

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE, No 97  
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
of  
Bro William Shield 1748 - 1829



Bro William Shield "The Swalwell Musician"

He was born at Swalwell, Durham in 1748 and died in 1829.

He started out as a boat builder's apprentice but studied the violin to such purpose that he was soon able to conduct a local orchestra.

His popular songs included: -

"The Thorn", "The Wolf", "The Arethusa", "The Curly-Headed Ploughboy" and the Trio "Oh Happy Fair" will at all times keep his memory green.

Bro William Shield, who was unanimously elected a joining member of this lodge on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1792, was an English composer of great merit.

He eventually joined the Opera Band in London in 1772 and soon became the principal violin player which post he retained for 18 years.

In 1778 he was appointed composer to Covent Garden and retained it until 1797.

He was honoured with the friendship of Haydn.

Brother Shield wrote a large number of small Operas and the incidental music for Farces, Ballets and Pantomimes

He died in 1829 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

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Research

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Shield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shield)