

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE, No 97
BIOGRAPHY
Of
BroJohn Biss



Worshipful Master 1765 – 1784

Bro John Biss was initiated into Phoenix Lodge in 1763.

He joined this lodge on 5th July 1765 and was elected as Worshipful Master at the end of the same year.

This position he held for twenty years

Bro Biss had an adventurous career and also the reputation of being a most passionate man.

He is supposed to have been an offshoot from a noble family and began life as a Mathematical Instrument maker.

BUT WHERE HE SPRANG FROM HE ALONE KNEW AND THE SECRET OF HIS BIRTH DIED WITH HIM.

He arrived in Sunderland in command of a Revenue Cutter and on his visits to the Copperas Works at Ford Hall he made the acquaintance of the Inman Family.



The Copperas Works at Ford Hall

He resigned his Government appointment, married the niece of Mr Robert Inman and became like his relative

R Inmam (who joined this lodge on 5th January 1766) a successful Coal---Fitter.

It is interesting to observe that both these worthy men, residing as neighbours, should be Masters of their respective Lodges, Phoenix and Palatine, for at least ten years together.

Mr Inman, an ancestor of the Inman Line Company of Liverpool was connected with the Army. Soldiers quartered at Sunderland built Ford Hall.

