

A HISTORY OF PALATINE LODGE, No 97
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Of
W Bro Rowland Burdon, MP



Rowland Burdon
Eminent mason & entrepreneur

WBro Rowland Burdon, Esq, MP was Worshipful Master in 1792, 4, 5 and 6 had the honour of representing the County of Durham in three consecutive Parliaments 1790 – 1806.

In 1793 and 1794 he was Mayor of Stockton.

One of his earliest philanthropic efforts was the promotion of the Turnpike Road from Sunderland to Stockton.

September 1793.

At the Lodge meeting on 10th September 1795 Bro Michael Scarth, Deputy WM announced the pleasing intelligence: ---

“That the Bridge had this day been brought so near completion as to have the whole of its stupendous Arch ----- a span of 236 feet ----- laid from one side of the River Wear to the other ----- from shore to shore ----- with the astonishing addition that all the latter process of laying the IRON WORK was begun and accomplished within 10 days”.

The following proposition by Bro J F Stanfield was enthusiastically agreed to: -

character, as by the many Local Obligations conferred by him upon this part of the County:--- actuated, also, by a warm conviction of the honour this Lodge has derived from his presiding over their Rights and Constitutions, The Brethren in full Lodge assembled do unanimously resolve:---

"That the Right Worshipful W M be earnestly requested to indulge the Lodge in having his Portrait painted by an eminent artist, such as he may appoint, to be hung up in their Lodge Room, as a dutiful and sincere mark of their Respect and Esteem; an also, that he be pleased to allow them to have his Portrait accompanied by a Painting of Wearmouth Bridge in order that such a personage, and such a Work, may continually be viewed with affection and pleasure by the present Brethren, and handed down to the Gratitude and Admiration of our successors in Freemasonry"

Letter from R Burdon WM - Portrait declined

I am favoured with your letter inclosing an Extract from the Book of Sea Captains' Lodge, Sunderland, and feel very much the honour done me by the Brethren over whom I have the Happiness to preside:-----
No mean reward it will be of my efforts to serve the Community, if they should redound to the Credit of our Society, and I shall be very glad to record the Invention of the Iron Bridge at Wearmouth, as an humble Brother of our Lodge, as soon as it shall be completed ----- As my Portrait might convey to Posterity a presumption of my Vanity, without promoting the Cause of Science, and as I desire, in the present occasion, to possess my mind entirely with an earnest thankfulness to Providence, for rendering me useful to my Country, I hope the Brethren will permit me to decline that part of the intended honour. I am much obliged by the kind manner, in which you communicate the wishes of our Lodge,

and remain

Yours Fraternally

R Burdon

CASTLE EDEN, Oct 2nd 1795



Bro Dr Tipping Brown
Phoenix Lodge No 94

With Michael Scarth he aimed to improve relations between the two Sunderland Lodges and because of his genial nature, his great knowledge of freemasonry and his many social attributes he surely, must have had a very beneficial influence on the younger man.

We have previously mentioned that Scarth was third partner in the construction of the IRON BRIDGE and here again we see the hand of the good doctor in the tribute he wrote, in Latin, to Rowland Burdon, which was inscribed on the plate set in the bridge foundation stone.

Foundation stone inscribed and read in Latin by the Senior Grand Warden. Translated and read by the Grand Secretary

<p>Quo Tempore Civium Gallicorum ardor vesanus Prava jumentum Gentes turbavit Eurpeas Ferreo bello. ROLANDUS BURDON, Armiger Meliora colenus Vedrae Ripas, scopulis praeuptas, Ponte conjungere ferreo Statuit Feliciter fundamina posuit Octavo calendus Octobris, Anno salutis humanae M.DCC, XC111. GEORGI Tertii XXX111. Probante GULIELMO HENRICO LA MBTON, Armigero, Summo provinciala majistro Adstante Fratrum Societatis Architectonicae, Et procerum comitatus Dunelmensis Spectabili corona Populi quoque plurima comitante caterva. Mancant vestigial diu Non irritaespei.</p>	<p>At that time, When the mad fury of French citizens, Dictating acts of supreme depravity, Disturbed the peace of Europe With iron war; ROWLAND BURDON ESQ, M P. Aiming at worthier purposes, Hath resolved the steep and Craggy shores Of the river Wear, With an Iron Bridge. He happily laid the foundation On the 24th day of September, In the year of human salvation, 1793, And the 33rd, of the reign Of George the Third, In the presence of WILLIAM HENRY LAMBTON, Esq. M P. P G M With a respectable circle of the Brethren Of the Society Of Free and Accepted Masons' And of the Magistrates and principal Gentlemen of the County of Durham; Attended by an immense concourse of people. Long may the vestiges endure of a hope not made in vain.</p>
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Research

St James, Castle Eden

http://www.easington.gov.uk/images/church castle eden_tcm4-6245.pdf