

A History Of Radnor Lodge No. 2587

PART I

1895 – 1955

Compiled by

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Researched by

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PART II

1955-1995

Compiled by

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Date of Warrant, 21st October, 1895

Lodge Consecrated, 11th December, 1895

FOREWORD

The Diamond Jubilee is an outstanding landmark in the history of any organised society, and it would be quite inappropriate if such an occasion were allowed to pass without some thought for, and tribute to, the foresight of its founders, the generosity of its benefactors and the efforts of its early members.

It has been thought fitting, therefore, at this point in the history of Radnor Lodge, to publish an account of its Masonic progress during the sixty years since its consecration.

The preliminary research was undertaken by W. Bro. H. E. Redhouse, P.P.S.G.D., a past master of the Lodge, but, unhappily, a breakdown in health made it impossible for him to complete the work. The threads were most ably taken up by W. Bro. R. C. Powell, P.P.J.G.D., and the final text bears witness to the skill and assiduity which he brought to the task.

To both these Brethren the Lodge owes a debt of gratitude for their able and scholarly work, which is unlikely to be superseded until Radnor Lodge celebrates its centenary.

R.A. ELSTON,

Worshipful Master.

December 1955

History of Radnor Lodge, 2587

1895 – 1955

The Formation and Consecration

I cannot begin this History of the Radnor Lodge without first paying a tribute to W. Bro. H. E. Redhouse, for he it was who first undertook this work, and it has been a great disappointment to him that ill-health has prevented him from completing it. He owned that he started on it with some misgivings as to his qualifications for the task, a feeling with which in my own case I entirely agree, but having done so, he found it of absorbing interest ; So much so, he told me, that having extracted his notes from the first two books of the minutes, he returned and re-read these volumes again purely as a matter of interest. These notes have proved invaluable to me as a groundwork for this history.

The history of the Lodge opens on 11th September, 1895, when W. Bro. Rev. J. E. Player, of Temple Lodge, 558 and of Earl of Leicester Lodge, 2237, Prov. Gd. Chaplain of Kent and Past Prov. Gd. Chaplain of Norfolk, with W. Bro. Lt.-Col. C. J. Hamilton, W.M. of Military Jubilee Lodge, 2195, W. Bro. W. K. Westropp, a P.M. of that Lodge, and Bro. A. J. De Butts, also of that Lodge and of Temple Lodge, met to discuss the formation of a new Lodge in Folkestone to be called Radnor Lodge.

The idea was first suggested by W. Bro. Player with the warm support of the Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth, who mentioned to W. Bro. Westropp the want of a Lodge in Folkestone to meet the wishes of certain Brethren who would like to have a Lodge composed as far as practicable of men more or less of their own social standing in Public Life. The Grand Secretary approached Lord Radnor on this point who expressed his gratification that the Lodge should be named after him, and his pleasure that the Founders would nominate him as its first Master ; but he later wrote, that he would do so on the understanding that at meetings following the consecration, should he be absent, the Chair should be taken to W. Bro. Westropp or some other Brother.

The next meeting was held on 20th September, at which Bro. E. T. Ward of the Shakespeare Lodge 284 was also present.

We are fortunate that the minute book contains a very full record of the transactions of these and seven other preliminary meetings held by the same five Brethren prior to a meeting of the Founder members on 14th November.

The Founders approved the work already done, viz. the proposed fees, draft of Bye-laws drawn up by W. Bro. Player, meetings to be held at the Masonic Hall on the 2nd Wednesday in the months October to April provided that that suited the Masonic Hall Committee. This date must have been amended in the final print of the Byelaws as the Lodge appears always to have met on the 3rd Wednesdays.

The distinguished list of Founders include 2 Peers, 10 Soldiers, 4 Lawyers, 4 Doctors, 3 Clergymen and one other rank.

The Lodge was sponsored by Temple Lodge 558. As well as several Brethren of Temple Lodge and Military Jubilee Lodge, the founders included Brethren from Lodges in the Provinces of Wiltshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, North and East Riding of Yorkshire, Warwickshire, and Lincolnshire, and the Districts of Gibraltar, Malta, New Zealand and Natal.

The Lodge was consecrated on Wednesday, 11th December, 1895 in the presence of the founders and 161 visitors, by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, the Earl Amherst, who appointed as his offices W. Bro Russell, Prov. Gd. Treasurer as Senior Warden, W. Bro. Clifford Sanders, W.M. of Temple Lodge as Junior Warden and W. Bro. Ward, Dep. Gd. Sword Bearer of England as Director of Ceremonies.

The Lodge having been opened in the three Degrees, the Provincial Grand Master addressed the Brethren on the subject of the consecration in a few and forcible words which were much appreciated by the Brethren.

The Lodge having been consecrated, R. W. Bro. the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Radnor was installed in the Chair of King Solomon by V. W. Bro. Letchworth, Grand Secretary of England in the presence of a Board of 61 Installed Masters.

As well as the consecrating officers, the names of the Honorary Members include the Master and Wardens of Temple Lodge and W. Bro. R. J. Fynmore a P.M. of Castle Lodge, and a Past P.G. Supt. Of Works, the first of three generations of that name to be members of Radnor Lodge.

The Founders Jewel presented to Lord Radnor as 1st W.M. embodies the use of his family arms.

By kind permission of the Worshipful Master, the Banner of the Lodge carries his coat of arms as 5th Earl of Radnor. The Earls of Radnor have always been members of our Lodge, and as a happy coincidence, we record that the present holder of the title, the 7th Earl, was born in the same year that his grandfather was our first Master.

Following the consecration, a banquet was held at the Pavilion Hotel. The menu card, presented by W. Bro. Lt.-Col. Atkinson and now in the minute book, is of some interest these days. It is of seven courses, each with its appropriate wine, the charge for which was £1/1/0.

The next Lodge meeting was held on 18th December, and as he had foreshadowed, Lord Radnor was unable to be present. In his absence the Chair was taken, as acting W.M. by W. Bro. Westropp the Senior Warden. The Junior Warden, W. Bro. Hamilton, and the Senior Deacon, Bro. E.T. Ward, also moved up, acting as Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively. No mention is made of any Brother acting as S.D.

The Early Years, 1895-1914

In these early years the Lodge met at varying hours between 6 and 8p.m., and it appears to have been quite usual to call off during the evening either in the 1st Degree before giving the Charge to the Initiate, or in the 2nd and 3rd Degrees after the candidate had been entrusted and before opening the Lodge in the superior degree. Whether this call off was merely a break of a few minutes or whether the Brethren then supped is a matter for speculation. On only one

occasion, in these days, is the time of closing the Lodge recorded ; on the 18th December, 1895, it was 11 p.m. For the next nine years the Secretary may have deemed it better that his should remain a matter of Masonic Secrecy.

During the next few years the Lodge rapidly increased its membership with joining members and initiates to about 50; and the latter one special mention must be made. On the 20th April, 1898, following the proposition by W. Bro. Westropp and seconded by Bro. McIlldowny, Lieutenant Edward Charles Walthall Delves Walthall of the Royal Artillery, Shorncliffe Camp was initiated into Freemasonry. On 24th June, 1948, our Initiate, now V.W. Bro. Walthall, C.M.G., D.S.O., S.G.D., O.S.M., was installed as Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire. Our then W. Master, W. Bro. H. R. C. White, had the honour of being invited to the ceremony and attended as the personal guest of V.W. Bro. Walthall.

I might briefly refer to certain matters, small in themselves, which are recorded in the minutes, but may be of some interest to the Brethren in these days. In January, 1896, the date of the February meeting was discussed, the 3rd Wednesday being Ash Wednesday. It was decided to hold the Lodge as usual, but in a later year we find that the Lodge did alter its date. On the 25th June, 1898 is the first record of the Brethren attending a Masonic Service, this at Rochester Cathedral. Lord Radnor, as first Master, was invited to present his portrait to the Lodge, and succeeding Masters for many years continues this practice.

It was the custom for the Worshipful Master to retire from the Lodge while the proposal to present him with a Past Masters' Jewel was being discussed. It was, of course, always passed unanimously, and on his return he was consulted in the choice of the Jewel.

In April, 1896, the Lodge appointed a committee to join with Temple Lodge in making arrangements for P.G.L. to be held in Folkestone on 17th June in that year, and in October of the same year we were informed that our members would be welcome to join Temple Lodge of Instruction without ballot, a gesture much appreciated then and now.

The membership of the Lodge was constantly changing in these years. Many of our young initiates were serving officers and were frequently moving within a short time of joining. Bro. Walthall was one of these. He had to tender his registration in October, 1899, as he was going to the Cape.

In January, 1899, the finances appear to have given the Brethren some concern, for a resolution was carried to increase the subscription to £1/11/6 and in February the W.M. reported that he had received £55/12/0 in response to his appeal to clear the debt, though how this debt had been incurred is not disclosed.

In April, 1899, Bro. Sir Edward Sassoon, B.T., M.P. for the Borough of Hythe was elected a joining member, but I cannot find any record that he was ever attended.

In June, 1900, the Lodge learnt with the deepest regret of the passing of R.W. Bro. Lord Radnor, the first Worshipful Master.

For the next few years the Lodge continued without events of outstanding interest, except that I would like to record the names of a few of the Brethren who joined the Lodge in the early part of the century. Bro. George Garnett Ellis, the father of our present Senior Warden was initiated 19th November, 1902, and though he never proceeded to High Office in the Lodge,

he gave good service to the Brethren as Steward from the year 1906 until his resignation in 1912.

November, 1903, marked the joining of Bro. A. E. Nichols, of the Philanthropic Lodge No. 304. He became Master in 1911, and was to give invaluable help in the years of the Great War as Secretary, again as W.M. in 1917-1918 ; yet again as Secretary and finally as Director of Ceremonies, the Lodge owes a debt to him for his untiring efforts in helping it through those difficult years to regain the same high standard of its pre-war era.

In February, 1904, the Lodge Summons is first included in the Minute Book. It will interest the Brethren to know that the members were requested to attend at 7 p.m., and the Gavel falls at 7.15 *precisely*. But at Provincial Grand Lodge held at Folkestone that year under the banners of the Radnor and Temple Lodges (in that year in that order) the Brethren were requested to be in their places only 10 minutes before P.G.L. opened. This P.G.L. was followed by a service in the Parish Church.

The Balance Sheet first appears in October, 1905, when there were 35 paid up Brethren, and an un-named few who were in arrears. The balance in hand was then £2/13/8.

At the Installation Meeting in January, 1907, Rt. Worshipful Bro. Colonel (afterward Baron) Cornwallis, who in June, 1905, had been installed Prov. Grand Master of Kent, honoured the Lodge with his presence.

In November of the same year Bro. A. H. W. Fynmore of Angel Lodge, 51, was elected a joining member, and now, as Senior Past Master in the Lodge, we take great pleasure that he is as regular as ever in his attendance at our meetings and a valued member of the Standing Committee.

In October, 1909, is the first recorded mention of any family relationship to any other Lodge. The Master and Wardens of Temple Lodge had always been welcome Honorary Members, but now the W.M. proposed, seconded by W. Bro. Nevinson, that the Masters of the 3 *Sister* Lodges 125, 558 and 1436, shall be Hon. Members during their year of office. The minutes, however, are silent on the resultant vote, but we may be sure it was unanimously in favour, as in May, 1917, the Secretary reported that Temple Lodge had paid us the same compliment and indeed extended it to our Wardens.

In 1911 the Lodge had great pleasure in joining with the rest of the Province in making a presentation to the P.G.M. and Mrs. Cornwallis on the occasion of their Silver Wedding.

The minutes of 16th October, 1912, are not without interesting. The Lodge finances had been considered by a Committee set up in January, and the Lodge now approved their recommendations that the Lodge leave the Masonic Hall, for which they paid a rent of £27/10/0 p.a., and accept the terms offered by the West Cliff Hotel. These, over the signature of Angus Macdonald, Managing Director, state that should the amount be received for dinner at any one meeting exceed £2, there would be no charge, otherwise a charge of 15/- per meeting. Also that he would be willing to go to the extent of £100 for such furniture as might be required. (This £100 had reference also to furniture for the Chapter).

The Lodge unanimously accepted these terms. Following this, a Special Meeting of the Lodge was called for 20th November, at 6 p.m., at which the resolution to remove to the West Cliff Hotel was formally adopted. The W.M. closed this Lodge “by the power in him vested.”

At 6.15 p.m. on the same day, at the regular meeting of the Lodge, the minutes state that the W.M. opened *this* Lodge “by the power of him vested,” a rather unusual procedure; at this meeting the Lodge balloted for, elected and initiated the aforementioned Mr. Angus Macdonald.

In February, 1913, Sir Philip Sassoon, the son of a former member was elected a candidate but it does not appear that he subsequently presented himself for initiation. The account for the year 1913, show the rent paid to West Cliff Hotel was £5/1/0.

In April, 1914, the W.M. exercised his Fiat under the then Rule 185 and a candidate was proposed, balloted for and initiated at the same meeting ; the reason being that, as a serving officer, he expected very shortly to be moved from Shorncliffe Camp. During the following years the W.M. frequently made use of this Rule in similar circumstances.

1914 – 1918

The Impact of the war was at once felt by the Lodge and in January, 1915, we find that with the exception of the Junior Warden and the Chaplain, all the officers invested were Past Masters.

In February, the Lodge was held by Dispensation on 15th, the usual day, Wednesday the 17th, being Ash Wednesday. At this Lodge, the W.M. W. Bro. the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, P.G.D., presented new Tracing Boards to the Lodge and delivered the lecture on the First Tracing Board.

The Lodge continued to meet regularly, though the attendances were seriously affected by the war. In March, the W.M., and the I.P.M. worked the First and Fourth Sections of the First Lecture (this may be a mis-print on the Agenda for Third, as the Lodge was opened in the 2nd and 3rd Degrees) in the presence of seven other Brethren.

At the next meeting, six Brethren present, the only business was a ballot for Bro. Carte de la Fontaine as a Joining member and the Lodge was opened and closed in the space of 10 minutes.

By October, 1915, the West Cliff Hotel had been taken over by the Government and it was decided to move and store the furniture until another meeting place could be arranged.

For the November meeting the Lodge met at Masonic Hall by Dispensation covering “all future meetings during the War or until the regular meeting place is again available.”

The Lodge most gratefully accepted the offer of the use of their furniture, free of cost, by the Temple Lodge, and the W.M. personally thanked the W.M. of that Lodge, W. Bro. Baker for his kindness.

At this time units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were stationed in the neighbourhood, and this evening Mr. G. F. Horsley was initiated. He was the first of a large number of candidates or Joining Brethren to be welcomed into Radnor Lodge.

In March, 1916, the Secretary reported the resignation of Bro. Flint, stated to be a Founder of the Lodge. There is no Brother of this name in the Founder's list, but a Bro. Flint was initiated on 18th November, 1896.

On May 17th, 1916, an Emergency Meeting was held to which special reference must be made, as it was possible an unique occasion in English Freemasonry. The Lodge was opened by the W.M. W. Bro. Willis, assisted by all his officers and in the presence of twelve other Brethren and a number of Canadian Brethren. Having done so, the W.M. stated the purpose of the Emergency meeting, viz, to pass Bro. Capt, Alfred Wade Trefry, C.A.M.C., Medical Officer, 9th Res. Batt. C.E.F., who had been initiated at the April meeting.

He then vacated the Chair in favour of V.W. Bro. Colonel Royal Burritt, Chief of General Staff, overseas Canadians, a P.M. of the Assiniboine, No, 114, A.F. and A.M. G.R.M., who is his turn, appointed as his officers former officers of the Assiniboine Lodge. The Lodge was opened in the 2nd Degree and Bro. Trefry was passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft. The Lodge was closed in the 2nd Degree and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Col. Burritt for the ceremony performed that evening, to which he replied that he and his Canadian Brethren appreciated the opportunity of doing so.

Attached to the Minutes is a printed order of this Emergency Meeting and a list of the offices taken by these Canadian Brethren with the respective offices held by them in the Assiniboine Lodge.

The minutes do not state that W. Bro. Willis resumed the Chair; may we assume, therefore that V.W. Bro. Burritt remained to close the Lodge?

In a copy of the magazine "Canada" of 25/5/16 this meeting is reported, and it states that over 100 officers were present.

Emergency meetings continued to be held in June, July and August at which meeting these overseas Brethren were elected Honorary members of the Lodge. After the Lodge had been opened and a 2nd Degree worked, V.W. Bro. Burritt again occupied the Chair and with his own officers raised Bro. M. K. Greene to the 3rd Degree. W. Bro. Willis then resumed the chair.

At an Emergency meeting in September, V.W. Bro. Burritt presented to the Lodge, 3 gavels as a recognition and mark of appreciation for the welcome offered to Canadian Brethren. These gavels each bear a silver plate in the form of a maple leaf on which is engraved :

"From the Members of the Assiniboine No. 114, A.F. and A.M. Grand Registry, Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada serving in then Canadian Expeditionary Force. To Radnor Lodge No. 2587, 1916."

These gavels are still in use by the Master and Wardens and are amongst the Lodge's most treasured possessions.

At this Lodge a gavel was also present by W. Bro. C. E. L. Wright for use in the 3rd Degree.

At the December Lodge, Bro. Major Anderson presented a record of his escape from Germany after five months in an internment camp. The record, a typewritten document of 62 pages gives a most interesting account of his difficulties and dangers before finally arriving in England.

At the meeting January, 1917, before W. Bro. Nichols was installed as Master, four Brethren were passed to the Second Degree and another was raised to the Third!

During this year as Master, through the unavoidable absence of many of his officers at the Front or engaged on other war work, W. Bro. Nichols received invaluable help from members of Temple Lodge and these services he acknowledged at the December meeting in expressing thanks to their W.M., W. Bro. Routley. On this occasion, with the exception of the Tyler, Bro. Howland, all the chairs were filled by acting officers.

In January, 1918, W. Bro. Nichols was again installed Wor. Master. At this meeting an interesting minute records that the Secretary read a communication from Grand Lodge approving the book of Music in the Lodge. It would appear that until now, the ruling of Grand Lodge in 1902, that all music other than the opening and closing odes was irregular, was still in force.

During the year a further six Canadian Officers were initiated in the Lodge and also two officers of the Royal Navy of the Airship Station, Capel.

An interesting note in the Prov. Grand Secretary's Report read at the October meeting states that all applications by members of the Canadian Forces are reported on by a Canadian Brother to Grand Lodge and only accepted after these precautions have been taken.

1919 – 1925. Rebuilding after the War

At the meeting of February, 1919, W. Bro. Frank Fletcher W.M., W. Bro. Percy Greenstreet was elected an Hon. Member and invested organist, an office he was to hold for many years to the great pleasure of the Brethren. The Lodge also agreed to contribute £5/5/0 to Temple Lodge towards the cost of a new organ.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Folkestone this year, under the Banners of Prince Edwin, Temple, Castle and Radnor Lodges.

In December, 1919, the W.M. being unavoidably absent, the Chair was occupied by W. Bro. A. J. Hall, a P.M. of Temple Lodge.

At the Installation of Bro. Palk as Wor. Master in January, 1920, the Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by the Prov. Grand Secretary, honoured the Lodge with his presence. W. Bro. Nichols having been appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, the W.M. in October, presented him with the Regalia as a Mark of appreciation of his services to the Lodge during the War.

At this meeting Bro. A. Atkinson, Jr., was elected, and welcomed as a Joining Member, he was at once appointed Acting Inner Guard, the first of many offices he was to hold in the

Lodge. And now, 35 years later, as Past Grand Deacon and an Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Province we are indebted to him for the unrivalled Masonic knowledge he always places at the service of the lodge.

At the meeting in March, 1921, matters of some moment were discussed. Bro. Arthur Atkinson, Inner Guard and acting Secretary present the Report of the Lodge Committee, which has been instructed to revise those of the Byelaws relating to Initiation and Joining Fees, annual subscriptions, and the remuneration of the Tyler. Their recommendations were discussed seriatim, and the new Byelaws, which were substantially those in force today, were adopted. The Committee had also set on foot enquiries to ascertain whether more suitable premises could be obtained for Lodge Suppers, which for many years had been held in the Masonic rooms. It was unanimously agreed that future Suppers should be at the Lyndhurst Hotel.

The Committee further instructed the Secretary to arrange for Red and White wine and whiskey to be served at supper, in place of beer and whiskey.

Bro. T. L. Kendrick was at this meeting raised to the Degree of a Master Mason, and the above discussion took place during his first retirement from the Lodge.

At the June meeting in the same year, W. Bro. Col. J. S. Dyke and W. Bro. Sillwood attended on behalf of the Founders of a new Lodge to be called the Shorncliffe Lodge. They explained the purpose of the new Lodge and asked the Radnor Lodge to sponsor it. The Lodge unanimously agreed to recommend Grand Lodge to grant the petition. The Shorncliffe Lodge was consecrated on November 10th, and at their first meeting the W.M. of Radnor Lodge was elected a perpetual Honorary Member.

In December, Bro. Lt.-Co. Arthur Atkinson was elected Master for the coming year, but owing to his illness in January, and continued indisposition in February, W. Bro. Worthington remained as Master for a further year.

In April, 1922, the Lodge welcomed as a Joining Member, Bro. G. P. Medlicott, later, in 1941, to be appointed Prov. Senior Grand Warden and to become known throughout the Province for his lectures on many aspects of Freemasonry.

It is a pleasure to record that W. Bro. Atkinson, having recovered from his illness, was installed Master in January, 1923.

In November, a Canadian Brother, G. A. Holman, who had been initiated in February, 1918, and was now living in Canada, rejoined the Lodge and it was resolved that Grand Lodge be asked to request the Grand Lodge of Alberta to permit York Lodge, No. 119, G. R. of Alberta, to confer the 2nd and 3rd Degrees on him.

1925 – 1939 Years of Progress

We now pass to 21st October, 1925, a memorable date in the history of Radnor Lodge.

The Lodge having been opened in the three Degrees, the Provincial Grand Master, the Rt. Worshipful Brother Colonel F.S. W. Cornwallis demanded admission, and having been received was saluted by the Brethren and thanked them for their fraternal greetings. Mr.

Francis Henry Mason was initiated by the Worshipful Master, and correspondence having been received, the Provincial Grand Master assumed the Chair and addressed W. Bro. A. E. Nichols in most impressive terms of eulogy on the service he had so long rendered as W. M. and as Secretary of this Lodge as well as those in connection with the Province of Kent and other Lodges.

He then presented W. Bro. Nichols with :

1. Past Secretary's Jewel given by this Lodge.
2. A Silver Salver given by, and engraved with the signatures of the Brethren.
3. Grand Chapter Regalia, given by the Companions of Radnor Chapter, 2587

1. Bro. Nichols was received with acclamation by the Brethren and made a

Touching reply.

The minutes of 1926, during the Mastership of W. Bro. Atkinson Jr., record matters of some interest.

At his Installation the W.M. recalled W. Bro. Nichols to office, this time a Director of Ceremonies.

In February, Bro. E. S. Colman, an E.A. of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374, Montreal, Canada, was elected a joining member and, at the request of St. Paul's Lodge passed to the 2nd Degree. The candidate's Mother Lodge is one of two in Canada, still on the Register of Grand Lodge of England.

In April, the P.G.M. again honoured the Lodge with his presence. The first 5 Sections of the First Lecture were worked and the P.G.M. offered his hearty congratulations on the work done.

In October, the last two Sections of the same Lecture were worked. The W.M. read a letter from the P.G.M. relative to Grand Lodge instructions regarding the consumption of intoxicating liquors in Lodge Rooms or adjoining premises. A characteristic note in the minutes by W. Bro. A. Atkinson, father of the W.M. reads, "The withers of this Lodge remain unwrung."

The Secretary reported that he had written congratulating the Prov. Grand Master on his investiture as Deputy Grand Master of England, and read Rt. W. Bro. Col. Cornwallis' letter of thanks to the Brethren.

At the Installation Meeting of Bro. T. L. Kendrick as Master, in January, 1927, The Lodge conveyed its congratulations to the P.G.M. on his elevation to the Peerage.

In April, W. Bro. Atkinson, Jr., I.P.M. read a paper on Masonic Certificates, much appreciated by the Brethren. At the October meeting, the W.M. vacated the Chair as favour of W. Bro. R. White, who then initiated his son, Harold Richard Curnow White now a Past Master and Secretary of the Lodge.

The unusually large number of Brethren present was undoubtedly a tribute alike to father and son.

At the Installation of Bro. W. J. Mason in January, 1928, W. Bro. W. F. Blay visited the Lodge, for the first time as Deputy Prov. Grand Master.

In February, 1929, W. Bro. Blay, D.P.G.M., again honoured the Lodge with his presence and on this occasion was accompanied by Rt. Wor. Bro. Viscount Folkestone, Junior Grand Warden of England.

In March, 1929, the Lodge having resolved to invest some of its Funds, Turstees were for the first time appointed. They were W. Bro. Medlicott, Bro. Rothwell, W. Bro. Atkinson, Jr., and Bro. H. R. C. White, and it is a pleasure to record that they are still active members of the Lodge.

In October, 1929, W. Bro. Atkinson, Jr. referred to the fact that the W.M. (W. Bro. G. P. Medlicott) had become the father of a Lewis on 19th June, and that a Christening Cup had been presented to his son from the Lodge to mark the happy event. A photograph of the cup is attached to the minutes.

30. Bro. Atkinson, Secretary, was welcomed back to Lodge in November, after his long illness and expressed his thanks to the Brethren for their kindness during that time, also for their congratulations and gift of regalia on his appointment as Senior Grand Warden of the Province for the year 1929-30.

Bro. F. H. Mason, thanks the Brethren for the Lodge's gift of a Silver Salver on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Elsie Atkinson daughter of the Secretary.

1. Bro. H. T. Catre de Lafontaine, P.G.D. a member of the Lodge, and Prestonian Lecturer, 1929-30, had promised to deliver a Lecture on "The Third Degree" but in his unavoidable absence, he had sent the text of the Lecture which was read by the W.M.

In October, 1930, the Lodge began to work Sections of the Lectures once more, and so much was this work appreciated by visiting Brethren that invitations were received from other Lodges who wished to hear them.

At Shorncliffe Lodge, 4330, in November, and later in February, 1931, at Lodge of Harmony, No. 133, Faversham, five sections of the First Lecture were worked. In all, fourteen Brethren took part in this work.

At the Installation of Bro. Rothwell as Master in January, 1931, Rt. Wor. Bro. Lord Cornwallis, Prov. Gd. Master, Deputy Grand Master of England, honoured the Lodge with his presence and was received in due form.

In April, the Lodge congratulated, and presented the appropriate Regalia to, W. Bro. A. Atkinson, Jr., on his appointment as Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, an office he was to fill with distinction for the next fifteen years.

This year the Lodge was one of the six inviting Lodges when Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Folkestone.

In November, the Lodge first used the V.S.L. presented by W. Bro Atkinson, Jr. The large volume presents by the Founders is now used only at Installation Meetings and bears the signature of each succeeding Master.

In December, 1932, the Lodge had to record with profound regret, the death of W. Bro. Arthur Atkinson, P.P.S.G.W., a Founder and Past Master of the Lodge.

Bro. A. Atkinson, Prov. G.D.C. reported that he had purchased, on behalf of the Lodge, certain benches from the old Grand Lodge.

At the Installation in January, 1933, of Bro. C. H. M. Brooke, as Master, the Prov. Grand Master again visited the Lodge and in the course of the evening present Grand Lodge Certificates to Bro. Godefroy and Bro. Rees.

New Collars and Jewels for the officers were purchase in March, and in April the Treasurer gave the report of Messrs. Toye and Co. on the condition of the Lodge Banner and it was resolved that a new Banner should be purchased at a cost of £29/10/0.

The Second Lecture was worked in November, by 10 Brethren, having previously been undertaken earlier in the month at the invitation of Lodge of Harmony, Faversham. Some of the Brethren present will, I hope, still remember this occasion when, in the course of working the Second Lecture, Bro. Horsnell, J.W., answered the questions of the Fourth Section and illustrated his answers with some very fine designs, he himself had drawn of the five noble Orders of Architecture.

In December, W. Bro. Culmer, Prov. Gd. Std. Br., of Lodge of Harmony, 133, read a paper entitled, "Cowan, Freeman and Freemason."

This was followed by two papers in 1934, the first by W. Bro. Lt.-General Farquhason, P.G.D.Eng., entitled, "Masonic Musings," and the second by Bro. L. P. de Costobadie tracing the origin of Freemasonry through the trade guilds and their possible connection with the colleges of the Roman workman.

In March, 1934, W. Bro. Blay, Dep. Prob. G.M. visited the Lodge and was received in due form.

The minutes record that in April, W. Bro. Atkinson, having explained the needy state of the Provincial Grand Officer' Mess, it was proposed and seconded that a grant not exceeding £3/3/0 be made towards the cost of tea on their forthcoming meeting at Folkestone. But the minutes do *not* record whether this resolution was passed unanimously, nem, con., by a majority, or not at all !

Bro. H. F. A. Horsnell, S.W., was installed Master in January, 1935. He will be remembered by many Brethren for his fine tenor voice, which he used to great effect, leading the Brethren in singing the odes in Lodge, and afterward to entertain them at Supper.

It was then the custom for Brethren to attend Lodge in evening dress. W. Bro. Horswell, no doubt with a thought of the dignity of his office, and to the delight of the Brethren, invariably arrived wearing an opera hat.

In March, 1935, the Lodge appeared in mourning, owing to the lamented death of W. Bro. A. E. Nichols, Director of Ceremonies Past Prov. Grand Warden.

New Byelaws were considered at the following Lodge and were formally adopted in October.

The Lodge also received the report of the Dining Committee, consisting of the Principal Officers, appointed at the previous December meeting. The Committee had been at some trouble to meet the wishes of the Brethren – they had visited nine hotels and dined at four, twice at one of them – and as a result of their reports, it was resolved that in future dinners should be at the Royal Pavilion Hotel.

In October, the Lodge recorded, with the deepest regret, the death of the M.W. Pro. Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Ampthill, and also that of the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, The Lord Cornwallis, Provincial Grand Master of Kent.

Rt. Wor. Bro. the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Courtown, Senior Grand Warden visited the Lodge and was received in due form.

At the November meeting of that year, the Lodge welcomed Brethren of Lodge of Harmony, 133, Faversham, who worked the Third Lecture, having first, at the request of the W.M., taken the offices and chairs of the Wardens and other officer ; the W.M. himself vacated his chair in favour of W. Bro. Hulgrave.

On the occasion of the initiation of Mr. A. F. Kirk in December, all the offices and chairs were, at the request of the W.M. taken by Past Masters of the Lodge.

In 1935, W. Bro. Richard White, Prob. S.G.W. was installed as Mayor of the Borough of Folkestone.

Amongst the correspondence read at the February meeting in 1936, was an account of a meeting of Lodge Jamrud, No. 4372, held at the village of Nahakki in Mohmand country, N.W. Frontier of India.

At the Installation, in January 1937, of Bro. H. Stainer as Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Lord Cornwallis, M.C., D.L., Past Grand Warden, (who, on 17th June, 1936, at Woolwich had been installed Provincial Grand Master of Kent, in succession to his late Father) entered the Lodge and was received in due form and saluted.

In October, of the same year, Bro. F. Howland, Tyler of the Lodge since 1917, intimated that, on account of ill health he would not seek re-election. Subsequently a large number of the Brethren subscribed to a joint Testimonial presented to Brother Howland by all the Lodges with which he had been connected. In March following, Bro. Howland was welcomed in Lodge by the W.M. and expressed his appreciation of the gift by the Brethren.

The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, W.Bro. Blay, visited the Lodge on this occasion, and the work of the Third Lecture was given by six Brethren.

In April, the W.M. W. Bro. F. H. Mason, read a paper entitled "A Survey of Masonic Research" prepared by W. Bro. Vibert, P.A.G.D.C. Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076.

1. Bro. Westron, P.P.G.W., of the United Industries Lodge No. 31, read a paper at the October meeting on "Masonic History, Ritual, Clothing and Certificates with special allusion to the Provincial Library Museum."

A further paper in November, this time by W. Bro. Medlicott, D.C., on "Freemasonry and the Law" was received by the Brethren with considerable interest.

In December the question of the venue of Lodge Suppers once more came up for consideration and it was agreed that in future these should be at the Queen's Hotel.

1939 – 1945 SECOND WORLD WAR

The Second World War, commencing in 1939, seriously affected all Lodges in East Kent, but, with its rather smaller membership it brought a crisis in Radnor Lodge similar in many respects to that of 1914.

Two candidates, Bros, Merewether and Beaugie, were initiated in February, 1940, passed in March and raised in April, and from then until November, 1945, there were no further candidates.

Nevertheless, though no ceremonies were worked, there were many meetings, which provided interest for those Brethren able to attend. Papers were read on various aspects of Freemasonry. Several of these were selected from W. Bro. Atkinson's extensive Masonic Library. Others by W. Bro. Medlicott on "Masonry and its Morals" and "Masonry and the Crisis" ; by W. Bro. Greenstreet comparing Emulation with an old Ritual, were of particular interest at this time.

As in the First War, with so many Brethren absent on Military service or other Government duties, successive Masters received invaluable help from the Senior Past Masters, and it is difficult to think how the Lodge could possibly have carried on without their ready assistance in filling nearly all of the offices in those years ; indeed sometimes in a dual capacity, as did the Director of Ceremonies on one occasion that of Inner Guard and the Organist as Junior Deacon, and on another the Treasurer presented his accounts from the Senior Warden's Chair.

1945 – 1955

The Lodge reached its Jubilee in 1945, and the occasion was marked in January, 1946, when a paper was read by W. Bro. Richard Hall on the fifty years history of the Lodge, and a cheque for fifty guineas was presented to the Assistant Prov. Grand Master, W. Bro. Noble, as a special donation from the Lodge to 1950 Festival of the R.M.B.O., which he accepted on behalf of the Deputy P.G.M. W. Bro. Blay. At this meeting, W. Bro. Engr. Rear Admiral L. J. Stephens, R.N., C.B.E., J.P., Past Assistant Grand Supt. Of Works, Past Prov. Gd. Steward, was installed Master, and it is with particular pleasure we record that in 1855, the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master honoured W. Bro. Stephens by promoting him to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

1. Bro. Richard Hall having become the father of a Lewis, was, at the dinner following the November meeting, presented with a silver christening cup by the Wor. Master with the hearty congratulations and good wishes of the Brethren.

At the Installation in 1947, the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Prince, in investing the Tyler handed over a Sword, formerly the property of the late W. Bro. Lt.-Col. Atkinson, P.P.S.G.W. Kent, a founder and Past Master of the Lodge and referred to the fact that the sword had been presented to the Lodge in memory of the late W. Bro. Atkinson by his widow and expressed the appreciation of the Brethren for the gift.

In December of the same year, W. Bro. Carswell and four Brethren attended the Lodge and requested that the Radnor Lodge would sponsor an application for the formation of a new Lodge to be called The Valley of Elham Lodge. The Lodge signified its pleasure to do so, and the petition was signed by the Wor. Master and Wardens.

At the Installation in January, 1948, the W.M., when thanking the retiring officers for their services, paid a special tribute to W. Bro. Medicott who that evening had completed 25 years unbroken service as an officer.

In February, 1949, an item in the minutes record the rare presentation of a Grand Lodge Fellowcraft Certificate by W. Bro. Stephens to Bro. Rev. J. C. Gethin-Jones. During the next few years the Lodge welcomed many joining members and initiates but time was found for several interesting papers, notably in April, 1949, by W. Bro. Pope, P.P.G.Stwd. of the Royal Military Lodge, Canterbury and a member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge on "Freemasonry in Iceland" prepared by himself and Bro. Loftson, Deputy Master of Edda Lodge, Reykjavik. Bro. S. H. Morris followed with an account of a visit he had paid to a Lodge in Iceland during the War.

In October, 1950, W. Bro. Medicott repeated his paper on "Masonry and its Morals." At this meeting for the first time a film was shown during the course of the evening: "As the polished Corners of the Temple" dealing with life in the Royal Masonic Institute for Girls.

Again in April, 1951, we were indebted to W. Bro. Pope, now P.P.G.D. for another paper, and this time on "Oaths and Penalties." In this year, the subscription, which had remained at £2/2/0 for many years, was raised to £3/3/0 to meet increasing expenses.

In February, 1952, the Lodge had the pleasure of listening to the work for four Sections of the Second Lecture, undertaken by eight Brethren of Temple Lodge.

The Lodge received an appeal for funds from the Royal Masonic Hospital and with very generous response of the Brethren the Lodge was able to send £57/10/0 in an answer to the appeal.

April, 1953, marked the 400th Regular Meeting of the Lodge and the Secretary, W. Bro. White reads extracts from the 100th, 200th and 300th Regular meetings. This was also the 25th anniversary of W. Bro. White's initiation, and the W.M. expressed the thanks of the Lodge for the handsome gift of a pen and ink stand which W. Bro. White had made to mark the occasion.

The custom of presenting a Past Master's Jewel was discontinued in the early years of the war and was now revived in October, 1953, when nine Past Masters were presented with their Jewel.

The Brethren again had for their consideration the report on finances by the Lodge Committee. The special fund, started in 1923 by W. Bro. Col. Worthington and for the first three years build up by individual subscriptions and from then until 1939 credited with half the initiation and joining fees, not had invested funds of £500. The Fund was not earmarked for any specific purpose and in November, 1953 it was resolved to transfer £300 War Stock to the Charity Fund.

1. Bro. Baden Fuller devoted considerable time during this, his year as Master, to Masonic research, and read two most interesting papers in Lodge. The first on Masonic "Fire" and "Firing" – whence it came and what it means and later on "The Development of the Degrees of Masonry," both of which were much appreciated by the Brethren.

His example was following in April, 1954, by his successor, W. Bro. Lt.-Col. Mansell with a paper on "Some differences between Scottish and English Masonry," and by W. Bro. Prince, Prov. D.G.D.C. on "Some thoughts for young masons." W. Bro. Redhouse, P.P.S.G.D. sent a copy of the proceeding of an informal Masonic meeting held on board R.M.M.V. "Athlone Castle" at sea which he had attended and which was presided over by Rt. W. Bro. Major-General Sir Allan Adair, Asst. Grand Master.

Two other papers were read during 1954, the first, another by W. Bro. Pope, now P.P.G.R., on "The Province in the 19th Century" and the second by W. Bro. R. A. Darney, Prov. G.Stwd. on "The Significance of Lodge Badges in the County of Kent" which he illustrated with lantern slides.

The Lodge has always generously supported the great Masonic Charities and in those years in which the Provincial Grand Master of Kent has presided has subscribed to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution £672, to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys £870, to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls £1,045.

No account of Radnor Lodge would be complete without some reference to those informal meetings started many years ago and first held, by the kindness of W. Bro. Kendrick and W. Bro. Atkinson at 8 Cheriton Place, later, at the invitation of W. Bro. Medlicott at Bouverie Chambers, and now under the roof of our Secretary, W. Bro. White. These meetings, usually held some ten days before the Lodge, were as its name implies quite formal. The ceremony at the forthcoming Lodge was gone through, though with this concession to the officers that books were not forbidden. During the thirties and probably earlier it was the invariable custom to work the ceremony of "calling off" when the Brethren took refreshment, a glass of port cost sixpence, for which Bro. Kendrick acted as Treasurer and Steward. These meetings provided an opportunity for discussion over a wide range of Masonic ritual and procedure, particularly when joining members were present, with experience of variations of working in other Lodges. No minutes were kept, but from time to time anonymous reports of the Brethren. These meetings were, and are, a valuable part of the life of Radnor Lodge. On the succeeding pages will be found some "Notes on the Lodge of Obstruction" by "P.M.", one of the grand originals.

Very early in the Lodge history, in November, 1897, on the petition, no doubt, of many of the same Brethren who founded the Lodge, the Radnor Chapter, No. 2587, was consecrated, and we look forward to the occasion, in two years time, when its Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated. Now, as then, it offers to the Brethren the opportunity to continue and complete their Masonic knowledge by becoming Companions of the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch.

Such is the history of Radnor Lodge, and present members may take pride that the spirit of their Masonic forefathers is still maintained, and that on the foundation laid sixty years ago, a superstructure is being built, we trust perfect in its parts and honourable to the builders.

May we, and our successors in the years to come, continue to cultivate brotherly love, the foundation and cope-stone, the cement and glory of this Antient Fraternity.

Some Notes on the Lodge of Obstruction

The “Radnor Lodge of Obstruction” came into being in the early 1920’s. Radnor Lodge was almost destroyed by the impact of the first world war. Its meeting place, the West Cliff Hotel (now known as the Majestic) was commandeered at short notice to become a Canadian Military Hospital, and the Lodge’s furniture and fittings were literally heaved out in the street. Three portraits only (of the then late Lord Amhurst , and of W. Bros. Col. Daniels and A. Oake) were eventually found in a cellar, and the large V.S.L. later reappeared from Messrs. Brooke’s wine vaults. A few other odds and ends were salvaged by the Secretary.

After hostilities ceased the Lodge was held together by an “Old Guard” –of whom W. Bro. A. E. Nichols was the chief, but mention should be made of W. Bro. E. T. Ward (then our Provincial Grand Treasurer), Henry Brooke, John Creery, Major H. R. J. Willis, Col. C. H. L. Palk and the Rev. J. E. Player, who attended regularly and with the help of the brethren of Temple Lodge 558 – of whom W. Bro. S. W. Harrison was prominent – the Lodge attracted some joining members such as W. Bro. R. White, F. Fletcher and others and kept its head just above water, The encouragement of the late W. Bro. John White (then the Deputy P.G. Master of Kent) who joined the Lodge and rarely missed visiting us at least once a year, encouraged the survivors to hold together and await better times.

Even so, attendances were small at the regular meetings and by 1920 if 12 or 15 brethren (including guests) sat down to supper after Lodge it was considered a good meeting.

1. Bro. Nichols (“upon whom be the Peace and the Blessing, for he was great-hearted”) began to look round for younger members, and in a few years there was a band of half a dozen or more young masons who had joined or been initiated in the Lodge, and were feeling that it was time to put the Lodge back on the Masonic map as a live and vigorous entity. Most of these brethren have long since reached heights which would have scared them cold in these early days of their Masonic lives.

The idea of a few meeting together regularly to learn and rehearse the ritual and improve the general standard of the work was mooted, and these gatherings were held in a rather bare and scruffy upper room of a solicitor’s office.

1. Bro. A. E. Nichols and C. C. Roberts – both Provincial Officers – encouraged the youngsters, and acted as unofficial preceptors and guides. No praise can be too high

for the work and time these two brethren gave. The masons they had to lick into shape were of an inquiring turn of mind, and not only wanted to know “how” but also “why” of many things, which of course, gave rise to many most interesting discussions from time to time.

From the first it was taken for granted that the work should be approached not only in earnest, but joyously and with gusto. So our proceedings were rather Gilbertian at times – for example, if any Brother arrived late, he was received as a Grand Officer, escorted in, saluted and made to reply in character.

One morning there was found in the letter box a typed screed headed “Minutes of the Radnor Lodge of Obstruction” which contained a very humorous account of all that had taken place at the last meeting. The author was unknown, but the comments were so witty and amusing that everyone hoped they would appear regularly – nor were they disappointed. These “Minutes” used to be called for at the supper table after regular meetings of the Lodge – and were a popular “turn” (in those days we had musicians and singers amongst us). They were quite irreverent to high rank or newly initiated brethren – all alike were treated to the searching ray, of good tampered humour and leg-pulling.

This undoubtedly led to a realisation that masonry had not only a serious but a joyous side, and while we sharpened our wits at each other’s expense, we yet strove to improve not only the rendering of the ceremonies in the Lodge, but our knowledge of masonry in general.

The meetings began at 8 p.m. About 9 p.m. we “called off” and at 9.15 p.m. “called on” – having absorbed a glass of port in the interim. We closed at 10 p.m.

The “Minutes” continued for some years – not always by the same hand – and they were collected and kept in a file. I recall a few extracts : –

During the Coal strike . . . “Bro. Downing was observed to have seated himself near the coal scuttle and surreptitiously to have stuffed his pockets with coal during the course of the evening.”

A Bro. in the Territorial Army who came in uniform straight from a parade. “. . . Among those present was Bro. Hobbs disguised as an officer and a gentleman.”

Bro. Medicott arrived in a new suit.

“. . . I hope you like my new suit I’m wearing,” said he.

“Don’t say wearing – say ‘put on’” was the instant reply by W. Bro. Harrison.

A discussion on knocks :-

“Bro. Medicott enlightened the Brethren on the Medicott Theory of Echoes.”

Another Bro. talked of methods of learning the ritual, with a diagram :- “Bro. Atkinson produced and tried to explain the plans of the proposed Bathing Pool.”

A Bro. taking a candidate to the pedestal by the proper steps : “Bro. Downing demonstrated how the horse Tishy lost the 3.30.”

These are random recollections of the style these minutes affected.

But Radnor Lodge is nothing if not orthodox. King Solomon lost something, so Radnor faithfully follows and has also lost some secrets – The file was lent to some Brother just before the outbreak of war, and with that outbreak and the scattering abroad of so many of the Lodge members once again, these minutes are lost.

Let us hope that some day, time or circumstances may restore the genuine.

Meanwhile, I doubt whether these proceedings have any right to be referred to in the official records – the whole business was *unofficial* – and “off the record.”

PAST MASTERS IN THE LODGE

Bro. A. Atkinson P.M. “Old Dovorian” Lodge, No. 5647

W.Bro. A. L. Barrett P.M. “Old Bradfordian” Lodge, No. 4732

Rt. W. Bro. The Earl of Radnor P.M. “Radnor” Lodge No. 4451

Bro. A. L. A. Edwards P.M. “Old Bradfield” Lodge, No. 3549

Bro A. H. W. Fynmore P.M. “London Country and Westminster Bank” Lodge, No. 3647

Bro. H. W. Guichard P.M. “Caveac” Lodge, No. 176

Bro. D. Hasson P.M. “Assiduity” Lodge, No. 4844

Bro. W. G. Holland P.M. “Manor” Lodge, No. 3322

Bro. A. H. Hornby P.M. “Old Wykehamist” Lodge, No. 3548

Bro. P. E. Jackson P.M. “Bexhill Lodge” No. 4898

Bro. H. O. Joyce P.M. “Foreland” Lodge, No. 3209

Bro. R. Mansell P.M. “Old Oundelian” Lodge, No, 5682

Bro. I. B. Morris P.M. “Caterham” Lodge, No. 2095

Bro. A. Pain P.M. “Middlesex Hospital” Lodge, No. 2843

Bro. R. O. Smyth P.M. “Salopian” Lodge, No. 262

Bro. L. J. Stephens P.M. "Phoenix" Lodge, No. 257

Bro. E. F. Webb P.M. "Temple" Lodge, No. 558

FOUNDERS

W. Bro. the Right Hon. The Earl of Radnor, Prov. Grand Master, Wilts

Bro. Viscount Folkestone, 778

Bro. Lt.-Col. W. Keily Westropp, P.M., 2195

Bro. Lt.-Col. C. J. Hamilton, W.M., 2195

Bro. Rev. J. E. Player, 558, P.M. 2237, P.G., Chap. Kent: P.P.G.C., Norfolk

Bro. Capt. C. Miller Layton, P.M., 200, P.P.S.G.W., Herts

Bro. Frederic Hall, P.M., 709, 558, P.P.G. Reg. Kent

Bro. W. Chubbs, M.R.C.S., P.M., 1436

Bro. R. Ritchie, P.M., 171

Bro. A. J. De Butts, L.S.A., S.D., 2195, 558

Bro. E. T. Ward, J.P., 284

Bro. Lt.-Gen. Sir J. Bevan Edwards, K.C.M.G., C.B., 712

Bro. Major-Gen. E. A. Wood, C.B., 349

Bro. Lt.-Col. G. H. O'Malley, 278, P.P.G. St. Br., Gibraltar

Bro. A. H. Gardner, 558

Bro. Rev. Claude Bosanquet, M.A., 558

Bro. Lt.-Col. F. A. Hutchins, 705

Bro. Brig.-Surgeon E. D. Tomlinson, M.D., 705

Bro. A. Atkinson, 558

Bro. Rev. Denman Dean 558

Bro. Lt.-Gen. Boldero, C.B., 515

Bro. C. A. P. Osburne, F.R.C.S., Edin., J.W., 125

Bro. C. E. Fitzgerald, M.D., 558

Bro. Capt. Lafone, J.D., 1665

LIST OF OFFICERS, 1955

W.M. W. Bro. Richard Aubrey Elston, B.SC.

I.P.M. W. Bro. Lt.-Col. Ralph Mansell, P.M., L.G.R.

S.W. Bro. George Garnett Ellis, T.D., M.A., L.D.S.

J.W. Bro. Kenneth Noel Goring Foster

Treasurer W. Bro. Robert Cecil Powell, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.

Secretary W. Bro. Harold Richard Curnow White, T.D., J.P., P.M.

D.C. W. Bro. Henry Osborne MacCabe Merewether, O.B.E. F.R.C.S., P.M.

S.D. Bro. Douglas Hugh Nelson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R. & E.

J.D. Bro. David Henry Mills, M.D., CH.B.

A.D.C. W. Bro. Alfred Ormerod Sutcliffe, L.D.S., P.M.

Asst. Secretary W. Bro. Matthew Norton Denney, L.D.S., P.M.

I.G. Bro. Herbert George Murphy

Stewards Bro. Ronald Archibald Heighton

Bro. William Donald, M.C.

Bro. Peter John Fynmore

Bro. John Alan Harvey Richards

Tyler Bro. Reginald George Savage

1955 – 1995

In February 1955 preparations were put in hand to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, and amongst those to be invited were the P.G.M., the P.G.M. of Derbyshire, Brigadier General E.C.W.D. Walthall, an initiate of the Lodge, and Lord Radnor. The normal dinner fee at this time was 10 shillings (50p) but it was subsequently decided to charge 25 shillings (£1.25) for the Jubilee Meeting.

The Diamond Jubilee Meeting was held on December 14th 1955, the menu at the Festive Board being the same as that at the Consecration. Lord Cornwallis the P.G.M. was present and the Master of Temple Lodge presented the Lodge with a Square and Compasses, still in use today, on the V.S.L.

At the Installation Meeting in January 1956, the P.G.M. Rt.W.Bro. the Lord Cornwallis K.B.E. M.C. Past Grand Warden, was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge as was Rt. W.Bro. Brigadier General Walthall.

On September 20th 1956 there was a unique joint meeting with Temple Lodge 558, the W.M.s being George H. Stone of Temple and George G. Ellis of Radnor.

The Ancient Charges were recited and the presentation by the P.G.M. of a portrait of W.Bro. Arthur Atkinson, still to be seen on the stairs of the temple at Grace Hill. This took place in the presence of seven members of the Executive, and a total of eighty five Brethren. W.Bro. Atkinson had been initiated into Temple Lodge in 1919, and became a Joining Member of Radnor in 1920, W.M. of Radnor in 1926, Prob. Grand D.C. from 1931-1946, and an Ass. P.G.M. from 1946-56. In November 1956 Bro. H.L.M. Butcher joined, he had served as British Resident in Benin in Nigeria, and was later to be W.M. and a Secretary of the Lodge.

In November 1957 Bro. P. J. Fynmore gave his father's apologies, the meeting being the 50th anniversary of his joining Radnor, and he presented a steward's Collar on his behalf.

In November 1958 Bro. Giles G. Herman, Manager of the Midland Bank, joined, and he was later to second W.Bro. Peter Eagle-Bott's application for Initiation (despite having been his father's bank manager in Bideford).

W.Bro. G. P. Medlicott died in 1959; mention of his funeral being made at the November meeting. This meeting was noteworthy; opening late due to the Brethren being locked out of the Temple, there were thirty apologies, of which two members were in hospital, fifteen ill, and four on duty!

At a committee meeting on March 6th 1961 it was agreed that the subscription should go up to £5.50 (£5.25). At the same time the Treasurer reported that members were having to pay extra for whisky and he considered that any Brother should have what he wanted apparently irrespective of the charge levied!

In September 1962 discussions had been initiated for the purchase of the Temple from the existing Folkestone Masonic Hall Company by the 9 Lodges and Chapters etc. meeting there, and this later proceeded, a new company ultimately being formed for this purpose.

In November 1962 the initiation of W.Bro. Peter Eagle-Bott by W.Bro P. J. Fynmore was marked by an excessively low temperature in the Temple to the detriment of the candidate.

At a committee meeting in 1963 it was resolved to continue dining at the Grand, but that henceforth the Lodge Stewards would pour the wine and not the hotel waiters, so clearly attempts were being made to "keep an eye on Lodge expenses at refreshment".

The Ancient Charges were recited by 9 Brethren of the Lodge at the February 1967 meeting.

At a Committee meeting on April 19th 1967 concern was expressed that in 17 years there had only been 7 initiates and 7 joining members.

A new V.S.L. was presented anonymously to the Lodge in November 1967; was blessed by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro. the Reverend Gethin Jones.

At the February 1968 meeting, the W.M. W.Bro. Lt.Col R. P. Dent gave a lecture entitled "The entry of an important dignitary into Freemasonry" relating to the initiation, passing, and raising in one evening of the Amir of Afghanistan Habibullah Khan in 1907 into Lodge Concordia No. 3012 in Calcutta. Dispensation for this was given by the Grand Master the Duke of Connaught who was fortunately on a visit to Ceylon at the time. This had to be done in great secrecy, and a translation into Persian was carried out by Colonel McMahon who acted as J.D. in the first, and as S.D. in the second and third degrees and interpreted throughout. The Koran used in the obligations is now in the library at the Grand Lodge of England. Later the Amir proved an invaluable ally to this country during the course of the First World War and regrettably he was assassinated after the war.

The 500th regular meeting of the Lodge took place on October 15th 1969. the Lodge was honoured on this occasion by the presence of (as an honorary member) the Rt.W.P.G.M. the Lord Cornwallis accompanied by W.Bro. Sir James Ritchie Bt. And W.Bro. F. W. Friday, Ass. Prov. Grand Masters together with 9 other Grand Officers, 28 Officers of Kent Provincial Grand Lodge and other Provinces, 8 Masters of other Lodges – a total of 80 being present.

The W.M. W.Bro. Peter Eagle- Bott passed Bro. Ivor Wilson who was permitted to sit during the Second Tracing Board due to his having suffered illness since his initiation in March. New collars and re-plated jewels were worn by all officers. The dinner was held at the East Cliff Pavilion.

In March 1973 the death was announced of W.Bro. Arthur Atkinson.

At the Installation in January 1975 Brother Reg Savage retired after serving the Lodge for 27 years as Tyler, to be succeeded by Bro. Frank Andrew (who will complete 21 years by January 1996).

In March 1977, three Gavels inscribed "To the Assiniboine Lodge No. 114 from Radnor Lodge No. 2587 Folkestone with fraternal greetings" were sent to the Assiniboine Lodge of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. This celebrated the presentation of three similar Gavels to Radnor by the Canadian Lodge during the First World War sixty years previously.

It is understood that in Canada in May 1977 the Gavels were presented to the Assiniboine Lodge whilst it was called off in the presence of wives, families and friends.

In January 1978 W.Bro. David Rhydderch was installed as W.M. with the benefit of a dispensation from Grand Lodge as his period of office as W.M. of Corinthian Lodge No. 1208 in Dover had not quite expired. 1979 was marked by W.Bro. the Rev. Louis Baycock becoming Provincial Asst. Grand Chaplain. At the meeting in March 1980 there were 2 Initiates and 2 Ceremonies were worked – one at 3.00pm by the Regular Officers, and one at 5.30pm by the Past Masters. W.Bro. Cecil Scarman – Charity Steward was congratulated

because the Lodge Target for the 1980 Festival of £4000 had been exceeded by £900. Ten members had attended the Festival Dinner at Margate.

In October 1980 the Lodge learned of the Promotion of W.Bro. Peter Fynmore to Grand Rank. At the same meeting the Lodge congratulated W.Bro. John Snow and his team on successfully winning the Provincial Golf Tournament.

During the years 1985-86 four brethren of other Lodges were passed to the Second Degree.

Bro. Dennis Adams was initiated on November 19th 1986. Sadly he died suddenly in January 1989 leaving a young widow with three children. The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was educated these children, and supported the family Our Almoner, at that time, W.Bro. John Morgan and his wife took a very keen and kindly personal interest in the family.

In February 1986 W.Bro. R. A. (Ronnie) Heighton celebrated 50 years of membership.

At the February 1987 meeting the brethren responded to the Herald of Free Enterprise Ferry disaster with a record collection in the Charity Bag for the Relief Fund.

On October 21st 1987, the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the P.G.M. Rt.W.Bro. Andrew Porter. The chief reason for the visit was to congratulate W.Bro. H. R. C. (Dicky) White J.P., on his many years of service to the Lodge since he was initiated 60 years previously in October 1927 (W.Bro. White died on October 20th 1990).

In January 1988 the Lodge learned with great enthusiasm of the appointment of W.Bro. Peter. J. Fynmore as Assistant P.G.M. in the Province of Sussex.

In February 1988 the Lodge numbers were greatly reduced in attendance. Only 10 were present, and 8 dined in the Committee Room.

In October 1991 the Lodge suffered the loss of W.Bro. K.A.L. Hill O.B.E. who had been a joining the member since January 1975. He died aged 92 having been a Freemason for 70 years. He had participated in a Past Masters Meeting when aged 90.

In January 1992 the Installation Meeting was held on a Saturday, as W.Bro. John Baker, London Grand Rank, was installed as W.M. and a considerable number of London brethren came to support him.

Although Lodge Numbers were, toward the end of the period concerned, only approximately 23, the members were pleased and proud to achieve their target of £10,000 for the 1992 Festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

During this year W.Bro. the Rev. Louis Baycock was appointed Prov. Grand Chaplain for Devon and received Grand Rank as Past Ass. Grand Chaplain.

In October 1994 Grand Lodge gave permission for the Lodge to celebrate its Centenary after December 11th 1995, and permission to wear a centenary jewel from that date.

January 17th 1996 the Centenary meeting. Our W.M. in Centenary Year is W.Bro. David Rhydderch, an old Masonian, who has already served the Lodge in that capacity twice before,

in 1978 and 1985, and who has been Lodge Secretary for the past 10 years. As a student at London University he wrote on the subject of King Solomon's Temple for his thesis for his Teaching Diploma. He has given unstinting service to the Lodge since becoming a Joining Member in January 1971.

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 1996-1997

W.M W.Bro.D. M. Rhydderch, P.P.G., Supt. Wks

I.P.M W.Bro. M. C. R. Wood, P.M.

S.W. W.Bro. R. G. Stokes, P.M.

J.W. W.Bro. J. A. Baker, P.M., L.G.R.

Chaplain W.Bro. W. R. Hignett, P.M., P.P.G., Purs

Treasurer W.Bro. Catling, P.M. P.P.S.G.D.

Secretary W.Bro. R. H. H. Stokes, J.P., P.M., P.Pr. Dept G. Reg

D.C. W.Bro. McMillan, P.M., P.G., St.Br., P.P.S.G.W.

Almoner W.Bro. P.H. Eagle-Bott, P.M., P.P.G. Swd. Br

Charity Steward W.Bro. R. G. Stokes, P.M.

Senior Deacon Bro. G. O'Brien

Junior Deacon Bro. M. Lawrence

A.D.C. W.Bro. I. Wilson, P.P. Dept. G.Reg

Ass. Secretary Bro. C. A. Wicks

Inner Guard Bro. P. Stapley

Stewards Bro. R. D. A. Coxon

Bro. C. Aitkin

Bro. R. Maggs

Bro. D. E. Moore

Tyler Bro. F. Andrews, P.P.A.G. Purs