

Introductory

Watson explains the three main aims of the History:

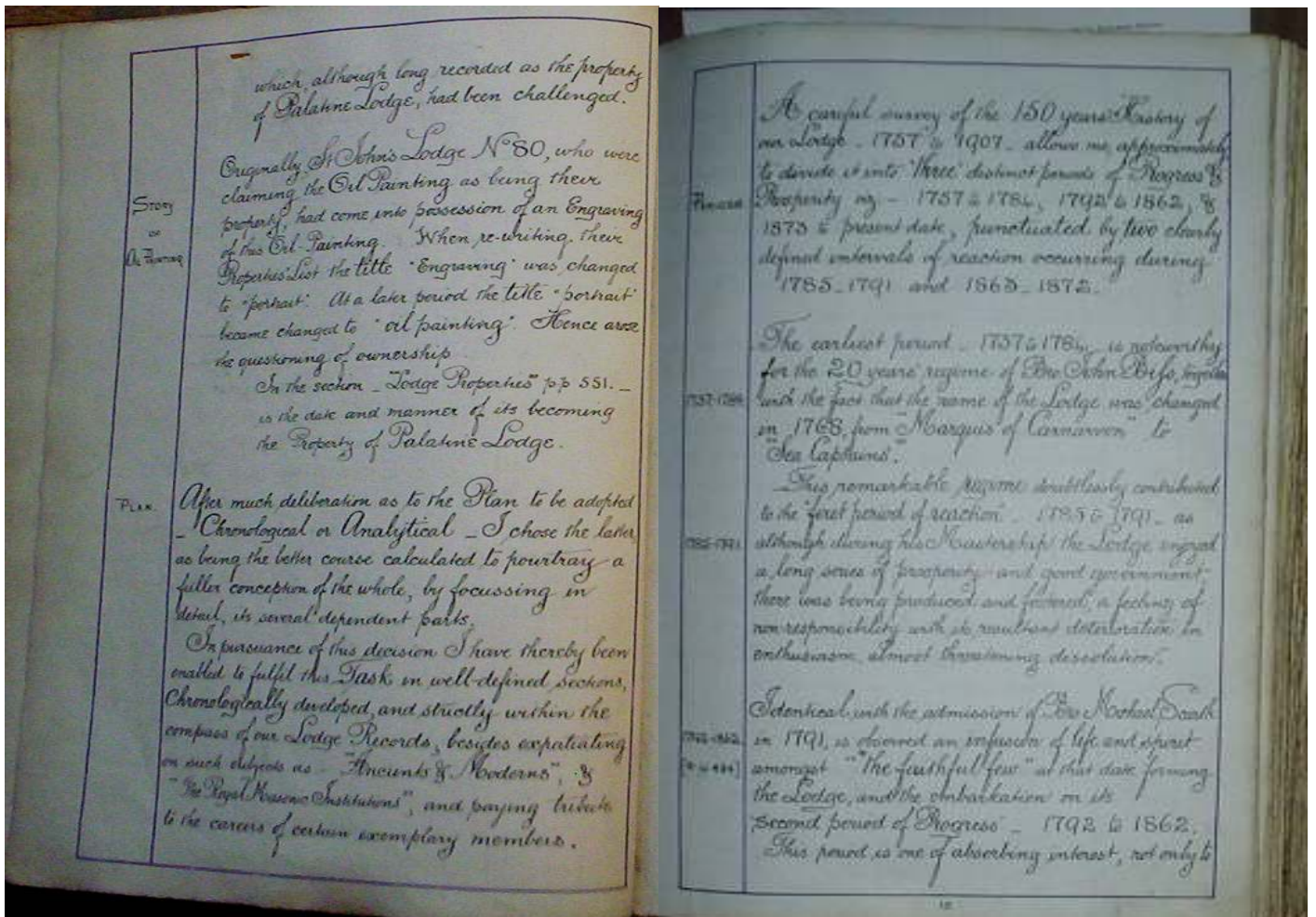
To prepare a brief History of the Lodge to be delivered at the 150th Anniversary.

To provide subject matter for a series of Lectures to promote more interest and better attendance of the brethren.

To search for accurate information respecting the ownership of the large 'Oil Painting of the First Earl of Durham' which, although recorded as the property of Palatine Lodge has been challenged.



John George Lambton
First Earl of Durham



our Lodge in particular, but to Freemasonry at large.

The fruits of the bold policy of Bro Leath, when W.M., in purging the Roll of Membership to 38 subscribing members, the establishment of an Education Fund for the children of our poorer Brethren, and the cementing of the amity with Phoenix Lodge, laid the foundation for the illustrious future of his Lodge.

Concurrent with this Progress a great change was rapidly spreading throughout Freemasonry, which culminated in 1813 in the formation of "The United Grand Lodge of England" with its far reaching results amongst which we note -

The abolition of certain mysterious Degrees, known as "The Herodim" & "The Passage of the Bridge", practised in this Lodge, and peculiar to the Moderns

The rendering obsolete of such practices as conferring the three Degrees on a Candidate at the same Meeting, and the working of "The Royal Arch Degree" in Craft Lodges.

The Union of Moderns & Ancients, locally testified to, by St John's Lodge paying their first Fraternal visit to this Lodge on March 10th 1814.

The introduction of the Constitutional Law N^o 135

in providing that "No Brother shall continue Master for more than two years in succession".

The "New Mode" in working the Degrees, as promulgated by Grand Lodge.

In this great change we have ample proof of the vitality of our Lodge, as evidenced by the leading, but unscrupulous, in procuring various Lodges in the Province, and on eventually being proclaimed as "The guiding star of Masonry in the Province" before reaching this exalted position the Lodge underwent a change in its personnel, whereby its appellation of "Sea Captains" became irrelevant and the present title of "Palatine" assumed in 1850.

In renewing the Membership of this middle period we find the Military in strong evidence from 1800-50, the Theatrical Profession, represented by Henry Robinson, Keable, Samuel & Robert Peck, St Bonfield, who acted as Lodge Secretary for a short period to E.D. Davis, the Shipbuilders by Philip Spring & John Pile, the Legal element by John, Small & Charles Ruston, the Coal interest by William Robert & Henry Morton, in addition to such household names as the Earl of Durham, Sir Roworth Williamson Bart, and W. Roacker, the Doctor.

The irreparable loss to the Lodge of such eminent

Brothers as the brilliant Sharp & Thomas Hardy, together with the failure in realizing the consummation of a long cherished desire in establishing a Masonic Hall for their own use, combined in dampening their ardour and hastening the second period of depression which lasted for 10 years, during which trial the financial position of the Lodge was a most lamentable one, the audited Balance of 4/8 in 1872 touching low water mark.

To enthusiasm in the cause of Charity, doubted by the energy and practicality of the W.M. of that time - Bro Samuel Pein Archer, the same W.M. of today - is mainly due the embarkation on the "third period of Prosperity" during which is remarkable -

The change from a general and haphazard course in respect to Charity to a new and settled policy of systematically supporting the London, Provincial, & Local Charities. The success of such policy is abundantly evidenced by the number of Bibles in perpetuity in the name of Lodge.

The laudable ambition of the Worshipful Masters since 1872 to ensure to their Brethren, not only ability to take but also proficiency in Degrees, working & installing their successors, thereby

abolishing what was looked upon as "The Lodge Installing Master" of whom title the Lodge had two famous examples in Bro Hardy and Long, the former acting on 26, and the latter on 12 occasions.

The founding of a new Lodge, on Temperance principles, on May 11th 1884, and named "Londonderry Lodge N^o 2034", the only offshoot from Palatine Lodge.

The Bequest of £1000 named "The Thomas Gopling Trust" entrusted to the custody of Palatine Lodge in 1896, through the noble generosity of Bro Thomas Gopling P.M., with the stipulation that the Trustees, with one possible exception, on the P.M. Secretary, must be Members of Palatine Lodge.

The greater responsibility devolving on the Permanent Committee in regard to the approval of Candidates for Installation, and the institution of the custom in 1906 of installing a Candidate at a Meeting following his election.

and the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Lodge, by Disposition in the Victoria Hall on January 11th 1907 when Bro Ben Pearson W.M. was supported by Lord Rosebery P.Q.M.,

Bro. Wm. A. Williamson C.M., Deputy P.G.M., and a
large number of Members and visiting Brethren

Before unfolding my Task I desire to express
my gratitude to -

Bro. Maria A. Spright S.W., for designing the
Frontispiece

Bro. David A. Hall J.D., for generously & voluntarily
supplying the numerous photographs, thereby
greatly adding to its value to the Lodge.

Bro. George Atkey for supplying me with the Paper
on which this History is produced.

Bro. John C. Moore P.G.D., for his valuable assistance
in showing me necessary information

Bro. Peter Pearson W.M. for his encouragement -
a most important factor - lively interest and
appreciated advice throughout my labours.