

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE No 97
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Of
W Bro James Field Stanfield



W Brother J F Stanfield – Comedian, Poet, Song Writer and Singer

Bro J F Stanfield joined the lodge on 13th June 1793.

He 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” and the “Wedding of Ballyporeen” ranked among the best of their class.

(Research shows that the composer of both of these songs is officially said to be unknown, but all available information points to Bro J F Stanfield)

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 and 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 entitled “The Royal Arch” in “**THE Freemasons’ Magazine**”.

In the same year he received the thanks of the lodge for acting as Secretary in place of W Hills, PM., Secretary who had died earlier in the year.

At the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of Rowland Burdon’s Wearmouth Bridge in 1796, his paraphrasing of Psalm CX11 was used in the service at Church of Holy Trinity – Sunderland Parish Church.

In George Garbutt’s History of Sunderland (1819) the notes on Sunderland Lodges and also those on the theatrical Drama were written by Bro Stanfield.

His son Clarkson Stanfield assisted him during his labours as a scene painter in the Drury Lane Theatre.

After being unsettled for a year or two, his painting skills and perhaps the knowledge acquired from his father when helping to paint theatrical scenery, now stood him in good stead and he became a professional theatrical scene painter in London.

Later in life Clarkson Stanfield became eminent as a Marine and Landscape painter.

James Field Stanfield’s descendant Ken W Watson
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I have made contact with Ken W Watson (living in Canada) and he has provided me with interesting information and his: -

Genealogy Page

Patrick O'Neal

<http://sniff.numachi.com/pages/tiPATNEAL.html>

Traditional Music Archive: Song Detail: Wedding of Ballyporeen

<http://riverartsproject.com/folkarchive/detail.php?id=41>

Guinea Voyage

<http://www.ilab.org/db/detail.php?custnr=&booknr=318969553&source=&lang=de&ref=/services/highlights.pp>

Clarkson Stanfield

<http://www.rideau-info.com/ken/genealogy/stanfield/>