

HUMBER LODGE. Founders Toast 4th May 1949

During the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries it was not unusual for Grand Lodge Warrants of Constitution to be transferred from a moribund or extinct Lodge to a newly formed one rather than issue a fresh authorisation, and this course was adopted when the Hull Brethren acquired the Warrant of the Ancient Knight Templars Lodge, No. 53, previously held in Liverpool ; this Warrant was registered on 19th May, 1756, by "The Ancient Grand Lodge of England of Free and Accepted Masons according to the old constitutions," under the Grand Mastership of The Most Noble Prince John, Duke of Atholl, and the R. W. Bro. Lawrence Dermott as Deputy Grand Master, the latter learned brother having previously filled the important office of Grand Secretary with great distinction ; the same document was confirmed 17th April, 1775, and transferred to Hull by Indorsement on the 16th March, 1809, as the Ancient Knight Templar Lodge, No. 53 ; then in July, 1810, the name was altered to " Number " Lodge as a more distinctively local title. A centenary Warrant relating the foregoing particulars was issued by Grand Lodge on the 11th June, 1877, and also grants to each subscribing Member permission to wear an approved Centenary Jewel.

The Ancient Grand Lodge of England, sometimes referred to as the " Atholl," was formed In 1751 by separation from the older Grand Lodge of England, inaugurated in 1717, because the latter had permitted certain innovations and also the displacement of old traditional usages, therefore the newer Grand Lodge, by retaining the ancient landmarks of the order, appropriated the designation of "Ancients " in contradistinction to the 1717 Grand Lodge, the latter being then known as the " Moderns." The "Ancient " Grand Lodge of England was, however, officially recognised by the Grand Lodges of Scotland and of Ireland. This rivalry continued up to 1813 when the two Grand Lodges of England, viz., the " Ancients," under the Grand Mastership of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, and the " Moderns," under the Grand Mastership of H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex, were united and all distinctions abolished by a perfect and permanent reconciliation.

The Humber meetings were first held at the Fleece Inn, Market Place, and later at the Black Swan, and the Turk's Head, Mytongate.

In 1809, we had a membership of about 50, and for a long succeeding period it is recorded that regular lodges and also installations were held on most Sunday evenings being followed by a Lodge of Instruction, and during that period it was customary for the Worshipful Master to appoint only the Senior and Junior Deacons, and the Members themselves balloted for the Wardens and all other officers ; also officers were for some time exempt from payment of quarterages but were fined for non-attendance, this ' regulation, however, appears to have lapsed in June, 1814, and after 1846, the W.M. appointed all his officers, subject only to the approval of Past Masters.

In May, 1811, the Humber Chapter was formed, the first meeting being held on the 4th of the following month, and was afterwards practised as part of the third degree under the Craft Warrant ; this was perfectly regular, being sanctioned by the Ancient Grand Lodge which was known also as the Grand Lodge of the

four degrees ; This degree was recognised only by the "Atholl " Masons, and not by the " Moderns " prior to 1760, but it was generally adopted in 1813 under the Articles of Union, not as a separate degree but only as the complement of the third degree, until 1817, when the United Grand Chapter was formed, and in November, 1826, a Warrant was issued to the Humber Chapter, since when separate records have been kept.

In 1927, the Humber Chapter, after over a hundred years of activity and prosperity, celebrated its Centenary of Foundation in a manner fitting to such an important occasion, and we hope and believe that its work will be carried on with undiminished zeal and vigour in perpetuity.

Similarly the Mark Masons degree was worked by the Humber Craft Lodge as part of the second and third degrees as early as 1829, but lapsed until 1875, when the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (instituted in 1856) issued a separate Warrant, No. 182.

In 1817 and for three succeeding years adversity prevailed in our Lodge. During this period there is no record of meetings. We know that we incurred the displeasure of Grand Lodge because during this period dissensions prevailed, and a few of the discontented Members surreptitiously got possession of the warrant, whereupon the Treasurer of the Lodge, in whose keeping it had been placed, formally complained to *he Provincial Grand Master, who, in order to prevent any improper use of same, decided to suspend the Warrant until a reconciliation was effected and harmony re-established. In August, 1819, the organ and sundry furniture was sold, the membership dwindled to eleven, and the Worshipful Master of 1817, according to constitutions, had to retain his office until 1820, when he was re-elected and again acted as Worshipful Master until June, 1822, when his successor was elected, and installed. From that time onward there was a revival of interest, the suspension by Grand Lodge was removed, then a steady accession of new members again established our Lodge on a sounder basis, which hereafter proved to be of a permanent and prosperous character. In 1823, a glorious epoch was started by the staunch and steady loyalty of a devoted band of brothers, who realised that action was as necessary as thought. At this time Bros. Wm. Crow, Thos. Feetam, J. Ward, Jeremiah Stark, Joseph Eglin, and others made a determined effort to retrieve the past, and, aided by generous financial assistance, purchased the splendid silver jewels, furniture, and effects of the " Rodney " and the " Phoenix " Lodges, and which were previously owned by the "Apollo " Lodge, York.

The good fortune enjoyed by our Lodge is undoubtedly due to the initial efforts of those Worthy Brethren during 1823 to 1827 who, with faithful persistence and by personal efforts, purchased in March, 1827, for £145 the Osborne Street freehold site, the foundation stone was laid on 7th May, 1827, by R. W. Bro. R. M. Beverley, D.P.G.M., together with other illustrious brethren.

This new Lodge was opened, consecrated, and dedicated, and at this period new by-laws were adopted and the first Board of Trustees appointed. 7th May, 1927, marked the Centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone, which important event was suitably celebrated.

A fund of Benevolence was started in 1830 by personal donations supplemented by annual subscriptions from members, and which, by steady growth and careful administration, has attained to the splendid proportions shown in our annual accounts. Bro. Lieut. Wm. Crow was the first trustee of this fund, and in this and other matters exerted his talents unselfishly for the benefit of all who range under our banner.

On Friday, 3rd October, 1827, at High Twelve, the Humber Chapter was convened by command of the Rt. Hon. Lord Dundas, Grand Superintendent, assisted by the Rt. Worshipful R. M. Beverley, Joint Grand Superintendent, for the North and East Ridings of Yorks., for the express purpose of dedicating the New Hall in Osborne Street, built by the Members of the Humber Lodge, No. 73, also to hold the first Provincial Royal Arch Chapter for this province. The Officers of the Humber Chapter were:-Comp. John Harper, Z; Comp. William Crow, H.; Comp. Thos. Feetam, J. (succeeded same year by John Ward, Sen.); Comp. Thos. Larard, E. ; Comp. Ellors, N. ; Comp. Peter Holden, Centinel. (This was the ancient title of the Janitor.)

The charge then delivered by the Grand Superintendent was a lengthy one and highly descriptive of the earlier beginnings of Masonry, with which we are generally familiar. In conclusion His Lordship said:—

"In the Name of the Grand Architect of the Universe I wish you all manner of blessing, and hope that this Lodge and Conclave may prosper in all its works."

The stimulus of the past is thus ever present with us, guiding the actions of each succeeding generation and adding to the lustre of our Lodge and the Order generally.

May the same spirit ever continue in the heart and mind of each Brother.

So mote it be.

The Humber Lodge Building in Anne Street, was dedicated on the 7th May, 1827, and totally destroyed by enemy action on the 7th and 8th May, 1941. The last meeting to be held in this building was on 7th May, 1941, the occasion being the celebration of the 114th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone.

The date chosen for the dedication of our new Lodge Premises, 7th May, 1949, is, therefore, particularly appropriate as it coincides with Founders' Day and thus forms a strong link with our past History.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Minerva Lodge, No. 250, and later to the Thesaurus Lodge, No. 3891, for the very kind offer of the use of their premises, which made it possible for us to hold our Lodge Meetings in the intervening period from 1941-1949.

We also tender our grateful thanks for all the care and attention, which the Architect, Contractors and Trustees have exercised In surmounting all difficulties, to ensure the Dedication of our New Masonic

Building to-day.

Post War Conditions have prevented the completion of the full scheme, but this will receive attention as and when possible.