

THE FOUNDERS TOAST 11th May 1999

Presented by Bro. Tom Pinchbeck

Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brethren and Brethren, or the information of our younger Brethren, younger that is in years of membership and our guests, I will explain that the meeting nearest to the 7th of May is celebrated by honouring our Founders, and the laying of the foundation stone in Anne Street in 1827, some 172 years ago, and this we do this evening.

To be given the privilege of submitting this toast, possibly the most important of our Masonic year, is a great honour, and I feel proud to be entrusted with this duty.

In 1756 a warrant was issued to THE ANCIENT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LODGE in Liverpool, and I have no knowledge of the history of that warrant until in 1809 it arrived in HULL.

In 1810 the name was changed to The Humber Lodge, and between 1810 and 1824 meetings were held in various locations mainly Ale houses, The Fleece Inn, The Turks Head and the and The Black Swan were amongst them. In most they were welcomed but in some were only tolerated. During these years membership fluctuated between 50 and the teens. The meetings were held on Sundays and were followed by a Lodge of Instruction.

The Lodge had its own bye-laws, among them the Master selected his own Deacons but the remainder of the Offices were filled by the membership voting. Brethren were fined for nonattendance.

There was a period when the actions of some of the Brethren was far from masonic, there was a period of three years when no records were kept, and the Lodge incurred the "displeasure of Grand Lodge to such an extent that the Warrant was withdraw. In 1819 finances were so low that various items of furniture, including the organ were sold, raising £61.12.2d, a goodly sum in those times.

In 1824 things began to improve, we had three joining members, Bro. Wm. Crow, Bro. Thomas Feetham and Bro. Joseph Eglin. They were all young, very enthusiastic and keen to build up the Lodge again. They were also financially sound and very generous. In 1825 Bro. Crow was installed as Master, followed in 1827 by Bro. Feetham and subsequently by Bro Elgin.

In 1827 a meeting held in March agreed that a 'SUBSCRIPTION BE ENTERED INTO FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERECTING A NEW MASONIC HALL IN ANNE STREET HULL. Within five days the money had been raised, and the land purchased for £145. Three weeks later plans had been drawn up and a tender for the contract had been accepted for £340.7.2d.

Within three weeks of the signing of the contract arrangements were made for the laying of the foundation stone.

On the seventh of May a procession was held from The Lodge to Anne Street, it consisted of The Deputy P.G.M., W. Bro. Robert, McKenzie Beverley, who was to perform the ceremony, various High Ranking Grand and Provincial Officers, The W. Master, numerous W. Brethren and Brethren all in full regalia. The stone was carried on a velvet

cushion by four Brethren and the plans, the Bible, the Sq and Compasses were all carried by various Officers. They had a musical accompaniment. It must have been a day never to be removed from the memories of those taking part.

As this is a day to toast our Founders, I will go no further into modern history except to say that of the 7th May 1941, being wartime, a lunchtime meeting was held, and the only business on the summons was ' TO CELEBRATE THE 114th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE PREMISES OF THE HUMBER LODGE. This was done and lunch was held at a cost of 3/-. Within 24 hours of this toast being submitted the building was destroyed by enemy Action.

So Brethren, in darkness and in silence I ask you to claim your glasses, rise and drink this most noble toast honouring- BRO. WM CROW, BRO THOMAS FEETHAM and BRO JOSEPH EGLIN AND THE REST OF OUR FOUNDER MEMBERS.