

**180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone**  
**on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1827.**  
**Founders Night Toast Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. 2007.**  
**Presented by W. Bro. R. E. Clarkson.**

Worshipful Master and Brethren I have the honour and privilege to submit the toast to our "Founders", Brothers William CROWE, Thomas FEETHAM and Joseph EGLIN. At the same time we celebrate the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Humber Lodge building in Anne Street.

This is our tradition - this is the tradition of the Humber Lodge and it is also traditional for the giver of this toast to say something of the history of our Lodge.

We honour as our founders Bro. Crow, Bro. Feetham and Bro. Eglin, not because their names appear on our first application, but because in 1824 when the fortunes of our Lodge were at a very low ebb- so low in fact that even our furniture and the lodge organ had been sold to meet debts- these three men all new members of the lodge revitalized the old lodge and by their hard work, commitment and splendid generosity succeeded within three years to put the affairs of the lodge on a sound footing and organized the laying of the foundation stone and building of our old Lodge in Anne Street. This was a tremendous effort and these three brethren whose names we hold in respect and who for 180 years have been regarded as the real founders of the Humber Lodge.

Our warrant was issued in 1756 to a Lodge in Liverpool, the warrant became dormant and in 1775 was re-issued as No. 53, to a Lodge which became known as the Ancient Knights Templar Lodge, meeting at the Strand, Liverpool. The Ancient KT Lodge prospered for many years in Liverpool, but sometime after 1804 it came under censure and the Warrant was withdrawn.

In 1809, 10 citizens of Hull petitioned the Grand Master of the Ancients, His Grace the Duke of Atholl to form a new lodge in the town. These applicants had been attending the 2 military Lodges in the Town. I would suggest that these ten men might have some claim to be considered amongst the founders of the Humber Lodge. Let me tell you who they were:-

Thomas Larard, Watchmaker, Market Place.  
Denton Northgraves, Watchmaker, Silver Street.  
Thomas Brown, Publican, Wincolmlee.  
Joseph Levy, Watchmaker. Blanket Row.  
Thomas Johnson, Stationer, Market Place.  
Samuel Abrams, Jeweller, Kingston Court.  
Thomas West, Merchant, French's Gardens.  
Israel Shacklock, Shoe Maker, Dock Bridge.  
Andrew McLaren, Publican, Grimsby Lane and George Larkin.

Let me quote one paragraph from the petition:-"As it is uncertain how soon the two Lodges to which we are at present members of may be moved from Hull and unless we get a Lodge established in the town before the two Regiments are called away, we shall be totally deprived of the benefits arising from the Ancient Order of Freemasonry; especially as we denied hitherto the Modern Masons admittance amongst us and we must naturally expect they in turn will prohibit any of us visiting them.. We therefore humbly crave, that if it meets your Grace's approbation to grant us a warrant and that it may please your Grace to indulge us with one as soon as it may be convenient to your Grace to order the same"

Across the margin of the petition is written "Let the petitioners have the Warrant No. 53 lately held in Liverpool, to be

transferred to them February 24<sup>th</sup> 1809"

By such a stroke of the pen Brethren history was made and the old Liverpool Lodge, The Ancient Knights Templar No. 53 was legally transferred by name and by number to continue its existence at the Fleece Inn in the Market Place in Hull.

We know nothing of the men to whom our warrant was first issued in 1756, we know little of them to whom it was confirmed in 1775, but although we know very little of anyone who may be considered as founders prior to 1809, we certainly know something about the ten good men and true to whom the warrant was transferred in that year and thus when we honour as our founders the three distinguished Masons whose names are associated with this celebration we should also remember with some gratitude three watchmakers, a jeweller, a shoemaker and a stationer, two publicans and a handful of the King's Men who were determined to preserve in this town the Ancient freemasonry they had learnt to enjoy as members of the Military Lodges. Their action resulted directly with us being here this evening to honour our founders and to celebrate the events which followed.

In 1810 the Lodge was renamed as the Humber Lodge and renumbered as No. 73 in 1813, changed again in 1832 to Number 65 and finally to our present number 57 in 1863.

In the years between 1809 and 1822 the Lodge was often divided but from 1823 brethren from the Rodney and Minerva Lodges joined with those original members who had petitioned for the issue of the warrant. These new brethren breathed new life into the lodge. On the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1824 Lt CROWE RN a member of the Minerva Lodge became a joining member of Humber, in the same year Bros FEETHAM and EGLIN also members of Minerva also joined Humber. Bro CROWE took the Master's Chair of the Humber Lodge within months of joining.

The membership of these brothers signalled a dramatic upturn of interest in the Lodge. There was also a much needed improvement in its finances. The Lodge met in various hostelrys in the area, and this did not meet with the approval of the new members, who suggested that they should have their own building. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1827 Bro, Crowe chaired a meeting at bro Harper's house in High street, which resolved to purchase ground on the north side of Osbourne Street for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic Hall.

Five days later a Building committee was formed and an agreement signed for the sale of land to Bro. CROWE and the others. Only three weeks after that, the plans had been prepared and a tender to build the Lodge was accepted. One of the members Bro KIDD tendered the extraordinary sum of £340.7s.2d.

Three weeks later on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1827, the event, which we celebrate with such pride this evening occurred - the laying of the Foundation Stone. This was a very Grand affair, the ceremony was carried out by W. Brother R.M. Beverley the Deputy Provincial Grand Master with much pomp and splendour. The brethren marched in procession wearing full Regalia, whilst musicians played a Solemn Air.

The Foundation Stone had been laid on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1827 and on that date in 1941 a Banquet was held in the Building to celebrate its Anniversary. The festive board cost 3 shillings. That very night the building was destroyed by Enemy Bombing.

The following morning one of our brethren took the tram to work and was horrified when he saw the still smouldering building with the warrant still hanging on the remains of a wall. He got off the tram at speed and recovered the warrant - scorched but unsullied.

Upon the foundation stone laid that day on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1827 the superstructure of the Humber Lodge was raised, which by the sincerity of its members through the ages has ever remained honourable to the builders and may it continue to do so. Brothers Crowe, Feetham and Eglin would rest content I think in the knowledge that in 2007, the old lodge would be celebrating the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event with a fine record behind it and a future as secure and assured as at

any time in our history.

So Brethren, I ask you to be upstanding in darkness (ADC turns lights off) and in silence, I ask you to honour this most noble toast to Bros. CROWE, FEETHAM and EGLIN and all our Founders. (Dirge played by Organist)

D.C. Quietly "Brethren be seated" ADC switches lights back on.