

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE, No 97

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Of

Bro Robert Hudson 1834 - 1905



Bro R Hudson, ProvG Secretary
PGSwDB, PPSGW

Robert Hudson was the son of Charles Hudson, youngest son of George Hudson; the "Railway King" was born at Malton, Yorks, in 1834, and died on May 3rd: 1905, at the age of 71 years.

His association with Sunderland began in 1858 as Traffic Manager for the Sunderland Docks Co., a position he held until 1881, when he joined his Brother - in - Law, Mr G B Hunter, as Commercial Manager of their Shipbuilding enterprise at Wallsend - a post he held until his death.

He was initiated in Palatine Lodge on March: 18 : 1862 and in the following year was one of the Founders of Williamson Lodge, becoming one of its first officers and serving as WM in 1870.

In 1870 he joined the Fenwick Lodge and acted as its Treasurer for 11 years.

In 1884, he was one of the Founders and first WM of the Londonderry Lodge, and 10 years later assisted in founding the Carville Lodge, No 2497, becoming its first WM

In Prov G L he held the offices of PGD of C, 1870 - 1882, Prov G Secretary 1882 - 1903, and PSGW in 1903.

In 1887 he was appointed to the Brevet Rank of PGSwDB, England, an honour he was very proud of.

He was a Trustee for the Durham Masonic Charities, a Member of the Correspondence Circle of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and served as a Steward to the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and Boys.

Durham Masonic Charities

The Durham Masonic Charities are deeply indebted to him for their formation and prosperity.

In 1882 he established the "Durham Masonic Education Fund" for the purpose of assisting in the education and maintenance of necessitous children of the Freemasons of Durham, and on Sept: 28 :1897, "The Hudson Benevolent Fund"

for granting Annuities to "Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons"
The Subscriptions to this Testimonial, over and above 1000 guineas which sum formed the nucleus of the Fund, were devoted to purchasing a Service of Silver Plate, which was presented to him as a 'memento'.

Oil Painting

At the meeting of PGL held at Bishop Auckland on Sept:
21: 1904, he was presented by Lord Barnard, PGM, on behalf of the Brethren of the Province, with his Portrait, in oils -- life size -- in GL clothing, finely executed by Bro Ralph Hedley of Newcastle.
The following Inscription is neatly affixed; ---

"Presented to Bro Robert Hudson, PGSwDB, England, ProvSGW, Durham
by the Brethren of the Province of Durham in grateful recognition of his valuable services as
Provincial Grand Secretary for 21 years"

Bishop Auckland Sept: 21:1904.

Manner

All who were privileged to come in contact with him, whether in Business or private life, retain a kindly memory of his cheery and courteous manner.

He always took a lively interest in his 'mother' Lodge, and from time to time, succeeded in restoring 'long lost' and 'valuable' Minute Books.
To the Palatine Lodge of Instruction he presented "Gould's History of Freemasonry".

In addition to the Craft he progressed in the Royal Arch and Mark Degrees.

Royal Arch

In 1863 he was 'exalted' in the Strict Benevolence Chapter No 97 and joined the St John's Chapter at its formation in 1867, serving as First Principal in 1875 and 1877.

In 1863 he was one of the Founders of St Bede's Chapter No 1119, and its first MEZ.

In 1863 he was appointed PG Scribe E, Durham, a position he retained until his death.

In 1867 he was honoured with the Brevet Grand Chapter Rank of: PGStdB, England.

Mark

As a Mark Mason, which he became in 1871, he served as WM of the Union Lodge, No 124 in 1885

In 1902 he was Founder of the Angus Mark Lodge, No 561 and its first IPM.

In this degree he held the rank of PPSGW of Northumberland and Durham.

He died at his residence, 24 Hotspur Street, Tynemouth on 3rd May 1905, after a brief illness, and was interred at Preston Cemetery, North Shields, in the presence of a very large number of Brethren.
