

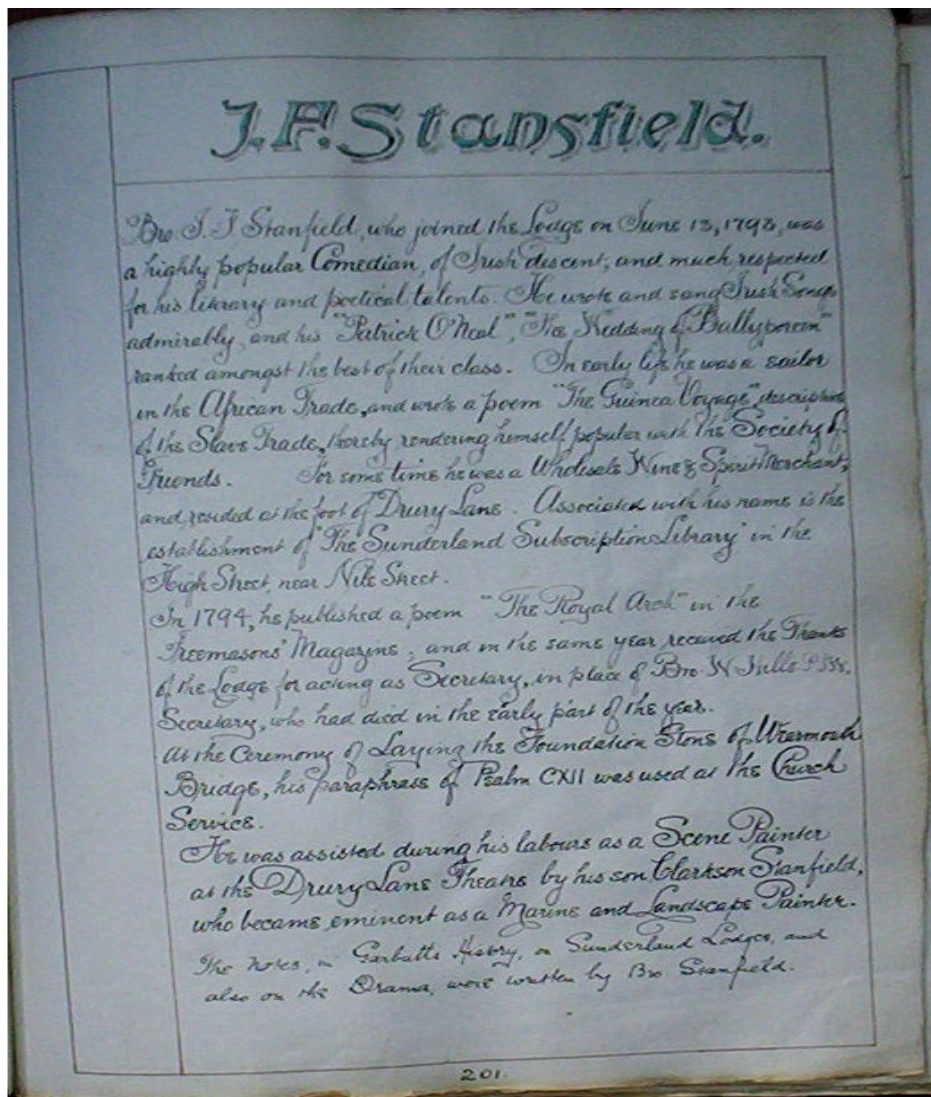
The Ancient Palatine Lodge No 97

Bro James Field Stanfield

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J. F. Stanfield.

Bro J. F. Stanfield, who joined the Lodge on June 13, 1798, was a highly popular Comedian, of Irish descent; and much respected for his literary and poetical talents. He wrote and sang Irish Songs admirably, and his "Patrick O'Neal", "The Wedding of Bullyporeen" ranked amongst the best of their class. In early life he was a sailor in the African Trade, and wrote a poem "The Guinea Voyage" descriptive of the Slave Trade, thereby rendering himself popular with the Society of Friends. For some time he was a Wholesale Wine & Spirit Merchant, and resided at the foot of Drury Lane. Associated with his name is the establishment of "The Sunderland Subscription Library" in the High Street, near Nile Street.

In 1794, he published a poem "The Royal Arch" in the "Freemasons' Magazine", and in the same year received the Thanks of the Lodge for acting as Secretary, in place of Bro W. Sillis P. 338, Secretary, who had died in the early part of the year. At the Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone of Warrack Bridge, his paraphrase of Psalm CXII was used at the Church Service.

He was assisted during his labours as a Scene Painter at the Drury Lane Theatre by his son Clarkson Stanfield, who became eminent as a Marine and Landscape Painter.

The Notes, in Garbath's History, on Sunderland Lodges, and also on the Drama, were written by Bro Stanfield.

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