

# Ye Williamsons of Whitburn

## Comment

*Sir Hedworth had several estates (he virtually owned the whole of Sunderland, including the docks) and residences in different parts of the country. In particular he owned Oxcroft Farm near Newmarket, Cambridgeshire where he bred racehorses - these included a Derby winner named Ditto!!*

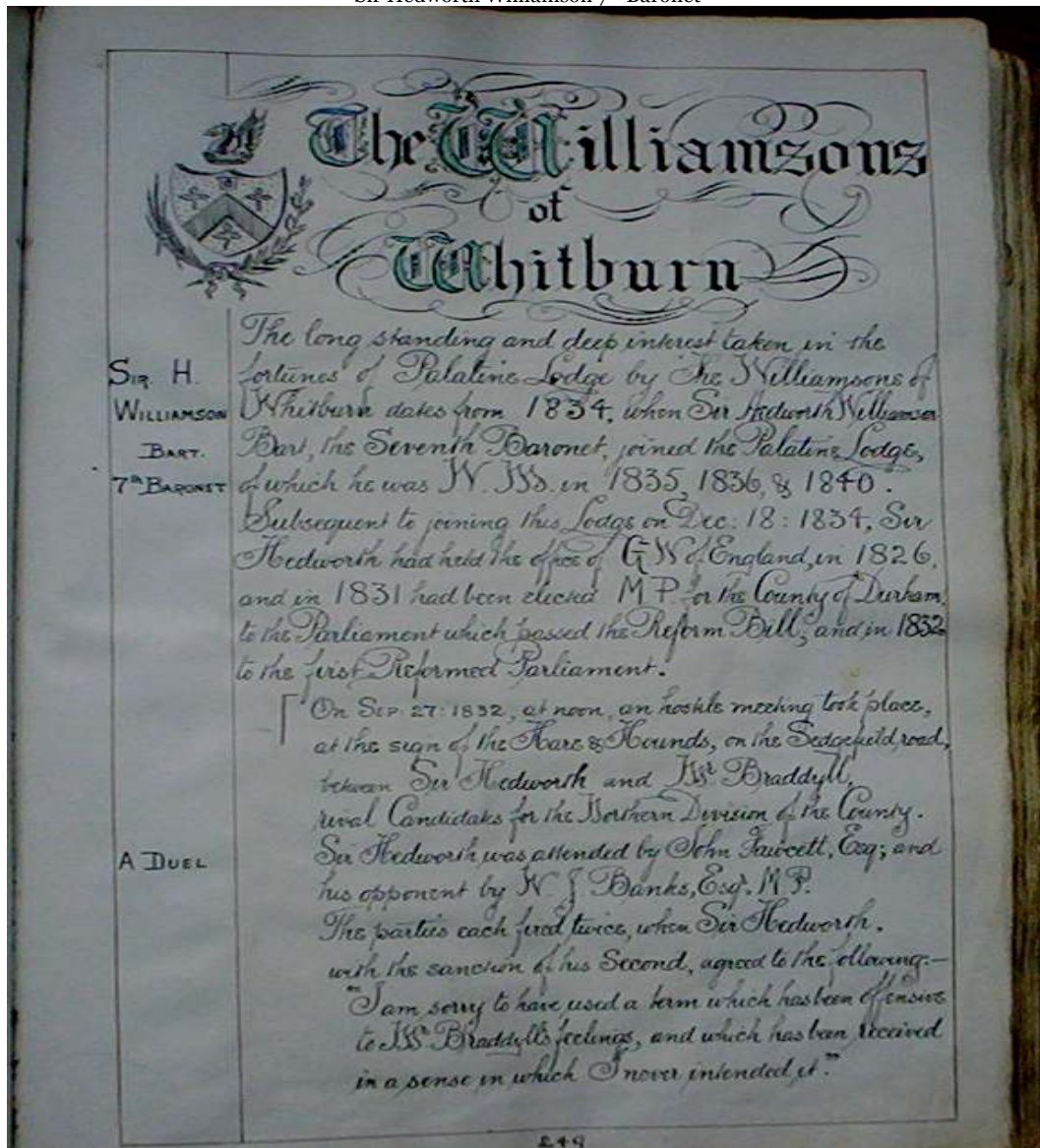
*In 1745 Sir Hedworth, 5th Baronet married Elizabeth Hudleston, heiress of Millom whose lineage traces back to Ferdinand Hudleston in 1109.*

*Sir Hedworth Williamson, 7th Baronet joined Palatine Lodge in 1834 and had a distinguished Masonic and political career, which you will find amply, illustrated on the pages below.*

*His son, Sir Hedworth Williamson, 8th Baronet was also a member of Palatine Lodge and you may note copies of original documents where he was initiated into this lodge, at the age of 19 years, after receiving special dispensation from the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master.*




Sir Hedworth Williamson 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet



Tunstall Road  
 Sunderland  
 14.7.8  
 Dear Bro Watson  
 Nothing would  
 ever have induced me  
 to part with an old  
 unless it was the  
 particular interest  
 you have shown  
 in the history of  
 the Palatine Lodge  
 & the reasons you  
 give me that this  
 unique letter will  
 be most carefully  
 preserved -  
 Please therefore accept  
 on behalf of the W.M.  
 & Brethren I allow  
 me to compliment  
 you on the constant  
 interest you take  
 in the Craft & your  
 fine old Lodge  
 Very respectfully  
 Yours  
 Geo. H. [Signature]  
 20th Nov 1847  
 24, Waterloo St  
 Sunderland 17

To Mr W. Master  
 of the Palatine Lodge  
 Sunderland  
 [Red wax seal]

To the Master of the Palatine  
 Lodge, Sunderland  
 By virtue of the powers  
 vested in me I hereby  
 grant a dispensation to  
 you to make the worthy  
 Williamson Junr, a master  
 altho he has not attained  
 the age of twenty

PALATINE LODGE N° 114.  

 Brother,  
 You are requested to attend on  
 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Inst at 8 o'clock  
 in the evening being Extra Lodge  
 High Order of the W. M.  
 & Crossley, Secy  
 Ballot for Wm. Williamson, Junr  
 for Master of the Lodge  
 Making One  
 P. J. [Signature]  
 W. [Signature]  
 Sunderland  
 21. Sept. 1857



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RESULT OF ELECTION	<p>The parties then shook hands and left the field.          The Result of this Election, held on Dec: 18<sup>th</sup> 19, 1832,          was as follows:—          * Hedworth Lambton 2588.          * Sir Hedworth Williamson 2182.          E. R. G. Praddyll Esq: 1670.          — Elected.</p>
P. G. M.	<p>In 1840 Sir Hedworth Fough Sheriff for the County, was          installed P. G. M. of Durham, a position he filled until          1845.</p>
MAYOR	<p>He was Mayor of Sunderland in 1841, 1842, and          again in 1847, but only for a very short time, as he resigned in</p>
M. P.	<p>order to stand for the Borough of Sunderland at the Election in          that year, caused by the resignation of Mr David Darby, at          which he was successful, and Represented the Borough          from 1847 to 1852.</p>
FAMILY	<p>Result of Poll          Sir Hedworth Williamson 705          Arthur Wilkinson Esq: 578          On April 15: 1826, Sir Hedworth married Annie Elizabeth,          third daughter of Lord Ravensworth, and their four sons were          Hedworth, born at Florence, on March 25: 1827.          William Henry, do, Oct: 14: 1829.          Charles, Whitburn, Sep: 1: 1833.          Victor Alexander, Cheltenham, June 28: 1838.          who all became Members of the Palatine          Lodge.</p>

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Sir Hedworth Williamson  
 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet

THE 8 <sup>TH</sup> BARONET.	Hedworth Williamson, the Father of the present Sir Hedworth, was initiated, on Jan: 14. 1847, at the age of 19 years, by Special Dispensation granted by the Right Hon: The Earl of Zeland G. M. He was 'passed' on April 9. 1847, and 'raised' on Sep 9. 1847, and filled the following Offices in the Lodge: -
OFFICES HELD	J. D. 1855; S. D. 1856; S. W. 1857; being Installed W. M. by Bro D. L. M. in 1858.
G. W.	He was appointed G. W. of England in 1862; elected
M. P.	M. P. for the North Durham Division, 1864 - 1874;
P. G. M.	and held the office of P. G. M. [Deputy] 1885 - 1900.
SILVER WEDDING	On June 14. 1888, the Brethren of the Province embraced the opportunity of showing their affection by presenting a magnificent Silver Punch Bowl, in commemoration of his Silver Wedding; a photo of Bowl, together with a Copy of the illuminated Address, hang on the Lodge Room wall.
INITIATION OF THE 9 <sup>TH</sup> BARONET	On Jan. 13. 1892, in the presence of a very large gathering of Brethren, he initiated his son Hedworth, the present Baronet, in a manner which was much appreciated. It is a matter of regret, that the present Baronet has not interested himself, like his Father and Grandfather, in Freemasonry, as had he done so the gratifying record of 3 generations occupying the Chair of Zeland's Lodge, would have been accomplished.
75 YEARS OF AGE.	On May 25 <sup>th</sup> 1900, his seventy-fifth birthday, his failing health gave much concern to his family;



<p>FUNERAL AT WHITBURN</p>	<p>but failure of the heart's action, brought on by diabetes, accelerated his death which took place, at his residence, Whitburn Hall, on August 26<sup>th</sup> 1900. On Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> the body was interred in the family vault, in Whitburn Churchyard. At the funeral, the attendance of Freemasons, was very large and representative, being a concourse of large deputations from every Lodge in the Province.</p>
<p>PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT BY THE 9<sup>th</sup> BARONET.</p>	<p>On Dec. 14. 1905 Bro. Thomas James P.M., D of C, on behalf of Bro. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., presented to the Lodge a large framed Photograph of his Father, which now bears the following inscription:— "The late Sir Hedworth Williamson Bart. R. W. P. G. M. DURHAM. 1885-1900. W. J. S. No 97. 1858. Presented to Palatine Lodge Dec. 14, 1905 By Sir Hedworth Williamson Bart."</p>
<p>CHARLES WILLIAMSON</p>	<p>Charles Williamson, was admitted a Joining Member on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1877 13<sup>th</sup> March 12. 1877.</p>
<p>LETTER OF CONDOLENCE</p>	<p>Dear Sir &amp; Brother, The Brethren of Palatine Lodge 97 respectfully beg to offer you their condolence on the death of your dear Brother Charles. The Bond which binds together our Masonic Family is such, that when one suffers, the whole suffer and it is this feeling of fraternal sympathy which I am desired to convey to you by the Members of this Lodge. I am, Yours Faithfully &amp; Fraternally Sir Hedworth Williamson Bart. Whitburn Hall. Thomas Twizell W. J. S.</p>



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Victor Alexander Williamson

V. A.	Victor Alexander Williamson was initiated
WILLIAMSON	in the Apollo Lodge, Oxford University, in November
C.M.G.	1857, at the age of 19 years, and served the offices of
D.P.G.M.	Secretary and S.W. in his mother Lodge.
	On May 13 1858 he was elected a joining member of Palatine Lodge, continuing an active subscribing member until when he resigned owing to his many other duties.
	On Oct. 10. 1907, the Lodge honoured itself by unanimously electing him an Honorary Member.
	In 1865, he was appointed J. G. W. in Grand Lodge.
G. W.	This was a somewhat unusual appointment, as he had not then filled the Chair of any Lodge. At the last moment the original nominee failed, and the G.M. Lord Zealand appointed him to the office. This led to a curious result, for in attending the September meeting of G.L., he was the highest in Rank present, and therefore was called upon to preside, consequently the first Chair of a Masonic Lodge that he filled was the Throne of Grand Lodge - a unique case.
UNIQUE	
1866	In 1866, he was installed W. J. S. of the Churchill Lodge,
8	Oxford, and of the Westminster & Key Stone Lodge N° 10
1870	London, in 1870.
	In 1878, he was appointed P. S. G. W. Durham, and installed W. J. S. of the Lambton Lodge N° 375, in 1884.
A FOUNDER OF N° 1610	In 1878, he was W. J. S. of the Northern Den Lodge N° 1610, London, of which he is one of the founders.



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The Earl of Zetland, Grand Master



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H R H The Prince of Wales

R.W. DEPT P.G.M.	In 1906, he succeeded the Rev Canon Justham D.D., P.G. Chaplain, as R.W. Deputy P.G.M., to which office he was appointed by Lord Barnard, P.G.M.
MINUTE OF LODGE HELD ON MARCH 12 <sup>TH</sup> 1908	At Lodge meeting on March 12 <sup>th</sup> 1908, Bro V.A. Williamson, R.W. D.P.G.M. was received in due form, and took the W.M.'s chair, vacated by Bro M.A. Spaight W.M., and passed the Lodge to the Fellowcraft Degree, when Bro Dixon, Milburn, & Beckett answered the usual questions associated with this Degree, put to them by the W.M., Bro Spaight.
HONORARY MEMBER OCT. 10. 1907	Lodge raised to the Third Degree, in which the Candidates were raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason:— Bro R.W.E. Dixon by Bro V.A. Williamson, R.W. D.P.G.M., Bro Alfred Milburn by Bro Paul Wayman P.M., and Bro James Beckett by Bro Thomas James P.M., D.F.C., the Traditional History being delivered by Bro Williamson.
W. H. WILLIAMSON.	Lodge reduced in due form by Bro Spaight W.M., who had resumed his chair, during the eloquent delivery of the Traditional History, to the First Degree. Bro Williamson then asked the Brethren to allow him to thank them for the honour they had conferred upon him by electing him an Honorary Member of this Historic Lodge. After an eulogistic reference to the History of Palatine Lodge, compiled by Bro. G. Watson P.M. he begged them to excuse his departure, as owing to suffering from a cold he had arranged to leave at 9 p.m.
	William Henry Williamson, was initiated in this Lodge on Feb. 14, 1850, passed on Oct. 10. 1850, and raised on Nov. 22. 1850.