

From Red Rampant Lyon to Red Rampant Lyon Happy Hertfordshire

FOREWORD

BY RW BRO COLIN HARRIS

PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

In 1997, to mark the bicentenary of the Province of Hertfordshire, W Bro Alan Turney was responsible for producing the book “Happy Hertfordshire” which recorded details of our history. In his first chapter Alan explored the earlier phase of Masonry in Hertfordshire, pointing out that three Lodges had in fact been consecrated before 1797 but that all had in turn failed to survive.

The first was the Lodge of The Red Rampant Lyon, the second The Lodge of St Amphibalus which was refounded in 1985, and the third The Baldock Lodge of Harmony, refounded in 1931. It was Brother Alan’s great wish that the first one too should be refounded and, when I became Provincial Grand Master, I promised him that I would try to bring this about. Thus in 2009, V W Brother Allan Atkinson, then Deputy Provincial Grand Master, consecrated the new Lodge bearing that ancient name with myself as the first Worshipful Master. Sadly, Brother Alan Turney was by then too ill to attend – he had accepted the invitation with alacrity and withdrew only with great reluctance. But in spirit he was very much part of the proceedings.

In our later contacts, I asked his permission to publish a 21st century version of his book in electronic form so that it could be kept up to date. He readily assented and then wrote to suggest the title which we have enthusiastically adopted in tribute to his memory.

I hope that you find this new version both interesting and informative.

THE PROVINCE FROM 1739-2008

The first Masonic activity in Hertfordshire was in the eighteenth century. A Lodge was warranted at St. Albans in 1739, to meet at the Red Rampant Lyon but erased in 1755; again at St. Albans in 1767 the Lodge of St. Amphibalus was warranted, but erased in 1777 and at Baldock in 1776, the Lodge of Harmony was formed but erased in 1787.

The Province came into existence in 1797 with the appointment of William Forssteen by Patent dated 24th March 1797 as Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire. His six year rule saw no Lodges consecrated so his appointment proved a sinecure.

His successor was his friend George Daniel Harvey, appointed by Patent dated 11th May 1803, the day William Forssteen resigned. His twenty-eight year rule embraced the birth of the Province, as it is now known, 1829 being the year. On 8th September Hertford Lodge was consecrated and on 13th November, Bamborough Lodge (to be re-named Watford Lodge in 1833). Just over a year later on 26th November 1830, Harvey held his first and only, and the Province's first, Provincial Grand Lodge in the Assembly Rooms at Watford. He resigned his office in 1831 and died on 5th March 1833.

By Patent dated July 1831 James Gascoyne-Cecil, Second Marquess of Salisbury was appointed to succeed Harvey and was installed on 12th November 1833 at the Shire Hall, Hertford. He ruled for nearly thirteen years during which five Lodges were consecrated, two of which continue in Hertfordshire; Stortford Lodge, now 409, the Lodge of Friendship at Hockerill whose warrant was returned in 1851, Salisbury Lodge, now 435, meeting in London, Cecil, now 449, at Hitchin, and St. Albans, erased on 1st June 1853 but not before it had sponsored St. John the Baptist Lodge, now 475, the senior Bedfordshire Lodge. All these Lodges sprang from Hertford Lodge. In early January 1844 Lord Salisbury resigned from the whole of Freemasonry, a resignation announced in Grand Lodge on 6th March of that year.

His deputy, William Stuart, was appointed to succeed him by Patent dated January 1844. At this point Watford Lodge comes into the picture by sponsoring Berkhamstead Lodge No. 504, and also, to fill the gap left by the departure of Salisbury Lodge, Gresham Lodge No. 869 at Waltham Cross.

A London Lodge, Capper Lodge No. 1076 of West Ham sponsored King Harold Lodge No. 1327 at Waltham New Town, and Hertford Lodge

sponsored Gladsmuir Lodge No. 1385 at Barnet. Thus at the end of Stuart's rule in 1873, Masonry was in Hertford, Waltham Cross, and Barnet. There were still no lodges at St. Albans and no Halseys.

Both omissions were soon to be remedied. Thomas Frederick Halsey was appointed Provincial Grand Master by Patent dated 25th November 1873 and was installed on 22nd April 1874. Seven days later he consecrated Halsey Lodge No. 1479 at the Town Hall, St. Albans. At the end of 1923 Sir Frederick Halsey, Bt., M.P., resigned on completion of fifty years in office. Fifty years during which thirty-three Lodges were consecrated in Hertfordshire, thirty-one by him. Masonry spread to Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage, Rickmansworth, Elstree, Bushey, Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Ware, Hatfield, Welwyn, Chorleywood, Hertingfordbury, Royston and Harpenden; in short, throughout the Province.

His 'dynasty', comprising his two sons, Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey and Canon Frederick Halsey and his grandson Guy Marsden Halsey were all to be Provincial Grand Masters, so that at the retirement of Guy, the family had provided a ruler for eighty-three out of one hundred and eleven years. During their rule one hundred and two Lodges were consecrated and, by coincidence, one hundred and two Lodges were consecrated by Halseys

Charles Edward Keyser, his Deputy, who was installed on 19th May 1924 and consecrated twelve of the seventeen Lodges formed under his rule, succeeded Sir Frederick. Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey was installed on 7th April 1931 and consecrated twenty-two of the thirty-five Lodges formed under his rule, his brother Canon Frederick Halsey, his Deputy, consecrating the other thirteen and when he succeeded, being installed on 19th January 1950, consecrated seven of the nine lodges formed during his short rule. His successor, his deputy, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Moffett, installed on 1st July 1952, consecrated all sixteen lodges formed during his rule.

The next Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Alexander Woods was installed on 21st January 1963 and he consecrated fifteen of the twenty-one Lodges founded under his rule.

His successor was Guy Marsden Halsey, installed almost precisely twelve years later on 27th January 1975. His was the first rule to see Lodges join Hertfordshire from elsewhere, the first being Union Lodge No. 767 from Pakistan which on 1st January 1978 became the hundred and fifty-first Lodge in the Province. Twelve more were to follow, the Asylums Board Lodge No. 2842, becoming the hundred and ninety-fifth on 1st June 1993. Guy Halsey consecrated twenty-six of the thirty Lodges formed during his rule and in addition four Lodges joined the Province.

Godfrey Kent, installed on 30th May 1985, consecrated twelve Lodges during his time as Provincial Grand Master and, in addition, eight Lodges joined the Province.

He was succeeded by Michael Batham Jones, installed on 21st September 1992. Ten lodges were consecrated during the eleven years that followed, including the two hundredth, Veritatem Sequere No. 9615, and a number of Lodges joined the Province from London during that period.

Colin Frank Harris succeeded him as Provincial Grand Master on 24 September 2003. Four Lodges were consecrated during his time, including the new Lodge of the Red Rampant Lyon.

In September 2013 Paul Gower was installed as Hertfordshire's 15th Provincial Grand Master.

With improved communications the Province has gravitated to ten main centres, with the great majority of our Lodges meeting at them. Apart from area backgrounds, Lodges are linked with Regiments, Schools, Past Masters, Scouts, Provincial Stewards, Golf Clubs, particular workings, the Round Table, Scotland and Masonic research. Others have moved from elsewhere, Pakistan, India, Middlesex and, above all, London. All now form a Province with extensive geographical and interest cover - in short, Happy Hertfordshire!

PRE 1797 BEFORE FORSSTEEN

The second edition of James Anderson's "Book of Constitutions of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons" published in 1738 includes the History of Masonry based, to some extent, on the Old Charges, some manuscripts of which pre-date the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. This 'history' includes a reference to part of Hertfordshire, a reference that has subsequently, and probably implausibly, led to the statement that "St. Alban formed the first Lodge in Britain, AD287". The reference is worth quoting in full: -

"The joint Emperors Dioclesian and Maximian employ'd Carausius as their Admiral against the Saxon Pirates, who being at Peace with the Picts, and gaining the Army, put on the Purple and was own'd by the other Two. AD287.

Carausius encouraged the Craft, particularly at Verulam, (now St. Albans, Hertfordshire) by the worthy Knight, Albanus, who afterwards turn'd Christian, and was call'd St. Alban, (the Proto Martyr in Britain under the Dioclesian Persecution) whom Carausius employ'd (as the old Constitutions affirm) to environ that City with a Stone wall, and to build him a fine Palace; for which that British King made St. Alban the Steward of his Household and chief Ruler of the Realm.

St. Alban loved Masons well, and cherished them much, and he made their Pay right good, viz. Two Shillings per Week, and Three Pence to their Cheer; whereas before that Time, through all the land, a Mason had but a Penny a day, and his Meat, until St. Alban amended it. He also obtained of the King a Charter for the Free Masons, for to hold a General Council, and gave it the Name of Assembly, and was thereat himself as Grand Master, and helped to make Masons, and gave them good Charges, etc".

Against this passage is the marginalia "This is asserted by all the old Copies of the Constitutions, and the old English Masons firmly believ'd it". It is rather more difficult now to find good reason why they should have done so.

Although the four Lodges which came to together to form the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 are hardly likely to have been the only Lodges then in existence, there is no evidence of Masonic activity in Hertfordshire until 1739. On 10th February that year, during the Grand Mastership of the Marquess of Carnarvon, a Lodge meeting at the Red Rampant Lyon in St. Albans, was warranted and given the number 181 on the Roll of Grand Lodge. The payment of £2.2s. for its Warrant of Constitution is in the list

of payments to the Grand Lodge Charity Fund dated 13th April 1739. The Lodge moved from the Red Rampant Lyon to the Woolpack in 1740 when it was represented at Grand Lodge and paid 10s. 6d. to the Charity Fund. In that year it became No. 168 on the renumbering of Lodges. Sadly, on 24th July 1755, Grand Lodge minutes record "Ordered that the Lodge No. 168 held at the Woolpack at St. Albans be erased from the Book of Lodges, they not having attended at any Q.C. (i.e. Quarterly Communication) or even met for several years.

On 21st December 1767 another effort was made in the same part of the county, when a Lodge was warranted named, in honour of the friend and fellow-martyr of St. Alban, the Lodge of St. Amphibalus, numbered No. 412, and meeting in a private room in St. Albans which remains untraced. In 1770 on the further renumber of Lodges, it became No. 347. In 1775 it moved to London Colney; there is no firm evidence of this new meeting place, but there is some circumstantial evidence that it might have been the Bull. In that year it paid its £1 Is. to the Fund of Charity. Sadly, on 18th April 1777 it was erased from the books of Grand Lodge.

The year before the demise of St. Amphibalus, a Lodge was warranted, in March 1776, to meet at the White Horse, Baldock, and called the Lodge of Harmony No. 491. It was reported to Grand Lodge on 13th November 1776 as having paid in its fees of Constitution. The following year, on 12th November 1777 it paid 10s. 6d. as its subscription to the Fund of Charity. In 1780 it became No. 396, and in 1781 No. 397. Sadly, on 7th February 1787 it too was erased from the list of Lodges.

All these Lodges were adherents of the premier Grand Lodge dubbed 'the Moderns' by the Antients, the adherents of the Grand Lodge of England according to the Old Institutions, the other major body in the dissension which split English Freemasonry in the second half of the eighteenth century. There is no evidence of any Lodges in Hertfordshire under the Antients Grand Lodge that were also known as Atholl Masons.

In later years, Lodges have taken the names of all of the three original Hertfordshire Lodges; the second is commemorated by Baldock Lodge of Harmony No. 5262 and the third by St. Amphibalus Lodge No. 9154. – sadly this Lodge has since handed in its Warrant,. Although thought was given to commemorating Red Rampant Lyon Lodge, the first Hertfordshire Lodge, when the 200th Lodge in the Province was in formation, the name Veritatem Sequare, No. 9615 was finally chosen. A new Lodge of the Red Rampant Lyon, with the number 9843 was finally consecrated in 2009 by VW Bro. Allan Atkinson (then Deputy Provincial Grand Master) with RW Bro Colin Harris as its first Master.

After the erasure of Lodge of Harmony No. 397 in 1787, more than forty years passed before the county had another Lodge; in 1829 two Lodges, both still flourishing, were consecrated - Hertford Lodge No. 849, now No. 403, and Bamborough Lodge No. 851, now Watford Lodge No. 404. But before that, the county had become a Province with the appointment by Patent dated 24th March 1797 of William Forssteen as the first Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire. The following Chapters tell the story of the subsequent growth of Freemasonry in Hertfordshire.

WILLIAM FORSSTEEN

1797 • 1803

The Roman Catholic Church has a habit of elevating worthy priests to episcopal sees that consist of little more than ruined piles of masonry often covered by the blown sands of the desert. Nevertheless these are worthy men holding positions of responsibility within the church. The church has decided that episcopal rank will enable these officials to carry out their duties with an authority equal to the importance of the tasks allotted to them.

It seems that in the eighteenth century the Premier Grand Lodge thought in a similar way. Brethren who were highly respected and active within the orbit of Grand Lodge in London were sometimes given the rank of Provincial Grand Master even when there was no effective Province over which to preside. Such a Brother was William Forssteen who was granted a Patent in 1797. As he had not served as Grand Steward prior to his appointment and in accordance with the Masonic rule of the day he was required to pay the sum of ten guineas to the Fund of Charity and the records show that this was paid. The appointment as Grand Steward came to him in the following year 1798.

Hertfordshire was hardly a pile of sand in the desert but it had no Lodges at that time. The handful of Lodges that had existed prior to Forssteen's appointment had all ceased to work some ten years before he took office. Maybe Grand Lodge hoped for action in Hertfordshire that would bring forth results similar to those resulting from the appointment of the great Thomas Dunkerely to various Provincial Grand Masterships earlier in the century. It seems that Dunkerely only had to be placed in a Province for it to flourish. Alas ! Dunkerely had died in 1795 so was not on hand to give encouragement and advice to Forssteen. The new Provincial Grand Master may have visited the Province and attempted to revive the Craft there but there is no evidence of any success. It should also be noted that his successor as Provincial Grand Master, George Harvey, was also a Member of Shakespear Lodge and the two men appear to have been friends and so it is possible that Forssteen rendered encouragement and assistance to Harvey who eventually managed to bring the Province back to life.

It should be remembered that transport two hundred years ago was a major problem when compared with today's options. For someone such as Forssteen, living in London, a visit to Hertfordshire for Masonic purposes would probably have taken up a whole day or even have required an overnight stay. Although there is no evidence of visits to Hertfordshire,

Forssteen is recorded as being present in Essex at the installation of his friend George Downing as Provincial Grand Master of that Province which took place on 15th May 1797 at the Black Boy, Chelmsford.

He ceased to be Provincial Grand Master on 11th May 1803, when he was appointed Junior Grand Warden as in those days it was not permitted to hold two offices in Grand Lodge simultaneously.

Despite his apparent lack of success in Hertfordshire, William Forssteen took an active part in London Masonry both in Grand Lodge and elsewhere. He was greatly respected during his lifetime and died much regretted. He was initiated at the age of twenty-three in Shakespear Lodge, which was then numbered 146 but which now bears the number 99, on 13th February 1788 and had reached the Chair of that Lodge by 1792. A few weeks after his initiation the Chevalier Ruspini instituted the Masonic Girl's School and this body was soon to become one of the abiding interests of Forssteen's life. In 1791 he was elected to serve on the House Committee of the School and was described at the time as a 'zealous friend' to the Institution. Early in 1792 he was a member of a committee formed to persuade Grand Lodge to place a levy on all initiates towards the upkeep of the School. Soon after, he was elected a member of all the major committees of the School and was annually re-elected to these until he became joint Treasurer in 1800 and ultimately sole Treasurer in 1804. He was at the centre of all major decision making and played a leading role in negotiations with various outside bodies to the undoubted benefit of the Girl's Institution. He continued in these activities until ill health forced him to offer his resignation as Treasurer and Trustee to the Girl's School in 1818. The Governors accepted his resignation as Treasurer with regret but urged him to remain a Trustee and at the same time passed a resolution to the effect 'That William Forssteen, Esq., the late Treasurer, be a perpetual member of all the committees of this Charity'. Only one other Brother had received this distinction, Chevalier Ruspini himself.

William Forssteen died in 1838 having served the Craft with distinction for half a century.

A portrait of Forssteen appears in a well known print best known as depicting the Chevalier Ruspini leading a group of orphan girls into Grand Lodge. Forssteen is shown among the spectators

GEORGE DANIEL HARVEY

1803 - 1831

George Daniel Harvey was born at Wivenhoe in Essex in 1770 and was educated at Eton. He was called to the Bar and subsequently appointed a Commissioner in Bankruptcy. Harvey was a friend of William Forssteen and, like him, a Member of Shakespear Lodge having been initiated into it in 1800. In 1802-3, he served the office of Grand Steward and on 11th May 1803 received his Patent of Appointment as Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire. Interestingly, he apparently used this Patent as a certificate when he joined the St. Frederick des Amis Choisis, Orient de Boulogne, because it bears the endorsement "Vu et Fraternellement Accueilli Dans La R.L. de St. Frederick Des Amis Choisis O. de Boulogne-sur-Mer, Le 31e Jour du 10e Mois L'An deLaV.L.5816".

In 1829 he granted a dispensation to the Founders of what is now Watford Lodge No. 404 to assemble as a Lodge of Freemasons pending the receipt of the warrant which HRH the Duke of Sussex had granted for its constitution, and it was under the authority of this instrument that the Lodge was consecrated by W. Bro Thomas Cant at the Spread Eagle Tavern, Watford on 13th November 1829. Before this, on 8th September 1829, Hertford Lodge, now No. 403, had been consecrated at the Salisbury Arms, Hertford by W. Bro John Bott. There is no evidence of George Harvey being present at either consecration.

On 26th November 1830 Bro Harvey held his first and only, and the Province's first, Provincial Lodge meeting. It was at the Assembly Rooms, Watford and his officers were selected with impartiality from the Principal Officers of the two Lodges then in existence, Hertford and Bamborough (now Watford). In 1831 he was elected an Honorary Member of both Lodges.

Shortly afterwards in 1831 he resigned his office.

He died at the residence of Mr. Henry Lang in Clapham on 5th March 1833 and was buried at Stanmore, Middlesex which had long been his place of residence.

Two of his grandsons became prominent Masons, one, Bro Rev. C. Wigan Harvey, a Master of Hertford Lodge No. 403 who became Provincial Grand Chaplain of Hertfordshire in 1884.

THE SECOND MARQUESS OF SALISBURY 1851 • 1844

James Gascoyne-Cecil was born on the 17th April 1791. His Masonic career began when Francis Crew, WM of the Hertford Lodge No. 849, later 578 and now 403, wrote to the Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, asking to be allowed to Initiate the Second Marquess of Salisbury with thirteen other Initiates. This was on the 1st October 1829. The Duke of Sussex replied, via the Grand Secretary 'granted to the number of Ten'. Hertford Lodge had been consecrated less than a month before on the 8th September 1829.

The Second Marquess was initiated into Freemasonry in the Hertford Lodge on the 6th October 1829, aged thirty-eight years. He was passed on the 3rd November 1829 and raised on the 1st December 1829. The Lodge at this time met at the Salisbury Arms in Hertford. In the following year, 1830, the Second Marquess was appointed Senior Grand Warden in the United Grand Lodge of England. He was elected a Vice President of the Girls' School in 1830 and Vice President of the Boys' School in 1832.

In 1831, he was appointed Provincial Grand Master, but was not Installed until 7th November 1833, in the Shire Hall, Hertford. The Essex and Herts Mercury reports the following:-

'The members of the Hertford Lodge had the satisfaction to celebrate not only the installation of a Master of their own Lodge for the ensuing year, but also the unusual occurrence of the installation of a Provincial Grand Master for Herts. After the business appertaining to the Hertford Lodge and some other Masonic business had been concluded, a Provincial Grand Lodge was held, at which several brethren from London, distinguished in the Craft assisted, and the Most Noble the Marquess of Salisbury, who had been previously appointed Provincial Grand Master by his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, was installed into that honourable office with the usual ceremonies, after which he proceeded to appoint and invest the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, who were selected from the three lodges in the County'.

(These would of course have been Hertford Lodge now No. 403, Bamborough Lodge No. 851 which in 1832 became No. 580, in 1833 changed its name to Watford Lodge and in 1863 became No. 404, and the Stortford Lodge now No. 409 which was consecrated on the 27th December 1831.)

'The Provincial Grand Lodge being closed, the brethren to the number of 60, sat down to a sumptuous banquet, at which the Marquess of Salisbury presided. Amongst the brethren present were William Stuart, Esq., MP for Bedfordshire, S.G.W., P. Clutterbuck, Esq., P. Prov. DGM, Rowland Alston, etc. Brother Crew, P.M., as usual, delighted the company by his vocal talent, and Brother Blewitt and several others contributed their aid in the musical department. The miserable state of the weather throughout the day prevented many from attending who were anxious to be present; but the brethren took care that none of the gloom of a November day should penetrate the recess of the Lodge, where nought was suffered to enter but harmony and good cheer. Mrs. Pollard of the Dimsdale Arms provided the dinner on the occasion, and Mr. P. Young the dessert, which gave great satisfaction'.

On the 6th May 1834, the second Lodge in the Second Marquess of Salisbury's Provincial Grand Mastership was consecrated at the George Inn, Hockerhill, and was called the Lodge of Friendship No. 604, this Lodge was erased in 1851. It seems Bro John Davies, Deputy Provincial Grand Master consecrated the Lodge, but that the Second Marquess was present. He never consecrated a Lodge during his time as Provincial Grand Master.

On the 7th May 1835 he attended the Hertford Lodge and after the meeting he presided over the Provincial Grand Lodge. From a report in the Freemasons' Quarterly Review, a large number of brethren were present, ate their dinners with a punctuality and dispatch which would have done honour to a corps of veterans. In acknowledging the toast to his health, the Noble Marquess is reported to have 'expressed his sincere gratification at the large meeting he then addressed; to have suggested that it was an indication of the high station the Craft held in the Province and to have declared that nothing on his part should be wanting to increase its importance by any possible means in his power.'

On the 27th November 1835, a fire broke out at Hatfield House and the venerable Marchioness of Salisbury, mother of the Provincial Grand Master, perished in the fire. There were many resolutions of sympathy from the Province and below is the one from his mother Lodge after an emergency meeting called on the 9th December.

'To the Most Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury, Grand Master of Masons for the County of Hertford, etc. etc. etc.

Most Honourable and Right Worshipful Lord and Brother, We, the Master, Past Masters, Wardens and Officers, and members of the Hertford Lodge No. 578, in the Registry of England, beg to express our deep sorrow and

regret at the melancholy calamity with which your lordship has lately been visited. As Grand Master of our Ancient Order in this Province, you are justly entitled to the first consideration of our Lodge; but your claim to our regard is still stronger than that arising from the high and distinguished rank which you hold in the Craft. By the urbanity and kindness which you have ever shown towards us, both as a Lodge and individuals, and the friendly and social manner in which you have always mixed amongst us, you have rendered yourself an object of our warmest respect and esteem. We, therefore, no less as friends than as Masons, claim the melancholy privilege of expressing our deep sympathy in the sufferings of a Brother, for whom we feel so sincere and affectionate regard. In condoling with your lordship on the loss of a venerable and most respected parent we venture to express a hope that it will be some alleviation to your grief to reflect that, owing to the charitable and other virtues which eminently distinguished her career through life, her memory will be long cherished in the grateful remembrance of all who knew her. That the Great Architect of the Universe may prove a Comforter to you in the hour of affliction, and that he may pour down the dew of His blessing upon your lordship and family, is the sincere and fervent prayer of the Brethren assembled at this Lodge.

Signed and sealed in the name and on behalf of the Lodge, this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty five - A.L. 5835'.

On the 8th June 1836, when Salisbury Lodge No. 630 was consecrated at the Falcon Inn, Waltham Cross by Bro John Davies, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master was present.

The Founders, with his lordship's sanction, had done him the honour to bestow his title, and in responding for the toast to his health he again expressed his attachment to the Craft in the following terms, as reported in the Freemasons' Quarterly Review:-

'I have endeavoured as far as in my power to promote Freemasonry, but I regret I have not been enabled to perform my duty in the Province as I would wish. But it is gratifying to my feelings and flattering to my official character to know that Masonry is advancing in the county. Another new Lodge has this day been started; may it prosper and extend the usefulness of our Craft, and may I never disgrace the Province which so nobly supports our principles'.

On the 29th July 1836, the Provincial Grand Master was present at the Opening of the Masonic Hall, Watford, by the Watford Lodge No. 580. There were one hundred and twenty present. Provincial Grand Lodge was also held on this day.

At the regular meeting of Hertford Lodge on 6th October 1836, Bro Millar, a Doctor at Enfield, was elected Worshipful Master. He declined, especially because of his professional duties. At a Lodge of Emergency on 21st October 1836 a further vote was taken for Worshipful Master. Bro Crawley was elected, there being eight votes for him and seven for Bro Lord Salisbury. The Secretary (Bro Stephen Austin) wrote to the Grand Secretary on the 30th October 1836 to say that

'Bro Crawley had been elected W.M. and I am in hopes that this Lodge will harmonise again. The Marquess of Salisbury intends to be there, as perhaps his presence may tend to heal the wounds inflicted during the past year'.

On the 2nd November 1837, Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Hertford, under the auspices of Hertford Lodge.

On the 19th May 1838, Lord Salisbury attended the Sun Hotel, Hitchin for the Consecration of Cecil Lodge No. 657 now No. 449. Bro John Davies was again the Consecrating Officer.

On 3rd November 1838, Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Watford. The Provincial Grand Master was present, as were other prominent Members, including The Editor of the Review and the Honorary Secretary of the Girls' School, J.B. Gore, who wrote:-

'Bro W Stuart, (next Provincial Grand Master), in proposing the toast to the Provincial Grand Master, laid especial stress on the great increase which had taken place in Freemasonry in Hertfordshire under his lordship's rule, and the Noble Marquess in his reply, modestly ascribed the success, which undoubtedly attended the Province, to the valuable assistance he had at all times received from the Brethren. On this occasion, but after Lord Salisbury's reply to his health, the ladies, to the number of about sixty, were admitted to the gallery, and remaining toasts were given as at an ordinary gathering of gentlemen'.

In 1839, the St. Albans Lodge No. 678 was consecrated, again by Bro John Davies, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master. It was consecrated at the Town Hall, St. Albans and met at the Turf Hotel. It hosted Provincial Grand Lodge in 1843. It was chiefly instrumental in founding the Senior Lodge in Bedfordshire, the Lodge of St. John the Baptist, now No. 475, which was consecrated on 29th July 1841 at the George Hotel, Luton. Sadly this St. Albans Lodge was erased on 1st June 1853. Also in the year of 1839, the wife of the Provincial Grand Master died, and there was no Provincial Grand Lodge due to her death.

In 1840 Lord Salisbury was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the United

Grand Lodge of England, and he remained in that office until he resigned from Freemasonry. In July 1840 a Provincial Grand Lodge was held, but where is not known. In November 1841, Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Shire Hall, Hertford, no other details are known. As to 1842, all that is known is that Provincial Grand Lodge met in June. On 19th April 1843, a Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, St. Albans and Bro W. Stuart, the Deputy presided, as the Provincial Grand Master was unable to attend. There are no Provincial records before 1844.

The Minutes of Grand Lodge held on Wednesday 6th September 1843 show the RW, The Most Hon, The Marquess of Salisbury, KG, Deputy Grand Master, as Grand Master. The Minutes for Wednesday 6th December 1843 show the Right Hon, The Earl of Zetland, MW, Pro Grand Master on the Throne; The RW The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury, KG, as Deputy Grand Master. At this meeting both the Earl of Zetland and the Marquess of Salisbury allowed their names to be nominated as Grand Master, due to the death earlier in the year of the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master.

Sometime between this date of the 6th December and early January 1844, a matter of some thirty days at the most, the Marquess of Salisbury resigned from the whole of Freemasonry. There had been politics in Freemasonry. By the Reform Act 1832, Lord Salisbury lost the pocket borough of Hertford. But the Hon. W.F. Cowper of a Whig family, residing at Panshanger, and who sat continuously for the Borough from 1835 to 1868, was initiated into Hertford Lodge on 7th January 1836, so this appears to have been resolved at Lodge level despite Lord Salisbury's failure to be elected WM later that year.

The Marquess of Salisbury's resignation was read and approved at the Lodge meeting on 7th November 1844. A subsequent note in the Lodge records states:-

'Undoubtedly at this time this Lodge was profoundly affected by the politics of the day. Sir Robert Peel had just commenced to repeal the Corn Duties and the Conservative Member for Hertford, Viscount Ingestre, and other prominent townsmen followed him. The then Marquess of Salisbury remained a protectionist and very virulent political feeling resulted'.

At the Grand Lodge meeting of Wednesday 6th March 1844, the Earl of Zetland stated that he had a letter of resignation from the Marquess of Salisbury; he read the letter but the contents are not reported and the date of the letter is not shown.

The Marquess of Salisbury was made a Knight of the Garter in 1842, he became Lord Privy Seal in 1852 and Lord President of the Council from

February 1858 to June 1859. He died at Hatfield House on 12th April 1868.

WILLIAM STUART

1844 - 1873

On the 16th March 1832, at a regular meeting of Bamborough Lodge No. 851 being held at the Assembly Rooms of the Essex Arms, Watford, and under the Mastership of W. Bro Thomas Abel Ward, two Candidates were presented for Initiation. One named Augustus Smith of Ashlyn's Hall, Berkhamsted, and the other William Stuart of Aldenham Abbey. The former subsequently moved to the Scilly Isles and was destined to become the Provincial Grand Master for Somerset and the latter to become one of the most eminent and highly respected Hertfordshire Freemasons.

William Stuart, who had been named after his father, The Most Reverend William Stuart, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, resided at Aldenham Abbey together with his wife, daughter and sons, one of whom had also been named after his grandfather and father and who, at the time that his father became a Freemason, was eight years old.

Aldenham Abbey was situated in the small village of Aldenham, some four miles east of Watford. The Estate, although not as extensive as some in the county, was sufficiently impressive to have been acquired, in the 1890's, as the English residence of the renowned American philanthropist, Pierpont Morgan.

As the Member of Parliament for the County of Bedford, William Stuart also possessed 'Temsford Hall', near Sandy in Bedfordshire as well as a town house in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London.

W. Bro Ward, having completed his year as Master of the Lodge, was duly elected to serve for a further year and at the Installation Meeting held in April 1833 he appointed and invested Brother Stuart as Junior Warden of the Lodge. An even higher honour, however, was to be conferred upon Brother Stuart that same year by his appointment by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Duke of Sussex, as Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England and it was in that capacity that on the 7th November 1833 he attended the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, held in the Shire Hall, Hertford, at which the Marquess of Salisbury was installed as Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire.

This, seemingly, meteoric rise from Initiate to Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England in the short space of thirteen months, while, not totally unique, does give some indication of the very high regard in which Brother William Stuart was held by his Brethren and the eminence he was to achieve in the years that lay ahead.

It was also in 1833 that it was resolved by the members that, henceforth, the Lodge should be known as the Watford Lodge No. 580, that being the number which had been allocated to Bamborough Lodge in the recent closing up of Lodge Numbers by Grand Lodge.

Having served the requisite period as a Warden and having been duly elected, Brother Stuart was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge on the 4th of April 1834 and thereby became the first Brother to preside over the newly named Watford Lodge.

Such was the success of his year of Office, their having been eleven Initiates and one Joining Member, that the Lodge was rapidly outgrowing the accommodation at the Essex Arms. This situation led to the decision, with the agreement of the Proprietor of the Essex Arms, for the Lodge to have a purpose built masonic hall constructed in the grounds of the premises and the project received the enthusiastic support of William Stuart.

At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, held on the 7th May 1835, the RW Provincial Grand Master, The Marquess of Salisbury, was pleased to appoint W. Bro Stuart as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and he was to hold that Office, with great distinction, for the next nine years. In spite of his additional responsibilities, both Masonic and Parliamentary, he continued to give his full support to Watford Lodge by undertaking the duties of Master for the years 1838, 1850 and 1858.

Of all the many honours that came the way of William Stuart throughout his long and distinguished Masonic career, it is likely that, to him, one stood above all others, that of proposing his son, William Junior, to become a Mason. In 1843, William Junior, having reached the age of eighteen, informed his father of his wish to be initiated into Freemasonry. Having discussed the matter with his son he wrote to the Secretary of Watford Lodge informing him that it was the wish of his son to be initiated and that he was most anxious to see that wish gratified.

It was pointed out that as his son was only eighteen it would be necessary for a signed petition from the Lodge to be submitted to the RW Provincial Grand Master, by the hand of the Provincial Grand Secretary, requesting a Dispensation for a minor to be balloted for Initiation. The Secretary of the Lodge was W. Bro Thomas Abel Ward, who had been the Master of the Lodge at the time that William Stuart was made a Mason, dealt with the matter with all speed and the necessary Dispensation was granted by the RW Provincial Grand Master. At the April Meeting of the Lodge it must have been the source of great joy and satisfaction that the Father witnessed the Initiation of the son in the Lodge in which he had been an Initiate.

It is interesting to note that Brother William Stuart Junior progressed through the Lodge offices and it must have been most pleasing for his father to be present when in 1848, his son was Installed as Master of the Lodge. Very soon it became clear that William Junior had been cast from the same mould as his father and pursued his Masonic and political interests with the same enthusiasm and dedication. He became a Member of Parliament and also attained the rank of Colonel in the British Army. On the 24th November 1847 the Stuart Lodge No. 540 was constituted in Bedford to which William Junior became a member and in 1855 the MW Grand Master appointed him to be the first Provincial Grand Master for Bedfordshire. This happy circumstance of having father and son as the heads of adjoining Provinces forged a long lasting bond of fraternal friendship between the two Provinces, which is still shared by all the Orders.

In the early months of 1844, the RW Provincial Grand Master, The Marquess of Salisbury, to the regret of the Brethren of Hertfordshire, announced his resignation, for personal and private reasons, from all his Masonic Offices. However, the news that the MW Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, had appointed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro William Stuart, to fill the vacancy was greeted with much pleasure and the very large numbers that attended his Installation, at Watford, on The 12th April 1844, confirmed his popularity.

Later in the same year of his Investiture the Provincial Grand Master presented to his Mother Lodge a magnificent bound copy of the Lodge By-Laws which had been exquisitely illustrated by Mrs. W. Stuart and encased in a box which had been crafted out of Acacia Wood taken from a Tree grown on the Aldenham Abbey estate.

It is worthy of note that both are often placed on display at the Installation meeting of Watford Lodge so that the Brethren may have an opportunity of appreciating, not only the considerable artistic talent of Mrs. Stuart, but also the great support which she rendered to her husband.

It is recorded that Mrs. Stuart and the family often accompanied the Provincial Grand Master at social gatherings and so it was of particular sadness to the Brethren to learn of the death, in February 1852, of their daughter and expressions of sympathy were extended to the family.

In the autumn of the following year, RW Brother Stuart suffered a further serious loss by the death of his wife and, again, the Brethren extended to their Provincial Grand Master their sincere condolences well knowing how sadly she would be missed.

The honour of being the only Lodge to be consecrated by RW Brother Stuart during the tenure of his Office belongs to the Berkhamstead Lodge No. 742, now No. 504, which took place at the King's Arms Hotel, on New Years Day 1845. The RW Provincial Grand Master was attended by a team of Provincial Grand Officers and, having conducted the Ceremony of Consecration, subsequently installed the Master Designate, Brother S.L. Wilson, into the Chair of the new Lodge.

There was a gap of fifteen and a half years before Gresham Lodge No. 1171 (now 869) was consecrated at a Meeting held on the 19th June 1861 at the Four Swans Hotel, Waltham Cross. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro Jeremiah How, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, carried out the Ceremony of Consecration. The Master Designate, W. Bro Braithwaite, was installed and the Officers invested. The duties of the Secretary were entrusted to W. Bro Jeremiah How. The RW Provincial Grand Master was clearly most pleased to have this very experienced Brother in charge of the administrative affairs of this new Lodge and that Freemasonry was once again represented in this area of his Province. The Salisbury Lodge No. 435, formerly No. 630, founded in 1836, the third senior Lodge in the Province having moved from Waltham Cross in 1847 to Enfield had, therefore, ceased to be numbered on his Roll of Lodges.

The King Harold Lodge No. 1327 was consecrated on the 27th September 1870; the second new lodge to be situated in the South East part of the Province, at Waltham New Town. The meeting was held at the Britannia Hotel, Waltham New Town, and the Ceremony of Consecration was entrusted, once again, to a Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro James Terry. The positive assurances which had been given to the Provincial Grand Master concerning the future prospects for this new Lodge proved to be correct for by the completion of the first year they had admitted twenty-two Initiates and ten Joining Members.

The Consecration of Gladsmuir Lodge No. 1385 on 29th December 1871 was placed, by the RW Provincial Master, in the hands of the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W. Bro H.B. Hodges at the Red Lion Hotel, Barnet, which was a rapidly expanding town. The need for a new Lodge in the area was great and the influx of candidates in the first two years was a great encouragement to the Founders that the Lodge would prosper.

It will, of course, come as no surprise that Brother William Stuart did not confine his Masonic activities solely to the Craft. On the 15th July 1833, he was Exalted in the Clarendon Royal Arch Chapter No. 580, subsequently to be renamed and renumbered Watford Royal Arch Chapter No. 404, and, on the retirement of the Marquess of Salisbury, he took over the Office of

M.E. Grand Superintendent for Hertfordshire. The demands made on his time in the discharge of the duties of the Office were not great because there were only two Chapters in the Province, one of which moved out of the Province in 1851 and the Hertford Royal Arch Chapter did not come into existence until 1872.

The religious family background in which William Stuart grew up and, later, his involvement in Aldenham Church and friendship with the Vicar, The Rev. The Hon. William Thellusson, afterwards the 3rd Lord Rendlesham, who had been initiated in The Bamborough Lodge shortly after William Stuart, may well have inspired him with a determination to become an active member of one of the Christian Masonic Orders.

Having achieved this ambition it paved the way for the introduction into Hertfordshire, in 1840, of the Order of the Temple, (now often referred to as Knight Templar) when he, together with a number of qualified members of the Clarendon Royal Arch Chapter, petitioned the Supreme Grand Master of the Order for a Warrant of Constitution for the founding of the Watford Encampment (Preceptory) which was duly consecrated, at Watford, on the 24th July 1840 and William Stuart was installed as the Provincial Grand Commander (Prior) an Office he was to hold for the next five years at which time he was installed as the Deputy Grand Master of the Order. In May 1861, at a meeting of the Grand Conclave of the Order he was installed as the Grand Master, and, in honour of his election to the highest Office in the Order, the Members of the Watford Encampment obtained approval for the name of the Encampment to be changed from Watford to Stuart. The name still graces the senior Preceptory in the Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire.

On the 26th August 1872, RW Brother Stuart presided over the Annual Meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge for the last time and it was with much regret that, during the following year, the Brethren of the Province learned that, due to advancing years and indifferent health, he had felt it necessary to retire from all his various Offices.

The report of his death on the 7th July 1874 was received with greatest sadness in this Country and beyond these shores. However, succeeding generations of Hertfordshire Masons are fortunate to have a perpetual memorial of this distinguished and well loved Brother in the form of a splendid portrait in oils, painted in 1843, in which he is depicted wearing the regalia of a Past Grand Senior Warden of the United Grand Lodge. This portrait hangs in the West of the Lodge Room at the Halsey Masonic Hall at Watford. There is another fine portrait, painted towards the end of his life, and as Master of the Temple, which is prominently displayed at 86 St.

James's Street, London, which is the Administrative Headquarters of the Order.

At the meeting of Watford Lodge held in October 1874, it was unanimously agreed that the following resolution should be recorded on the Minutes :-

'That the Brethren of this Lodge, meeting for the first time since the lamented death of the Right Worshipful Brother William Stuart, Past Provincial Grand Master, Past Master, and for more than forty two years a Subscribing Member, desire to record on the Minutes their deep regret at the loss thereby sustained by the Craft, the Province and the Lodge. A zealous promoter of the grand Principles of Freemasonry, Benevolence, and Charity, and a regular attendant and liberal benefactor of his Mother Lodge, a kind and genial friend at all times to the Brethren, he has passed away full of years, the type of a good Mason and a Christian gentleman'.

THE RT HON SIR (THOMAS) FREDERICK HALSEY, BART, MP 1873 - 1924

Thomas Frederick Halsey was born at Temple Dinsley on 9th December 1839, the son of Thomas Plumer Halsey of Gaddesden, (who was for a year Grand Director of Ceremonies). He was initiated whilst at Christ Church, Oxford, into Apollo University Lodge No. 357 in January 1861. As a fifteen year old pupil at Eton he had been orphaned when his father, mother, and only brother were drowned in the Mediterranean. Yet at Oxford, he gained a Blue in the Boat Race. His father had joined Watford Lodge in 1835 but had resigned from Freemasonry along with Lord Salisbury in 1844.

In spite of his membership of other Lodges, he concentrated on Watford Lodge which he joined in 1863, the same year as the Lodge Number was changed to 404. Four years later in 1867 he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Deacon and the following year Provincial Senior Grand Warden. The same year he went into the Chair of Watford Lodge for the first time.

In July 1873, there being then no Provincial Grand Master, Bro Halsey laid the Foundation Stone of the Watford Public Library and of the New Freemason's Hall in Watford which he then consecrated the following year.

On 25th November 1873 he was appointed Provincial Grand Master and installed on 22nd April 1874 to a position which he held for a longer time than any other individual, namely fifty years to 1924. He became Provincial Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch on 28th October 1875 and was the first Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree from 24th June 1856. Bro Halsey was also one of the Members of Parliament for the county from 1874 until 1906.

The year 1874 marks the commencement of a golden period of Hertfordshire Freemasonry. Brother Halsey ruled the Province wisely and well and Brother Keyser bounteously provided funds for the Masonic Institutions, so that Hertfordshire became a Province renowned for the chief Masonic virtues - Benevolence and Charity. Bro Keyser was to succeed him in Craft, Chapter and Mark in 1924.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Bro Halsey so endeared himself to the hearts of his Brethren that the new Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught, appointed him his Deputy in 1903, a position which Bro

Halsey resigned only shortly before his death in 1927.

On 25th July 1902, RW Bro Halsey was presented by the Province with an illuminated address, also with two silver salvers of the time of George II, 1739 and 1741, and a chased loving cup of 1761, the second year of George III. In 1970, the two salvers were returned by RW Bro Guy Halsey for use in the Province - one to the Craft, the other to Mark. In 1974 the loving cup was presented to Halsey Lodge No. 1479 to mark its Centenary.

When in 1904 RW Bro Halsey completed thirty years as Provincial Grand Master, the White Ivory Maul was presented to him which has been used by successive Provincial Grand Masters. It was presented on behalf of all the Lodges of the Province by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro F. Sumner Knyvett PGD. One part of the address was a good guide to the health of the Province:-

".... the period of your long rule has been marked by unruffled serenity and substantial progress; nothing has happened to mar the peace and harmony of the Lodges over which you preside; no Lodge which you have consecrated has fallen upon the evil days of adversity, or failed to make for itself a position in the Craftwhile the claims of Masonic charity are generally well responded to"

In 1877 the diocese of St. Albans was created, with a Bishop, and St. Albans became a City. The Abbey became a Cathedral. Under the autocratic enthusiasm of Lord Grimthorpe an immense programme of repair and alteration to the Abbey was put in hand. In 1883 Provincial Grand Lodge was held at St. Albans and, after being opened, it was called off, and the Brethren walked in procession to the Cathedral, where the Provincial Grand Master presented a new pulpit on behalf of the Province, with these words:-

"Our earnest prayer is, that from this pulpit may, for many generations, be poured forth words which will solace the fearful, cheer the despondent, and lead to the repentance, hope, and salvation of the sinner, and that, as water came forth from the rock in the desert at the bidding of Moses, so from this spot may be poured forth the stream of the Word of Life, bringing peace and salvation to mankind from generation to generation, till time shall be no more".

In 1879, under the provisions of the Endowed Schools Act of 1868, St. Albans School was reformed. A number of Brethren were Mayors of St. Albans, and were ex-officio Governors of the school, which had moved from the Lady Chapel to the Great Gate in 1871. Then the Education Act of 1902 dealt with the development of secondary education. Plans were eventually drawn up to enlarge the school, and on the 22nd April 1907 the

Provincial Grand Lodge met at the school and, after being called off, the Foundation Stone was laid by the Provincial Grand Master, with full Masonic ritual, for a new Assembly Hall and classrooms. After mentioning that he attended in a threefold capacity, as Chairman of the County Council (which had taken over local education in 1902), as Provincial Grand Master, and as Deputy Grand Master of the Freemasons of England, he said:-

"I think there is something not inappropriate in my attending in these capacities, because one of the points which is inculcated most strongly with our Members and Brethren is the pursuit of science and of study, which will enable them day by day to render themselves more useful to their fellow creatures".

After mentioning the Square, Level and Plumb Rule with which he had tried the stone, he added this:-

"May the building which will rise on top of this stone be fraught with lasting advantage and benefit to future generations of the County, and that, in this and similar institutions, the County of Hertfordshire may continue to hold its own, and to turn out those well qualified to do their duty as Englishmen".

In 1928 the then Provincial Grand Master, the RW Bro C.E. Keyser was to lay the keystone of the arch leading to four additional classrooms.

Special mention should be made of the notable service to Masonry rendered during the First World War by Bro Halsey. As Deputy Grand Master at the age of seventy-five, in 1914, he took up at the request of the Grand Master, and in the absence of the Pro Grand Master, the exceptionally heavy and responsible work of acting head of Grand Lodge. The efficient way in which he performed the duties which thus devolved upon him is well known, and his portrait on the walls of Grand Lodge, placed there during his lifetime, is a memorial to his great services to the Craft.

He was installed for the second time as WM of Watford Lodge in June 1918, fifty years after his first Mastership. He occupied the Chair as WM at five out of seven meetings during that year and performed several degree Ceremonies. Bros Keyser and Cockrem had said *"of course Bro Halsey (with his heavy duties as Deputy Grand Master) will not do any of the work"* but at the first meeting after his installation he initiated Bro Stanley Rogers, and raised Bro Dennis Herbert (afterwards Rt Hon Dennis Henry, 1st Baron Hemingford). He excused himself for not using the strict Emulation working, as he had learnt the Oxford working when very young and did not want to learn another at his age.

It is recorded that on 10th October 1920, Bro Halsey unveiled the village war memorial in Kings Langley.

At the end of 1923 Bro Halsey resigned the office of Provincial Grand Master on completion of fifty years in that office during which time he had officiated at the consecration of thirty-one Lodges, the first being Halsey Lodge No. 1479, only seven days after his installation as Provincial Grand Master. When Sir Frederick retired as Provincial Grand Master, the Halsey Lodge presented to him the beautiful censer which is used at Consecrations, and on the 29th April 1924 the Province presented the set of gilt Consecrating Vessels, including the splendid cornucopia, which were immediately returned for use by the Province in perpetuity.

In 1926 he resigned, to the universal regret of the Craft, the Office of Deputy Grand Master, because in his own words, he desired to do so before he became unable to perform the duties of the office efficiently. His death in February 1927, aged eighty-seven years, was felt as a personal loss by every member of Watford Lodge and indeed widely throughout the Masonic World. A memorial service at St. Albans Abbey was of course attended by a great number of Masons.

It is largely due to the foresight of Bro Thomas W. Chant as well as his own generosity that the Halsey Masonic Hall was erected on a site then described as "near the cross roads in the centre of the best part of Watford", as a memorial to Bro Halsey and was completed and in use in the Autumn of 1926 about a year before he died. On 20th July 1926 RW Bro H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, PGW, paid an informal visit to this new Hall.

It would not be proper to close this Chapter without a brief reference to three other eminent Members of the distinguished Halsey family. Two sons of Bro Halsey came into Hertfordshire Masonry through the Watford Lodge No. 404. The Canon - then the Rev Frederick Halsey - joined in 1907, whilst Vicar of All Saints Church, Kings Langley and was Provincial Grand Master from 1949 to 1952 in the footsteps of his Brother the Admiral - Bro Sir Lionel Halsey - who had joined Watford Lodge in 1930 and was Provincial Grand Master from 1931 to 1949. Finally, Bro Halsey's grandson (son of the Canon) Bro Guy Marsden Halsey, having been initiated into Watford Lodge by his father in 1938, became Provincial Grand Master from 1974 to 1985.

The inscription over the photograph of Bro Halsey appearing in "The Freemason" dated 19th February 1927 forms an apt epitaph:

"Though old, he still retain'd
His manly sense and energy of mind.
Virtuous and wise he was, but not severe:

He still remember'd that he once was young:
His easy presence check'd no decent joy".

CHARLES EDWARD KEYSER

1924 - 1930

Eight miles from Reading in Berkshire there is what was once a country parish of some 3,700 acres called Aldermaston; now it is the centre of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, and in recent years the focus of CND Easter marches. In 1893 the estate of Aldermaston Court came on the market. It comprised some 1,000 acres of parkland, a lake, woods, farms and meadows. The Court was about forty-five years old, the old house having suffered a disastrous fire in 1843. The large entrance gates at the top of the village were flanked by two lodges, once the wings of a large house. There was a church, four small almshouses for widows, and a small school. For centuries the estate was owned by the Forster family whose ancient tombs are in the Forster chapel in the church. The estate was bought by a Mr. Charles Edward Keyser of Derry Hill House, Bushey, a married man with one son and three daughters. By this purchase he became lord of the manor of Aldermaston, and patron of the living.

The England of those days was far different from the present. All over the country the villages were dominated by a manor house, a vicarage, and one or two private properties; the remainder were the farmers, the schoolmaster, the blacksmith and the cottagers who worked on the estate, or on the farms. In those days before state pensions and assistance a good squire was a blessing to the poor, a bad one, a disaster.

Mr. Charles Edward Keyser was the son of Mr. Charles Keyser of the Warren House, Stanmore, for forty years a leading member of the Stock Exchange. His mother was Margaret, the daughter of Edward Blore, F.R.S. a prominent architect. Charles Edward went to Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge where he took his degree in 1870. From Cambridge he derived a great love of the University. In later years he gave several valuable items to the Fitzwilliam Museum, and when the new Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology was built he gave so handsomely towards it that a gallery was named after him.

He was initiated into Freemasonry at the meeting of the Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 on 25th May 1867 on the proposition of the Rev J.F. Hardy, a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, a keen mountaineer; and seconded by Edward Darrock, then an undergraduate of Trinity, whose home was at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. W. Bro the Rev J.F. Hardy was Master at the time, and at that meeting seven were balloted for, three initiated and one raised. When Bro Keyser was raised on the 1st March 1869, eight were elected, six initiated, one passed and four raised - all at

one meeting ! He does not appear to have taken office, at a time when it seems to have been easy to do so. On the other hand he was also admitted to the Inner Temple in April 1868 with a view to studying for the Bar; so that he had more than enough to occupy his mind.

When Bro Keyser bought the estate in 1893 he was in possession of a huge fortune, partly from his twenty years' career in the City and partly from an even larger inheritance from his father who had died a few years before. His father had many times been host to the then Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII. It was through this connection that one daughter Agnes (the sister of Bro Keyser) with another nurse, became Sisters in charge of the Hospital for Officers founded in 1899, in Grosvenor Gardens, during the South African War. At the end of the War, the King insisted on its continuance as King Edward VIFs Hospital for Officers, and Sister Agnes remained as its Head for some thirty years.

One year after taking his degree, Bro Keyser married Mary Emma, the daughter of Thomas Bagnail, J.P. of Newberries, Hertfordshire, It was while they were living at Bushey that there was an outbreak of typhoid in the district, and a group of public spirited gentlemen formed a company to supply fresh water to the district. The first meeting of Colne Valley Water Company was held in December 1872, and Bro Keyser was a leading figure in the enterprise, his father having declined to join it. He became Chairman in 1903, and served on the board for fifty-six years. One begins to see emerging a high sense of public duty which was to mark the whole of his life.

His other financial interests included the Mortgage Debenture Company, the Chicago and Great Western and many other American Railways, the East India Railway, the Great Northern Railway, the Appolinaris Company, the Gordon Hotels, Australian Estates and Finance, and the Union Bank of Australia. He was also a Fellow of the Institute of Directors so that when he came to Aldermaston he was in command of great wealth.

How was his career to develop ?

At Aldermaston he became the model squire. He enlarged the house, and made it a happy home for his wife and four children. He put his estate into good order. He enlarged the schools and built a village hall at his own expense. To his great delight he found medieval frescoes in the Forster chapel, including one of St. Christopher. With the help of the architect, Mr. E. Doran Webb, a fellow member of the Society of Antiquaries, they threw out the rubbish of centuries, restored the roofs and pews in English oak, replastered many of the walls where there were no frescoes, and retiled most of the roofs. He paid for all the work, that it might be a fitting

sanctuary for the people of Aldermaston.

Before he came to Aldermaston, Bro Keyser was already well known in Hertfordshire. From 1875 to 1883 he was captain of the Hertfordshire Cricket Club, scoring many successes. In 1877 he was honorary secretary for the appeal to restore St. Albans Abbey on its being made a Cathedral, and the appeal was strongly sponsored by the Province. He became a member of the newly formed County Council of Berkshire and, slightly later, of Hertfordshire. He was also a J.P. in both counties, a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire, and in 1899 High Sheriff of that county.

At Aldermaston he laid a cricket pitch on his estate, and joined his neighbours in the game; in later years he preferred bowls, and this is commemorated by the Provincial Keyser Bowls Cup which he gave in 1928.

He also had a great interest in archaeology, to which he devoted many years of research; He wrote a scholarly book on Tympani published in 1904: The Norman or Romanesque doorway has the door with a column or pillar on either side, surmounted by a capital, with a semicircular canopy thrown over it; in most, between the lintel and canopy, there was a semicircular stone with ancient religious carving on it called a tympanum. This form of Romanesque door came to us from France through the Normans; they got it from Italy, and the synagogue. The same pillars were before the entrance to King Solomon's Temple and go back to the earlier Phoenician temples. A well instructed Jew, Roman or early Christian seeing those pillars outside a door, often carved with diagonal grooves, would know that it was a sanctuary dedicated to God.

The tympani record such ancient symbols as the Tree of Life, primitive beasts with their tails knotted, the soul of man flying with wings up to heaven aided by the Cross, the Sun Rising in the East, and the now more common symbol of Calvary with St. John and Our Lady on either side of the Cross. These carvings record man's journey from animism to Christianity. It is a marvellous and scholarly book, and towards the end Bro Keyser wrote that his purpose was:-

"to draw attention to the skill and fertility of design of the ancient masons, and thereby to illustrate the methods of religious teaching which were carved in the 11th and 12th centuries.... And we in these days of higher education and culture ought still to be able to appreciate the force of those doctrines which, in so realistic a manner, impressed upon the minds of the people the respective joys and terrors of a future existence, with the means by which, with due preparation and attention, they might gain the one, and avoid the other hereafter".

In Masonry he was a generous benefactor of the principal Masonic Charities; he was Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls with twenty-six stewardships. He was Patron, Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Management, formerly Treasurer, of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys with twenty-six stewardships. He presided at the 1899 Festival and was Patron, Trustee and member of the House Committee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution with twenty-eight stewardships. In Mark Masonry he was a Patron of the Benevolent Fund with twenty-five stewardships. He was Vice President of the Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund, with three stewardships. In 1903 to celebrate his fiftieth stewardship he endowed the Provinces of Hertfordshire and Berkshire and his Lodges with a considerable number of votes for the R.M.I.B. In 1907 he endowed the same Provinces each with a perpetual presentation to the R.M.B.I, and in 1912 each with a perpetual presentation to the R.M.I.B. He also paid for and furnished the chapel at the Masonic Boys' School at Bushey.

He was a full subscribing member of at least thirty-six Lodges in numerous Provinces, including London, a past Master of twenty-four Lodges, and first Master of six Lodges of which he was a founder including Charles Edward Keyser Lodge No. 2518. He was a member of the Craft for sixty-one years, of Royal Arch Masonry for fifty-four years. For many years he held Grand Rank in Craft, Chapter and Mark Masonry.

Bro Keyser was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1906, and, on the retirement of Sir Frederick Halsey in 1924, became Provincial Grand Master. During the First Great War and the economic depression which followed, he performed probably his most outstanding service to Freemasonry. In that War, the Provincial Grand Master, the Rt. Hon and RW Bro Halsey, was called on to preside over Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Master in the absence on military service of the Pro Grand Master. It was during this time that his Deputy in the Province, Bro Keyser, performed his most signal service. It was to see that many Lodges, going through difficult days, with many men away on military service, and with the needs of grieving parents, widows or children to be attended to, were fully met. Not least to see that when Brethren returning from prison camps, hospital or the awful slaughter both at sea or in the trenches, there were warm hearts and hands to receive them at home. Perhaps not least, to reflect that Brotherhood which so many found in the hour of death on active service.

The pattern of his giving is illustrated in the Minutes of the Halsey Lodge No. 1479. On the 29th January 1903, a letter was received from W. Bro Keyser intimating that, as the forthcoming Festival of the R.M.I.B. would be his fiftieth stewardship, he wished to present one hundred guineas to

each Lodge with which he was connected, to be given in the name of that Lodge. That seems to have been the method of his general giving. At the end of the First Great War, he was a generous supporter of the Million Pound Memorial Fund, and of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home, later the Royal Masonic Hospital. One ward was named after him and he was not only Patron and Trustee of many Masonic charities, but Senior Trustee and Chairman of the Hospital Committee of Management.

On 24th September 1928, RW Bro Keyser placed in position the Keystone of the new buildings of St. Albans School. This was preceded by a procession of Brethren through several streets of the City.

During his time as Provincial Grand Master, seventeen Lodges were consecrated, twelve by him and five by W. Bro William Hamilton-Underhill, one as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and four as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge.

Included in these was the Old Albanian Lodge No. 4999 consecrated by RW Bro Keyser on 19th May 1928, four months before he laid the keystone of the new building of the school; this was the third Old School Lodge in the Province, RW Bro Keyser having previously consecrated Old Fullerian Lodge No. 4698 on 29th May 1925 and Old Berkhamstedian Lodge No. 4903 on 21st May 1927.

ADMIRAL SIR LIONEL HALSEY

1930 - 1949

Lionel Halsey was born on 26th February 1872, the son of the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Halsey, Bt, P.C., M.R, of Gaddesden, and Mary Julia, daughter of Frederick Octavius Wells. Chapter Six records the life of Sir Thomas Halsey, Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire 1873-1924.

Educated at Stubbington House, Fareham, a well known preparatory school for potential naval officers, he joined H.M.S. Britannia as a Naval Cadet in 1885. On leaving there in 1888 he was appointed to H.M.S. Raleigh as a Midshipman, serving in her on the South Atlantic Station, based at Simonstown. There he met Roger Keyes (of Zeebrugge fame) and they shared ownership of a sailing cutter which gave great pleasure to both at little cost, an important factor for ill-paid midshipmen in those days. Service on this station included "showing the flag" on both East and West coasts of Africa, a most enjoyable occupation.

From H.M.S. Raleigh, Halsey was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and in 1892 commenced a series of courses at Portsmouth which would qualify him for Lieutenant. On completion of these in 1893 he was appointed (again with Roger Keyes) to the Royal Yacht Squadron, at that time composed of the Victoria and Albert (still in commission in 1948), and the smaller vessels Alberta, Osborne, and Elfin. It was while serving in the Squadron that he met Queen Victoria, on board Alberta at Portsmouth. In 1894, while in Victoria and Albert, he visited Malta, where on 19th March he was initiated into the Lodge of St. John and St. Paul, No. 349. The same year he was promoted Lieutenant.

In 1896 Halsey became a Joining Member of the Navy Lodge No. 2612, in London. He joined H.M.S. Powerful, a modern heavy cruiser, and in 1897 sailed in her to the China Station, based in Hong Kong, where the following year he joined the Lodge of Perseverance No. 1165. Here he again met up with Roger Keyes and both raced their ponies in local events. In early Summer, Powerful left to return to England but the serious shortage of troops in South Africa resulted in her diversion to Cape Town, together with H.M.S. Terrible, which was on her way East to relieve Powerful.

The Naval Brigade was formed from volunteers off these two ships and served with distinction at the defence of Ladysmith. Halsey was among these volunteers, initially in command of a 4.7" gun battery and later in command of all naval guns with the Brigade. For these services he was

mentioned in despatches and received the South Africa Medal with Ladysmith clasp. His elder brother, later W. Bro Capt. Arthur Halsey, also served with the Naval Brigade. The Brigade was disbanded in April 1900 and Halsey returned to England. In 1901 he received accelerated promotion to Commander for exceptional service (the rank of Lieutenant-Commander did not at that time exist).

In 1902 Halsey was appointed Commander of H.M.S. Good Hope, on her acceptance into the Royal Navy. The ship was so named having been built with the assistance of £30,000 donated by the colony of the Cape of Good Hope when she was laid down in 1899. It was therefore appropriate that she should be selected to carry Joseph Chamberlain to South Africa to discuss peace terms. However, Cape residents were upset when her first port of call was Durban, rather than Cape Town. Halsey served in Good Hope, flagship of the First Cruiser Squadron, until 1905. That year he married Morwenna, daughter of Major Bevil Granville, of Wellesbourne, Warwick and was promoted Captain, at the early age of thirty-three. He commanded H.M.S. Donegal, a modern cruiser, built in 1902.

He was specially selected to command H.M.S. New Zealand, the latest battle-cruiser to join the Fleet, when she was commissioned in 1912. This ship was originally laid down for the Royal New Zealand Navy but was presented to the Royal Navy by the New Zealand Government. It was therefore appropriate that Halsey should take her on an extended cruise to Australia and New Zealand, from which she only shortly returned before the outbreak of war. For his efforts in "showing the flag" on this cruise he was made C.M.G. in 1913. Still in command of New Zealand he was present at the battles of the Heligoland Bight (1914) and Dogger Bank (1915). In 1914, as a senior Captain, he was appointed A.D.C. to King George V, a post which he held until promoted in 1917.

A side-line on his visit to New Zealand was the presentation to him by a Maori Chief of a Kiwi war skirt, with the injunction ever to wear it as a talisman when in action. Consisting of a knee-length skirt like a kilt, made of numerous strings of multi-coloured beads, it was a prized possession which he wore over his uniform during his several North Sea engagements.

His crew had faith in this talisman, possibly with justification as, although straddled several times by enemy salvoes, his ship always emerged unscathed. It is on record that he displayed this garment at the Centenary meeting of Cecil Lodge at Hitchin in 1938, telling those present how it had also been considered a talisman by generations of the donor's family.

In 1916 Halsey was promoted to Commodore as Captain of the Fleet to Admiral Jellicoe in H.M.S. Iron Duke. He was present in her at Jutland and

for his services in that battle was made C.B., as well as receiving a warm commendation from Admiral Jellicoe. Following the battle, the Admiral was appointed First Sea Lord and took Halsey with him to the Admiralty as Fourth Sea Lord. In 1917 he was appointed Past Junior Grand Warden in Grand Lodge.

In May 1917 he was promoted Rear-Admiral and appointed Third Sea Lord. He remained at the Admiralty until September 1918, when he returned to sea and hoisted his flag as Rear-Admiral Commanding the Australian Fleet and also commanding the Second Battle-Cruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet - a curious combination. He was present at the surrender of the German Fleet on 22nd November 1918 and was shortly afterwards promoted to K.C.M.G. Sir Lionel remained in this post until 1920, acting in 1919 as Chief of Staff to the Prince of Wales for his tour of Canada, after which he was created K.C.V.O. This tour was the start of his close relationship with the Prince of Wales, which was to continue until 1936.

On 1st May 1919 Sir Lionel joined St. Andrew's Lodge, meeting at Biggleswade, of which he was Master in 1924. In 1920 he was Chief of Staff to the Prince for his tour of Australia and New Zealand, on return from which he was created G.C.V.O. and appointed to the post of Comptroller and Treasurer to the Prince of Wales. This marked the end of his active sea-going career. He was promoted to Vice-Admiral in 1921 and again accompanied the Prince as Chief of Staff on his tour of India and Japan in 1921/2. Following this tour he was created K.C.I.E. and appointed an Extra Equerry to the King, a post he held until 1936.

Sir Lionel retired as a Vice-Admiral in 1922 and was promoted to Admiral on the retired list in 1926. He remained in post with the Prince of Wales however, until the death of King George V in 1936, when he became an Extra Equerry to King Edward VIII and subsequently to King George VI, holding the office until 1949.

Admiral Halsey lived for many years, until his death, at Old Warden in Bedfordshire, but was most active in Hertfordshire, becoming a Deputy Lieutenant and a J.P. in the county following his retirement from the Navy. He was also a member of the Council of the Duchy of Cornwall, Commodore of the Sea Cadet Corps (1942), Chairman of the Navy League (1941) and County Director for Bedfordshire of the Red Cross from 1939/45, becoming President in 1945.

Sir Lionel's Masonic career advanced rapidly after the War. On 15th February 1921 he was exalted into United Chapter, No. 1629, London. He became Master of Navy Lodge, No. 2612 in 1922, and of St. Andrews Lodge, No. 803, Biggleswade, in 1924. He was appointed PPSGW of

Bedfordshire in 1925. In 1930 he joined Watford Lodge, No. 404 and on 12th December that year was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, being installed on 7th April 1931. In 1933 he was appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent of Hertfordshire. It is interesting to note that there was a delay from 1930 to 1933 in his taking over as he had not at that time been through the First Principal's Chair.

On 12th January 1938 he joined Royal Colonial Institute Lodge No. 3556, London; H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, Grand Master, was Master of this Lodge from 1901 to 1938, and Sir Lionel was Deputy Master in 1938.

Within his first year as Provincial Grand Master, he dedicated the new Masonic Halls at Cheshunt and Sawbridgeworth, and in 1935 he dedicated Ashwell House, St. Albans. In 1947 he presided at the Festival for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls when £181,786 was raised, the Province contributing £67,000. During his eighteen years as Provincial Grand Master, thirty-five Lodges were consecrated; he performed the Ceremony on twenty-two occasions, all the other thirteen were performed by Canon Frederick Halsey as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the last, North Watford Lodge No. 6918, on 9th December 1949 as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge.

After recurring ill health, Sir Lionel died on 26th October 1949, exactly eight months after his seventy-seventh birthday, while still in office as Provincial Grand Master. In the "Times" obituary he was described as *"a born leader, a first class seaman and a master of his profession. A man of much charm, he was regarded by all who knew him with affection as well as with the loyalty which a high sense of duty and an unswerving devotion to an ideal can always command"*.

THE REVEREND CANON FREDERICK HALSEY 1949 • 1952

Canon Frederick Halsey was born in 1870 and was the elder brother of his predecessor as Provincial Grand Master, Admiral Sir Lionel. He joined Watford Lodge in 1907 whilst Vicar of All Saints Church, Kings Langley.

He had the honour of being appointed the first Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire in 1938, and became Deputy to his brother in 1939. During the Admiral's rule he consecrated twelve Lodges commencing with Totteridge Lodge No. 6130 on 1st October 1945, and including six between May and July 1948, and three between May and September 1949 when his brother was indisposed. He then consecrated North Watford Lodge No. 6918 as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge on 19th January 1950 at the age of seventy-nine. On 29th March 1950 he consecrated his first Lodge as Provincial Grand Master, Knebworth Lodge No. 6941. He consecrated six others, culminating in Chantry Lodge No. 7117 on 20th September 1951 at Freemasons' Hall, London which had the distinction of being the 100th Lodge in the Province.

His rule was short-lived because he died on 31st January 1952, just over two years after his appointment as Provincial Grand Master.

In 1938, he and his brother the Admiral had, on 6th May, proposed and seconded Mr. Guy Marsden Halsey for initiation. The Master, W. Bro Ernest Withers, invited the Canon to occupy the Chair and he initiated his son whilst the charge after initiation was delivered by the Initiate's uncle, the Admiral. In January 1975, Bro Guy Marsden Halsey was to be installed Provincial Grand Master.

THE REVEREND DR. JOSEPH MOFFETT

1952 • 1963

Joseph Moffett was an Ulsterman by birth and a son of the Manse, and was born in 1885. On 3rd November 1917 he became Minister at Crown Court Church, Covent Garden, London, a cradle of the Scottish Church in London. Included in the many activities were Gaelic services at definite periods of the year, Ministers being invited from the Highlands of Scotland. Dr. Moffett worked unsparingly for the Scottish community in London, and this was recognised by the University of St. Andrews in 1948 when it conferred on him a Doctorate of Divinity, and subsequently by the King when he was appointed OBE. During the Second World War he took a deep interest in the men of the Polish forces. When the Church of the Dutch community in London was destroyed by bombs, Dr. Moffett came forward to assist them; his services to the Dutch people were subsequently recognised when the Queen of the Netherlands conferred the Order of Orange-Nassau upon him. His own Church sustained bomb damage in 1941 and the necessary repairs were completed in 1950 at a cost of nearly £5,000, most of which was met by the War Damage Commission.

Dr. Moffett was a very well known figure in the Scottish community in London. He was Senior Chaplain and a Vice President of the Royal Scottish Corporation. He was also an Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Caledonian Schools and to several of the Scottish Societies in London. He was Clerk to both the Church of Scotland Presbytery in London and to the Presbytery of the Synod in England.

Joseph Moffett was initiated in Bushey Hall Lodge, No. 2323, on 3rd July 1920 by Bro Charles Edward Keyser, Master of the Lodge and Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who was to become Provincial Grand Master in 1924. He was passed in September, and raised in November the same year at the installation meeting when he was immediately appointed Lodge Chaplain. He went through the various Lodge Offices and was installed fortieth Master in 1928.

He was appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1947, and Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1950, thus serving both the Admiral and the Canon. He was appointed Provincial Grand Master after the death of the Canon, and at Freemasons' Hall on 1st July 1952, he was installed by the Grand Master, MW Bro The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarborough.

In 1955 he presided over the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution which produced a total of £221,347, the Province contributing

£87,388. In 1956 he represented the Province at the opening of the new pavilion at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, to be known as the Halsey pavilion, financed and erected by the Brethren of Hertfordshire from an appeal under the leadership of Bro Arnold Simon, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master who was later to be appointed Deputy in 1963. The scheme included a commemorative plaque to the Admiral and the Canon, which was unveiled by Lady Halsey as part of the Opening Ceremony.

On 18th November 1959 RW Bro the Rev. Dr. Moffett opened the newly extended buildings at the Cloisters Masonic Centre, Letchworth.

As Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge, Bro Dr. Moffett consecrated two Lodges, both at Cheshunt, Woodhall Park Lodge No. 7125, and Goff Oak's Lodge No. 7169. During his rule as Provincial Grand Master sixteen Lodges were consecrated and he presided at them all, the first was Sherrards Lodge No. 7182 at Ashwell House, St. Albans on 24th October 1952, and the last Ludgrove Lodge No. 7766 at Freemasons' Hall on 5th June 1961; both now at Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury.

RW Bro the Rev. Dr. Moffett died on 20th May 1962, and a memorial service was held in St. Albans Abbey on 9th July.

COLONEL ALEXANDER WOOD, MBE, TD, DL 1963 • 1974

Alexander Woods was born on the 18th January 1891 in Hull, the only child of his father's second marriage, and was educated at Hull Grammar School. On the 24th May 1905 at the age of fourteen years and four months, he commenced his Banking career when he joined the York City and County Bank at its Hull Branch. The York City and County Bank which had been established at York in 1830, was acquired in 1909 by The London Joint Stock Bank which in turn became part of the Midland Bank in 1918. He remained at Hull until September 1913 when he was transferred to the Beverley Branch.

It was during his time in Hull that he became a Territorial with the 5th Battalion East Yorks Regiment and was commissioned on the 1st April 1909 when he was eighteen years old. In 1914 he married Edith Robinson at Nottingham and they had two sons and four daughters, the elder son dying in infancy. He was mobilised in 1914 shortly after the outbreak of The Great War and joined The East Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Yorks Own) and was seconded to the Machine Gun Corps. He served with distinction in France and Belgium, he was a prisoner of war in Germany for some time and after the end of the Great War he went to India and engaged in the Afghan War of 1919. On demobilisation in 1921, he was transferred to the Regular Reserve of Officers in the East Yorkshire Regiment with the rank of Major, and was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1923.

In 1935 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 95th (Birmingham) Anti-Aircraft Regiment R A. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was called up from the Reserve proceeding overseas to France three days later. He was engaged in Movement Control but returned home after the Midland Bank had arranged his release.

It was in 1918 that he became interested in Freemasonry when he was initiated into the Constitutional Lodge No. 294 at Beverley, on 31st January 1919. He was then aged twenty-eight, his address was India and his occupation Major. He became a Country Member in 1922. In May 1923 he was appointed the first Manager of the Bank's new branch at Bishop's Stortford and during his time there he built up a thriving branch business. His connection with Hertfordshire Masonry began from this time. On the 8th December 1925 he joined St. Michael's Lodge No. 2136 at Bishop's Stortford. He did not hold any office in the Lodge and resigned from it on the 11th March 1930.

At this time Bryan Nockolds, a local Solicitor and keen Mason and a great friend of Alexander Woods, was instrumental in forming a new Lodge at Sawbridgeworth. A Warrant was granted on the 11th March 1929, the Sawbridgeworth Lodge No. 5110 being consecrated on the 29th May 1929 at Freemasons' Hall by W. Bro William Hamilton-Underbill, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge. Alexander Woods was the first Junior Deacon and was installed as Master of the Lodge in 1934.

In March 1930 he was appointed a Superintendent of Branches at Head Office in London where he remained until the 1st August 1931 when he was appointed Assistant Manager at the Bank's New Street Branch, Birmingham, the premier Branch outside London. In 1939 he was appointed Manager. On the 1st February 1943 he was appointed a Joint General Manager of Midland Bank at Head Office in London and continued in that post until his retirement in May 1951. During this period he became a Joining Member of Francis Davies Lodge No. 5035 at Kings Heath, Birmingham, becoming Worshipful Master in 1938, and of Holden Lodge No. 2946, London in 1943. He was a Founder Member and first I.P.M. of Fortior Lodge No. 6172, Birmingham, consecrated on the 30th October 1945, a Founder Member of Broad Acres Lodge No. 7012, Leeds, consecrated on the 25th October 1950 and finally he joined the Hertfordshire Masters' Lodge No. 4090 in 1952, and was Master in 1957 and 1971. He was Senior Grand Deacon in 1948 and was Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire from 1952 to 1963, and during this time had also been appointed Past Provincial Grand Warden (Worcs.)

Alexander Woods was also a man dedicated to public and charitable works. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Warwick in 1941 and one of H.M. Lieutenants for the City of London in 1946. He was awarded an MBE on 1st January 1965 for Public Services. He was very involved in the cause of ex-service charities including the Royal British Legion and The Limbless Ex-Service Association. He was Commander of Birmingham Home Guard in 1940 and on behalf of the Bank organised the resettlement support for the ex-servicemen and women returning after the 1939/45 War. He was also County Commandant of the Warwickshire Cadet Force in 1941, Commandant of the City of London Special Constabulary, Treasurer of the National Playing Fields Association, a member of the Council of the Institute of Bankers and also a Liveryman of the Spectacle Makers Company in 1951.

Colonel Woods was installed as Provincial Grand Master on 21st January 1963 by Lord Cornwallis, then RW Provincial Grand Master of Kent. He presided over the 1974 Festival in support of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He invited W. Bro Donald Forrester, Assistant Provincial Grand

Master to organise the task of raising £250,000 and when outside contributions were added, the total reached £481,147. He remained at the Head of the Province, but failing health prevented him attending the Festival celebration on 5th June 1974. On 31st July 1974 he despatched his request to be relieved of his post to the MW Grand Master.

Alexander Woods was a man of wide experience, strong personality and high achievement. He enjoyed a happy family life with his wife, who sadly predeceased him in 1967, and his children and their families. He was able to spend his last years at his London home apart from a short while at a Nursing Home in Sheringham where he died on the 4th May 1975 aged eight-four years.

During his term in charge of the Province, twenty Lodges were consecrated. RW Bro Woods consecrated fifteen of them, the first Ashwell Lodge No. 7903 on 2nd May 1963, and the last Penman's Green Lodge No. 8384 on 11th October 1971. Included in these fifteen were three successive Old School Lodges, Old Elizabethans Lodge No. 7987, Old Verulamians Lodge No. 7988, and Old Hertfordian Lodge No. 8083. V.W. Bro Arnold Simon, as Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, consecrated St. Stephen's Lodge No. 8468 on 4th January 1973, the only consecration he performed in a very illustrious Masonic career in Hertfordshire. Bro Guy Halsey consecrated four Lodges as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the first Redbourn Lodge No. 8484 on 10th May 1973 and the last, Stuart Lodge No. 8578 on 27th June 1974. He also consecrated St. Augustine's Lodge No. 8579 on 23rd October 1974 as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge.

GUY MARSDEN HALSEY

1974 - 1985

Guy Marsden Halsey was born in 1909, the son of the Reverend Canon Frederick Halsey (Provincial Grand Master 1950 to 1952), the grandson of Sir Frederick Halsey (Provincial Grand Master 1874 to 1924), and the nephew of Sir Lionel Halsey (Provincial Grand Master 1931 to 1949). He himself was to be Provincial Grand Master 1975 to 1985. On his retirement, the family had provided a Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire for eighty-three of the last one hundred and eleven years. One hundred and two Lodges were consecrated whilst a Halsey was Provincial Grand Master and, by coincidence, one hundred and two Lodges were consecrated by Halseys.

As is mentioned in Chapter Nine, Guy Halsey was initiated on 6th May 1938 in Watford Lodge No. 404, proposed by his father, who performed the ceremony, and seconded by his uncle who gave the address to the Initiate.

On 23rd September 1939 Mary Juliet Gough Arbuthnott, daughter of the late Captain Robert W.M. Arbuthnott MC of Kimpton Grange, Herts, and Guy Halsey were married by his father, assisted by the Bishop of St. Albans, the Rt. Rev. Michael Furze, at Hatfield Church.

That month his Masonic interests were abruptly terminated as the young Master Mason, being an officer in the Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) was whisked off to active service. He spent the greater part of the war years in the Middle East and Greece. His progress through Watford Lodge No. 404 was resumed after the War, when he returned as a Lieutenant Colonel having been mentioned in despatches. He was invested as Senior Warden on 6th June 1948 and the following year was installed in the Chair by his father, then Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Due to business commitments Guy Halsey and his family moved to Somerset in 1952 and his Hertfordshire activities were curtailed. At the Provincial Meeting on 28th September 1955, however, he was invested as Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon.

In 1970 the family returned to The Golden Parsonage, Great Gaddesden. That ever vigilant "guide, philosopher and friend" of the Province VW Bro Arnold Simon, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, immediately spotted this and, having quickly renewed his old association with "the Halseys of Hertfordshire", he relinquished his Provincial Office and personally invested Bro Guy Halsey as Deputy Provisional Grand Master at the

Annual Provincial Meeting on 27th September 1972. Bro Halsey had been appointed Past Junior Grand Deacon in Grand Lodge earlier that year.

Colonel Woods' ill health saw Guy Halsey consecrating four Lodges as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the first, Redbourn Lodge No. 8484 on 10th May 1973 and the fourth, Stuart Lodge No. 8578 on 27th June 1974. Just before that last consecration, in April 1974, he was promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer in Grand Lodge thus entitling him to the prefix Very Worshipful. As such he deputised for the Provincial Grand Master at the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys Festival on 5th June 1974, Colonel Woods' and Donald Forrester's excellent work being celebrated at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London.

On 18th September 1974, Guy Halsey, as Provincial Grand Master designate, attended the Centenary Meeting of Halsey Lodge No. 1479, a Lodge consecrated by his grandfather. The Halsey Loving Cup presented to his grandfather in 1902 was handed back to the Lodge.

Guy Halsey was installed as Provincial Grand Master by MW Bro The Earl Cadogan, the Pro Grand Master, at a Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at Freemasons' Hall, London attended by some 1,200 Brethren representing every Lodge in the Province.

The Halsey Family Standard, originally presented to Watford Lodge No. 404, had served the previous members of the family as Provincial Grand Masters to such a degree that it deserved a rest. A suitable exhibition panel was therefore constructed at the Halsey Masonic Hall, Watford, to display and preserve it for posterity (together with the Grand Lodge Standard presented by Hertford Lodge No. 403 to Sir Frederick Halsey when he was both Deputy Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master and the personal Standard of Colonel Alexander Woods). In a race against time to have it available for the day of Bro Halsey's installation, a new Standard, worked in hand-embroidery by Phyllis, wife of W. Bro W.T. Whinnett, was produced after many hours of painstaking skill, and presented by all the Lodges in the Province.

Immediately after Guy Halsey's installation, his new personal Standard was introduced into Provincial Grand Lodge, borne by W. Bro Whinnett and escorted by two Standard Bearers. The Standard has the Family Arms on a royal blue background with the family motto 'nescit vox missa reverti' literally 'the spoken word cannot be recalled', but loosely, 'my word is my bond'.

During his rule, RW Bro Guy Halsey consecrated twenty-six Lodges, W. Bro Donald Forrester, two, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W. Bro George Davies, one, as Assistant Provincial Grand Master in charge. In

addition White Star Lodge No. 8727 was consecrated by James Stubbs, the Grand Secretary, and Union Lodge No. 767, Edmonton Latymer Lodge No. 5026, Bombay Lodge No. 3651 and High Stone Lodge No. 4498 joined the Province. Thus, the Province grew by thirty-four Lodges in about ten years.

Guy Halsey retired at the beginning of 1985. On 29th May 1990, his successor, RW Bro Godfrey Kent consecrated the Guy Marsden Halsey Lodge No. 9369. Bro Halsey himself was present and delivered the address to the Brethren. He also presented to the Lodge his personal Standard, referred to previously, and it occupies pride of place at all Lodge meetings. He died just five months later on 28th October 1990. The Memorial Service at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban on 22nd February 1991 was attended by a great many Brethren, a testament to the respect and affection in which he was held.

GODFREY BLAGDON WESCOTT KENT

1985 - 1992

Godfrey Kent's grandfather came to farm at Chishill Hall which adjoins the present home of the Kent family, Parsonage Farm. Joseph Kent had two sons, Godfrey Kent's father, John Francis Kent, and his uncle, Lewis Kent. At the age of seven, John Kent suffered an attack of poliomyelitis, which eventually resulted in the need for surgery to his right leg (growth having been inhibited, it was necessary for a tendon to be severed). Until his death he was never to forget the pain of an operation that was performed without the use of anaesthetic! John Kent spent the whole of his early years at home, his disability compelling the use of crutches until his teens. He was unable to attend the local school and was given a private tutor. It was a very lonely time for the boy, with so many normal youthful activities denied him. Thrown upon his own devices, almost all of his free time was spent on the farm in the company of his dog. This enforced companionship was to lead to an awareness that he possessed a unique talent - the gift of animal trust. Day by day patience and effort was to result in a dog that would respond to commands as if animal and boy were speaking the same language. Other working dogs were to be taken under his instruction and when only ten years of age an impressed visitor to the farm offered to buy one of the dogs for the then princely sum of seven shillings and sixpence. So began a lifetime's career that would eventually bring the boy into contact with sportsmen from all over the world. Remarkably, John Kent's extraordinary gift was to emerge in each of his two sons.

Regrettably, Godfrey's grandfather's gambling debts were to result in the sale of the farm, from which there was just enough money left to build a small house locally, to which the family moved in 1906. John Kent, in his new home, continued to train farm working dogs. At that time, typically, such dogs were unruly and needed to be situated well behind the guns before being released to recover game; often a time-wasting business. John Kent knew that he could do better, His name was to spread among the sporting community when it became known that his dogs would walk tightly to heel, would sit quietly while driven game was shot and, when released, would retrieve and return speedily. By the age of nineteen he had won his first national field trial and a year later achieved the very first Cocker Spaniel National Field Trial Champion. From that time on, sportsmen from all over the world would be coming to Chishill for their dogs to receive the unique benefits of the Kent training methods.

In 1910 John Francis Kent married Ethel Maud Andrews, the daughter of a local builder. The couple were to make their home at Nashes Farm,

Chrishall, again only a "stones throw" from Parsonage Farm, which was ideally sited for the development of his training school. When the war came, because of his disability, he was rejected for military service, so, in addition to the dog school, with his brother he purchased one of the first petrol-driven tractors in the neighbourhood. Working all daylight hours, with contract ploughing, they took full advantage of the changing times when over one million horses still supplied the principal energy source for work on the land throughout the United Kingdom.

Godfrey Kent was born in 1917. His father wanted him to be called George but his mother insisted upon Godfrey. She did however agree to the addition of Blagdon Westcott. It is from the paternal side of the family that these names derive, for his great-great-grandfather, Walter Westcott Wyman had also farmed locally at Hornmehead Hall. Further light has been thrown on the family names by Brian Tierney, who, whilst researching a paper on St. Paul's Cathedral, discovered reference to one of Godfrey's illustrious forbears. There is a monument to the captain of the Majestic who was the only captain to be killed at the Battle of the Nile, Captain George Blagdon Westcott, a direct ancestor. The monument in St. Paul's Cathedral is inscribed, "Erected at the public expense to the memory of George Blagdon Westcott, Captain of the Majestic, who after thirty-three years meritorious service, fell gloriously in the victory obtained over the French fleet off Aboukir, the first day of August in the year 1798, in the forty-sixth year of his age".

The Kent agricultural business continued to expand, with food production being a vital need at the height of the war years. The brothers formed a partnership with Harry Drage (Drage and Kent), with finance for the expansion being introduced by a Letchworth factory owner, a Belgian named Kryne. The latter was engaged in the manufacture of shells and ammunition for the military and had become known to the brothers through shooting. The basis of the expanded business was to be "steam". Monster engines were to revolutionise the 'one acre a day', that man and horse could plough and the broad acres of Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex were to prove fertile ground for the extension of a business that would fill the urgent needs of the moment. It grew rapidly and at its peak, would become the principal employer in the district for over one hundred and fifty men.

Godfrey Kent was educated locally at Newport Grammar School (whose motto "Suffer and Serve" would later be adopted by the Godfrey Kent Lodge No. 9375), where he describes himself as being an adequate scholar. He played cricket for the school and later for Royston Town; he also enjoyed tennis and, later, would become a moderately low handicap golfer.

The importance and popularity of the sport of shooting in the years before the Second World War are, in today's changed social times, perhaps difficult to appreciate. From the opening of the season in early September until its closure on the 2nd February, shooting parties filled every available moment in the country calendar. By the age of seventeen he was an excellent shot and an automatic inclusion in parties throughout the district and beyond. The young Godfrey began to mix with the great and the good from every walk of life. He well remembers a visit to the farm by the future King and Queen of England in 1924, whilst on their honeymoon, to witness the progress of their cocker spaniel under training.

In 1936, Godfrey Kent's brother Dick died, and their father was inconsolable. One day Godfrey asked his father if he would like him to train some dogs. The response was immediate and his father jumped at the idea. Godfrey says "I did not want to have anything to do with dogs at all - my ambitions were towards engineering and as both Dad and Dick were quite brilliant with dogs I felt that was enough for one family. My father's unhappiness, however, could not be borne and I felt something must be done to help". In consequence, he left school early and from then on continued the Kent dog training business with his father.

In 1938 he was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Territorial Army, and in the intervening time before the outbreak of war, he was responsible for the raising of over two platoons for the Regiment - some eighty men based at Melbourne. In August 1939 he was called up for service and joined the Second Battalion, the Cambridgeshire Regiment. During the early days of the war, the Battalion was stationed on anti-invasion duties in North Norfolk, where, after a very short crash course, it was engaged in mine laying.

Throughout 1940 and 1941, the Battalion was stationed in various parts of East Anglia. Lieutenant Kent was to be given an opportunity to exercise his civilian skills and was appointed as Chief Instructor of what was to be the first War Dog Training School in the British Army. Based originally in Aldershot, a small team of dog handlers was recruited together with the first intake of a dozen dogs. With a free hand and developing his own unique methods, fully trained animals were soon being turned out with the skills to guard or to seek out mines and explosives. Today, he takes just pride in the ability of units such as the R.A.F. Dog Demonstration Team, knowing that little has fundamentally changed since he first introduced training methods for military dogs. With the new school soundly established, it was handed over as a running unit to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in 1942.

Whilst based near London two significant events occurred which were to materially affect the future of Lieutenant Godfrey Kent. Firstly, he was to meet the young daughter of the Bedborough family, Barbara, who was one of the few civilians permitted to enter the Operations Room of Bomber Command. They were married in 1943. Secondly, in 1942, he had a stay in the Masonic Hospital where he had undergone an operation on his sinuses. He was much impressed, not only with the quality of treatment during his stay but also the *raison d'être* for the existence of the hospital. When returning home on leave, he made an approach to a neighbouring farmer, Mr. Reg Chambers, and expressed an interest in joining the fraternity. Some weeks later his mother took him to one side and informed him that his father was most upset as he thought the initial approach should have been made to him. Reg Chambers sorted things out, a sorting that was to be providential for Hertfordshire, for Reg Chambers was a Member of an Essex Lodge.

At an emergency meeting of the Royston Lodge No. 4304, at the Icknield Hall, Letchworth on 20th March 1943, Lieutenant G.B.W. Kent was initiated by Dispensation as he expected to be ordered overseas at an early date and wished to become a Freemason before doing so. The Ceremony was worked by his father, Worshipful Brother John Kent, with the charge being delivered by Worshipful Brother Harry Drage. The meeting was held at the Icknield Hall because the Royston Hall had been requisitioned for defence purposes. His progress thereafter, it being wartime, was swift. He was passed at a regular meeting of the Lodge on the 10th April 1943 and raised by Dispensation at an emergency meeting on May Day 1943 - just six weeks from entrance to Master Mason. By now promoted to Staff Captain Kent, with his Combined Operations training completed, he was to be posted overseas to the Far East with the Royal Engineers Beach Group and it was to be some considerable time before he was to return to his wife, his family and his Lodge.

He was demobilised in 1946 and for his service was later to be awarded the Territorial Decoration. He and his wife were to set up their first home together at Broad Green Acre Farm, Chrishall. Anne, their first daughter, was born in 1948, to be followed by Susan in 1952. Godfrey's working life resumed much as before and there was a steady flow of dogs for training. Before long, however, it became apparent that the family business of Drage and Kent was experiencing serious difficulty. John Kent asked his son to take over and during the following years his efforts made significant improvements in the recovery of the business although it would never again achieve the levels of success of the 1930's.

Throughout this period Masonry was beginning to play an important part in his life; after serving in each of the progressive offices of the Lodge, with the exception of Junior Deacon, in 1956 he was proud to be installed as Master of Royston Lodge No. 4304 by his father.

By the end of 1959, both Harry Drage and Lewis Kent had died and as sole surviving partner, John Kent had no choice, with the need for cash to meet estate duty liabilities, but to order the liquidation of the company. A sad time for Godfrey and Barbara, lightened however by the birth of a third daughter, Jill, in 1960. Having completed the disposal of the family business, he turned his energy towards a new venture. He took charge of the Police Dog Training School to be established at Ewell in Surrey. Each day he travelled by rail to Surrey to be met, Godfrey recalls with some amusement, by a Black Maria, driven by a uniformed Police Officer. Within two years the project was sufficiently advanced for him to hand over the school for management by the Police themselves. During this time he established an international reputation and he was to be approached by Police Forces from the United States of America, from Hong Kong, and Malaysia, all of whom were showing keen interest in his training methods. Now was a time of career decision - to follow the natural progression of Dog Training would lead to extensive travel and time abroad, obviously at a cost to his personal life. His inclination had always been towards farming and with so much of his youth already having been spent away from home, his eventual decision was to remain in Chrishall. His assistance to foreign Police Forces was to take the form of written manuals.

At this time, in addition to shooting and golf, the Kents took up fly-fishing, Barbara being a more proficient angler than Godfrey. Masonically, he was serving the Royston Lodge as Director of Ceremonies. During 1959 the opportunity arose to purchase the base of the old family firm, Parsonage Farm, and the moated farmhouse (later to be chosen as the Badge of the Godfrey Kent Lodge No. 9375) a typical example of many fine North Hertfordshire farm dwellings. Masonically, having spent six years as Director of Ceremonies, and latterly as Secretary, his loyalty and hard work for the Royston Lodge was to be rewarded in 1971 with promotion to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. However, in 1976 he received what he described as a masonic shock. Attending a Ladies Festival of the Hertfordshire Masters' Lodge, he was invited by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Guy Halsey, to become an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. He was utterly astounded by the invitation and pleaded for time to consider. Hertfordshire was aware of his eventual acceptance and when the appointment was publicised, surprise was understandable in the

appointment of a relative "unknown". He was rapidly to rectify this by a prodigious pattern of visits around the Province.

John Kent, having achieved ninety years of age and having lived to see his son invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Master, died in 1977. Nature could offer no more fitting epitaph to a man who had devoted his whole life to sporting animals than that his death should occur on the last official day of the shooting season. By an extraordinary coincidence, his brother and business partner, Lewis, had died on the first day of the shooting season.

Upon the retirement of RW Brother Guy Halsey in 1985, Godfrey Kent was invited by the Most Worshipful, The Grand Master, to succeed Bro Halsey. On 30th May 1985, RW Bro Godfrey Blagdon Westcott Kent was installed as Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire by RW Bro the Lord Farnham, Assistant Grand Master, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

Godfrey admits to doubts at the time about accepting this office and this can be sympathised with, for it could not have been easy to assume the mantle of Guy Halsey, a most affectionate and compassionate ruler whose personal leadership, following a dynastic line of Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Masters, was legendary.

His acceptance coincided with changing Masonic times and a major administrative problem concerning the Hertfordshire Old Peoples's Establishment (H.O.P.E.). Bro Donald Forrester had both launched and generously endowed the scheme and the Brethren of the Province had responded equally generously. A capital sum of £1.75 million had been achieved. In addition, Bro Forrester indicated that further financial support would be forthcoming when the home was up and running, but sadly this support did not occur as a result of his death in 1986.

Therefore, while Godfrey Kent could see sufficient cash to cover the constructional costs of the home, there were woefully insufficient monies to run it. In consequence, a bold decision to shelve the scheme was taken and the resultant time gained enabled negotiations to begin with the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. In retrospect, there could have been no better resolution than the building of the Prince Michael of Kent Court at Watford, a fitting tribute to V W Bro Donald Forrester, the generosity of the Brethren of Hertfordshire and the caring professionalism of the R.M.B.I.

During his rule, Godfrey Kent consecrated twelve Lodges, the first, Shyre Lodge No. 9168 on 8th October 1985, and the last Catuvellauni Lodge No. 9435 on 13th September 1991. Of particular pleasure was the consecration

of Lodge No. 9369 on 29th May 1990, which took place in the presence and carried the name of his revered predecessor, Right Worshipful Brother Guy Marsden Halsey. Later that year, on 3rd November 1990, he consecrated Lodge No. 9375 named after himself. In addition, eight lodges joined Hertfordshire.

MICHAEL BATHAM JONES

1992-2003

RW Bro Michael Batham Jones was born in Lancashire in 1929, the family later moving south before settling in Watford in 1939, where he attended Watford Boys' Grammar School before reading Law at the London School of Economics. He graduated in 1950 and then entered into three years' articles with the firm of Sedgwick Turner Sworder & Wilson (now Sedgwick Kelly). He was articled to W Bro Frank Wilson, then Secretary of Watford Lodge No 404 and qualified as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court in 1954; five years later he was admitted as a Partner, progressing to the position of senior partner before retiring from that position in 2000.

He was initiated in Watford Lodge No. 404 in 1957 and became Master of the Lodge in 1966. In 1970 he became secretary of the lodge when W Bro Frank Wilson wanted to retire after 20 years' service. Bro Michael then served in that capacity for 13 years. He also joined Old Fullarian Lodge No. 4698 subsequently, and Hertfordshire Masters' Lodge No. 4090 as soon as he was qualified.

His first appointment in the Province was in 1973 and was the highest to which, nowadays a lay brother can aspire - Provincial Senior Grand Warden. His work for the Province continued with his appointment as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1975 rising to Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1977, an appointment he held until he became Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1981. In 1977 he was founding Treasurer of White Star Lodge No. 8727, the Provincial Executive's Lodge. During this period he was a Director of Halsey Masonic Hall (Watford) Limited, a position he held for some twenty years, being Chairman of the Company for some of that time.

In 1979 Michael Jones was appointed to the active rank of Assistant Grand Registrar in Grand Lodge, being promoted to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies the following year, an appointment he held for three years.

In 1979, he also became a member of the General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, which a few years' later merged with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to form the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (M.T.G.B.). He became a member of the Council of the M.T.G.B. at its foundation and subsequently a Trustee of what had become the RMTGB until retiring in 2003.

He was elected to the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge in 1982 and served as an elected member for three years at the end of which he continued on the Board as one of the members appointed by the Grand Master. In accordance with convention, he resigned from the Board in 1992 on being appointed Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire. Whilst on the Board of General Purposes, Michael Jones served on most of its Committees. He was Chairman of the Library, Art and Publications Committee, and subsequently Chairman of the Procedure Committee. On the Procedure Committee he was a member of the sub-committee that dealt with the changes to the penalties. Later he was a member of the sub-committee which investigated the rules relating to Masonic discipline which ultimately led to changes to the Book of Constitutions, and in that connection he personally undertook the initial drafting of what, eventually became the new Rule 211 A.

In 1989, Michael was appointed Past Grand Sword Bearer in Grand Lodge entitling him to the prefix Very Worshipful, and in 1990 became a Grand Steward. In the Province he was Master of Hertfordshire Masters' Lodge No 4090 in 1984 and of White Star Lodge No. 8727 in 1985. On the death of VW Bro Geoffrey Pryke in March 1992, Michael was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master; in September he was installed as Provincial Grand Master by the Assistant Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Eglinton and Winton at Freemasons' Hall.

Michael Jones consecrated nine Lodges, Jubilee Lodge No. 9475, Stanboroughs Lodge No.9523, Herts Scots Lodge No.9527, Welwyn Viaduct Lodge No.9555, Burning Bush Lodge No.9608, Veritatem Lodge No.9615, Wormley St Laurence Lodge No.9621, Hartsbourne Lodge No.9680, Lodge Trust and Fear Not No.9698.

COLIN FRANK HARRIS

2003 – 2013

RW Bro Colin Harris was born in the City of Chichester in West Sussex in 1942. After attending the local grammar school he went up to Oxford in 1961 to read Physics at Hertford College, which, in spite of the name, has no connection with this County. He began his teaching career at St Albans School in 1965 and, although remaining at the school only until 1969, it was through this connection that he was proposed by VW Bro Geoffrey Pryke, later Deputy PGM, and then initiated in 1972 into the Old Albanian Lodge, No 4999, of which he became Worshipful Master in 1984.

He joined The Hertfordshire Masters' Lodge in 1990 and was Worshipful Master in 2001. Other Hertfordshire Lodges of which he is a currently a subscribing member are White Star Lodge, No 8727, Veritatem Sequere Lodge, No 9615, Michael Batham Jones Lodge, No 9675, and the Lodge of the Red Rampant Lyon, No 9843.

Appointment as Provincial Grand Registrar in 1990 was followed by that of Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1992, of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1996 and Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1999. In this respect, he has followed the example of his predecessor, R W Bro Michael Jones, in dealing with the ceremonial side of the Province's Activities before joining the Executive. He was appointed in United Grand Lodge to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1992 (the "Birthday Honours" year marking the 275th Anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England) and then to the Active Rank of Senior Grand Deacon in 2000.

His career took him out of Hertfordshire to Westminster School, London, and thence to Eton College where he spent the last 21 years before retiring in the summer of 2002. At both these schools, he was Director of Studies with the task of orchestrating the academic organization, producing the timetable and chairing, or sitting on, rather a lot of committees. On retirement he finally settled in Harpenden, which is central enough to allow easy travel to Hertfordshire Centres and convenient access to London.

In September 2003, he was Installed as the 14th Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire by the Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother The Right Honorable The Marquess of Northampton. Throughout the following 10 years in office he was, like his predecessor, one of the four Trustees of

the RMTGB and was a member of the Panel for Clemency, being appointed to that role annually by the Grand Master. Concurrently, four new Lodges were brought into existence in the Province, all with particular aims in view. The first was the Lodge of Opportunity no 9777 whose members organise fishing experience for children and adults with difficulties in their lives; the second the Hertfordshire Lodge of the Legion no 9827 which offers support to former members of the Services and their causes, as well as making arrangements which ensure that Masonic presence occurs at Remembrance Day Ceremonies throughout Hertfordshire. Thirdly came the re-founding of The Lodge of the Red Rampant Lyon itself – the original was the very first Hertfordshire Lodge – which enables members of the Executive and their guests to meet together. Lastly was Prince Hamlet Lodge no 9864 whose members are drawn from Denmark as well as from this country, promoting new friendships and understandings.

The decade of his rule over Hertfordshire saw some significant events. Among these was the successful 2009 Festival for the Grand Charity and the establishment of a real rapport with the authorities running St Albans Cathedral. In this latter context, the Province has enjoyed some really good biennial Services with refreshments within the Abbey precincts, while we have provided help with Stewarding for their Annual Pilgrimage and for the Enthronement of the Bishop.

Almost certainly the most important legacy of his time is, and will continue to be, the acquisition and fitting out of the Provincial HQ – Fleet House – in St Albans. This was made possible by the generosity of our own Brethren and some shrewd financial management; and it gives Hertfordshire Craft Masonry its own base and facilities which should help the Province to face whatever the future may bring.