurd as refusing to grant Bro. Foxley a private lodge certificate if his behaviour during the time he was a member of your lodge merited it.

'I am therefore to request you will have the goodness to grant Bro. Foxley a private lodge certificate for the time he was a member of your lodge, and deliver to him the certificate granted by this lodge, or by return of post state your objections, otherwise Lodge 230 will be under the painful necessity of appealing to the Grand Lodge.'

It therefore appears that while a man might be certified a mason by his

Grand Lodge certificate, his lodge certificate was proof that he had been a good and active mason.

## **Oddest Minute of the Period**

The rejection of a candidate in 1813, because 'he was found to be afflicted with a rupture.'

## **Our Ancient Rules**

While many of the rules which governed our ancient brethren had the same guiding principles as those of today, there were many interesting bylaws. A hand-written list of these is given in the front of Lodge 230's Minute Book, with signatures of assent of the members, written on the 27th December. 1788. Among them were the following:-

The rules for Installing the Master and Wardens show that the Master was presented with a rod of authority, in addition to the Master's Jewel, and he was also presented with the Bible. The Wardens were elected, not appointed.

The Master was liable to a fine of 1/- for failing to summon the brethren, or ordering the Secretary to do so, and the Secretary to a fine of 6d. if he neglected the Master's orders, 'the money to be paid into the Ark or Lodge box for the use of sick brethren or other charitable uses.'

When the Lodge was called to refreshment "excess of all kinds to be carefully avoided, but not to exclude social or innocent mirth, but to avoid vain Bawdling talk, obscene language, meddling with affairs of consequence...."

No Master, Warden or member of this Lodge shall curse or swear during the Lodge hours, and to leave off that shameful Pracktice even in his Publick Character through life, which vile vice even in itself, is a great stain and reproach to Masonry."

The penalty for the Master was 3d., Wardens 2d., Members 2d., for first offences, doubled on a repetition of the offence, when the offender was also to be ordered out of the room for the night, and not to sit in Lodge again until such fines were paid.

Candidates for initiation, if approved by the members, were required to attend the next monthly meeting to hear the Bylaws read, so they could say if they thought they could act agreeable to them, and not to plead ignorance in future. If the candidate accepted, he was to pay two guineas, covering his three Degrees.

Every Member was to provide himself with 'cloathing,' and when opportunity offered 'to pay one shilling British' to be sent to the Grand Secretary for his name to be registered.

The applications of candidates were to be signified to all the regular lodges

'either in camp, garrison or quarters where we may reside, in order that we may have a more clear and circumstantial account of the candidate's morals and character.'

There was no fixed joining fee. Candidates were required to 'deposit in our Ark or Lodge box a sum not less than a share in proportion to the present Fund then in the box,' or otherwise as the Master, Wardens and Brethren thought sufficient.

Candidates were not to be accepted "without the approbation of the whole members of the Lodge, but if there is one member against him it is reasonable his reasons should be made known if required, which if found sound and substantial shall be accepted, that no discord or contention should creep in among us."

Strange brethren visiting the Lodge 'shall be free for the first night or time of visit but on their second visit they are to pay the Lodge dues equal to our own brethren.'

Apart from fees, every brother attending a lodge meeting had to pay the Tyler "as a premium due to him, one shilling sterling for his trouble of waiting on these occasions."

Brethren requiring a certificate had to pay the Secretary a shilling for the 'drawing' of the certificate, 'for it is not lawful that a brother should leave his business or employment without due satisfaction for his trouble and time lost on these occasions except on Lodge nights.'

'If the W.M. is absent one hour after the time appointed, in addition to the fine specified in our present book of byelaws to *forfeit* 9d.. the Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer 3d., and if absent the whole night, double the sum specified'.

'That every member of this lodge may have a skin (apron) for his own use paying the prime cost of one shilling and twopence sterling for the same.

'It being taken into consideration that the dues specified in our printed byelaws being too small, it is agreed that every brother shall pay the sum of two shillings sterling at every stated lodge night, three *reals*. of which is to be spent, the remainder to go to the Fund.'

## **Antient Lodge No. 328**

(later Lodge No, 418-United Grand Lodge)  
(1810-1826)

Of our three constituent lodges, Antient Lodge 328, which had a separate existence of only 16 years, had one particular distinction. It was the first to be referred to in any of our records with a name the 'Lodge of Brotherly Love.'

Sponsored, as previously mentioned, by both the Mother Lodge, No.7 and by the daughter Lodge, No.230, it was formed on the 29th November, 1810 in the Royal Marines at Woolwich. The Warrant issued to the Lodge was a vacant one formerly held by the 'Olive Lodge' of Alderney, Channel Islands, which was issued on the 13th July, 1810 and had already lapsed before the formation of our Lodge in November of that year.

The consecration ceremony at the Royal Marines Canteen, Woolwich, was conducted by Deputy Grand Master Thomas Harper of the Antient Grand Lodge and it was attended by three Grand Lodge Officers and eleven members of the new lodge. A Worshipful Brother W. Morley was its first Master.

While its membership was, naturally, drawn mainly from Royal Marines personnel, other members were not excluded.

The parentage of the Lodge is clearly shown in the practices it followed which were common to the other two Lodges - Passing the Chair - the use of private Lodge certificates - the recommending of brethren to become Royal Arch Masons and a resistant antipathy to 'modern' masons which even persisted after the Union of the Grand Lodges.

The new Lodge started vigorously, with meetings scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays every month, but this changed within six months to a meeting on every 2nd Tuesday in the month.

In fact the Lodge never attained this rate of meeting. But during its sixteen years' life it met for 97 regular meetings and also had 70 emergency meetings. In fact its first meeting after its constitution was an 'emergency.'

Promotion was very swift in this young lodge. A Bro. Timmins, initiated in February, 1812 became Worshipful Master in December, 1813. He did so without having served any period as a Warden though he had been appointed Secretary of the Lodge in December, 1812.

Such progress seems to have stemmed from the election by ballot of all officers until 1815, after which the Worshipful Master nominated his officers, although in 1822 there was again a reference to the election of officers.

Although the two Grand Lodges amalgamated in 1813, in August, 1814 we still 'initiated' a sergeant of the Royal Marines who had produced his 'modern' certificate.

We were great participants in the sending of courtesy deputations to

neighbouring lodges. An entry of St. John's Day, 24th June, 1818, throws light on this and on the nature of our meetings at the time.

After the business of the Lodge it was "called from labour to refreshment at half past five o'clock. The brethren sat down to dinner and at 7 o'clock, the cloth being drawn, the usual toasts and sentiments were given with mirth and friendship. At 8 o'clock sent a deputation to visit the brethren of Lodge 125, held at the "Fortune of War" and also Lodge 288 held at the "Royal Oak" Woolwich. At half past 8 o'clock received a deputation from lodge 288 and at 9 o'clock received a deputation from Lodge 125 who informed us that their respective Lodges had spent a very pleasant evening and they were very happy that we had done the same. After the usual ceremonies the deputations then proceeded to their respective Lodges. At half past 9 o'clock our deputations arrived in good order and sobriety. Called the Lodge from refreshment to labour, next closed the Lodge with the usual forms and departed in harmony."

There was something of a 'do it yourself' character about an incident which occurred in 1816. Grand Lodge wrote to us requesting that the proper form be used for an application for assistance they had received for a Bro. Connell. The Lodge investigated and found that this brother, his wife and five children were in the Workhouse at Woolwich, but nothing was known of a petition for him.

When the petition for assistance was returned to the Lodge from Grand Lodge, upon examination it was found to be a complete forgery, the signatures upon it not being those of the officers of the Lodge. By this time however, Bro. Connell had 'absconded to London, his family still remains in the poor house of Woolwich.'

We thanked Grand Lodge for their assistance and hoped 'that Connell will shortly meet with such punishment as his highly improper conduct so richly deserves.' A long suffering local butcher was recompensed by the lodge in May, 1821 for meat supplied for members of the Lodge who dined together in June, 1814 -seven years before.

A touch of the Irish influence emerged in a Minute of April, 1822, when the Lodge 'proceeded to ballot for Mr. Greenwood to become a member when it appeared *unanimously* agreed, carried by a majority of four, six for and two against.'

In May, 1822 the Lodge lost its Master and both Wardens who were posted on service and the first indication of its failing strength came in September of that year, when only six members attended and the Lodge was not opened. The Lodge's desperate need for recruits was shown clearly when they held three Emergency meetings, two in December, 1823 and another in January, 1824 at which a new member was successively Initiated, Passed and Raised. He was in fact the last recruit to the Lodge and his were the last Degrees worked by the Lodge.

An attempt to stave off collapse was made in March, 1824 when it was agreed to impose 'a fine of 4d. upon the principal officers, namely the Master and two Wardens, and 2d. upon the Past Masters, Senior and Junior Deacons and

Inner Guard, if absent one hour after the appointed time of meeting, and if absent the whole evening, the principal officers to be fined 6d. and the inferior, 4d.'

The Lodge meeting in June, 1824 was opened but deferred "on account of Mrs. Carter's child being a corpse." Apparently she was our landlady.

On 10th May, 1825 opened the final chapter of the Lodge when a Bro. Carrier moved 'The W.M. should call on the Masters of 13 and 288 Lodges for the purpose of learning the opinion of the said Masters, as to forming a junction betwixt the three Lodges, and report thereon the next Lodge night.' This was carried unanimously.

Meetings in July and September, 1825 had to be cancelled because of non-attendance of brethren and it was decided by vote to abandon the November meeting, but the Lodge met in December, 1825, when officers were elected, as it proved for the last time. The Master and both Wardens were Past Masters and no Deacons were appointed.

On the 21st March, 1826 an emergency meeting was called and discussed the resolutions already agreed to by Lodges 13 and 288 for a union of the Lodges, as detailed in the history of the Mother Lodge.

The Lodge resolved unanimously "that the proposed Union will be of the utmost importance to Masonry and more closely unite the members of the different Lodges."

Lodge 'Brotherly Love' No.418, ceased to exist at a meeting on the 30th March, 1826, when the following letter was agreed to be sent to Grand Lodge with the Warrant of the Lodge: -

'We the undersigned, most respectfully beg leave to inform the Grand Lodge that it is the unanimous opinion of the officers and brethren of Lodge 418 in open Lodge assembled, that it would be highly beneficial to the Craft of this town to form themselves into one Union Lodge, and it is our wish to work under Warrant No.13. We therefore humbly pray the Grand Lodge will be pleased to sanction the returning our Warrant and allow the Brethren of this Lodge to be transferred to No.13 without paying Register Fees as we are already subscribing members.'

There were only six signatories to this last act of the Lodge.

## **Gifts to the Lodge**

During the years, many gifts have been made to the Union Waterloo Lodge by its members, and some of considerable age still survive in use.

Our present gavels were the gift of Bro. The Honourable F. Saville in May, 1836, and the ballot box we still use was presented by W. Bro. J. S. Turner in January, 1847 together with a case containing the complete Working Tools.

Our ancient banner, which was really the cause of our true history being revealed, still exists, and while its full age is not known there is a record in June, 1880 that 'the ancient banner of the Lodge was displayed over the Master's chair at this meeting for the first time for many years, the cost of

repair having been borne by Bro. H. S. Syer' the then Junior Warden.

Bro. Syer, when a Past Master, presented the Lodge in 1893 with 144 engraved table glasses. One wonders whether any of these now survive in private possession?

One brother who took particular delight in enriching the Lodge with gifts was W. Bro. R. Hogkinson. In 1883 he presented three new jewels and gavel blocks. In 1887 he presented the Royal Coats of Arms which decorate the pedestals - an embellishment which is unusual, but seems particularly appropriate to a body with such strong Service traditions. His other gifts included a case for the Emblems of Mortality (1891) and a valuable old sword for the use of the Tyler (1892). This sword is still in use.

The Emblems of Mortality we use are real, and were presented in May, 1888 by Bro. William Stanford Gates of Lodge "Friendship." No.851 on his becoming a joining member.

One interesting gift has unfortunately, apparently vanished without trace. This was the gift made in November, 1918 by Bro. E. H. Westron, of a gold Louis of the year 1815 - Waterloo year - which was accepted to be placed as an ornament in one of the working tools of the Lodge.

Our Volume of the Sacred Law is an edition published in 1812, but there is no inscription to indicate when it was purchased, nor whether it was a gift.

Latest of the gifts to the Lodge was the new Master's Collar and Jewel presented in May, 1960 as a memorial to Bro. Jack Allen, by his widow.

## **The Lodge in 1961**

At December 31st, 1960 the lodge had 270 members, of whom 103 were non-dining members. There were 16 living Past Masters of the lodge, and 3 members held London Grand Rank. Also among our members were 3 members of Provincial Grand Rank.

One of the most repeated queries by visitors is the form of working we use. The general reply is that it is Taylor's working with amendments. Our late Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Hackney, who learned the ritual by word of mouth from his father, used to claim it was South London working. An expert in a masonic publishing house once informed the Editor that it was the old Joe Poynter's working.

The truest answer seems to be that it is Union Waterloo working, for although regularising influences were brought to bear on all lodges after the Grand Lodge union, the early traditions evolved from our three lodges over 200 years of work must have influenced our present ritual.

The lengthy ceremony of Installation and Investiture of Officers as worked by the Lodge has always evoked admiration from visitors, and it is a tradition of which we are proud. Succeeding Masters have never shirked the hard work

necessary to maintain it.

Lay brethren and junior officers are encouraged to participate in our ceremonies, and frequently deliver the Charges after initiation and passing. Because of the large membership, promotion to the ladder of office is not offered in seniority of membership. A tradition has evolved of offering the vacant Steward's collar each year to the Master Mason securing most votes on election to the audit committee. The lead in such nominations is given by the Preceptor and members of the Lodge of Instruction, and this has resulted in young officers coming forward who have already proved their interest, and their willingness and ability to learn the work. The system, of course, does not abrogate the absolute right of the Worshipful Master to appoint and invest the officers he pleases, but in practice it has worked well and harmoniously.

One unusual feature of our promotion ladder is that the post of Asst. Director of Ceremonies is held by a lay brother, and is the first working office undertaken. In normal progression it takes 15 years to reach the Master's chair from first taking a collar as Steward, for we have a complement of nine stewards.

First time visitors to the Lodge have often been intrigued, and sometimes possibly startled by a great cry from the brethren following the fire after certain toasts. The origin and age of the practice is obscure, though almost certainly it derives from practices in the military lodges of the past. The cry is "Loo," derived from Waterloo, and sometimes elder brethren have questioned the decorum of the matter.

It is an old practice, and viewed in the light of its intent it appears to have justification and to be one of those interesting idiosyncrasies that distinguish various lodges. The cry is foreshadowed by the command "*Waterloo Fire this time,*" and it is reserved for those toasts to which it is desired to add a personal significance. It is in fact a special tribute, and among the toasts so honoured are usually those of the

Worshipful Master, the Initiate, and The Guests.

The lodge has strong family traditions. Mention has been made already of the two W. Bros. Hackney, father and son, who between them spanned nearly a century. There are many fathers and sons in the lodge, and one family, the Bros. Godier, are represented by three generations.

## **Sponsored Lodges**

It has been impossible to ascertain with any certainty the number of our daughter lodges, or lodges we have sponsored (why of all things should a Masonic Lodge be of the feminine gender?). None are referred to in sufficiently specific terms in the minutes to establish the degree of relationship. The usual phrase used is a reference to an application for a new Warrant being 'recommended.'

If this constitutes 'parentage' there are a number of recorded offspring but there is no guarantee the list is complete. But several of these recommended offspring have themselves celebrated their centenary.

Oldest of such lodges is our former adversary Antient Lodge 213, for which we obtained the Warrant in 1784. It still survives we are happy to learn. Like our original lodges it was a military lodge, but a travelling body. It obtained its lower No.9, as we did, by purchase of a vacant Warrant for '£5 5 od. to the Charity.' Lodge 9 subsequently returned to Canada where it was first formed, became a civilian lodge in 1829, and in 1869 joined the newly formed Grand Lodge of Quebec, and is now No.2 on their Register.

In September, 1790 we obtained an Antient Warrant for a new Lodge at Kingston, Jamaica, No.262. This was a Royal Artillery lodge, but the Warrant was later transferred to the 7th Regiment Light Dragoons, and finally ceased to exist in 1824.

In March, 1796 we supported the petition for the Warrant for the new civilian Antient lodge in Woolwich, formed by our great Brother Betts.

The Ionic Lodge No.227, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1960 was sponsored by our lodges 7 and 230, and it was constituted on 25th April. 1810. It was then the Machanical Lodge under Antient number 312, and it met at the Fortune of War Tavern, Woolwich. Its first Master was John Hall, described as of No. 7., but almost certainly the John Hall who was the first civilian recruit of Lodge 230 in 1802, and who became its Master 3 years later. He presumably also joined number 7. The lodge was renamed the Ionic lodge in 1825.

Another vigorous product of our sponsorship is the Sydney Lodge No. 829, for which we recommended a Warrant in June, 1860, to be held at the Black Horse Inn, Sidcup. This lodge celebrated its centenary in November, 1960. We not only supported their Warrant: we supplied the first Master W. Bro. John Henderson. who was our Master in 1850, and was for many years secretary of our lodge.

The Pattison Lodge No. 913, with whom we have maintained close ties was given our recommendation for its Warrant 'for a lodge to be held at Plumstead.' in February. 1862.

We sent a memorial to Grand Lodge in support of a new lodge to be held at Worthing in January, 1889.

## **Accounts of the Lodge**

Some of the old Account books of the lodges survive and also contribute to the picture of the times. One of the best examples is the account book of lodge 230, for the period 1808-1826.

It confirms that the lodge operated very much on a 'hand to mouth' basis, expenditure and receipts being within a few pounds of each other at each meeting. The balance of the lodge - the amount 'in the Chest' - never rose above £21 in the period and was usually much less. The last account, on March 23rd, 1826, when the lodge ceased to exist, showed a balance of £3. 5. 2d.

Charity to indigent and travelling masons was a feature of nearly every meeting. It was apparently asked and granted on the spot, and it is quite

common for half a dozen names to appear as 'being relieved' with sums ranging from 1/- upwards. The practice was obviously open to abuse, and was understandably frowned upon later by Grand Lodge.

A Bill for candles - at 3/9d. for three lbs., was an item in nearly every account. again reminding us of the different times.

Funerals figure nearly as prominently in the accounts as in the Minutes. Here are some items:

17th May, 1810

Paid for <i>crape</i> at Bro.Smiths funeral	1 7d.
Paid musicians „ „ „	10 6d.
Landlord's bill at funeral ... .	£1 14 1d.
By undertaker's bill for funeral .. ..	19 4d.

25th August, 1811

To 20 pots of Porter for the firing party at Bro. Cammerons funeral ... ..	8 4d.
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October 17th, 1811

10 pots of porter for band at funeral	4 2d.
Paid band for funeral ... ..	£3 0 0d.

The Tyler's usual fee at meetings is shown as 2/- and the "*serveants*" received from 2/6 to 5/- on average. A frequent item is "ribbons" or sometimes "*favers*" for servants. apparently for wear as a distinguishing badge.

We often purchased the victuals for our meals, for cooking by the Landlord, and an account of November, 1822 shows:

Landlord's Bill	£1 8 0d.
Meat per voucher	6 0d.
Veg „ „ .. ..	2 7d.
Cooking Meat ... .	5 0d.

There is no indication of what occurred on 18th September, 1817 when the only expenditure shown is - Landlord's Bill-8d.

A Landlord's receipt for May, 1811 shows:

2 Bottles Port Wine ..	9 6d.
Porter .. ..	4 0d.
64 Pots Porter ... ..	£1 9 4d.
Bread. Cheese, Butter etc. ..	£1 6 0d.
Tobacco ... ..	3 6d.

The snuff horn circulated in the lodge at this period, the item "1 oz. of snuff" appearing frequently - first at 5d., later at 7d., per oz. A chain for the snuff horn was provided in March, 1823 at a cost of 1/-. The receipts side of the accounts shows the income principally from part payment of fees for various degrees, for certificates, from collection of dues, and collection for refreshment.

## Masters of the Union Waterloo Lodge No. 13

Due to the rapidity with which masters were changed in the early days, it is not practicable to produce a complete roll of the Masters of our constituent lodges, but it is possible to list the Masters of Union Waterloo Lodge No. 13. The list is as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Installation</b>
John Bell	1.12.1826
Edmund Hill	27.12.1827
John Banks	29.12.1828
John Kelly	28.12.1829
G. W. Parsons	27.12.1830
J. Achindacy	27.12.1831
J. S. Spurling	27.12.1832
Thomas Thomson	27.12.1833
G. W. Parsons	13. 1.1835
W. Webb	28.12.1835
	No record of 1836
Joseph Irwin	- .12.1837
J. Lennon	27.12.1838
S. Dixon	12. 2.1840
J. Kelly	28.12.1840
W. Fortescue	27.12.1841
C. Yewen	27.12.1842
B. G. Clark	27.12.1843
J. G. Hills	27.12.1844
H. Jaggard	29.12.1845
J. S. Turner	28.12.1846
John Blanch	27.12.1847
John Oliphant	27.12.1848
G. Woollard	27.12.1849
John Henderson	27.12.1850
Thomas Hassall	29.12.1851

J. Smithers	14. 9.1853 (delayed due to sickness)
P. Laird	27.12.1853
J. Wilde	27.12.1854
T. Moore	27.12.1855
H. Clarke	30.12.1856
J. Rogers	29.12.1857
C. Phillips	29.12.1858
J. Graydon	27.12.1859
R. V. Robin	27.12.1860
J. A. Russell	27.12.1861
Everitt Denton	29.12.1862
Nathaniel Norman	13. 1.1864 (Installation changed to January meeting)
John Hedley	11. 1.1865
W. Champion	10. 1.1866
A. H. Tattershall	9. 1.1867
B. Picking	11. 3.1868 (Master Elect not Installation deferred)
John Graydon	10. 3.1869 (Second time in Chair)
W. P. Applebee	12. 1.1870
G. B. Davies	11. 1.1871
Charles R. Young	8. 5.1872 (Deferred due to sickness)
Charles F. Hills	14. 5.1873 (Installation changed to May meeting)
Edward Mills	13. 5.1874
Thomas J. Carwelly	12. 5.1875
F. G. Pownall	12. 7.1876 (Installation changed to July)
George W. Reed	11. 7.1877
John P. Moore	10. 7.1878
Thomas Hutton	9. 7.1879
Nicholson Brown	14. 7.1880
H. S. Syer	13. 7.1881
Thomas Hosgood	12. 7.1882
Robert Austin Smith	11. 7.1883
G. H. Masters	9. 7.1884
William John Akers	8. 7.1885
Arthur Cleall	14. 7.1886

John G. Milbourne	13. 7.1887
William Tailby	11. 7.1888
Harry Grice	10. 7.1889
Joseph F. Bell	9. 7.1890
Leon C. Chasteauneuf	8. 7.1891
John Matthey	13. 7.1892
Adam Deans	12. 7.1893
William John Barnes	11. 7.1894
William A. Anson	10. 7.1895
Alfred Henry Russell	8. 7.1896
William H. Turton	14. 7.1897
Alexander McQueen	13. 7.1898
Henry Jacobs	12. 7.1899
J. Quick	12.11.1900 (Installation changed to November)
John Horne	13.11.1901
George Dennison	12.11.1902
William Crowdy	11.11.1903
Thomas Wren	9.11.1904
James Hodge	8.11.1905
James Bailey	14.11.1906
Thomas Hackney	13.11.1907
Arthur Butteriss	11.11.1908
James Welch	10.11.1909
B. H. Hudson	9.11.1910 (Served two years)
John Schofield	13.11.1912
William Lister	12.11.1913
T. W Cheshire	11.11.1914
Henry Eason	10.11.1915
Joseph Morran	8.11.1916
Francis Martin	14.11.1917
Charles Goodrick	13.11.1918
John Berry	12.11.1919
Oliver Chappell	10.11.1920
Charles Blight	9.11.1921
Leonard Hackney	8.11.1922
Charles Hoile	21.11.1923

James Attenborough	12.11.1924
Herbert Lister	11.11.1925
Arthur Moore	10.11.1926
Sydney Burnett	9.11.1927
Frederick Miller	14.11.1928
James Barnett	13.11.1929
James Stevenson	12.11.1930
Edwin Bussey	11.11.1931
Henry Howey	9.11.1932
Arthur Rowe	22.11.1933
Clynton Hartland	14.11.1934
Fred Cleach	13.11.1935
William Grant	11.11.1936
Ernest Cash	10.11.1937
Frank Elms	9.11.1938 (Served 1939 and 1940)
Herbert Clutterbuck	8. 3.1941
William Blaker	7. 3.1942
Walter Holloway	6. 3.1943
Frank Wetherley	4. 3.1944
Roland Linnard	3. 3.1945(Served to November 1946)
Walter H Morley	13.11.1946
Thomas Rollinson	12.11.1947
Basil Cooper	10.11.1948
Herbert S Darwood	11.11.1949 (Served two years)
William Hart	14.11.1951
Douglas Hore	12.11.1952
Albert Judge	11.11.1953
Albert Back	10.11.1954
John M Pinches	22.11.1955
Harold Hughes	27.11.1956
Bertram W Channon	26.11.1957
Richard J Wood	22.11.1958
Charles R Hicks	24.11.1959
William A Hearn	9.11.1960
Harry Turner	8.11.1961
George Jones	29.11.1962

Ernie Christian	14.11.1963
Eric Erridge	12.11.1964
Alf Betts	11.11.1965
Fred Merryman	10.11.1966
Percy Debling	9.11.1967
Harry Chambers	13.11.1968
David Thynne	12.11.1969
Maurice Johnson	11.11.1970
Ernie Springate	11.11.1971(Served two years)
Jimmy Epps	14.11.1973
Geoff Walker	13.11.1974
Don Hardy	18.11.1975
Peter Blackman	10.11.1976
Lindsey Erridge	23.11.1977
John Cook	29.11.1978
Bert Mansfield	29.11.1979
Ron Oliver	29.11.1980
Alan Turner	11.11.1981
Colin Springate	10.11.1982
Peter Churchyard	9.11.1983
Eddie Leslie	14.11.1984
Fred Kimpton	13.11.1985
Ray Purchase	12.11.1986
Ben Goodchild	11.11.1987
George Smith	9.11.1988
Bill Ware	8.11.1989
Bob Chadwick	14.11.1990
John Pearson	13.11.1991
Arthur Elsdon	11.11.1992
James Ashmore	10.11.1993
Ray McCarthy	9.11.1994
Norman Mullener	8.11.1995
John Rothery	13.11.1996
David Thynne	12.11.1997(Second time in Chair)
Ben Goodchild	11.11.1998(Second time in Chair)
Arthur Varney	10.11.1999

Michael Napper

8.11.2000

Hari Williams

14.11.2001 (Served two years)

## **The Union Waterloo Lodge since 1961**

**A personal reminiscence by  
W.Bro G.R, Walker P P G Reg PAGDC (R A)**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2000**

I was prompted to compile these notes as it seemed appropriate to look back over the last 39 years since the Bi-Centenary, particularly at the start of the 21st century. And hopefully it would make a change, and be of interest to both members and guests alike. Freemasonry is about so much more than the three degrees and installation habit into which it is so easy to descend.

I must stress that this is purely a personal reminiscence. What it is not is a catalogue of every event since 1961. Those details can be found from the minute books. What I hope this talk purports to be is a lighthearted look at some of the events, both happy and sad during my time as a member.

Thirty eight years have elapsed since I, along with my brother Cliff, was initiated into this Lodge. Looking round I can see only three who were present on that day. And there are not too many more who were present when I was installed into the chair of King Solomn.

What I propose to do is to talk about the Atholl or Antient Grand Lodge. And the three different recent periods of this Lodge viz,

From 1961 to 1977 when we met at the Shakespeare and moved to the Welcome Inn.

From 1977 to 1982 when we met almost anywhere, and which I have dubbed the Wilderness Years, and from 1982 to the present day when we moved to Dartford and entered the Province of West Kent,

And finally to say something about the Union Waterloo Chapter.

### **Atholl or Antient Grand Lodge**

In 1717 the world's first Grand Lodge was formed on St.John's Day, June 24th, by four London Lodges, No2 Lodge of Antiquity, No.4 Royal Somerset & Inverness Lodge and Nol2.Fortitude & Old Cumberland. The fourth is no

longer in existence. They met at the Goose & Gridiron Alehouse in St Paul's Churchyard. A plaque has recently been erected by the Goose & Gridiron Society to commemorate that event.

Membership tended to be drawn from the upper reaches of society, and not necessarily from those lower down the social scale.

And so after many years of dissatisfaction with the premier grand lodge, in 1751, a group of freemasons, who were mostly artisans, weavers and predominately Irish decided to form their own grand lodge. They did this because they were fed up and disenchanted with the Premier Grand Lodge, who they accused of tinkering with the antient landmarks, having changed some of the recognition signs etc. As a result they dubbed them the Moderns. Because of their belief in the preservation of the antient landmarks, they inevitably were known as the Antients.

Between 1771 and 1813 the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Dukes of Atholl were Grand Masters of the Antients and so they very naturally became known as Atholl Lodges.

The fighting between the two grand lodges was bitter and went on until 1813 when they finally came together under the Grandmastership of the Duke of Sussex and formed the United Grand Lodge of England.

At the present time there are just 124 Atholl lodges still on the register who were in existence at the time of the union. Their number can never increase. If you look in the Masonic year book you will see each of them listed, marked with an obelus or dagger after the date of constitution.

No.13 is, of course such a lodge, and we the members should take pride in being an Atholl lodge. As such we are something rare and rather special. We are the only one in West Kent, although there are four in our sister province of East Kent. The Atholl lodges are spread far and wide throughout England. And there are Atholl lodges in Barbados, Bermuda, the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guyana, and Jamaica.

There is an Association of Atholl Lodges which meets infrequently in London. The association has the approval of Grand Lodge, and is not a threat to it. Among its vice presidents are the PGM's of Essex and Suffolk, and Sir James Stubbs a former Grand Secretary

If anyone wishes to explore the subject further, I would draw their attention to the Prestonian lecture for 1981, entitled "The Grand Lodge of England according to the Old Constitutions". I can recommend it, it is a fascinating story.

## **Union Waterloo Lodge 1961-1977**

The place to start any talk about the Union Waterloo Lodge has to begin with the Bi-Centenary Meeting held in the No 1 Temple at Freemasons Hall, Gt Queen Street on March 22 1961. 503 persons attended. The official guests were headed by Rt W Bro Maj. General Sir Alan Adair, who in the absence of the GM the Earl of Scarborough presented the Bi-Centenary Warrant.

They dined in the. Connaught Rooms on Smoked Salmon, Tortue Claire au Sherry, Sole in Chablis, Grilled Tournados, and Souffle Surprise, at a cost of £3:00 per head.

The meeting was a great success. How could it be otherwise. W.Bro Arthur Hearn was in the Chair. Arthur was a lovable man, who called everybody " Old Scout". The measure of the man was that he twice refused the honour of London Grand Rank, saying he was not worthy of it.

Sir Alan Adair was a tremendous character, and much amused by the rendering of "This time Waterloo Fire".

Meetings at this time were held at the Shakespeare Hotel, Powis Street, Woolwich. The Lodge was large, something between 200 & 300 members, with 100 regularly dining at a normal meeting. This in itself was quite an undertaking as the Stewards had to lay out the Lodge and pack it all away at the end of the meeting. And they then had to lay up the tables for dinner. We had 9 stewards in those days, and we needed them. If they were lucky they just had time for a quick beer before dinner.

Installations were always held at Freemasons Hall in the magnificent Indian Temple No.10. Numbers in excess of 200 invariably graced the occasion. Installations were and still are special occasions, and the dwindling band of PM's who were installed in No.10 cherish the memory of their particular installation. Had conditions not deteriorated, more of which later, I'm sure we would be meeting there still.

The Lof I also met at the Shakespeare in a room in the attic, up three flights of stairs. As the junior steward I remember it well. It was the junior stewards job, to go down and collect the beer, without which in those days the LoI would not have functioned. A heavy tray, three flights of dimly lit stairs, two rabid dogs, and piles of excrement were difficult to overcome. And then you had to collect the money. Those were the days.

In 1963 the WM George Jones died in office, and the Lodge was summoned to the subsequent installation by the Senior Warden Ernie Christian. George Jones was no mean artist, and had produced a large scale first degree tracing board, which was suspended on a stand so that all could see. At the meeting in March Ernie Springate delivered the 1<sup>st</sup> degree lecture. The Alms plate we still use was presented to the Lodge by his Officers to

George`s memory

March 1964 saw Stan Darwood appointed as PAG Std Br. It was 12 years since the Lodge had last had a Grand Officer. The minutes record that this was the highest rank recorded for 70 years. The previous Grand Office had been a Past Grand Pursuivant.

At the October meeting in 1964 we enjoyed one of those rare occasions, a Past Masters evening, when Stan Darwood initiated his son Tony and Michael the son of his life long friend Fred Napper. Michael is of course our Senior Warden, and hopefully next years Master.

At the end of his year as Master Ernie Christian presented the lodge with a poniard to commemorate his mastership. I'm glad to say it still in use having survived our wanderings.

March saw us finally collect sufficient money to qualify for the 250 Anniversary Commemorative Jewel for the GM's Trust Fund for the Royal College of Surgeons, established for research into surgery. The jewel can be seen at the point of the WM's collar. At least we were more successful with this than we were in collecting money for the Peace Memorial Fund set up to fund the building of Freemasons Hall as a memorial to those freemasons who lost their hves in the 1914-1918 war. Consequently we did not qualify for the Hall Stone Jewel.

Because of the gradual deterioration of conditions at the Shakespeare a notice of motion appeared in the summons for May 1967 that the Lodge move to the Welcome Inn, Well Hall Road. The motion was debated at the June meeting and was carried by 44 votes to nil. On March 6 1968, our birthday, we met for the first time at the Welcome. But only after much discussion and visits by the Grand Tyler W. Bro James Young to make sure the premises were properly tiled. They were for a time, until standards dropped. We subsequently discovered that there was a spy hole into the lodge room.

The May meeting in 1968 saw us welcome Harry Morley into the Lodge on his appointment as Asst G Std Br. A reward justly merited for many years loyal and devoted service to masonry in general and to this lodge in particular..

In March 1969 Colin Springate was initiated. His grand father delivered the Charge after Initiation and his father the lecture on the first tracing board. Thus three generations of the same family participated in one way or another in the same ceremony. A truly unique occasion.

We continued to meet at the Welcome until 1977, but conditions began to worsen. The proprietors of the Welcome wished to modernise the premises, and we were asked to leave before we could give notice ourselves.

We tried to meet at the Westwood and stay a London lodge, but without success. The directors of the Westwood were firmly opposed to such a transfer, wishing to keep the centre as a meeting place for Kent lodges. A deputation even waited upon the Grand Secretary James Stubbs, all to no avail. Much of the dispute centred upon the distance from Grand Lodge, which constituted the London area. This is 5 miles. However lodges meeting between 5 and 10 miles can choose whether to be a London or a Provincial

Lodge, subject to the approval of the G M. The distance was measured and found to be 200yds within the ten mile boundary.

## **1977-1982      The Wilderness Years**

And so we come to what I have called the wilderness years - more or less meeting and dining wherever we could. As an example of our wanderings the following will give you some idea of the venues for the installation meetings,

1977 Freemasons Hall and the Welcome Inn

1978 Freemasons Hall and the Shakespeare

1979 Freemasons Hall and the Westwood

1980 We met and dined at the Westwood

1981 Freemasons Hall and the Connaught Rooms

It is unfortunate that the period between 1971 and 1980 cannot be properly researched as the Minute Book for that period was not available to me. However the Masters involved in this game of musical chairs, Lindsey Erridge, John Cook, the late Bert Mansfield, Ron Oliver, and Alan Turner suffered the problems with good grace and humour, although it was a trying time for all of them.

1981 proved to be one of the worst of the wilderness years. Meeting at Freemasons Hall by dispensation and dining wherever – parking cars on Blackheath – travelling to London by coach and dining wherever – The Clarendon Hotel Blackheath on occasions. Numbers dropped dramatically, on one occasion we just managed to have enough present to fill the offices.

At the May meeting in 1981 the Secretary proposed that the lodge meet at Gt Queen Street and that a change be made to the Bye -laws. This was approved by all present.

This was most irregular, as there was no notice of motion of such a change at the previous meeting in March.. And the matter does not appear to have been discussed at the June meeting. Dispensations do not appear to have been obtained for either the June or September meetings, or for the November Installation.

The mystery deepens for at the September meeting Bro Eddie Leslie gave notice of motion that at the next meeting (ie Installation) he would propose that the bye -laws be altered so that the lodge meet and dine at the Shakespeare. At the subsequent meeting the notice of motion was withdrawn by the permission of the WM. There were however two dissenters.

Various meetings of the GP committee and the LOI were held throughout the wilderness years on the parlous state of the Lodge, falling membership, lack of prospective candidates and low morale. We had previously debated leaving London.

The old guard were very much against such a move but a second attempt

was more successful, after W.Bro.Peter Blackman discovered that dates for our Wednesday meetings were available at Dartford with only slight adjustment to our usual dates.

At the meeting in January 1982, under the mastership of W.Bro.Alan Turner the Lodge met at Dartford by dispensation from Grand Lodge and the Province of West Kent. W.Bro John Cook gave notice of motion that in future the Lodge would meet at Dartford and enter the Province of West Kent, which we duly did on April 29th 1982.

The proposition was duly put at the March meeting. The minutes record that the proposition was carried unanimously, the voting being 34 for the motion and 2 against. Their names are not recorded, and I can only assume that two of the old guard remained, defiant until the last.

At this meeting the Senior Warden Colin Springate informed the brethren that his father W. Bro Ernest Springate had been appointed to active grand rank i.e. Asst. Grand Pursuivant. This was the third appointment to Grand Rank since 1961, two of which had been active appointments.

At the installation meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1982 the PGM Rt.W. Bro Peter Churton Collins and members of the Executive visited and we were formally welcomed into the Province.

And so the wilderness years came to an end, and we have met happily at Dartford ever since.

## **1982 To The Present Day**

We have gained much since we joined the Province of West Kent. We have a sense of belonging, which never manifested itself when we were a London lodge. I suppose the only downside is that we no longer go to Great Queen Street for installation meeting.

Installations are always great occasions, and ours to us at least is something special; the lengthy investiture of officers, not shirked by any Master, being the highlight of the meeting. But the setting in the Indian temple No.10 at Freemasons Hall made the meeting truly magical.

In 1983 and 1984 two old stalwarts, W.Bro.Stan Darwood and Bro.Fred Napper achieved 50 years in masonry. Each was presented with a fifty year certificate and each was subsequently elected an honorary member of the lodge.

In March 1985 the minutes of the meetings held 200 and 100 years ago were read. I cannot recall the reason for this, but I think it is something we should repeat more often, certainly at least once a year.

In January 1986 we got our own "Big Mac", our Charity Steward W.Bro Ray McCarthy . Although there is no connection, after that we proceeded to debate the sale of the Royal Masonic Hospital.In my time I cannot remember a debate that aroused such passions. Eventually 18 voted for the motion and 11 against. With hindsight if only the vote throughout the Craft had been

unanimous the Samaritan fund would be sitting on some £11m and not the £1.25m which will eventually be realised. Alas the only winners being the legal profession.

At this meeting details of the revised penalties were given. This time they were to be obligatory. In 1964 after a long debate the Lodge had decided to maintain the status quo, although opinion was fairly evenly divided.

November 1986 saw Ray Purchase installed as Master. Little did he know then what fate had in store for him. In January 1987 the minutes recorded unprecedented weather conditions, -15 brave souls succeeded in reaching the almost isolated Dartford Masonic Hall.

The following is an addendum to the minutes:

"Because of blizzard conditions the caterers were unable to turn up. However W.Bro Ernie Springate somehow managed to conjure up pate, followed by sausages mash and beans, cheese and biscuits, liquers, and waitress service. It is believed that Union Waterloo Lodge was the only lodge in the Province to meet and dine on that day".

It is an interesting fact that there is no provision laid down in the Book of Constitutions to cancel a meeting. Had there been, I'm sure that we would have taken advantage of it and cancelled the meeting, thus losing the opportunity of enjoying a unique occasion.

Another disaster struck in March when W.Bro.Terry Bonner IPM of our daughter lodge Nelson No.700 was drowned, along with his wife when the Herald of Free Enterprise sank off Zebbrugge. It was particularly poignant as Terry was the son of W.Bro.Alfie Bonner who was Master of Nelson in 1974, and a much loved member of my gang. It was decided that the proceeds of the charity box would go to the children of Terry Bonner. This raised £164, which was raised to £284 at the festive board.

1987 saw the retirement of the PGM Peter Churton Collins, and the appointment of his successor Rt.Wor.Bro Simon Francis Norman Whaley. W.Bro Ray had a small part in the ceremonial of the PGM's installation. In November W.Bro.Ray installed his successor at the end of the most eventful year in the lodge's history.

In 1989 W.Bro.Ernie Springate was promoted to PAGDC. At the same meeting the Secreatry reported that Mrs Noye, the widow of the late Bro.Noye had left the sum of £2000 to the lodge. This was used to replace some of the officers regalia.

At the installation meeting in November the PGM attended accompanied by an escort, took the chair, and signed the minutes. On the third rising he thanked the lodge for the magnificent response to the 1990 festival.£30,001, the third highest in the Province. He then went on to congratulate all concerned on the standard of working.

At the January meeting 1991, we learned that much loved man Bro. Ken Collins had been appointed PPAGStdBr. This was received with acclamation by the brethren. Unfortunately, Ken like his predecessor as secretary of the LOI John Scott, who was similarly honoured some years before, died soon

after, and before he had the chance to enjoy what they both so richly deserved.

The next three years saw a shortage of candidates and for a number of meetings we had to recourse to the lectures. This involved a number of past masters and willing lay brethren in burning the midnight oil. The lectures proved to be very popular with both members and visitors alike. Indeed on one occasion, a visitor W.Bro. Dryland ,Master of the Star of Kent Lodge, was moved to write to the secretary, and offer congratulations to all concerned.

January 1992 saw the WM W.Bro.Arthur Elsdon initiate his son Michael, when all the offices were filled by Past Masters. This was a unique occasion and only the third time that a father had initiated his son. I'm sure that it will remain long in the memory of both father and son.

Soon after moving to Dartford we were allowed a free use of the Temple and dining room. It was decided to hold a Stewards festival; and hold a meeting conducted as a pukka lodge meeting, at which all the offices were filled by lay brethren; the chair being taken by the Senior lay brother, who would ultimately become Master of the lodge. A festive board followed the meeting. Consequently each Master for the last twelve years has had a dummy run in the chair of King Solomn, has worked a ceremony and presided at the festive board afterwards. I'm sure all those who have been through the process, will agree that the experience has been well worth the effort.

## **Union Waterloo Chapter**

There is a Royal Arch Chapter attached to the Lodge. This was formed in 1788.

The migrations of the Chapter largely followed the fortunes of the Lodge. Where the Lodge went the Chapter was sure to follow. But with one difference. When the Lodge met in London, and elsewhere in the wilderness years, the Chapter continued to meet unsatisfactorily at the Shakespeare. There was an audible sigh of relief when the Lodge finally moved to Dartford in 1982, and we have been happily ensconced there ever since.

As with the Lodge, the Chapter's fortunes waxed and waned from time to time. It went through a difficult time in the fifties and sixties, both in terms of membership and finances. There was this strange idea that if it charged less for a guest to dine than it did for a member it would encourage the members to bring guests. It didn't. Guests were few and far between, and those that did come were a drain on the fragile finances. In fact the books were only balanced by borrowing from the Benevolent Account. All strictly illegal of course. The companions at that time were a healthy lot and there was little call on the fund. Should anyone question it, that was long ago, and the finances are now properly run.

The high spot of my time in the Chapter has to be the Bi-Centenary in 1988.

Some time in 1980 it occurred to the members that 1988 would see the

Chapter celebrate, if it could prove 200 years uninterrupted working. Plans were made to see

that the event was celebrated in appropriate style. Proving the fact was more than somewhat difficult, as the records were to say the least scanty. The old minute books were lost when the previous Scribe E moved into the Masonic home at Chislehurst. However due to the painstaking efforts of Ex. Comps Len Hicks and Peter Blackman, and the stalwart support and encouragement of the Grand Librarian Ex. Comp John Hamill and his staff, and not forgetting guidance of the then Provincial Grand Scribe E Stan Scarlett, Supreme Grand Chapter finally agreed to the issue of a Bi-Centenary Charter.

The Bi-Centenary meeting was held at Oakley House on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1988, with nearly 200 companions being present. The Bi-Centenary Charter was presented by Ex.Comp Francis Heydon P.3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Principal. He delivered a most marvellous oration concerning the origins of the Chapter.

Since that time the Chapter has gone from strength to strength, and is now one of the largest Chapters in the Province. I would like to encourage those MM's who are not members to come along and join us. They will find it interesting.

And now Brethren a few final thoughts.

It cannot be denied that our continued survival needs a regular supply of suitable recruits. The present initiative of openness we are encouraged to follow may well persuade others to come and join us, but it is unrealistic to expect we will ever return to the numbers we enjoyed in the fifties and sixties, with 300 members, 200 at Installations, and 100 dining at a normal meeting. What we must ensure is that members must be of the right sort. It doesn't matter whether they all aspire to the Chair, the hard work entailed is not for everyone. What perhaps we need is not more men in Masonry, but rather more Masonry in men.

In 2011 this grand old lodge will celebrate 250 years of continuous working. We somehow let the 225 years anniversary slip by, no doubt because of our wanderings. But we must make sure the bigger celebration doesn't get forgotten. From my experience of being involved in the Chapter's bi-centenary I can say that its not too early to start thinking now about 2011.

Dr.James Anderson, who amongst other things, was responsible for the first constitutions of freemasonry, and to whom is attributed the saying "Freemasonry brought together those who otherwise might remained at a distance". Brethren as I look round this Temple tonight

I cannot but echo Dr. Anderson's words, for the people here have enriched my life by their friendship, encouragement, and support. But for freemasonry it is unlikely that our paths would have crossed, and Brethren my life would have been poorer as a result. Brethren,I cannot but hope you have found the last few minutes interesting, perhaps you have heard something new, but more likely you have been reminded of something you have long since forgotten.

