

The Plumblin

MAY 2020



NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER

The Fifteenth Lodge Of Ireland V.W.Bro. John Wolfe

John was initiated into the Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland at an emergency meeting held on 17th May 1949 and may have been one of the first Masons initiated in Ireland after the declaration of the Irish Republic.

Masonic Mileposts

John was Installed Master of the Lodge on 5th January 1967 and was appointed Provincial Grand Lodge Sword Bearer in 1969. He was the lodge representative on the Provincial Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes from 1969 to 1976.

John joined Royal Arch Chapter No.84 in 1966 and was installed as First Principal Officer, as the Excellent King was then titled, in 1973. He joined the Council of Knight Masons in 1969 and was installed as Excellent Chief in 1976, and served forty years in the Council. He is also a life Governor of the Victoria Jubilee Annuity Fund.

John attended regularly in Lodge in Skibbereen until recently when he suffered a setback following surgery last autumn, but I am pleased to say he is making a good recovery. It is through the dedication of brethren such as John that The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland is still in existence and is now a thriving lodge with a number of new and potential members.

For many years, John was the manager of Irish International Trading Company in Rocksavage, Cork, which was where I first met him when I came to work in Cork in 1968. His main sporting interest was rugby and when he retired from playing, he kept up his interest as a referee and was president of the Munster Branch of the Rugby Referees of Ireland. He is a founder member of the reconstitut-



V. W. Bro. Dermod O'Brien, Lodge Almoner The Fifteenth Lodge Of Ireland presenting the 70 years certificate to V. W. Bro. John Wolfe at his home.

ed Skibbereen Rugby Club which he helped to establish in 1951, and was captain of the team for a number of seasons. A keen Badminton player, he regularly played in the Parochial Hall in Skibbereen.

On Sunday 1st March V. W. Bro. Dermod O'Brien, Lodge Almoner, visited John and his wife Jean (nee Hosford) at home and presented John with his Platinum Certificate for serving 70 years in Craft Masonry.

At a regular communication of Provincial Grand Lodge on Wednesday 4th March, R.W.Bro. Leslie Deane, Provincial Grand Master announced that he had awarded V. W. Bro. John Wolfe with the title of Honorary Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Report by V. W. Bro. Dermod O'Brien, Lodge Almoner

Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster



Freemasons' Hall,
27 Tuckey Street
Cork

May 2020

Dear Brother

I am writing this letter to all members of the Masonic Order in the Province of Munster to let you know that I am thinking of you all in this difficult time. As you are all aware all Masonic Meetings have been postponed until September.

However, it is essential now, more than ever, that we truly exercise the fraternity that binds us all together. In the obligation of the First degree we learned of the 24" gauge, what it implies masonically to us, and what it morally obligates us to do:

"The 24" Gauge represents the 24 hours of the day, part to be spent in prayer to Almighty God, part in labour and refreshment and part in serving a friend or Brother in time of need without detriment to ourselves or our own connections."

Members and their families are facing uncertain times as the coronavirus COVID-19 takes hold. Members who you may think are alright might be struggling; they may have lost their job; they may have had to self-isolate; a loved one may have Covid-19; they themselves may have the virus; they may be depressed or anxious; they may be lonely.

In these trying times, each member has now more than ever got to be aware of the needs of others in their Lodge.

Over the last week all Lodges have been very proactive and set up WhatsApp groups to help alleviate the stress and isolation we are all experiencing, and this is to be encouraged, remembering at all times that it is incumbent on us all to observe the guidelines set out by the HSE, and we should be cautious in forwarding medical advice through the forum of social media.

However, as I have personally experienced, there is nothing like a phone call and to hear a friendly voice at the other end of the phone. Not all members have access to social media and there are many that would welcome a friendly voice with practical help, i.e. grocery shopping, or collecting a prescription from the pharmacy.

I would encourage all members who are able, to try and make contact by phone with members of your Lodge and also to make contact with the widows of Members that have passed to the Grand Lodge above.

W Bro Brownlow, PGL Almoner, has earlier this week been in contact with each lodge almoner, but this must surely be a time for us all to be almoners and to reach out by phone to other members.

Every good wish and stay safe.

Yours sincerely & fraternally

Leslie Deane
PGM Munster



The Grand Lodge Of Freemasons Of Ireland Donates €75,000 To Three Charities To Support Response To COVID-19

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland Douglas T. Grey announced a donation of €75,000 to support the response to

Simon Communities

To help relieve the current situation due to COVID 19, they are immediately giving €75,000 from their Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland 'Vision 2020' Grand Master's Festival campaign which is a campaign to raise over €700,000 to be donated to Simon Communities of Ireland, Simon Community Northern Ireland, Médecins Sans Frontières and the RNLI charities. Various fundraising events have been held to raise fund including BBQ's, Auctions, Raffles, Gala Dinners and Race Nights to mention a few.

The support of €25,000 to Simon Communities of Ireland, €25,000 to the Simon Community Northern Ireland and €25,000 to Médecins Sans Frontières will assist with their frontline work. The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland, a fraternal Order is a non-political and non-religious organisation, where members enjoy the social aspects of a club while aiming to become better people through moral instruction and charitable work.

Simon Communities of Ireland provide the best possible care, accommodation and support for people, throughout Ireland experiencing homelessness and those at risk from that situation.

MSF medical teams act fast to save peoples' lives in conflict zones, natural disasters and epidemics. They go where they are needed most. MSF offer humanitarian assistance to people based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender, or political affiliation. They work to save lives, alleviate suffering and restore dignity.

Jennifer Kitson, National Partnerships

Development Manager, Simon Communities of Ireland on the impact of the Freemasons Support: "The measures we are putting in place, in line with



HSE guidance, are placing considerable strain on the resources we currently have. Personal Protective Equipment, extra personnel, medical supplies and much more are required

in order for us to best to tackle COVID-19 within our services. The generous support of the Freemasons of Ireland will be vital in helping us protect the health and wellbeing of our people by providing most needed equipment and supplies so we may continue to respond in order to meet this evolving challenge." Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. Its roots lie in the traditions and ceremonies of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles. Some rituals are still celebrated today.

Jim Dennison, Chief Executive at Simon Community Northern Ireland, praised the generous donation saying:

"Our charity is in unprecedented waters and, at a time when we're unable to fundraise in the traditional ways, we are increasing homelessness accommodation budgets to provide additional staff, cleaning materials, PPE items and food. This incredibly thoughtful and generous donation will go a long way to providing some breathing space for the charity as it continues to keep services open, support vulnerable clients and assist dedicated frontline staff. From everyone at Simon Community, thank you to Freemasons of Ireland, for such a wonderful gift and for their continued support."

Audrey Jones, Head of Fundraising at MSF on the generous support:

"MSF is extremely appreciative of the generous support from the Freemasons for our COVID-19 Crisis Fund. It is especially important for the vulnerable communities we work with in over 70 countries worldwide. We cannot continue our response to emergencies such as this pandemic without the generosity of the public and organisations like the Freemasons."

The Munster Masonic Swords Collection: I: Freemasons' Hall, Cork

A visitor to the Lodge Room at Freemasons' Hall, Tuckey cannot fail to be impressed by the drama of the hanging banners, the elaborate canopied stalls and lastly, the array of swords, one in each stall.

On my first visit, about 1984, visiting Harmony Lodge 67 (W. Bro. Robert Brennan, my great-grandfather was a member, when it met in Bantry) and as a relative newcomer to the study and collecting of swords, I was immediately transported to a different world.

Since that eventful first visit, my knowledge of both subjects has expanded somewhat. I was fortunate to discuss my interest in cataloguing the swords of the Masonic Province of Munster with W. Bro. David Butler, Provincial Grand Librarian/Archivist, who kindly invited me to come and take a closer look and offer conservation advice, as part of my cataloguing process.

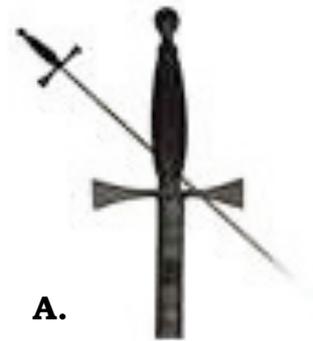
The majority of the Munster swords are standard Masonic Knight Templar Preceptory, regular Infantry Officer Swords, or remounted blades pressed into use as Preceptory swords. They appear to have been given a good coat of varnish at some time in the past, which has protected them from the aging process. Removing it would be time consuming and probably of no great benefit.

It is always the dream of a sword collector to find something 'exceptional', what is often termed 'a sleeper'; however on this occasion I had no such luck. None of the swords had their sheaths or scabbards. This would not be unusual as the majority would have been of leather, with gilded brass mounts. Apart from the ravages of time and damp on the leather, they were probably discarded when selected for mounting in the Lodge Room.

Here follows an exploration and summary of my findings, using stock images. For clarity of understanding, I have grouped the swords into categories according to type/style and given each a letter name.

A. Knight Templar Preceptory

Given that this is a Masonic Lodge room, it is to be expected there will be standard *Knight Templar/Preceptory swords*; in total there were just three of these. Of course, Preceptory members usually bring their own swords to meetings, which accounts for the relatively low number on display. These distinctive swords became popular in the late nineteenth century and are what I call 'Knitting Needle blades', with very acute points. Sadly the sword collecting world does not recognise them as real swords.



A.

B. Larger size Knight Templar Preceptory swords



B.

There were some eleven of these; originally they were what are known as *1796 Infantry Officer Spadroon bladed swords*. A Spadroon is basically a straight blade with a flat back. As the date suggests they were the regulation British Army pattern, introduced in 1796 and superseded in 1822, by the Gothic hilt. As such they would have seen service through the Napoleonic Wars. As a fighting sword they were not really very efficient, but they looked very elegant and were probably quite good for waving at (or prodding) the regular soldiers into action! The majority would originally have had Gilded and Blued blades. Sadly, the Cork swords have had their blades dismantled and, with the addition of simple Brass crosspieces, have been turned into Knight Templar swords on steroids. The extra-long turned wood grip to accommodate the tang of the blade is quite obvious. Likely, whoever was in charge of Mourne Preceptory at the time was able to obtain a quantity of redundant 1796s and carried out the simple conversion.

Other Swords



C.

These were more interesting overall and showed some variety. I have grouped them as follows:

C. A *Naval Officer of 1827 Pattern, c.1879-90* with its sword knot still present. Apart from the fairly obvious fouled anchor on the guard it also has a folding side part. This was to prevent the guard chafing the uniform. I would have expected to see more naval swords,

given Cork's importance as a port.

D. There were six variations on the *1822 Infantry Officer pattern*.



D.

This particular pattern, commonly known as the 'Gothic Hilt' – from the resemblance of the hilt bars to the tracery of a Gothic church window – was to become the predominant style up to the late 1800s and is still in partial use today. Incidentally, Irish Army and Naval officers swords are based on this pattern, as are those of the British Guards regiments and some armies abroad. The main features were a folding side guard until c.1847 and a blade

with a stiff rib or pipe running along the back of the blade. These were superseded c.1852 when the folding guard was dropped and a blade with a broad fuller (central groove) were introduced. Small Brass pellets, inlaid at the base of the blade and known as Proof marks also became commonplace from this period. With one exception, in poor condition, which is fairly normal given their long service life and the softness of the brass.

E. There were four *Artillery officers', or possibly Light Cavalry swords of the 1821 pattern*. Without close examination of engraving on the blades it can be difficult to tell the difference. These have steel three bar hilts, like a simplified version of the Gothic hilt. All were worn.



E.

F.



F. A sabre sword, known as a Mameluke dating from after 1830, with an '8' inscribed on the hilt, most likely denoting Lodge 8, Cork. These Arabic (Mamluk) style swords became popular after the French adopted them while in Egypt and their popularity

spread to the British army where they were adopted as formal or dress swords by senior officers. Very attractive in style, the one on display has Ivory slab grips, a Brass crosspiece and an early pipeback blade. It is lightweight, for Levee or Drawing room wear.

G. Heavy Cavalry Officer Field Service Pattern 1821, with a (damaged) Steel scroll hilt and a sturdy pipe back blade. From c.1788, Officers and enlisted soldiers had different patterns of sword. Officers usually had two: a Dress and a Field pattern sword. This difference



G.

lasted up to the 1860s and was revived again in 1908/12.



H.

H. Heavy Cavalry Officer Dress Pattern 1796, with a gilded Brass boat shaped hilt and a sheet silver covered grip. The blade by J.J. Runkel, of Solingen, in Germany, is well engraved with scrolls, GR, and so on. Runkel was a noted importer of blades to

Britain as it was found that German steel blades were superior to British steel. This caused a lot of resentment among British manufacturers, mainly in Birmingham.

I. German Infantry Officer, Pattern 1889. There are many variations on this type, depending on the



I.

individual German state. This may be a World War One souvenir.

J. *The current Inner Guard's sword.* This is actually a Band sword and the style dates from the 1820s, based on the Mameluke sabre (F) above. The elaborate Lion mask pommel is very typical. This example appears to have its blade replated and a replaced chain knuckleguard. Of interest is the 33 cast into the Quillon Block. This possibly means it was a band sword of the Duke of Wellington's 33rd Regiment of Foot (West Yorkshire). Army bandsmen also acted as the Medics in combat situations, therefore their swords were more ornamental than useful. It saw use as the Hibernian Lodge 95 Tyler's sword when first donated.

Elsewhere, a trio of swords of Harmony Lodge 555 (Fermoy) was observed in the Library-Anteroom, on display in their Regalia Cabinet. A 1822 *Pattern Infantry Officer [D.]*, with shortened blade, in good condition, was most likely the Tyler's sword at Fermoy, until 1953;



K.

A crossed pair of *French 1831 Pattern Artillery men's swords*, of a distinctive Roman Gladius style, completes the display. Well marked, with inspection stamps, these were commonly called *Coup Choux* or 'Cabbage Cutters'!

A further three swords warrant attention: the first two in the Robes Room District Grand Chapter Wardrobe.

The District Grand Chapter processional sword [L.], is actually from an American Masonic Knight Templar Commandery, in a steel scabbard with bubbled plating. These swords were always very elaborate with etched blades, dating to about the turn of the twentieth century.



L.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster processional sword has an older plain unidentified blade, a replaced blue scabbard and sheet brass mounts, the entire contained within a custom made polished wooden case.

M.



Finally, on the ground floor, The Supper Room Museum, has a display which includes an *Eagle Head sword* [M.], with slightly curved blade, brass hilt and ivory grip; by tradition the sword carried by Napoleon Bonaparte when he surrendered (at Waterloo?), but there is no evidence. I believe the sword is American,

contemporary to that 'War of 1812' period.

A follow-up article will issue in due course, with some notice of the swords in the provincial town lodge rooms of Munster and particularly, attention will be given '**The Chatterton Sword**', by far the most important and impressive sword in the Munster Collection.

*W. Bro. Henry Brennan, Secretary,
Ormonde Lodge 201, North Munster*

Our Annual Installation Season

Commencing in early January and continuing until late March every year, our thirteen lodges hold their Annual Installation Meeting and Dinner, which is often the highlight of their calendar year.

These meetings, which are sometimes taken as the monthly meeting of the lodge and sometimes as a special additional meeting, feature the installation of the any officers who are taking up new duties for the year ahead, and are followed by a

catered dinner, interspersed with toasts and speeches.

The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland Annual Installation Dinner was held at Lis Ard Estate, Skibbereen in early February. It is always a valuable opportunity for inter-lodge visitation, and for the generation of funds for Masonic and non-Masonic charities.

Installation RAC 68 Youghal

Wednesday 11th March 2020 saw the annual installation at Youghal Royal Arch Chapter, on what would shortly become known as the last meeting night (shared with Antient Bandon 84) within the preliminary advisory period prior to the Coronavirus restriction on meetings being held prior to September.

Our picture shows six officers of the Chapter already practising



'social distancing' on the dias, together with M.E. Companion Rea who, together with R.E. Companion Schiller who took the photograph, made up the compliment for the evening. V.E.

Companion Jonathan Neville, a native of

Youghal, was installed in the chair and a valuable opportunity was taken to transact business, in the likely knowledge that meetings would be curtailed for some time, even longer than first supposed.

The 23rd Annual Christmas Lunch for Widows



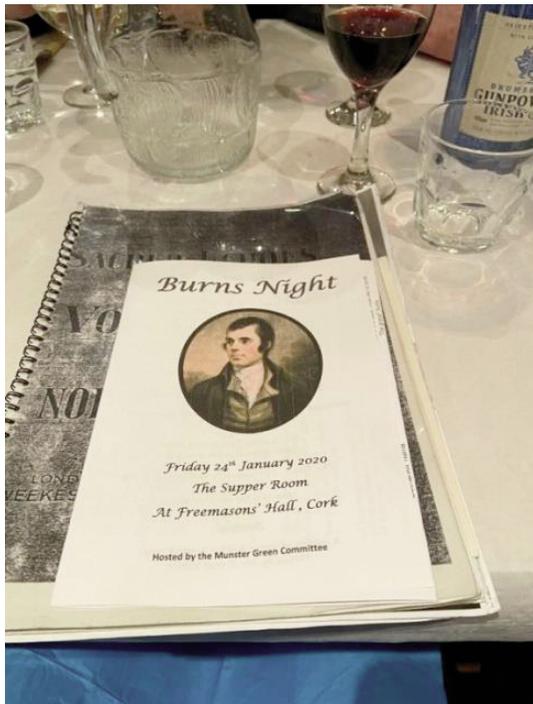
This annual event took place at Freemasons' Hall on the Saturday 14th December 2019, when twenty widows were entertained to a tasty Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, served by several of the brethren. Musical

entertainment was provided by W. Bro. Butler (piano) and Bro. McCarthy (tenor), while V.W. Bro. (Santa Claus) Walls arrived in person, thus retaining his fan base for another year.

Many thanks are due to the Provincial Grand Almoner, W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow, for his seamless organisation of the funding of this event by our lodges, with any profits being channelled into the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund.



The 2nd Annual Burns Supper



This event was organised for a second year by members of The Munster Green Committee and was, once more, a sellout with some sixty brethren and friends attending.

The evening commenced with sherry and canapés in The Lodge Room, and continued with a traditional supper, complete with address to the Haggis (W. Bro. Fraser Sim), Scottish whiskey and shortbread treats and many interesting readings and musings by our Scottish brethren and their family connexions (W. Bro. Alex

Brown, Bro. Gavin Richardson and Tom Wyper). Some Scottish ballads were played on the piano by W. Bro. Butler and there was some lusty singing. This highly successful evening is now a much anticipated social on our annual calendar.



A Tribute to Bro. Tim Kelleher, J.W., Third Lodge



I first met Brother Kelleher (Tim to me), back in the closing stages of 2001 – we were both in first year in college – through calling over to a housemate of his that was in my class, and from there and over our shared love of a hot beverage and chess we both got on. I

remember the first time I met him: full of life; character; knowledgeable about anything science related and beaming with confidence; it is no overstretch of imagination for me to say I admired him, I looked up to him and he was a hero of mine, and from these formative days in our relationship we were pretty much inseparable.

There are so many tales, stories and shenanigans to do justice to him, so I'll mention some of the highlights.

There was many a night we were up until the wee hours talking about science, space and whatever mad new thing either one of us would come across; we became competitive about it. I would eagerly await a call with him to see if I could get the upper hand and blow his mind but, ever the gent, he would wait, listen, engage with me and then, right at the end of the conversation, baffle me with something down right astounding ... never to be out done was Tim.

Speaking with Tim's mom, she told me that both Tim and his father Tony would do the same thing: outside, freezing the house down by standing at the porch with the door open, staring up at the night sky and pointing out different stars and planets and pondering the mysteries of the universe. It makes me smile to know he shared that with me too.

Tim's family are a family of crafts people; his brother Anthony hand crafted an amazing chess board and pieces and amongst our circle, it became the focal point of many nights of intense battles and banter. Friends used to call over just to watch us all play and join in the exchange of words and chess pieces. For a time, I had the upper hand and had a good run but, and it makes me smile in these tough days to remember ... Tim won our last match, and that's the way its staying; he was surprisingly busy every time I asked if he wanted a rematch, clever guy!

Tim taught me so much and, while it may have taken a decade and more tea than was probably legally safe to ingest, I finally now know how to correctly use 'there' and 'their' ... 'your' and 'you're' ... our resident grammar perfectionist as he was known.

Tim spent many hours at my family home as well, mostly off the clock, helping us around the place. I tried too and eventually mastered how to screw things in and out; good olde Tim made it easy ... 'Listen Murphy, its 'lefty loosely, righty tighty'!

When he wasn't being the practical one, Tim was an incredible listener. I confess to burning his ear off with many a nightly conversation and he never turned me away; it was his way ... when you were in with Tim, regardless of what he had going on, he made time for you.

We are supposed say goodbye to those who leave this mortal world, but I don't really see it that way. I can still hear his voice, his unwavering moral guidance, his friendship, the way he conveyed a thousand words with an 'ehem'; those knowing glances, his eyebrow stares and hand movements. Right now I can hear him say 'Wrap it up, Murphy', so I'm not saying goodbye to my friend, because as long as I think about him, he'll always be with me.

To Tim's family, Bernie, Tony, Anthony, my deepest love and heart felt sympathies.... and also thank you for being you, for raising, supporting and turning out such an amazing guy!

Tim: my friend, my confidant, my advisor and my partner in crime; fly safe buddy!

W. Bro. Darren Murphy, W.M., Third Lodge of Ireland

Charleville Heritage Society Lecture

*Charleville Heritage Society
Presents a talk on Freemasonry
in Charleville & Cork*

Guest Speaker: Dr David Butler

Thursday the 27th of Feb.
Venue: Charleville Park Hotel
Time: 8pm sharp
Entry: 5 Euro

1736 TO 1901 EMERALD LODGE 49 · CHARLEVILLE



During the spring of 2019, one of the organising committee of The Charleville Heritage Society contacted me concerning the giving of a lecture on Freemasonry in Charleville, during the autumn of that year. However, the obtaining of mutually convenient dates, along with the necessary obtaining of material from the Grand Lodge Archives in Dublin, delayed the talk until 27 February 2020 when, at a gathering of some thirty members and guests at The Charleville Park Hotel, I gave an address on

Freemasonry in Munster, with particularly reference to Charleville, which was, for the greater part of 165 years (1736-1901), the home of Lodge No. 49.

The talk, which was modelled upon those given to The Mitchelstown Heritage Society and Mallow Field Club during 2009, commenced by explaining the myriad purposes of Freemasonry and its widespread appeal throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The focus then changed to look more closely at the North Cork towns which had lodges meeting (Fermoy and Mallow, principally) while also looking at the meeting places and personalities/dynasties involved in the membership.

The warrant for this lodge was originally issued 12 April 1736 under the title 'Emerald Lodge', and it worked, more or less continually in the town until 1865, when it became dormant. A good quantity of masonica from this era still survives, in correspondence with Grand Lodge (lodge seals) and some archival items. In the entrance hallway of Freemasons' Hall, Cork, the Lodge 49 Bye Laws (1845) are still displayed, together with the principal officer collar jewels. In Charleville itself, on what



was then a continuation of Main Street (now a side street by Holy Cross R.C. Church) is an intriguing limestone plaque, set into one of a pair of stone rubble piers, leading to a now empty field. There is no doubting the inscription 'Fort St George' and the date '1800', less

obvious is the square and compass above, set within The Royal Arch. This identifies the property (which is no longer extant) as the home of a member, perhaps even used as the meeting place.

Quite an effort was put into the revival of the lodge, including sponsorship by the principal officers of First Lodge, Lodge No. 8 and Lodge No. 95, Cork during May 1879, petitions from surviving members, and potential affiliations from other Munster and North Munster lodges.

The leasehold premises was obtained on Main Street, next the Bank of Ireland, comprising a residence for the Tyler with upstairs lodge room. Here, for twenty-one years, worked the revived Emerald Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter and High Knight Templar Preceptory



No. 49, until the warrant was returned, 7 March 1901. Sadly, efforts to revive the lodge in the following few years came to nothing, owing to disagreement with the trustees and the old Charleville warrant transferred to Greystones, Co. Wicklow, under a warrant dated 1 June 1911, where it works under the original 'Emerald Lodge' title.

Two New Munster Foreign Representatives

At the quarterly convocation of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, held on 4th March 2020, the Provincial Grand Master announced the recent reorganisation of the Foreign Representation to the Grand Lodge of Ireland had resulted in two additional seats for The Province of Munster and that next day, at the quarterly meeting of The Grand Lodge of Ireland, in Galway, his recommendations of V.W. Bro. Hubert Sweetnam (as R.W. Representative of the Grand Lodge of Monaco) and W. Bro. Nigel H.H. Chillingworth (as R.W. Representative of the Grand Lodge of China) would be formally announced. In recognising the achievement of these two Right Worshipful Brethren, it is useful to find out some more about those Foreign Constitutions.

The Grand Lodge of China

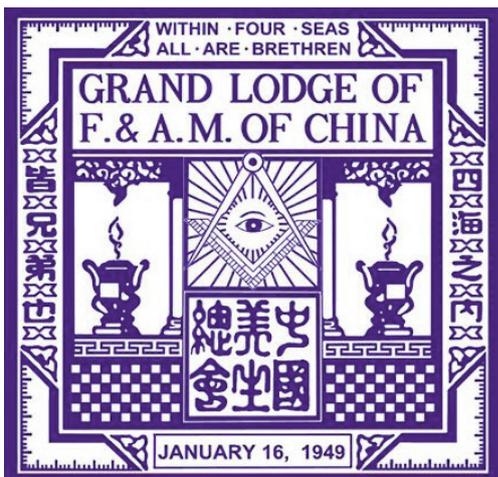
Freemasonry first saw Light in China in the province of Guangzhou with the establishment, in 1767, of Amity Lodge No. 407, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England; it met regularly for forty-six years until 1813 when, for some unknown reason, its charter was not renewed when the United Grand Lodge of England was formed in London. Upon the departure of the famous Masonic historian, Bro. Robert F. Gould from China, in 1886, he noted the existence at Victoria (Hong Kong), and in the Chinese treaty ports, of a total of 19 Lodges: 13 English; 4 Scottish; 1 American; and 1 Irish Lodge.

Membership of these Lodges in China was mainly confined to specific Foreign Nationals by the Manchu Government and succeeding Governments, and it was not until 1930, that a group of American and Chinese Master Masons, all of whom had been raised abroad, decided to form a Lodge in Shanghai, for the purpose to bring Freemasonry to Chinese aspirants.

The group first petitioned the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for a warrant, which was denied. They then successfully applied to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines who granted a warrant. Amity Lodge 106 was chartered on 27th January 1931, at Peking (named for the first Masonic Lodge in China, of 1767), followed by a lodge in Nanking, Canton, Cheng-tu, Hanzou and Shanghai.

During the Japanese invasion of China and during the Second World War, a small group of Masons of many nationalities gathered together in the unconquered Free Chinese town of Chungking, in the province of Szechwan, and initially formed a Square and Compasses Club. By early 1943, the Club had, despite many hardships in a town under constant aerial bombardment, developed a nucleus of brothers who felt the need to establish a recognised Lodge. A petition was submitted to the Grand Lodge of California, who in due course granted this; Fortitude Lodge was established during 1943, an appropriate name, as the Lodge met regularly despite the inclement weather, and unceasing air raids.

In 1945, with the cessation of hostilities, the personnel were dispersed, which inevitably led to the closure of the Lodge, and its warrant returned to the Grand Lodge of California. This lodge, despite its somewhat brief existence, was to provide four future Grand Masters for the Grand Lodge of China.



With the return of the brethren to their respective abodes, Masonic activity was resumed throughout China. The six Lodges chartered under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, held discussions concerning the future of Freemasonry in China. These labours came to fruition in 1949, when the Grand Lodge of China was consecrated at the Masonic

Hall in Shanghai, with six Lodges, transferred and re-chartered with their original names, numbered one to six, to reflect their original sequencing.

Within a short time, great problems beset the newly established Grand Lodge, when the communist government came to power and, by 1951 the Grand Lodge of China had ceased to function in Shanghai. It then temporally moved to Hong Kong, with little more than a few files and the Grand Lodge regalia. Following the fall of Mainland China to communism, a number of the Chinese and other nationalities followed the Government of the Republic of China, to Taiwan. The Grand Lodge of China was reactivated on Taiwan in 1955.

The National Regular Grand Lodge of the Principality of Monaco

Freemasonry in Monaco received conditional acceptance by the Grimaldi Monégasque ruling princely dynasty in the first half of the twentieth century.

The Port of Hercules Lodge was formed in 1924 under the English Constitution, and many Monégasques who wished to become Freemasons sought membership outside the principality. In more recent years, three lodges were formed under the German Constitution, but it became apparent that the Monégasques who had joined lodges in France would like one of their own. Accordingly, the first steps were taken during 2008 to establish a Grand Lodge in Monaco, and this meticulous planning came to fruition on 19th February 2011 in Monte Carlo.



The Grande Loge Nationale Régulière de la Principauté de Monaco was formed by seven lodges, one formerly meeting under the English Constitution and three each under the German and French.

The consecrating officer was Pro Grand Master of The United Grand Lodge of England, Peter Lowndes, assisted by Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Germany, Rüdiger Templin, as Senior Warden; and Past Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of France, Jean-Charles Foellner, as Junior Warden.

The consecration ceremony included the unveiling of the lodge boards, the familiar scriptural readings from the Bible, the symbolic use of corn, wine and oil, and the censing of the lodge and its officers. It was conducted almost entirely in English, but the Rulers-designate took their obligations in their own languages. M.W. Jean-Pierre Pastor was installed as the first Grand Master, and he then appointed and installed Claude Boisson as Deputy Grand Master, and Rex Thorne, Knut Schwieger, Renato Boeri and John Lonczynski as Assistant Grand Masters.

World War 1 & Horatio Herbert Kitchener

W.Bro Alan Campbell writes

I read recently with great interest Bro. Michael Karn's Prestonian Lecture for 2019 which delved into English Freemasonry during the Great War.

It seems that Lodges continued to meet as normal during the war and he mentions that one "Horsadun Lodge no 3123 recorded "The outbreak of the Great War dampened the after proceedings of the Lodge to some extent, but meetings went on as before". How stiff upper lip is that! As indeed was the record in the minutes of

Burdett Lodge no 1293 "In the four years of the war, the Lodge continued to thrive and fulfil its obligations to the Craft, in the manner which had come to be regarded as the hallmark of Burdett Lodge"

Bro. Karn tells us that The United Grand Lodge urged restraint at Lodge meetings and in dining arrangements at festive boards. It seemed the usual routine continued of meeting followed by supper but in London it was noted that the cost was 3/- and 5/- for installation dinners as against the usual lavish banquets pre-war. Also an additional toast was included "Our Brethren with the Forces".

One very interesting fact mentioned is that 64 Freemasons were awarded the Victoria Cross (V.C.) which is particularly impressive when one realises that it was 10% of all awards during the conflict. We are all aware of course, that many Irish men fought and died in this terrible conflict. The list of those from the Province of Munster who were involved was erected in the dining room at Freemason's Hall, Tuckey Street to mark the centenary of the finish of the war in 2018. Also it is of interest to note that Munster Freemasons set about raising funds to provide an ambulance to help the war effort. So good was the giving that they were actually able to donate two. I think you will agree this Province has always been to the fore in their charitable giving.

After the war the Grand Lodge of England decreed that all masons should wear black ties at Masonic



meetings in mourning for the 3,000 plus who had died and that remained in place for so long it was said that members didn't realise what it was for. It is really only in the last 10 years or so that some English masons wear other than a plain black tie.

One interesting fact was the increase in our membership after the war. Here in Munster our membership reached 1,134 in 1922 from 849 in 1916 and 605 in 1880. There were increases throughout Provinces of Ireland, England & Scotland. The same happened after World War 2 but not to any extent here in

Munster. It was said that men returning from serving were happy in a men's club and that they could meet their old colleagues there.

Well I also wanted to draw readers' attention to Horatio Herbert Kitchener whose face on a famous recruiting poster is so fierce it has gone down in history and is as familiar to us today as it was to people in 1914.

Now, what you may not know is that he was born in Ballylongford near Listowel in Co Kerry in 1850. The other fact about him you may not know is that he was a very committed and interested Freemason. I won't go into his military career except to say that he finished entitled "Field Marshal Kitchener, 1st Earl Kitchener, KG., KP., GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, PC."

He was initiated in La Concordia Lodge no.1226 in Cairo in 1883 when he was 33 years old.

In 1885 he joined the most senior Lodge in Egypt, Bulwer Lodge no.1068.

The first English Lodge with which he was associated was Drury Lane Lodge which was consecrated in January 1886 and he was one of the petitioners for the warrant. What is also interesting is that Capt. Robert Falcon Scott better known as Scott of the Antarctic was initiated in this Lodge.

He was appointed District Grand Master of Egypt and the Sudan. Whilst holding this office it is recorded that he belonged to 15 Lodges & Chapters. It is of interest to note that Freemasonry was well established in Egypt by Kitchener's time having

been brought to that country in 1798 by Napoleon's armies and it quickly spread there.

In 1899 Kitchener was appointed chief of staff of the British forces in South Africa as the Boer War commenced. He found time to visit Rising Star Lodge no 1022 in Bloemfontein during the war there. In fact, a message is recorded in relation to the first meeting of that Lodge during the conflict on 5th April, 1900 stating: A communication was received from R.W.Bro. Lord Kitchener expressing his regret at not being able to attend the meeting. Intimating that it was his intention to visit the Lodge in the near future. That he did on 23rd April, 1900.

In October 1902 he was posted to India and he remained there till 1909. He was appointed District Grand Master of the Punjab. During his time in India he was extremely involved in Masonic matters.

With the outbreak of World War in 1914 he was



appointed Secretary of State for War and in 1916 he was posted to Russia to encourage that country to maintain the fight against Germany. On 5th June that year whilst travelling to Russia on HMS Hampshire she struck a mine off the Orkney Islands. She sank with the loss of 643 lives including R.W Bro Kitchener. His body was never recovered. The people of Orkney erected a memorial to him at Marwick Head the nearest point to where he was lost at sea. The Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in a tribute referred to him as "that great

Englishman, Lord Kitchener". Well, all I can say is if a man born in Co Kerry is an Englishman, what would Jackie Healy-Rea have to say?

Sources: *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum Vol.132, Masonic Quarterly Magazine, issue 12 & records of the Province of Munster.*

BEZALEEL LODGE 234 KINSALE NEWS

Writes **W.Bro Aidan McDonald**

The brethren of Bezaleel Lodge 234 in Kinsale recently congratulated 3 Brethren on the 40th Anniversary of receiving their Fellow Craft degrees on the same

night, Oct 29th 1979; VW Bro George Jaogoe, WBro George Gleasure & WBro. Philip Taylor (pictured bellow) They were presented with a memento each, to mark the occasion.



The brethren of Bezaleel Lodge 234 in Kinsale, have erected a Clock in the Lodge Room in memory of the Late VW Bro Leslie Smyth and his enormous contribution to the working of the Lodge, during his membership.

The clock made from Black and White Granite, with Hebrew Numerals was made by WBro Aidan McDonald.



Vision 2020

Writes W. Bro. Kevin Ryan

On January 4th 2020, Munster Freemasonry took off with the usual frenzy we've come to associate with the January and February Masonic calendar. The First Lodge of Ireland kicked off the "Installation Season", and the momentum gathered throughout the Province, with the typical honing of ritual, fine-tuning of menus for Installation Dinners, and the sincerest of resolutions to address the tightening waistbands, when the "Installation Season" was over, and Masonic activity reverted to "normal".

At the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, on January 8th, I was very happy to be in a position to inform the brethren of The Province that we were well on target in terms of our fundraising for "Vision 2020" - The Grand Master's Festival. We, as a Province, were trail-blazers on the fundraising front, having passed the €30,000 mark ... we were trendsetters for some of the other Provinces on the island! I was delighted to be able to express my gratitude to all the brethren who had so magnificently engaged with the various events and initiatives organised throughout the Province. I was more than encouraged by the promise of a myriad of events being planned for the remainder of the year. Later in January, the Munster Green Committee (organisers of the "Burns' Night Supper") held a rousing - and rewarding - raffle at their very high-energy event! The Fifteenth Lodge held a raffle at their Installation Dinner. The year was taking off nicely, and there were rumblings of various social events being planned by different Lodges, later in the year.

At Provincial Grand Lodge, on March 4th., I was delighted to be in a position to announce that the "tireless fundraising cluster" in The First Lodge were busily buzzing again ... July 5th 2020 was being flagged as the proposed date for the latest in their succession of "Fests". This time it was taking the form of a Music Extravaganza, and many arrange-

ments were already in place. At the same meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, we were advised that because of concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which was by now giving cause for concern across Europe, we must observe certain precautions, limiting physical social contact, to curtail the spread of this, heretofore relatively "unknown phenomenon", which originated in the East. Very soon, COVID-19 was the word on everybody's lips, and individual Lodges were questioning the prudence of holding regular meetings, in the interest of Lodge members' wellbeing. Within days, in accordance with emerging information, and Government directives for national safety, a directive was issued by Grand Lodge. All Masonic activity would be suspended until further notice. Indeed, all social and business activity as we've known it has ceased. Life, as we've known it, will never be the same again! This has come as a very hard blow to all of us, for whom Freemasonry has become an integral and essential part of how we conduct our lives and relationships. It has impinged on the livelihoods, incomes and social lives of many Freemasons. It has dealt a very serious "body-blow" to "Vision 2020" in its present form! The scale of fundraising events, the amount of money we can raise has changed dramatically. The distribution of existing funds has had to be addressed. Thankfully, because of your generosity and tireless efforts heretofore, €75,000 from the "Vision 2020 Campaign" coffers, has been donated, in our name, to three Charities. This is to support response to COVID-19 - the coronavirus pandemic.

Simon Community Ireland, Simon Community Northern Ireland and Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) urgently need these funds to assist with their frontline services, to help those most at risk. We are all aware of the Trojan work done by the **Simon Community** for the plight of the homeless, here on the island of Ireland. We may not be as familiar with the work

of **Medecins Sans Frontieres**, who offer immediate humanitarian assistance, where they are needed most, irrespective of race, religion, gender, or political affiliation. (They respond to emergencies, in disaster zones, where the small change we leave on the dressing table, is enough save a life!)

Although there are no specific "Vision 2020 Events" planned for the immediate future, we need to explore our resourcefulness and creativity, and continue to nail our colours to the mast. The scale and nature of our fundraising must be revisited.

As Freemasons, we identify as a body of men who endeavour to cultivate and exhibit Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, to one another and to the world at large. COVID-19, even though it's sweeping the world in plague-like fashion, cannot change that. However, it undoubtedly challenges us, as good men and Masons, to become more creative in effecting and manifesting what constitutes the essence of who we are. Where there's a willing Mason, there's always a way!

Please continue with our "Small Change Initiative" (One Euro, collected by each brother in the Province, would yield €44,000, at the end of our two-year "Vision 2020" campaign). I was

amazed that my collection tin contained €132, when I opened it in January! "**The Blue Bin Appeal**" - which collects currencies of all denominations - has become more relevant than ever. Nobody's going abroad, so there's plenty of foreign currency lying about. Everybody I've spoken to, is de-cluttering and tidying these days. **Please be mindful of those Euro, cents, Pesetas, Pounds, Lira, Yen etc.** that are lurking behind those cushions and couches!

"Remember, €5 is a FORTUNE, when you own nothing"

For the benefit of anybody who wishes to make a donation to the "Vision 2020" account, I am optimistically attaching the account details:

Bank Details: Grand Masters Festival
IBAN: IE24 AIBK 9312 2501 2720 58 BIC:
AIBKIE2D

These days, if I feel my spirit flagging, I'm very happy to know that I'm a Mason. I'm reminded of the old Irish saying: "*Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine*" ... An Irish saying, when interpreted means: "We are shielded from the sun by each other, we rely on each other for shelter. People need each other!"

The Light Shines in the Darkness

We have been there. We faced the unknown, unforeseen and unsettling things were happening to us. We entered a strange and alien environment. No longer could we rely on our own decisions, we handed over the control of our journey to others. So it was with an almost fearful anticipation we stepped out to face whatever the future might hold. But then, indeed as now, we were not alone. We had company either side of us, and support all around us. Into our darkness there came a voice ; it emanated from somewhere ahead of us. It was a voice than demanded a response. `Mr... ..in all times of doubt and difficulty, in whom do you put your trust ? ` In our heart of hearts we knew there was only one answer and so we replied; `In God`.

We have never been here before; Covid-19 has made sure of that. We are fearful for those we love and for ourselves. Our country is shrouded in a darkness it has never known in a century or more. In the midst of millions we seem to be alone.

Isolation is now a way of life for many of us, unsettling, frustrating and alarming. Yet, as in an earlier time and another circumstance, we are in company. The Order can be our rock amidst the unsettling waves of illness and worry that wash around us, threatening to overcome us. Our Brothers are beside us and reach out, as once they did in that other place, with the Right Hand of Friendship. Let us in turn, stretch out the hand of friendship and help to them and, as best we may, to all around us. Out of this time of test and tribulation we will emerge as examples of the Masonic ideal to make good men better. And now, as then, we place our trust in God and hear again the prayer of our Initiation as it speaks to us today, `Vouchsafe Thy needful aid, Almighty Architect of the Universe in this our present circumstance.....Amen. So mote it be. And may God be with us all.

V.W Bro.Peter Rhys Thomas
Provincial Grand Chaplain.

Cork Council 10 installation Dinner



Writes E.Sir Knight Knight Joseph Patterson
Scribe, Cork Council No.10
Corkcouncil10@gmail.com

On February 20th E. Sir Knight Clive Hawkins was installed as Excellent Chief of Cork Council of Knight Masons. We were very honored to have in attendance the Most Excellent Great Chief Bernard V.A. Woods accompanied by the Grand Treasurer R. E. Sir Knight Seamus Sheilds, also in attendance was Venerable S. Knight Geoff Ashton. Provincial Grand Superintendent

for Leinster and Overseas.

The Grand Council of Knight Masons was founded in 1923, Cork Council No. 10 was constituted in 1927 and is therefore one of the oldest Councils.

Knight Masonry commemorates the building of the second Temple by Zerubbabel by the Tribes of Judah and Benjamin after their seventy years' captivity in Babylon circa 556 B.C.

To join Knight Masonry, one only needs to have been a Royal Arch Masons for one year, you do not need to be invited, just ask.



15th February 2020, W. Bro. Fraser Sim was installed to the Chair of King Solomon of Shamrock Lodge no.27 Cork. W. Bro Aidan McDonald was congratulated for his word perfect Installed Master Degree. 90 Brethren packed the columns of The Masonic Hall, Tuckey Street, Cork: Pictured are the Lodge Officers for the ensuing year, RWM PGM Leslie Deane of the RW Province of Munster and RWM Bro James Forsyth of my Mother Lodge, Lodge St. John Slamannan 484 (SC).



W.Bro. Fraser Sim pictured with his proposer Eddie Bygraves Jr and Eddie Bygraves Sr seconder. A deputation of 18 Officers and Brethren from my Mother Lodge were also in attendance. the year 2020.