



1521 NEWSVIEW

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 1 APRIL 2015

Editorial Staff Care 27B Lynmouth Avenue, Karori, Wellington 6012

BOOK IN FOR YOUR MEAL

If you are attending the April meeting, do not neglect to book in for your meal. Without a booking, we cannot guarantee there will be a meal for you.

The more accurate numbers we have, the less it costs.

E-mail the Master for bookings

Tony_Cross@xtra.co.nz

(Note: there is an underscore _ between “y” and “C”)

BUMPER ISSUE

New Year is upon us again (it is Dec 29 as this is being written) and it will be four months since you last received a Newsview. So we are going to make up for it by giving you a veritable feast of items.

So let's start with the December meeting.

Usually, inside the Lodge-room at the Christmas meeting is a brief stop, with everyone itching to get out and into refectory. This year, however, we had a few items over and above the regular agenda for this meeting. First, there was the successful election of another candidate for membership. His details were given in the summons for the meeting and, at the time of writing, it is expected that his initiation will be held at the April meeting. Secondly, there was the presentation of a 50-year badge and certificate to Wor. Bro Iain McGibbon, who then regaled us with some reminiscences of his early days in Freemasonry. The citation for the presentation is given elsewhere in this issue. Finally, we were able to present Bro Wade Craze with his Master Mason's certificate. The other more usual business of the meeting is covered in the minutes, of which members will receive a copy with this e-mailing.

FA-LA-LA-LA-LA TIME

Although the numbers did not match up to those of the “good old days” of twenty years ago, the group that sat down to Christmas refectory was a definite improvement on recent months, showing that our Christmas meeting still retains some drawing power at a time when refectory attendances and visiting numbers generally are less than they used to be,

The proceedings were enlivened by the Mellowcrafts, giving two brackets of Christmas carols, as their traditional rehearsal for next year's Christmas performance. The W. Master kept the toast to Aorangi brief, as was the reply, given in the unavoidable absence of ?W. Bro Koroniadis, by W. Bro. Mike Jensen.

Bro John Winder proposed the toast to the Past Masters, characterising them as “able to give carbon-dating a run for its money”. W. Bro Rolfe Everson replied in his inimitable (!) fashion. Bro. Rohit Chandra, who was to have replied to the toast to the floor members, being detained by work issues, it was reluctantly decided to scratch this event.

No such fate awaited the toast to the visitors, which W. Bro. Ian Dingwall presented in the form of a metrical version of how he felt the minutes of the preceding meeting might be drafted. The result was of the quality which delights newsletter editors and so we are going to reproduce it in full – you have been warned !

It was the Wellington Lodge Christmas meeting,
Tony Cross was the Master in the chair.
Tonight there was to be no ceremony,
So he didn't have a bloody care.

The lodge it was formed at six-thirty
And all stood to order with pride .
It should be a peaceful evening
Because McKillop was locked outside.

When asked to confirm all present were masons
The Junior Warden nervously said "I do"
He was of course right to be nervous
Because he didn't have a blooming clue

The Master declared the lodge open
And the Senior Warden gavelled loud and clear
The Brethren stood back in amazement
It was the first time he'd got it right all year

The Secretary read the correspondence
Murray's voice is always so cultured and posh
While the Brethren sat there feigning interest
But thinking what a complete load of old tosh

The accounts were presented by Lindsay
Who called for the Brethren's views
But they silently sat there thinking
Who is it who won't pay their dues

And then we held a secret ballot
For a candidate from University halls
There is no way he can back out now
We've got him ** *** *****

A fifty-year badge was presented
To Captain McGibbon and pinned
They thought they saw him smiling
But I know it was only wind.

Old Crumpy was tutting in silence
The meeting he wanted to fix
I'm sure I hears somebody whisper
"Where's Snow White and the other six?"

The Worshipful Master gave notice of motion
Of the donations that we should pay
He sat there looking so pleased with himself
It was the only motion he passed all day

New Zealand was well represented
Led by their District Grand Master
They weren't ask to do anything at all
It was the best way to prevent a disaster

Our visitors rose to give greetings
Expressing their joy tdo be here
But we just wanted them to sit down
So we could all get out for a beer

The IPM then stepped down from dais
And touched his breast three times with his hand
He then uttered some words in Hindi
Which nobody could understand

These are the minutes as I have them recorded
Detailing the events in all their glory
It may not be an accurate account
But why let facts spoil a good story.

(Well, you can't say you weren't warned !)

W. Bro Nick Best, Master of Lodge Aquarius,
delivered a neatly-framed reply, after which the
toast to Absent Brethren was proposed by W.
Bro Gerard Paver. To your Editor, it appeared
particularly appropriate that this latter toast,
which appears only at the Christmas refectory,
should be proposed by the Lodge's Charity
Steward.

W. Bro. Bob McKillop then did his bit as Tyler
and we were all off home.

THE TWENTY-SIXTH GRAND MASTER

Viscount Dudley and Ward's successor as Grand
Master was Thomas Lyon, 8th Earl of Strathmore
and Kinghorne and 16th Lord Glamis, a Scots
peer who, four years previously, had been Grand
Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He
was the fourth son of the 4th Earl and inherited
the title after each of his three brothers had held
it. The story of the "Lyon boys" (the first killed
fighting as a rebel at the Battle of Sherriffmuir,
the second in trying to prevent a drunken brawl
and the third died at the early age of 33, having
himself only just completed a term as Grand
Master) has already been told in the August 2013
issue of Newsview. This is therefore the first
case of two brothers having both served as
Grand Master.

Thomas was born at the family seat of Glamis
Castle in 1704 and in the general election of 1734
was chosen as MP for Forfarshire.. In 1736, he
married Jean Nicholson, heiress to John
Nicholson of Durham. There were three sons
and four daughters of the marriage. In 1738, on
the death of his brother James, he succeeded to
the Earldom, gave up his seat in the Commons
and moved to "the other place", the House of
Lords.

In 1740-1, he served a year as Grand Master of
the Grand Lodge of Scotland and then, on 04
April 1744, Viscount Ward and Dudley proposed
him as his successor as Grand Master of the
Grand Lodge of England. Consequently, on 02
May Thomas gave a lavish breakfast at a local
tavern for a large group of Grand Lodge

dignitaries. From there, the party travelled in a coach procession, accompanied by three marching bands, to Haberdashers' Hall where, in the presence of representatives of 32 Lodge, Thomas Lyon was elected and invested as Grand Master.

And then – nothing ! No attendance at any Grand Lodge meeting during his term of office, not even at the meeting at which he would normally have nominated his successor.

Thomas apparently stayed on his Scottish estates all this time, occupying himself with improving their administration and promoting more productive methods of agriculture among his tenants – an activity he pursued throughout his life. Mind you, this may very well have been a diplomatic withdrawal. The period 1744/5 was a very tricky time for the old Scots nobility. At the time, England was at war with France in the War of the Austrian Succession and the greater part of the British army was in Europe. Midway in 1744, shortly after Thomas was proposed as Grand Master, the British Government became aware that an invasion force, consisting of (mainly Scottish) Jacobite exiles supported by a contingent of French troops, was being assembled in France for an attempt to return the Stuarts to the thrones of England and Scotland and to re-establish Catholicism as the state religion of Britain. Diplomatic manoeuvring in conjunction with other anti-French powers and some strategic troop movements convinced the French king to withdraw his support. But the Stuart party and their exiled supporters in France continued their plans and were busy recruiting a fifth column in Britain (particularly in Scotland) among die-hard conservative Tories who resented their loss of power to the Whig Government under the Hanoverian George II. The Government was becoming nervous and Thomas, whose eldest brother, the 5th Earl, had been killed fighting on the Jacobite side, would have had to be very careful.

So perhaps we should not blame Thomas for keeping his head down, retreating to Glamis Castle and submerging himself in good works for the whole period of his Grand Mastership.

Grand Lodge, however, beavered on in his absence. There was a meeting on 26 September 1744, attended by representatives of 22 lodges at which it appears no major decisions were made. At a further meeting on .26 February the following year (29 lodges represented) the lodge meeting at the Three Tuns Tavern “surrendered

its Constitution” in order to merge with the lodge at the Magpie and Horseshoe – a sign of the times. Only 19 lodges were represented at the next meeting on 25 March and 8 lodges were struck off for consistent non-representation. At this meeting, Thomas' successor (see next issue) was nominated by Viscount Ward and Dudley, the Immediate Past Grand Master, who took the Chair in Thomas' absence.

Meanwhile, the number of independent lodges (outside the control of Grand Lodge) and their memberships were quietly but steadily growing.

Later in the year, after the installation of Thomas' successor, the expected occurred. Charles Edward Stuart (a.k.a. Bonnie Prince Charlie), the grandson of James II, landed in Scotland with a group of exiled Scots supporters. Local supporters flocked to his banner but, after a first success at Prestonpans and a sweep south, they were soundly trounced at Culloden and the Bonnie Prince barely escaped with his life to Europe, where he became a mere footnote to history..

In the aftermath, the British Government tightened up its control in Scotland by a series of often ruthless measures. Among them, they abolished all hereditary offices and made them Government appointments. In this way, Thomas lost the positions of constable of the burghs of Forfar and Kinghorn and coroner of the shires of Forfar and Kincardine but, on making application, was granted compensation of £600, which would not have happened if the Government had had any evidence of his involvement in the rebellion.

At this point, Thomas Lyon disappears from sight, dying in 1753 at the age of 49 and succeeded by his eldest son, John as 9th Earl. who, on marrying the heiress to the Bowes family, changed the family name to Bowes. The family name later became Bowes-Lyon and continues to this day, its most famous member being the late Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who was the daughter of the 14th Earl

Thus the present Queen is a direct descendant of our twenty-sixth Grand Master.

W. BRO. CAPT. IAIN McGIBBON OBE
- FROM THE CITATION

(The citation delivered in the Lodge was very detailed and dealt with W. Bro McGibbon's civil, naval and masonic careers. The following extracts concentrate on the masonic side. For further information, see the reference on pages 88-9 of "A Chronicle of Further Progress" of which all members received a copy a few months ago)

W. Bro McGibbon was initiated into Remuera Lodge 1719 in November 1964, then passed and raised the following year. Posted to Wellington, he joined Wellington Lodge in 1972. During his posting in Bangkok as Defence Attaché from 1980 to 1982, he became a member of the Scottish Constitution Lodge St. John 1072 SC but resigned on his return to New Zealand.

In Wellington Lodge, he was installed as Master in June 1991, later being Assistant Secretary from 1994 to 1996 and Secretary 1997 to 2000. During this period, he transferred the Lodge records to computer and also researched masonic ranks for Past Masters and civil honours for all members so that they might be included in future Installation programmes. District honours came with appointment as District Grand Treasurer in 1994 and promotion to Past District Junior Grand Warden in 2012. He is also currently a member of Port Chalmers Marine Lodge in Hawkes Bay.

He rose to greater heights in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Having joined Aorangi Mark Lodge in 1972 (Master in 1992) and Aorangi Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1986 (Commander in 1994), he later joined Hiram Mark Lodge in Hawkes Bay in 2002 and was installed as its Master in 2003. Appointed Assistant District Grand Master for the Mark in 2004, he was then installed in 2006 as District Grand Master for New Zealand in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner – positions he still holds.

He was also a member of the New Zealand Constitution Te Mata Lodge for six years, being its Master in 2004 and appointed Past Grand Bible Bearer by the Grand Lodge of New Zealand;

He also has a notable record in the other Orders.

In the Royal Arch, he had been First Principal of Aorangi Chapter in 1997 and was appointed Past District Grand Principal Sojourner..

His other memberships included the Hawkes Bay Preceptory and Priory of the United Order of the Temple and St John (Knights Templar), the Red Cross of Constantine, the Holy Royal Arch

Knights Templar Priests and the Allied Masonic Degrees. All in all, a resounding masonic career over a period of 50 years.

A BIT FROM OUR OWN HISTORY

W. Bro Edward Dury Butts is credited with being the first Master of Wellington Lodge although arguably that distinction should go to W. Bro. Kenneth Douglas who was Proxy Master when the Lodge was consecrated on 23 April 1875, the Charter having been dated 18 December 1874. The Master Elect was en route from England when the first meeting was held. Edward Butts was one of the ten Brethren who petitioned for the Charter early in 1874. Most, if not all, were members of the Civil Service and New Zealand Pacific Lodge No.758 EC (later changed to 517 EC) and saw a need for a third Lodge in Wellington, the only other being Lodge Waterloo No.463 SC, established in 1866. Both NZ Pacific and Waterloo returned their charters on becoming lodges under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and, while Wellington may not claim to be the oldest Lodge in the city, it has the oldest charter.

Edward Butts was born on 12 November 1828 in Chelmsford, Suffolk, the son of the Rev. Edward Dury Butts, who was rector of Glemsford and later of Malplish in Dorset. He was educated at Bury St. Edmunds College and thereafter pursued a commercial career. He married Sarah Manning Honeywill in 1858 at St. Margaret's, Westminster and shortly after that the couple emigrated to New Zealand, arriving in Dunedin later that year. Edward went farming for two years before entering the Civil Service as Post Master in Invercargill on a salary of £345. There were eight children to the marriage: Edward Frank (1860), Amy Beatrice (1861), George Vandeput Dury (1865), Sarah Selina (1870), Arthur Gauntlet Hill (1872), Agnes Marschinka (1874), John Gossett Honeywill (1874) and Mary (1879). Edward, the eldest, died at the early age of 23 in 1883.

Apart from his appointment as Post Master, Edward Butts was active in a wide variety of community activities in Southland. He was, for almost all of his thirteen years there, secretary of the Southland Acclimatisation society at a time when stocks of salmon and trout were being brought from a variety of origins including Tasmania and Scotland to establish the species in New Zealand rivers for recreational fishing. He

was for a time a member of the Southland Roads Board. He was a member of the Invercargill Artillery Volunteers becoming a Sergeant in 1872 and promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1872, but resigning when he was posted to Wellington.

In Freemasonry, he was a foundation member, Past Master and Secretary of the Southern Cross Lodge No.997, the first in Invercargill, which suggest he may have been a member of a Lodge in England before coming to New Zealand.

In July 1873 he was transferred to Wellington as Post Master, where he joined New Zealand Pacific Lodge of which he was Auditor in 1877. He was a foundation member and (first) Past Master of Wellington Lodge in which he was accorded the distinction of Honorary Life Member in 1888. That probably dates his transfer to Dunedin as Post Master where he served until 1892 when he retired on a pension after thirty years in the Civil Service.

In retirement he spent time in Dunedin and Auckland. In 1906 he and his wife went on holiday to Italy (he had a sister living in Rome), than a trip on the Rhine before moving on to England where he stayed in Stoke Poges, a now affluent village in South Buckinghamshire. The couple returned to New Zealand by the White Star Line vessel *Afric* towards the end of 1906. Thereafter they probably lived in Auckland where Edward Butts was a keen bowler and one of the 1909 Old Veterans Team

Edward Dury Butts died at Devonport, Auckland on 17 September 1910. His wife lived a further four years, passing away at her daughter's residence in Massey Road in Auckland on 11 September 1914.

Edward Dury Butt's brother, Lt-Colonel John George Butts came to New Zealand in 1863 as a member of the Second Battalion Eighteenth Royal Irish Regiment, which serve throughout the Waikato and Wanganui campaigns of the New Zealand Wars. The regiment was the last to leave New Zealand and he subsequently served in Tasmania and at various locations in the UK. As Lieutenant Butts he transferred to the First Battalion and served in Malta, India and Afghanistan, where he became ill and was invalided back to England and into compulsory retirement at the age of forty. ON account of his health, he declined a further offer of service and promotion, which entailed a posting to India, but was active in Wellington Artillery

Volunteers of which he was Adjutant. He died after a series of strokes in 1891.

(material submitted by a Former Naval Person – we have several – take your pick)

DOLLARS AND CENTS

The same Former Naval Person has informed Newsview that in 1881 our Lodge initiation fee (currently \$75) was £6.6.0 or £6.3 which converts to a current \$1048.40.

In the same year, the annual dues were £2.2.0 or £2.1 - modern equivalent \$349.47

Finally, the following appeared in The Evening Post of 24 June 1880:

Wellington Lodge No.1521 EC

Regular meeting Friday 25th inst., at 7.30 pm.

Installation of WM and Officers

Banquet Fee 7s 6d

Seven shillings and sixpence today would be

\$60.90

(For heaven's sake – don't anyone tell the Wellesley)

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