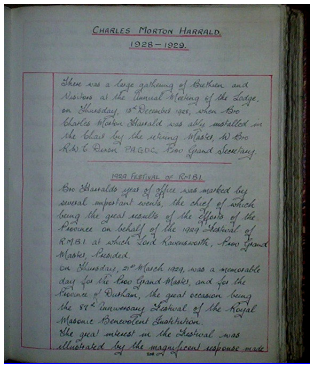
The History 1907 to1936

W Bro Charles Morton Harrald, PM
Worshipful Master 1928 to 1929



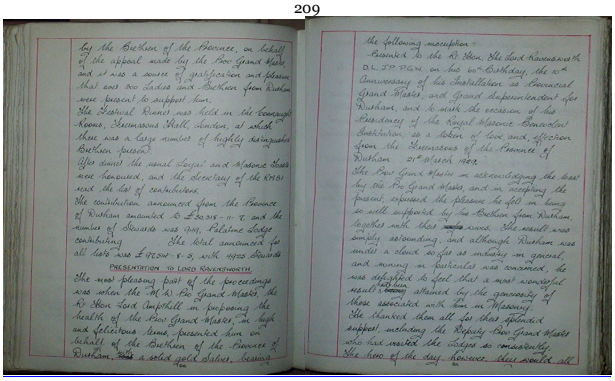
CHARLES MORTON HARRALD
1928–1929.

There was a large gathering of Brethren and Visitors at the Annual Meeting of the Lodge, on Thursday, 5th December 1928, when Bro Charles Morton Harrald was duly installed in the chair by the retiring Master, W Bro Rob't E Dixon PAGDC, Prov Grand Secretary.

1929 FESTIVAL OF RMBI

Bro Harrald's year of office was marked by several important events, the chief of which being the great results of the efforts of the Province on behalf of the 1929 Festival of RMBI at which Lord Ravensworth, Prov Grand Master, presided.
On Thursday, 21st March 1929, was a memorable day for the Prov Grand Master, and for the Province of Durham, the great occasion being the 82nd Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.
The great interest in the Festival was illustrated by the magnificent response made

209



by the Brethren of the Province, on behalf of the appeal made by the Prov Grand Master and it was a source of gratification and pleasure that over 800 Ladies and Brethren from Durham were present to support him.
The Festival Dinner was held in Sir Connaught Rooms, Freemasons Hall, London, at which there was a large number of highly distinguished Brethren present.
After dinner the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, and the Secretary of the RMBI read the list of contributors.
The contribution announced from the Province of Durham amounted to £2035 - 11 - 0, and the number of Stewards was 109, Palatine Lodge contributing. The total announced for all lists was £17514 - 8 - 0, with 1925 Stewards.

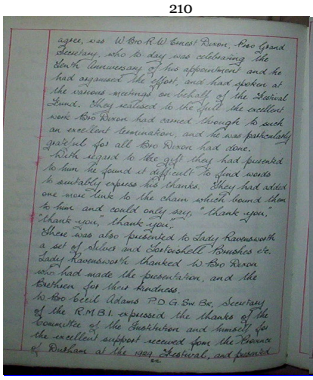
PRESENTATION TO LORD RAVENSWORTH

The most pleasing part of the proceedings was when the W.M. the Prov Grand Master, the Rt Hon Lord Ravensworth in proposing the health of the Prov Grand Master, in high and felicitous terms presented him on behalf of the Brethren of the Province of Durham with a solid gold shaker, bearing

210

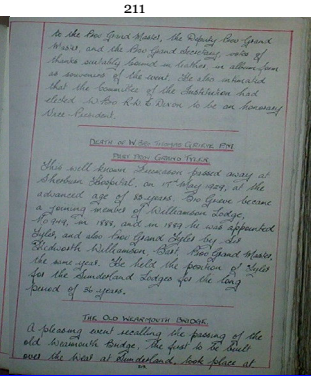
the following inscription:-
"Presented to the Rt Hon. The Lord Ravensworth D.L. J.P. PGM on his 60th Birthday, the 10th Anniversary of his Installation as Provincial Grand Master, and Grand Superintendent of Durham, and to mark the occasion of his Presidency of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, as a token of love and affection from the Freemasons of the Province of Durham. 21st March 1929."
The Prov Grand Master in acknowledging the toast by the Prov Grand Master, and in accepting the present, expressed the pleasure he felt in being so well supported by his Brethren from Durham, together with their wives. The result was simply astounding, and although Durham was under a cloud so far as mining in general, and mining in particular was concerned, he was delighted to feel that a most wonderful result had been achieved by the generosity of those associated with him in Masonry.
He thanked them all for their splendid support, including the Deputy Prov Grand Master who had mastered the Lodge so ably.
The hero of the day however, they would all

211



agree, was W Bro R W Ernest Dixon, Prov Grand Secretary, who on the day was celebrating the tenth anniversary of his appointment and he had organised the effort, and had spoken at the various meetings on behalf of the Festival Funds. They realised to the full the excellent work Bro Dixon had carried through to such an excellent termination, and he was particularly grateful for all Bro Dixon had done.
With regard to the gift they had presented to him he found it difficult to find words to suitably express his thanks. They had added one more link to the chain which bound them to him and could only say, "thank you, thank you, thank you."
There was also presented to Lady Ravensworth a set of silver and Sheffield Brooches etc. Lady Ravensworth thanked W Bro Dixon who had made the presentation, and the Brethren for their kindness.
W Bro Reed Adams P.D.G. Sw Bro, Secretary of the RMBI expressed the thanks of the Committee of the Institution and humbly for the excellent support received from the Province of Durham at the 1929 Festival, and passed

212



to the Prov Grand Master, the Deputy Prov Grand Master, and the Prov Grand Secretary, words of thanks suitably framed in leather in albums from as souvenirs of the event. He also intimated that the Committee of the Institution had elected W Bro Rob't E Dixon to be an honorary Vice-President.

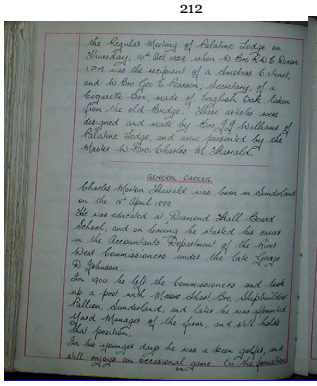
DEATH OF W BRO THOMAS GEORGE PM
PROV PROV GRAND TYLER

This well known Freemason passed away at Sherburn Hospital, on 17th May 1929, at the advanced age of 88 years. Bro Grace became a joining member of Hellenmson Lodge, No 909, in 1888, and in 1889 he was appointed Tyler, and also Prov Grand Tyler by Bro Wadworth Hellimsen Past Prov Grand Master, the same year. He held the position of Tyler for the Sunderland Lodge for the long period of 36 years.

THE OLD WEARMOUTH BRIDGE

A pleasing event recalling the passing of the old Wearmouth Bridge. The first to be built over the River at Sunderland, took place at

213

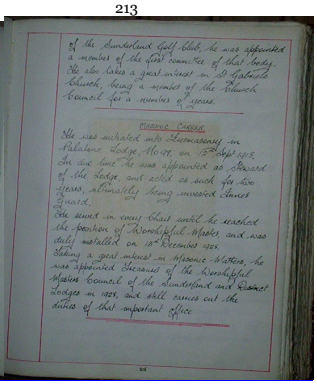


the Regular Meeting of Palatine Lodge on Thursday, 10th Oct 1929, when W Bro R D E Dixon 1909 was the recipient of a Smokers Cabinet, and W Bro Geo E Pearson, Secretary, of a Keepsake Box, made of English Oak taken from the old Bridge. These articles were designed and made by Bro J.J. Williams of Palatine Lodge, and were presented by the Master W Bro Charles M Harrald.

GENERAL CAREER.

Charles Morton Harrald was born in Sunderland on the 15th April 1884.
He was educated at Diamond Hall Board School, and on leaving he started his career in the Accountants Department of the firm Hood Commissioners under the late George R Johnson.
On 1900 he left the Commissioners and took up a post with Messrs Hall Bros. Shipbuilders Pallion, Sunderland, and later he was appointed Yard Manager of the firm, and still holds that position.
In his younger days he was a keen golfer and still engages on occasional game. On the formation

214



of the Sunderland Golf Club he was appointed a member of the first committee of that body. He also takes a great interest in St Gabriels Church, being a member of the Church Council for a number of years.

MASONIC CAREER.

He was initiated into Freemasonry in Palatine Lodge, No 97, on 7th Sept 1923. Six months later he was appointed as Steward of the Lodge, and acted as such for two years, ultimately being invested Junior Guard.
He served in every chair until he reached the position of Worshipful Master, and was duly installed on 5th December 1928.
Taking a great interest in Masonic Matters, he was appointed Treasurer of the Worshipful Master's Council of the Sunderland and District Lodges in 1929, and still carries out the duties of that important office.

215

END