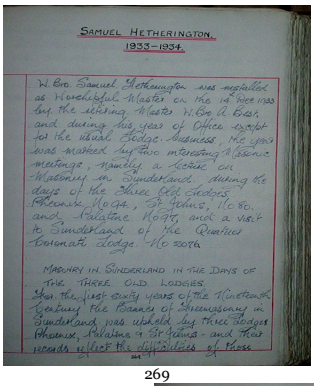
The History 1907 to 1936

W Bro Samuel Hetherington
Worshipful Master 1933 to 1934



SAMUEL HETHERINGTON.
1933–1934.

W. Bro. Samuel Hetherington was installed as Worshipful Master on the 16 June 1933 by the retiring Master W. Bro. A. Gray, and during his year of Office carried out the usual Lodge business. His year was marked by two interesting Masonic meetings, namely a lecture on Masonry in Sunderland during the days of the Three Old Lodges, Phœnix No 94, St Johns, No 80, and Palatine No 98, and a visit to Sunderland of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076.

MASONRY IN SUNDERLAND IN THE DAYS OF THE THREE OLD LODGES.

For the first early years of the Nineteenth Century the Branch of Freemasonry in Sunderland was upheld by three Lodges Phœnix, Palatine & St Johns – and their records reflect the difficulties of those

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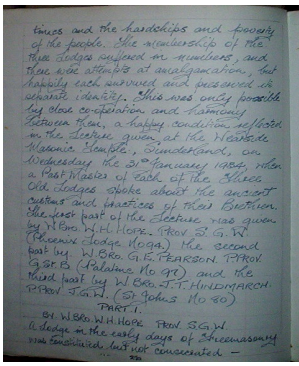

times and the hardships and poverty of the people. The membership of the three Lodges suffered in numbers, and there were attempts at amalgamation, but happily each survived and preserved its separate identity. This was only possible by their co-operation and harmony. Between them a happy condition reflected in the lecture given at the Westgate Masonic Temple, Sunderland, on Wednesday the 31st January 1934 when a Past Master of each of the three Old Lodges spoke about the ancient customs and practices of their Brethren. The first part of the lecture was given by W Bro. W.H. Hope. Prov. S.G.W. (Phœnix Lodge No 94.) The second part by W.Bro. G.E. PEARSON. P.Prov G.S.B (Palatine No 98) and the third part by W Bro. J.T. HINDMARCH. P.Prov J.G.W. (St. Johns No 80)

PART I.

By W.Bro. W.H. HOPE Prov. S.G.W.

A Lodge in the early days of Freemasonry was constituted, but not consecrated –

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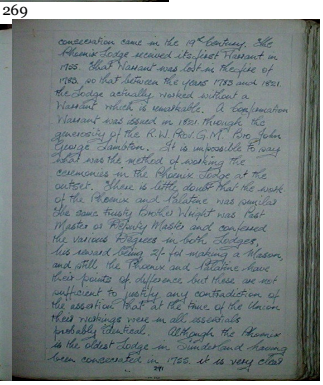

consecration came in the 19th Century. The Phœnix Lodge received its first Warrant in 1755. That Warrant was lost in the fire of 1780, so that between the years 1783 and 1821 the Lodge actually worked without a Warrant which is remarkable. A Confirmation Warrant was issued in 1821 through the generosity of the R.W. Prov. G.M. Bro. John George Lambton. It is impossible to say how it was the method of working the ceremonies in the Phœnix Lodge at the outset. There is little doubt that the work of the Phœnix and Palatine was similar. The same Rusty Knife Wright was Past Master of Friendly Masons and conferred the various Degrees in both Lodges, his reward being 7/- for making a Mason, and still the Phœnix and Palatine have their points of difference but these are not sufficient to justify any contradiction of the assertion that at the time of the Union these workings were in all essentials probably identical. Although the Phœnix is the oldest Lodge in Sunderland having been consecrated in 1755, it is very clear

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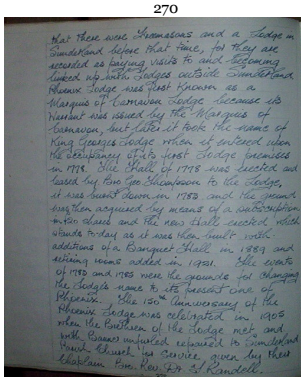

that there were Freemasons and a Lodge in Sunderland before that time, for they are recorded as paying visits to and becoming linked up with Lodges outside Sunderland. Phœnix Lodge was first known as a Marquis of Cornwallis Lodge because its Warrant was issued by the Marquis of Cornwallis, but later it took the name of King George Lodge when of ancient when the Deputy Grand First Lodge premises in 1778. The Hall of 1778 was erected and used by the Sir Thompson to the Lodge, it was burnt down in 1783 and the present one then acquired by means of a subscription in 120 shares and the new Hall erected which stands to-day as it was then built with additions of a Banquet Hall in 1889 and adjoining rooms added in 1921. The events of 1780 and 1783 were the grounds for changing the Lodge's name to its present one of Phœnix. The 150th Anniversary of the Phœnix Lodge was celebrated in 1905 when the Brethren of the Lodge met and with Banners unfurled returned to Sunderland Parish Church for Service given by their Chaplain Rev. Rev. Fr. J. Rundell.

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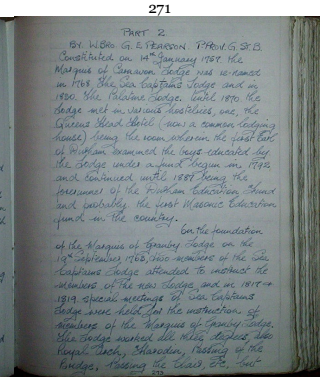

PART 2

By W.Bro G. E. PEARSON. P.Prov. G.S.B.

Constituted on 14th January 1759. The Marquis of Cornwallis Lodge was re-named in 1769 The Sir Ralph's Lodge and in 1780 The Phœnix Lodge. Until 1870 the Lodge met in various hostelries and the Queens Head Hotel (now a tenant lodging house) being the room wherein the first Master of Durham Grammar Boys educated by the Lodge under a grant began on 1792 and continued until 1887 being the forerunner of the Durham Education Grant and probably the first Masonic Education fund in the country.

On the foundation of the Marquis of Granby Lodge on the 19th September 1768, three members of the Sir Ralph's Lodge attended to instruct the members of the new Lodge, and in 1817 to 1819 special meetings of Sir Ralphs Lodge were held for the instruction of members of the Marquis of Granby Lodge. The Lodge worked all three Degrees like Royal Arch, Shrewsbury, Mastery of the Knights, Passing the Chair, Etc. but

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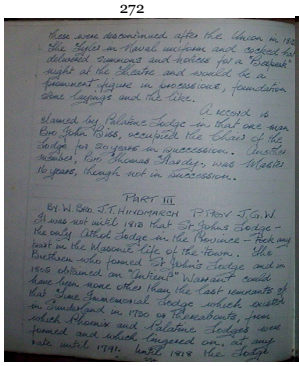

these were discontinued after the Union in 1813. The Lodge in Naval uniform and sported the elaborate summons and notices for a "Blackball" night at the Theatre and would be a prominent figure in processions, foundation stone laying and the like.

A record is claimed by Palatine Lodge in that one man Bro John Bass, occupied the Chair of the Lodge for 30 years in succession. Another member, Bro Thomas Hardy, was Master 16 years, though not in succession.

PART III

By W. Bro J.T. HINDMARCH P.Prov J.G.W.

It was not until 1810 that St Johns Lodge – the only Attached Lodge in the Province – took any part in the Masonic Life of the Town. The Brethren who formed St Johns Lodge and in 1826 obtained an "Antient" Warrant could have been none other than the last remnants of that Time Immemorial Lodge which existed in Sunderland in 1700 or thereabouts, from which Phœnix and Palatine Lodges were formed and which lingered on, at any rate until 1791. Until 1818 the Lodge

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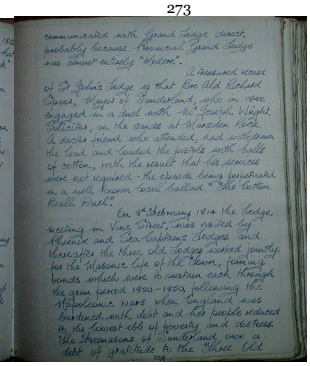

communicated with Grand Lodge direct, probably because Provincial Grand Lodge was almost entirely "Modern".

A treasured souvenir of St John's Lodge is that Bro Old Richard Street, Mayor of Sunderland, who in 1845 engaged in a duel with the Tanfield Knight, Fletcher, on the sands at Marsden Rock. A social meeting was attended, that with them the lead and loaded the pistols with balls of cotton, with the result that the services were not required – the episode being immortalised in a well known local ballad "The Cotton Ball Duel."

On 3rd February 1814 the Lodge, meeting in Vine Street, was visited by Phœnix and Sir Ralphs Lodges and thereafter the three Old Lodges worked jointly for the Masonic Life of the Town, forming bonds which were to sustain each through the grim period 1820–1850, following the Napoleonic Wars when England was burdened with debt and her people reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress. The Freemasons of Sunderland owe a debt of gratitude to the Three Old

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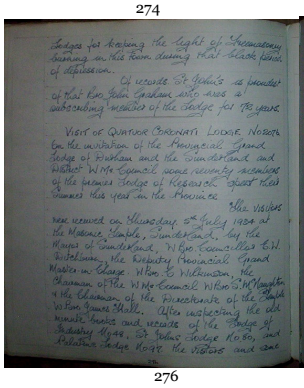

Lodges for keeping the light of Freemasonry burning in this Town during that black period of depression.

Of records St John's is proud of that Bro John Graham who was a outstanding member of the Lodge for 70 years.

VISIT OF QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE No 2076

On the invitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham and the Sunderland and District W.Mr Council, a most worthy member of the learned Lodge of Research, first Mason this year in the Province.

The Visitors were received on Thursday 5th July 1934 at the Masonic Temple, Sunderland, by the Mayor of Sunderland, W.Bro. Councillor E.H. Gutteridge, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, W.Bro. E. Wilkinson, the Chairman of the W.Mr Council, W.Bro. S.W. Naughton & the Chairman of the Freemasons of the Parish W.Bro. Jones Hall. After inspecting the old minute books and records of the Lodge of Industry No 44, St Johns Lodge No 80, and Palatine Lodge No 98 the Visitors and one

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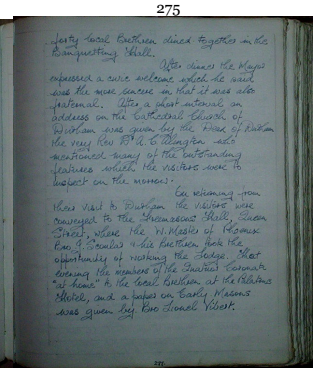

forty local Brethren dined together in the Banqueting Hall.

After dinner the Mayor expressed a wise welcome which he said was the more sincere in that it was also fraternal. After a short interval an address on the Cathedral Church of Durham was given by the Dean of Durham the very Rev Dr. A. C. Dampier and mentioned many of the outstanding features which the visitors were to inspect on the morrow.

On returning from their visit to Durham the visitors were conveyed to the Freemasons Hall, Queen Street, where the W. Master of Phœnix Bro J. Scanlan & his Brethren took the opportunity of visiting the Lodge. That evening the members of the Quatuor Coronati "at home" to the local Brethren at the Palatine Hotel, and a paper on Early Masons was given by Bro Lionel Vibert.

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HISTORY
OF
PALATINE LODGE No 97
VOL 2
CONTINUED
BY W BRO SAMUEL HETHERINGTON PM.

When one joins a Society and is interested in its proceedings, one naturally feels a desire to know something of its History. One is anxious to learn something of the circumstances which led to its origin, the beneficial actions in which it has been engaged, and the names of the men who have taken prominent themselves in the management of its affairs. A desire of this kind is felt to be specially felt in regard to a Masonic Lodge, more particularly if it has existed for a considerable period, such as this Grand old Lodge Palatine. The young Mason finds himself surrounded by a considerable amount of darkness and mystery which he is anxious to dispel. If he is of an inquiring mind, he seeks every source from which he is likely to obtain light, he carefully perusses every scrap of information which he can find regarding the doings of the Lodge Pontifex in bygone days. I feel sure that when

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W. Bro George Edward Newton commenced this volume, he endeavoured to keep a record of notable events which had occurred during each Masters Term of Office, and I undertook the duties to be same in order that this Grand Old Lodge should in years to come be set before the eyes of its members, and from the commencement of this History in the year 1907 to 1930, I feel sure that the foundation was truly well laid.

Owing to his rapidly failing health, W. Bro Newton laid down his tools, and I readily accepted to carry on his good work in recording the events which have occured since 1930. I hope that my labours may be of some value in the years to come, as I shall not deviate from what was first commenced by one who endeared himself to all, but will try to emulate his good work to the best of my ability.

Samuel Hetherington
PM

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GENERAL CAREER.

W Bro Samuel Hetherington was born in Sunderland on the 28th February 1898, and was educated at Ridley Boys School. On leaving school he commenced his career as an apprentice Plater with the Sunderland Shipbuilding Co Ltd, Slate Rock, Sunderland, in 1914. Owing to the outbreak of the Great War he enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry in March 1915, and after training proceeded with his Regiment to France, and took part in the first battle of the Somme. After demobilisation he again returned to his former employment until 1924. He left the Shipbuilding industry during the industrial depression in that year, and commenced employment in a Government Department as Clerk with the Ministry of Labour, Sunderland, gaining a permanent position under the Crown as an established Civil Servant. He was initiated in Palatine Lodge No 97 in 1919 and after steadily progressing was installed as Worshipful Master in 1933 at the age of 36 years.

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