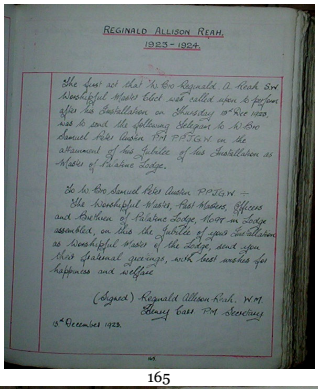
The History 1907 to 1936

W Bro Reginald Alison Reah, PM
Worshipful Master 1923 to 1924



REGINALD ALLISON REAH.
1923 - 1924.

The first act that W. Bro. Reginald A. Reah 3rd Worshipful Master Elect was called upon to perform after his Installation on Thursday 13th Nov 1923 was to send the following Telegram to R.W. Bro Samuel Rees Austin PPJGW on the attainment of the Jubilee of his Installation as Master of Palatine Lodge.

To R.W. Bro Samuel Rees Austin PPJGW —
The Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Officers and Brethren of Palatine Lodge, No 909 in Lodge assembled, on this the Jubilee of your Installation as Worshipful Master of the Lodge, send you their fraternal greetings, with best wishes for happiness and welfare

(Signed) Reginald Allison Reah. W.M.
Stanley Ball P.M. Secretary

13th December 1923.

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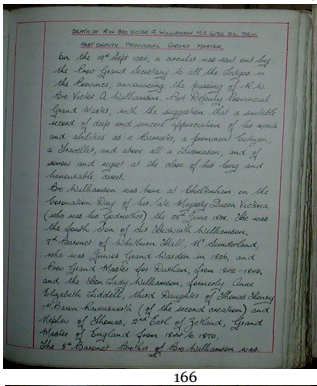
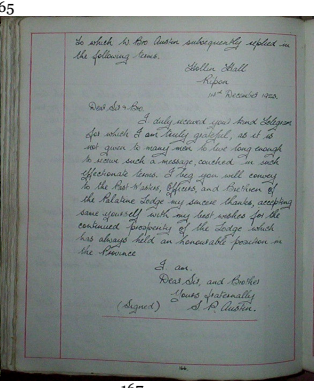


DEATH OF R.W. BRO VICTOR A. WILLIAMSON P.G.D. (ENG.) TRANS.
PAST DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

On the 14th Sept 1924, a circular was sent out by the Bro Grand Secretary to all the Lodges in the Province, announcing the passing of R.W. Bro Victor A. Williamson, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with the suggestion that a suitable record of deep and sincere appreciation of his works and abilities as a Brother, a Provincial Officer, a Traveller, and above all a Freemason, and of his services and regret at the close of his long and honourable career.

Bro Williamson was born at Cheltenham on the Coronation Day of the late Majesty Queen Victoria (who was his Godmother) the 20th June 1838. He was the fourth Son of the Rev. Wm Williamson, 7th Baronet of William Hall, N. Cumberland, who was former Grand Chaplain in 1826, and Bro Grand Master for Durham, from 1832 - 1840, and the Hon Lady Williamson, formerly Jane Elizabeth Liddell, third daughter of Thomas Henry 1st Baron Ravensworth (of the second creation) and Mother of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England from 1844 to 1870.

The 5th Baronet Brother of Bro. Williamson was



to which R.W. Bro Austin subsequently replied in the following terms.

Stanley Hall
Ripon
1st December 1923.

Dear Sir & Bro

I duly received your kind telegram, for which I am truly grateful, as it is not given to many men to live long enough to receive such a message, couched in such affectionate terms. I beg you will convey to the Past-Masters, Officers and Brethren of the Palatine Lodge my sincere thanks, accepting same yourself with my best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Lodge which has always held an honourable position in the Province

I am
Dear Sir and Brother
Yours fraternally
(Signed) S. R. Austin.

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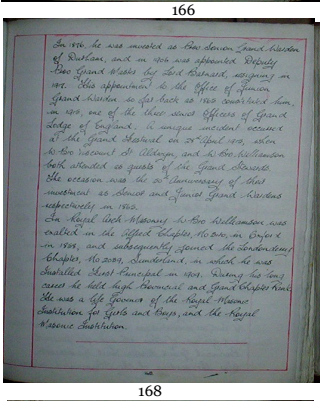
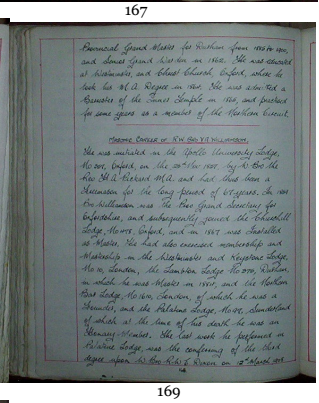


In 1886 he was invested as Bro Junior Grand Warden of Durham, and in 1906 was appointed Deputy Bro Grand Master by Lord Barnard, assigning in 1907. This appointment to the Office of Junior Grand Warden so far back as 1886 constituted him, in 1910, one of the three senior Officers of Grand Lodge of England. A unique incident occurred at the Grand Festival on 22nd April 1908, when R.W. Bro Viscount St Oswald, and R.W. Bro Williamson both attended as guests of the Grand Stewards. The occasion was the 50th Anniversary of their initiation as Junior and Senior Grand Wardens respectively in 1858.

In Royal Arch Masonry R.W. Bro Williamson was exalted in the Affleck Chapter, No 2011, in Oxford in 1878, and subsequently joined the Londonderry Chapter, No 2009, Sunderland, in which he was Installed First Principal in 1883. During his long career he held high Provincial and Grand Chapter Rank. He was a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls and Boys, and the Royal Masonic Institution



Provincial Grand Master for Durham from 1883 to 1900, and Junior Grand Warden in 1868. He was elevated at Histlemoor, and School School, Oxford, where he took his M.A. Degree in 1861. He was also M.A. a Member of the Junior Temple in 1862, and practised for some years as a member of the Northern Circuit.

MASONIC CAREER OF R.W. BRO V.A. WILLIAMSON.

He was initiated in the Apollo University Lodge, No 207, Oxford, on the 20th Nov 1857, by R.W. Bro the Hon Sir A. Kinnaird M.P. and had then been a Mason for the long period of 47 years. In 1861 Bro Williamson was the Two Grand Stewards for Exhibition, and subsequently joined the Churchill Lodge, No 1078, Oxford, and in 1867 was Installed as Master. He had also extensive membership and Membership in the Histlemoor and Keystone Lodge, No 10, London, the Lumley Lodge No 1070, Durham, in which he was Master in 1871, and the Durham Post Lodge, No 1610, Sunderland, of which he was a Founder, and the Palatine Lodge, No 909, Sunderland, of which at the time of his death he was an Honorary Member. The last work he performed in Palatine Lodge was the conferring of the Third Degree upon R.W. Bro R.A. J. Rowan on 5th April 1911

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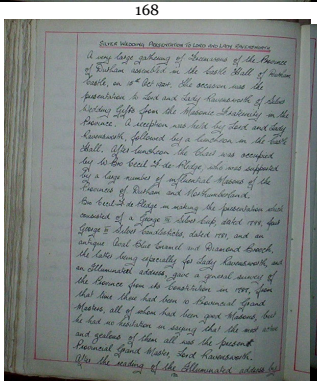
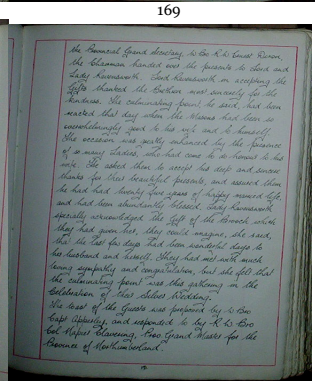


SILVER WEDDING PRESENTATION TO LORD AND LADY RAVENSWORTH.

A very large gathering of Freemasons of the Province of Durham assembled in the Castle Hall of Durham Castle, on 10th Nov 1924. The occasion was the presentation to Lord and Lady Ravensworth of silver Wedding Gifts from the Masonic Brotherhood in the Province. A reception was held by Lord and Lady Ravensworth, followed by a luncheon in the Castle Hall. After luncheon the Toast was proposed by R.W. Bro Cecil J. de Ridder, who was supported by a large number of influential Masons of the Provinces of Durham and Northumberland.

Bro Cecil de Ridder in making the presentation which consisted of a Grange in Silver Cup, dated 1771, two Grange & Silver Candlesticks, dated 1771, and an antique Oval Pint Tankard and Diamond Brooch, the latter being especially for Lady Ravensworth, and an Illuminated Address, gave a general survey of the Province from its foundation in 1771, from that time there had been 12 Provincial Grand Masters, all of whom had been great Masons, but he had no hesitation in saying that the most able and zealous of them all was the present Provincial Grand Master Lord Ravensworth.

After the reading of the Illuminated address by



the Provincial Grand Secretary R.W. Bro R.A. Ernest Rowan, the Chairman thanked over the presents to Lord and Lady Ravensworth. Lord Ravensworth on accepting the Gifts thanked the Brethren most sincerely for the kindness. The outstanding point he said, had been marked that day when the Masons had been so overwhelmingly good to his wife and to himself. The occasion was greatly enhanced by the presence of so many ladies, who had come to do honour to his wife. He asked them to accept his deep and sincere thanks for their beautiful presents, and assure them he had had twenty five years of happy married life and had been abundantly blessed. Lady Ravensworth specially acknowledged the gift of the Brooch which they had given her, they could imagine, she said, that the last few days had been wonderful days to her husband and herself. They had met with much loving sympathy and congratulation, but she felt that the outstanding point was the gathering in the Celebration of their Silver Wedding.

The toast of the Guests was proposed by R.W. Bro Capt Hornsby, and responded to by R.W. Bro Col Harper Browning, Prov Grand Master for the Province of Northumberland.

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END