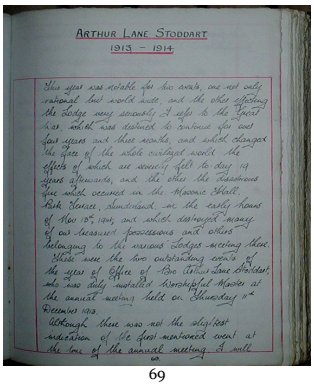
The History 1907 to 1936

W Bro Arthur Lane Stoddart
Worshipful Master 1913 to 1914



ARTHUR LANE STODDART
1913 – 1914

This year was notable for two events, one not only national but world wide, and the other affecting the Lodge very seriously. A reference to the Great War, which was destined to continue for over four years and three months, and which changed the face of the whole civilized world, the effects of which are severely felt to day 19 years afterwards, and the other the disastrous fire which occurred in the Masonic Hall, Park Street, Sunderland, on the early hours of Nov 10th 1914, and which destroyed many of our deceased forerunners and others belonging to the various Lodges meeting there.

These were the two outstanding events of the year of Office of Bro Arthur Lane Stoddart, who was duly installed Worshipful Master at the annual meeting held on Thursday 11th December 1913.

Although there was not the slightest indication of the first mentioned event at the time of the annual meeting it will

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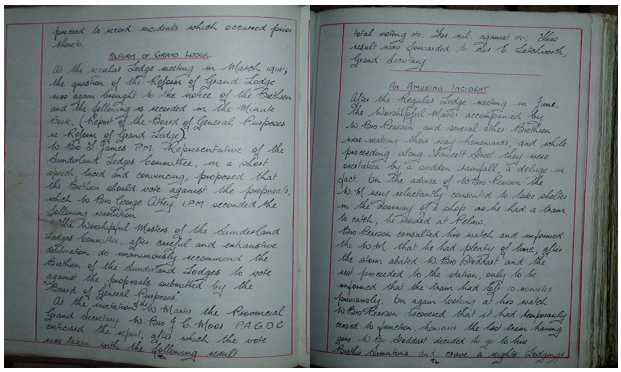

proceed to record incidents which occurred from about.

BALLOT OF GRAND LODGE.

At the regular Lodge meeting on March 1914, the question of the Reform of Grand Lodge was again brought to the notice of the Brethren and the following was recorded in the Minute Book. (Report of the Board of General Purposes re Reform of Grand Lodge)

Bro Rev J. Jones PM Representative of the Sunderland Lodges Committee, in a short speech, lucid and convincing, proposed that the Brethren should vote against the proposals which Bro George Wilcox PM seconded the following resolution.

"The Worshipful Masters of the Sunderland Lodges Committee, after careful and exhaustive deliberation do unanimously recommend the Brethren of the Sunderland Lodges to vote against the proposals submitted by the Board of General Purposes"

At the invitation of the Master the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro J. C. Moore PAGDC addressed the repair, after which the vote was taken with the following result

total voting 170. For 118, against 52. These results were forwarded to Bro C. Lockhart, Grand Secretary

AN AMUSING INCIDENT

After the Regular Lodge meeting in June, the Worshipful Master accompanied by Bro Pearson and several other Brethren were making their way homewards, and while proceeding along Fawcett Street they were overtaken by a sudden rainfall, a deluge in fact. On the advice of Bro Pearson the W.M. very reluctantly consented to take shelter in the doorway of a shop so he had a train to catch, he decided at Malaga.

Bro Pearson consulted his watch and informed the W.M. that he had plenty of time, after the train which Bro Stoddart and the rest proceeded to the station, only to be informed that the train had left 10 minutes previously. On again looking at his watch Bro Pearson discovered that it had temporarily ceased to function, hence the last train having gone Bro Stoddart decided to go to the Brethren Downtown and cause a night stopover

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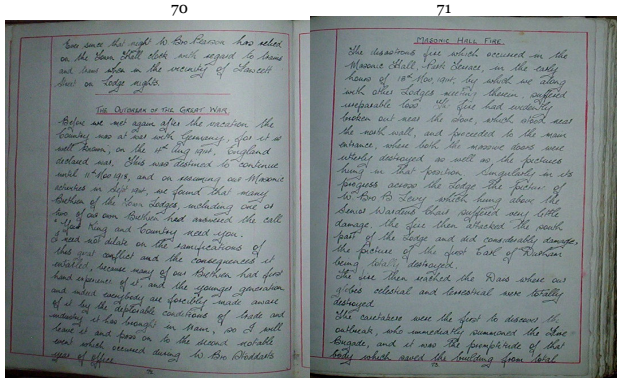

Bro since the night Bro Pearson has asked on the train, West took with regard to trains and time when in the vicinity of Fawcett Street on Lodge nights.

THE OUTBREAK OF THE GREAT WAR

Before we met again after the vacation the country was at war with Germany, after it was well known, on the 4th long night, England declared war. This was destined to continue until 11th Nov 1918, and on resuming our Masonic activities in Sept 1914, we found that many Brethren of the Town Lodges, including one or two of our own Brethren had answered the call "King and Country" were upon.

It was not idle on the ramifications of this great conflict and the consequences it entailed, because many of our Brethren had first hand experience of it, and the younger generation and indeed everybody are forcibly made aware of it by the deplorable conditions of trade and industry as has brought in train, so I will leave it and pass on to the second notable event which occurred during Bro Stoddarts year of office.

MASONIC HALL FIRE.

The disastrous fire which occurred in the Masonic Hall, Park Street, in the early hours of 10th Nov 1914, by which we along with other Lodges meeting therein, suffered irreparable loss, the fire had evidently broken out near the door, which which was the north wall, and proceeded to the main entrance, where both the massive doors were utterly destroyed as well as the fixtures hung in that position. Singularly in its progress across the Lodge the portion of Bro R. Lang which hung above the Junior Warden's chair suffered very little damage, the floor then attacked the south part of the Lodge and did considerable damage, the portion of the floor East of Wardens being totally destroyed.

The West then attacked the Dais where our globes celestial and terrestrial were totally destroyed.

The caretakers were the first to discover the outbreak, who immediately summoned the Fire Brigade, and it was the promptitude of that body which saved the building from total

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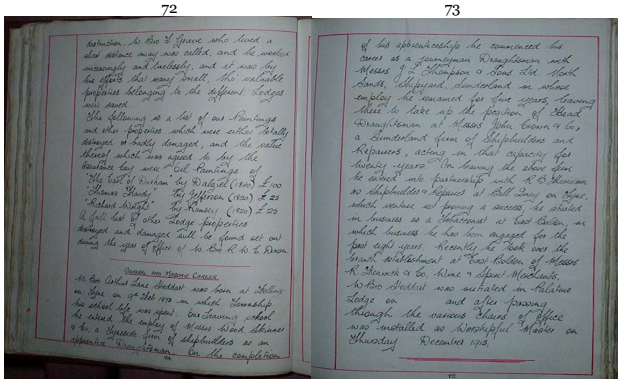

instruction to Bro J. Grave who lived a short distance away was called, and he worked unceasingly and tirelessly, and it was by his efforts that many small, but valuable properties belonging to the different Lodges were saved.

The following is a list of our furnishings and other properties which were either totally damaged or badly damaged, and the value thereof which was agreed to by the insurance Co. were "Oil Paintings" of

"The Lord of Burham" by Wright (1811) £100
"James Stanley" by Jefferson (1820) £25
"Richard Wright" by Romney (1820) £25

A full list of other Lodge properties damaged and damaged will be found at our during the year of office of Bro R. to Bro Brown

DEATH AND MASONIC CALLER

Bro Arthur Lane Stoddart was born at Shilling on Tyne on 3rd Oct 1870 on which Township his school life was spent. On leaving school he entered the employ of Messrs Ward Johnson & Co, a Bywards firm of shipbuilders as an apprentice "Draughtsman" On the completion

of his apprenticeship he commenced his career as a journeyman Draughtsman with Messrs J. L. Thompson & Sons Ltd North Sands, Sunderland, remaining in which employ he remained for five years leaving there to take up the position of Chief Draughtsman at Messrs John Brown & Co, a Sunderland firm of Shipbuilders and Repairers, acting in that capacity for twenty years. On leaving he about that he entered into partnership with R. C. Thomson as shipbuilders & Repairers at Hall Quay on Tyne, which venture not proving a success, he started in business as a Chartered at East Boldon, in which business he has been engaged for the past eight years. Recently he took over the premises established at East Boldon of Messrs R. Charnock & Co, Home & Export Merchants.

Bro Stoddart was initiated in Palatine Lodge on and after passing through the various Chairs of Office was installed as Worshipful Master on Thursday December 1913.

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