

Founders Toast 9th May 2000.

Presented by W. Bro. R.K.Wallace

Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brethren & Brethren,

On the 173 anniversary of the Laying of the Foundation stone. The honour of Proposing the Founder's Toast has fallen very heavily on my shoulders and I feel very humble knowing that this anniversary has been celebrated continuously, since the first anniversary in 1828 except for 1830 which does not record it in the minutes.

As we have many visitors here tonight let me explain to you the significance of this toast, it is commemorating the laying of the first foundation stone of our own temple in 1827 and the brethren who were the driving force behind it.

But let us jump back another 71 years when the original founders of the Warrant N° 53. Who where to the best of my knowledge, Bros. Patrick Vaughan, Master. Edward Ledward, Senior Warden, and Thomas Griffiths, Junior Warden. These names appear on the warrant issued on the 19th May 1756 in Liverpool. And according to Grand Lodge Records lapsed shortly afterwards, but I do have a copy of a Members list for March 7 1764. Of which Bro. Patrick Vaughan is top of the list but the other two are not on the list. So did the warrant lapse?

17 Apr 1775 the No 53 warrant was renewed for the cost of 61- at Buck & Dog Strand Street Liverpool. Of which 12 names from the members list in 1764 appear on the members list for 1775 but then records dry up until 1777 which is now marked as the date our centenary is commemorated from. Things went fine until 1806 when Lodge 53 where accused of Unmasonic conduct and the warrant withdrawn in 1807.

Between 1807 and 1809 the warrant laid dormant, when a few members of our order with the assistance of two military Ancients lodges N° 120 and 215 attached to the Cumberland and Lancaster regiments of militia, applied to the brethren in Liverpool or to the Ancients Grand Lodge to acquire the Warrant. They were successful and as the Endorsement to our warrant says.

' Let the within Lodge and Warrant N° 53, all and every the members thereof being duly returned to and registered with the Clerk of the Peace, pursuant to the Statute in that case made and provided, be transferred to and held at a House known by the sign of the Fleece Inn, Market place, Hull. The Master and Wardens, and all and every the members thereof, at all times paying due respect to the Grand Lodge, and the Rules and Regulations thereof, by whom the within Warrant and these Presents are granted : otherwise the same to be of no force or effect whatever.

Thomas Harper, D.G.M.'

The first meeting was on the 17 March 1809 under the original name of the 'Ancient Knight Templars' and on the 2 July 1810 we became known as 'Number Lodge' a fitting name for the area. In 1814 we became 73 on the reunification of the two Grand Lodges.

Over the next few years the Number Lodge jogged along for a time happily with its bowls of punch, or so it seemed till discourse reared its ugly head and the Number Lodge was very close to becoming extinct. Then in 1824 Number's fortune started to improve when Bro. Lt. William Crow RN became a joining member of the Number Lodge from Minerva and this was shortly followed by Bro. Thomas Feetham who were very active members of Minerva. At the same time the Rodney Lodge which was not defunct but was on that slippery slope and was sliding faster to extinction this also brought many new members to the Number Lodge.

Let us have a look at this time table:-

Wed 6 Oct 1824 Bro. Crow Accepted as a Joining Member of the Number Lodge. The same night Bro. Feetham was also proposed in Number along 3 other brethren.

Wed 3 Nov 1824 Bro. Feetham accepted into Number along with 3 other brethren from Minerva.

In 1825. Bro. Crow became the Master of Number

7 Feb 1827 Bro. Elgin was proposed, but on the 2 May 1827 the proposition was withdrawn by Bro. Crow. I believe they had a problem with a brother black balling for spite, and finally on 16 May 1827 he was again proposed. Balloted for and accepted 6 June 1827

In March 1827 with Bro. Crow in the Chair present were Bros. Wilson, Larard, Feetham & Eglin (Minerva). A meeting was held which resolved.

"That a subscription be entered into for the purpose of erecting a new Masonic Hall, and that ground on the north side of Osbourne Street, The property of Mrs Osbourne, be purchased for the site" and shortly afterwards £300 had been raised. W.Bro. Crow donated £100 to the fund followed by another £32 later. Which is about £6600 now a days.

Five days later the property had been purchased

Three weeks later a tender for the building had been accepted for £340.7s.2d Equivalent of about £18,000 if the conversion of 50 times is right. Bingo!

Three weeks later W.Bro. Robert Beverley, Deputy Provincial Grand master. Laid the foundation stone.

And this date May 7th 1827. Under three months from meeting to stone.

Let us look at that date.

Number lodge opened on Monday morning 7th May 1827 in the first degree, in due form at the Neptune Inn, Chariot Street, Hull. All present are listed and taken to be read.

The brethren assemble this day agreeable to the foregoing dispensation for the purpose of going in procession to lay the corner stone of the new lodge intended for the reception of the Number Warrant - after the WM by direction of Bro. R. M. Beverley DPGM had opened the Lodge; the DPGM put several very important questions to the WM. And being satisfactorily answered The DPGM ordered the Veil of the Ark to be brought; which he sprinkled with sweet Odour. When the DPGM commanded the Brethren to form the procession in the following order. Master Masons, The Foundation Stone, The Royal Arch Masons, The Ark. The Officers of the Beverley & Number Lodges. The Provincial Grand Lodge followed by R. M. Beverley DPGM under the Canopy of State of a Purple Silk Dref. The Grimsby Lodge Apollo following with the Rev G Oliver PGC of the county of Lincoln closed by two Tyler's. On arriving at the site the DPGM went through the usual ceremonies observed on those occasions and then returned to the Neptune Inn in the same Order as before. After which the Brethren to the member of Sixty-nine dined at the Neptune Inn. Bro. Bower the PGS in the Chair. (The R.W. R.M Beverley Esq. & D.P.Gill being compelled to leave Hull immediately after the procession in consequence of Urgent Business) after an Evening spent in the utmost Conviviality and harmony the brethren separated highly satisfied at having laid the foundation stone of a Lodge. That with not only shew their zeal for the science but with secure to Masons a Lodge that may meet In Free Until the Great Architect of the Universe declare time shall be no more.

The following was enclosed in a Lead Box, and afterwards soldered up, and deposited in the Stone laid at the North East corner in the foundation of the New Masonic Hall in Osbourne Street May 7 1827.

A Painted Inscription of the event of laying the first stone. The following names were engraved on three Brass Plates

W^m Grow G.A
John Harper W.M
Thos Feetham S.W
Joseph Eglin
Sam S Walton
Rob^l Leabery R.
Smithson Jos^h
Fowler.

Chas T Hill
Thos Larard
John Leonard
John Ward
John Willoughby

Plus many coins of various value and other momento's. Among which

An Army list, Month of May 1827 and a Navy List, Month of January 1827 These were presented by Bro. Crow. RN.

The following month Bro. Feetham became Master of Humber 73.

Quote.

By permission by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master given to Bro. Watton & Larard. the 17th Inst. The Humber Lodge was opened in due form at the New Hall Osbourne Street on Wednesday Evening Sept 19th 1827 when the minutes of the last regular lodge night were read and confirmed and present at the inaugural meeting, Bros. Feetham WM, Elgin SW, and Crow PM. The actual dedication was on Friday 3 Oct at high noon when the Humber Chapter was convened by the PGM.

These three brethren were very prominent in instigating the building of our first temple and remembered for it.

In 1832 we again changed numbers to 65.

(Overhead of Temple)

There was a second laying of the foundation stone took place on Monday October 24th 1864 on the refurbishment of the building due to it being to small.

Lastly in 1865 we became N°57. (Overhead of Summons)

Then the unforgettable happened remember those words That with not only shew their zeal for the science but with secure to Masons a Lodge that may meet In Free Until the Great Architect of the Universe declare time shall be no more.' When our wartime brethren discovered on the morning of the 8th May 1941 they had no Temple as the night May 7/8 1941. The heaviest German Bomber Raid on Hull Destroyed the Temple in Osbourne Street. All that remained was the Warrant on the only bit of wall standing and I am lead to believe the Tyler saw it and recovered it so that it still hangs apon the wall at our meetings. All this happened after the 7 May 1941 lunchtime celebration of the laying of the 1st foundation Stone.

Again we had another building where the Waterloo Club is now.Dedicated on Saturday 7 May 1949, but the cost of refurbishment was beyond the Lodge on its own, we sold it off and since then been tenants of Park Street and now Dagger Lane. Were between 1941 &1949 we held our meetings.

At one time we had over 200 brethren but now we are below 100. So brethren let us have the sprit of our founders and keep this Lodge thriving.

Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brethren and Brethren, rise and in darkness

And in silence honour this most noble toast.

To:-

Bro. Lt. William Crow,

Bro. Thomas Feetham,

Bro. Joseph Eglin.

And to all the founders of Number Lodge

(Overhead Bro. Crow, Feetham.)
