

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE, No 97

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH Of Sir Cuthbert Sharp 1781 - 1859



Sir Cuthbert Sharp, FSA

Sir Cuthbert was born in Hartlepool and was the son of Cuthbert Sharp and Susannah Crosby, sister of Brass Crosby who was Lord Mayor of London in 1791.

In his eighteenth year he received a Commission in the Essex Fencibles, a cavalry force raised for home service.

He served during the Irish Rebellion of 1797 under Lieut. General Lord Lake and was present on 10th June at the Battle of Arklow with the Essex and Durham Fencibles bearing the brunt of the day.

On the signing of the Treaty of Amiens on 1st October 1801 he visited Paris, where in 1802 he was taken prisoner due to Napoleon's policy of detaining all English visitors as prisoners of war. He was detained in a French prison for nearly 4 years.

On his release he returned to Hartlepool and settled to a long period of study. He became Mayor of Hartlepool in 1816 and in the same year was honoured with a Knighthood by the Prince Regent.

In 1823 he was appointed Collector of Customs for Sunderland and resided in Albion Place, Stockton Road, Bishopwearmouth.

He became a joining member of Palatine Lodge in 1824 and was installed as Worshipful Master in 1827, 1828, 1834 and 1837. He was appointed in 1832 as Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

At the end of Sir Cuthbert's mastership of the Lodge on 12th January 1837 Bro Thomas Hardy, PM, presented him with a handsome Past Master's Jewel. (Worshipful Master Bro Sir Hedworth Williamson being absent).

On behalf of Palatine Lodge members Bro Hardy made a short but sincere toast to Sir Cuthbert, which amply illustrated the feelings of the brethren and the respect they had for him. Sir Cuthbert rose and made his response "in a very feeling and affectionate manner" but this could not be recorded due to the long and continuing cheering.

In 1839 Grand Lodge honoured him with the rank of Grand Warden.

Before severing his connection with Sunderland in 1845, to take up a similar Customs position at Newcastle, the people of Sunderland presented him with a "piece of silver plate" of considerable value.

Sir Cuthbert was decidedly antiquarian and literary in his tastes, his many works including: -

The History of Hartlepool
Memoirs of the Rebellion
Memoirs of Brass Crosby
The Bishopric Garland
The History of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.

Sir Cuthbert was a good friend of Sir Walter Scott and on one occasion when writing to him had referred to a visit, which Sir Walter had made to Sunderland. This elicited a reply in verse recorded below:-

Forget thee? No! My worthy frere!
Forget blithe mirth and gallant cheer?
Death sooner stretch me on my bier
Forget thee? No!

Forget the Universal Shout
When "canny S'land spoke out?
A truth, which knaves affect to doubt
Forget thee? **No.**



Sir Cuthbert's Birthplace in Hartlepool

Sir Cuthbert died at Newcastle on Tyne on 12th August 1849, aged 68 years
