

## Early Masonry in Launceston

The first indication as to the presence of Freemasonry in Launceston is to be found in the records of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall for 1765 when it was ordered that a letter be sent to the Brethren assembling at Launceston acquainting them that if they did not petition for a constitution, they would be represented forthwith to the Grand Lodge as being quite illegal. The non-regular Lodge had almost certainly been at work for some years before 1765, probably under the name of "Modern and Regular".

In December, 1767, no doubt as a direct result of this ultimatum, the Cornubian Lodge was warranted by the Grand Lodge of the "Moderns", His Grace the Duke of Beaufort being the Grand Master. This Lodge first bore the number 410, becoming No. 345 in 1770 and No. 268 in 1780. It was erased as No. 268 in the year 1783. The No. was then given to the Lodge of Contentment, Plymouth Dock. This Lodge had the same fate, and suffered erasure in 1786.

From the scanty records now available, it is quite obvious that, during its life of at least eighteen years, this Lodge met at the old Devonport & Exeter Inn in Exeter Street, Launceston. It is interesting to note that this establishment is still part of modern Launceston, albeit under the sign of the Newmarket Hotel.

It must be remembered that, from 1757 until about 1820, Launceston was a parole town for French Officers who were prisoners in this country during the Seven Years' and Napoleonic Wars. It was during this period that the nearby Prison at Princetown on Dartmoor was built to house the other ranks and those officers who refused to give their parole.

During these Wars French Officers are known to have founded Lodges in several parts of Britain, where they practised Freemasonry under the "*Grand Orient Rite Française du Moderne*". Launceston was, however, the only place in Cornwall which had such a Lodge. There are definite proofs of the existence of this Lodge, and there is still preserved a Certificate bearing the date of 1757 which could well be the date of the formation of "Modern and Regular". This Certificate bears the signatures of Francis Rodd of Trebartha and John Molesworth of Tetcott, two local squires. The document is written in French. There is also in existence a Certificate issued in 1802 to one Robert Martin, who was then the organist of St. Mary Magdalene's Church in Launceston. Part of this Certificate is written in English. Until a few years ago this Certificate was known to be in a collection of Masonic documents at Leicester.

In view of the fact that the Lodge number 268 was erased in 1783, it seems that there can be no doubt that it was to the French Lodge that this Certificate in 1802 related.

The late W. Bro. A. K. Lee, who was Secretary of Dunheved Lodge for many years, was keenly interested in Masonic history, and secured much information concerning early Freemasonry in Launceston. He discovered that some of the French prisoners of war bore names which are well known in Launceston and its surrounding district today. Among these are Barriball, Baskerville, Benoy, Burgoyne, Cater and Prideaux.

There was an attempt to revive English Freemasonry in Launceston in the year 1808, and the leader of this movement was a Bro. Dr. John Cudlipp. A letter from W. Bro. John Knight to him which is copied in the minute book of the Druids' Royal Arch Chapter at Redruth, shows that the Brethren at Launceston were endeavouring to purchase the warrant of a lapsed Lodge.

The reason for this was that an Act of Parliament, the 39th Geo III Chap. 79 enacted for the suppression of Societies established for treasonable and seditious purposes, contained a Clause (Sec. 5) in favour of Masons meeting under a warrant from Grand Lodge prior to the passing of the Act. But it was understood, however, that no new Lodge could be constituted while the Act was in force.

The Launceston Brethren were not alone in their quest, for at the same time (1808) certain Brethren in the town of Truro were also seeking a redundant warrant. They were successful, and, on 14th April, 1810, obtained the warrant of No. 548 which had lapsed and to which the new No. 620 was assigned. This Lodge is now No. 331 Phoenix Lodge of Honour & Prudence, Truro.

On 4th July, 1810, another letter from W. Bro. John Knight to Bro. Dr. John Cudlipp shows that the Launceston Brethren had not ceased in their endeavour: for, with that letter, a Form of Petition was enclosed for completion.

For a second time, however, the hoped-for Warrant was obtained by another Lodge, this time the present Mount Sinai Lodge No. 121 Penzance.

After this second disappointment our ancient Brethren seem to have lost heart. Although, when the Truro Lodge was consecrated at the P.G.L. held in Truro on 12th June, 1810, it was announced that a lodge was likely to be consecrated at Launceston, no further activity can be traced until the formation of Dunheved No. 1091 in 1859-60. It is probable, nevertheless, that a non-regular Lodge met in the town for some years after 1810.

Prior to the formation of Lodge Dunheved, it is evident that most local Freemasons were members of Loyal Victoria Lodge at Callington, which was formed about thirty years prior to that of Dunheved. It was, of course, the nearest Lodge to Launceston. All but one of the founder members of Dunheved were members of Loyal Victoria though Loyal Victoria does not appear actually to have sponsored Dunheved Lodge.

Traces also remain of operative Masons in Launceston. These may be found in particular at the Priory ruins near the Church of St. Thomas, at the Southgate Arch, and upon other ancient stonework in the vicinity of the town.

## The Establishment of Lodge Dunheved and its History up to the time it left The King's Arms Hotel, 1860-1877

In 1859 a Petition was submitted to the Grand Lodge of England to lead to the formation of a Masonic Lodge in Launceston to be known as "Lodge Dunheved".

On 16th May, 1859, this Petition was granted and Bros. Charles Thomas Pearce, Michael Frost, William Derry Pearce, John Hawkins, John George Mason, William Michell and Reginald Rogers were constituted as founder members. All these brethren, with one exception, were members of Loyal Victoria Lodge, Callington. Arrangements for the consecration of the new Lodge were completed at a meeting held on 22nd December, 1859, at the King's Arms Hotel, Launceston.

The consecration took place in a room at the King's Arms Hotel on the 17th January, 1860, when the Lodge was given the title of "Dunheved" and the number 1091. This number was subsequently altered to the present number 789.

The ceremony of consecration was carried out by W.Bro. Richard Pearce, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, under a dispensation by the Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. The Earl of Mount Edgumbe, assisted by W.Bro. J. G. Mason, P.P.G.J.W., acting as Provincial Grand Secretary.

Bro. Charles Thomas Pearce was installed as the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Bro. Michael Frost as Senior Warden and Bro. William Derry Pearce as Junior Warden. These brethren were respectively described as Grocer, Gentleman and Surgeon. W.Bro. C. T. Pearce lived until the year 1912, when he died at over ninety years of age.

It is evident from the early records that our ancient brethren, whilst they were without doubt "zealous", were far from "expert". The account books show details of payments to the first Master, W.Bro. C. T. Pearce, under the headings of "Horse Hire", "Expenses", and "expenses working the Lodge". These payments, amounting in all to £11 4s. Od., ceased in January, 1874, fourteen years after the formation, when it must be assumed that the brethren of Dunheved were sufficiently competent to work their own Ceremonies.

With only seven founder members, it sometimes happened that insufficient members were present at Lodge meetings to form a Lodge. Indeed this happened at the very first meeting after the Consecration! The early Minutes relating to Lodge meetings are very brief, and consequently it is impossible to glean much information from them. However, it seems clear that there was much Masonic labour, and the Minutes of one early meeting in particular record that three degrees were worked. As the Lodge meetings were held in the King's Arms Hotel, Launceston, the calling of



W. Bro. C. T. PEARCE  
MASTER: 1860



## The building of the present Temple in 1877

In February, 1874, a Committee was set up to go into the matter of acquiring premises for the Lodge after a proposition had been carried to the effect that it was time that Dunheved had its own Lodge premises.

Bro. Col. J. H. Deakin offered the sum of £100 towards the cost of the new structure, and Bro. J. K. Lethbridge conveyed most of the site in Tavistock Road unconditionally to the Lodge.

In 1875 an architect, Mr. James Hine, was instructed to prepare plans for a Masonic Temple, which he was to submit by January, 1876. Mr. Hine also designed Dunheved College and the Wesley Chapel.

In February, 1876, the tender of a Mr. Burt, a well-known local builder and contractor at Launceston, was accepted in the sum of £675 for the construction of the new buildings. On 16th May, 1876, an Emergency Lodge was held for the purpose of laying the foundation stone.

This was obviously a red-letter day in Dunheved, and must have created very considerable local interest. The brethren, clad in full regalia and with banner aloft, marched in procession from Broad Street to the site in Tavistock Road. They were led by the Launceston Borough Band, and accompanied by their tyler with drawn sword. At the site of the new building the brethren formed a hollow square, and the foundation stone was then formally laid by Bro. George Ross of Ogbear Hall.

During the actual construction of the building, it became necessary, as often happens, to alter the plans to some extent. The Lodge having acquired an organ (presumably the one still in use) an organ recess was now provided.

Other additions included the beautiful moulded circle in the centre of the ceiling of the Temple, the bay window in the refectory, and the wash-house and larder in the Caretaker's quarters. All these added amenities cost a further £40.

The building of the Temple necessitated strenuous efforts to raise funds to pay for its construction. The brethren accordingly arranged to hold a Bazaar, and also staged a Concert in aid of the building fund. When the building was completed, it was necessary to arrange a mortgage of £300 in order to meet, with money already raised in various ways, the total expenditure of over £700.

Considering the alteration in the value of money and the comparatively small number of the members of the Lodge in those days, it was really a considerable achievement to have raised over



£400 in so short a time. The present members of Dunheved Lodge owe a great debt of gratitude to their forbears for their provident care and initiative in providing a Temple which has so admirably served the purposes of the Lodge for many years in spite of the additional demands made upon it by a greatly increased membership.

On 5th July, 1877, Dunheved saw the "Masonic Hall" dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, The Earl of Mount Edgcombe.

To mark the occasion, Provincial Grand Lodge again met in Launceston, and a special train was run from West Cornwall for brethren attending the Lodge. On that day Launceston Station itself must have been an impressive sight.

The first regular Lodge meeting in the new building was on 31st May, 1877, a few weeks before the formal ceremony of dedication.

In 1877 the Lodge was embellished by a tessellated pavement given by Bro. T. P. Trood and, in the same year, the sword of Napoleon III was presented by Dr. Scoffern. With the obvious intention of assisting in furnishing the Lodge, each Brother was asked, in 1877, to present a chair to the Lodge.

The building of the Masonic Hall, which incorporated quarters for a resident tyler and caretaker, made it necessary to appoint someone to that office. The first tyler appointed was a Sgt. Fidler who, as events proved, was perhaps rather unfortunately so named. He was an ex-Drill Sergeant of the Launceston Volunteers. Amongst his emoluments were "supper and grog" at each initiation to the value of not more than 3/-.

Not long after the appointment of Bro. Fidler as tyler, it became necessary for the Lodge to make lengthy investigations into the consumption of gas and fuel, and the Lodge Stewards had to be given full control of the cellar.

The Temple stands in its own grounds and consists of a two-storied building. On the ground floor are the caretaker's quarters, the refectory, cellar, ante-room and offices. On the first floor, which is approached by a flight of steps leading to a porch (in addition to stairs from the ground floor of the building) are two ante-rooms. The Temple itself runs almost the whole length of the building.

## From 1877 to the Jubilee in 1910

October, 1877, saw a change made in the date of the Lodge meetings from the Thursday on or after full moon to the Tuesday of the same moon phase.

1877 also saw changes in dues and fees. The initiation fee then became £8. Dues were raised to 7/6d. per quarter, and the dining fee to 10/- a year, or a 1/- per dinner. In the same year the brethren were instructed that they, and not the Lodge, should pay for their meals at the Banquet on the Festival of St. John.

Sir Hardinge Giffard, Q.C., became a joining member of Dunheved in 1884. He was M.P. for Launceston, and presented the fine carved overmantel embodying the figures of Justice and Mercy in the Guildhall at Launceston. Later in life, as Lord Halsbury, he became Lord Chief Justice.

In 1885 the office of Director of Ceremonies was first constituted in Dunheved.

The second member to hold the office of Master of the Lodge on two occasions was W.Bro. Brendon Parsons, once the well-known proprietor of the White Hart Hotel at Launceston. He occupied the chair in 1887 and again in 1890. W.Bro. Parsons continued to attend Lodge until well past his 90th year in the late 1930's.

The Menu and Toast List of the Installation Banquet held on 27th December, 1887, fortunately has been preserved. The contents of the Menu might today be considered likely to tax the strongest digestion if consumed so soon after the festivities of Christmas and Boxing Day! The details are:—

No. 789

### INSTALLATION BANQUET

at

DUNHEVED LODGE

December 27th, 1887

Bro. B. Parsons, W.M.

## MENU

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### *Soups*

Ox Tail                  Beef Gravy

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### *Joint*

Saddle Mutton

### *Poultry, etc.*

Roast Turkey and Sausage  
Boiled Fowl and Tongue

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### *Game*

Woodcock    Partridge    Pheasant  
Jugged Hare

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### *Sweets*

Plum Pudding      Apple Tarts  
Jellies              Topsy Cake      Stewed Pippins  
Mince Pies      Cheese      Celery

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### *Dessert*

## TOASTS

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1. Queen and Craft  
God Save the Queen
2. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (Grand Master of England), the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family  
God bless the Prince of Wales
3. The M.W. the Pro. G.M. The Earl of Caernarvon ; the R.W. the D.G.M. The Earl of Lathom ; and the Officers Past and Present of the Grand Lodge of England
4. The R.W. the Provincial G.M. of Cornwall, and Officers of P.G. Lodge Past and Present
5. The W.M. of 789
6. The I.P.M. and Installing Master, and other P.M.'s of 789
7. The Present Officers of 789
8. The Past Officers of 789
9. Our Visiting Brethren
10. Our Poor Brethren wherever dispersed, however distressed ; speedy relief to them

## WINES, etc.

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Champagne (Moët)  
Ports                  Sherries  
Clarets (Large and Small bottles)  
Pale Brandy                  Brown Brandy  
Irish Whiskey                  Scotch Whiskey  
Rum                  Gin                  Ale  
Tea                  Coffee

About 1890 the average attendance at Lodge was only ten. Promotion in office was correspondingly rapid.

W.Bro. Metherell was the third member of Dunheved Lodge to fill the Master's chair on two occasions, being the holder of this office in the years 1900 and 1905.

In 1901 the late W.Bro. A. K. Lee was W. Master, and he subsequently held the office of Lodge Secretary for no less a period than twenty-seven years: from 1904 to 1931. "A.K.", as he was familiarly known, held the position of Headmaster at the Launceston National School for over 40 years and was a Mason who did exceptional work for Dunheved both in Lodge and in Chapter. He was responsible for much research into freemasonry and died very soon after vacating his appointment as Secretary, in January, 1932. His portrait in the Lodge hangs above the chair which he occupied for so many years and with such distinction.

In 1901 the grounds of the Masonic Hall were extended by the purchase of the triangular plot lying to the north of the Lodge, and in 1902 a Club was duly formed and registered in connection with the Lodge for the purpose of ensuring that the brethren might enjoy "wining and dining" without infraction of the laws.

In 1902 also the Lodge Members arranged the purchase of the land lying between the southern boundary of the premises and the land on which the Methodist Manses were to be built, so that the latter should not be constructed too close to the Lodge. It was also necessary, at this time, for the Lodge members to establish their title to a fifteen ft. right of way at the rear of the Lodge. This had been granted to the Lodge trustees in the original Conveyance by Bro. J. K. Lothbridge.

In 1905 the brethren were faced with the necessity of repairing the ceiling of the Temple, part of which had fallen down. At this time the Lodge was still not free from debt, but Bro. C. G. Archer, who died in 1908, left a legacy of £200 to the Lodge which was used to reduce the Mortgage, and in the Jubilee year of 1909 the mortgage was finally cleared. The total cost of the Lodge and its grounds had then amounted in all to £811.

Between the years 1906 and 1910 several brethren were initiated into Dunheved from the neighbouring town of Bude. Among these were Bros. J. Wonnacott, W. J. Graver, J. T. Perry and A. Banbury, all of whom were subsequently founder members of Granville Lodge at Bude, and later Masters of that Lodge. Bro. Banbury was honoured with Grand Lodge rank, lived to be over ninety years of age, and was a frequent visitor to Dunheved throughout his Masonic career.

At a meeting held on 3rd July, 1906, a Petition requesting the foundation of a new Lodge at Bude or Stratton was signed by the Brethren of Dunheved.

On 31st July, 1906, the Lodge was informed that the R.W. Provincial Grand Master had refused to recommend the formation of a new Lodge at Stratton.

The brethren in the Bude District obviously were still anxious to form their own Lodge, for on 29th September, 1909, we find the brethren of Dunheved signing a form of Petition for the Foundation of a Lodge to be held in the Church Room, Stratton, and to be named the Granville Lodge. On this occasion success crowned their efforts, for on 23rd November, 1909, Dunheved received an invitation to be present at the consecration of Granville Lodge at Stratton on 10th December, 1909.

## The Second Half-Century

The second half-century of the Lodge was one of continued expansion in spite of the effects of World Wars I and II.

The list of Officers of the Lodge in exactly the same form as that known today first occurs in the Minutes for the installation meeting held in January, 1910. At the same time a handrail for the exterior steps was presented by Bro. P. A. E. Archer. "Lyle's" Jewel, reputed to be over two hundred years old, was received as a gift to the Lodge from the Simcoe family of Penheale.

Some of the proposals made for the celebration of the Jubilee in 1910 were as follows :

It was agreed that the mortgage of £300 on the Lodge premises be paid off, using the £200 which was expected as a legacy from the late W.Bro. C. G. Archer. In addition the following suggestions were made : A Fancy Dress Ball, a Ladies' Night, and a Dinner and Social Evening.

The mortgage was, in fact, settled, but none of the other suggestions materialised.

It must be recorded, however, that the repayment of the mortgage engaged our brethren in some difficulty. On 22nd February, 1910, it was reported in the Minutes that the legacy of £200 left to the Lodge by W.Bro. C. G. Archer was charged on his personal estate and not on the real estate. The Secretary had been informed that there were insufficient funds in the personal estate to enable the executors to carry out the wishes of the deceased. Nevertheless, Bro. P. A. E. Archer had agreed "to pay in full when the rents come in".

Up to 1911, the Lodge had relied upon gas for its illumination but, in that year, the gas lighting in the Lodge was replaced by electricity. The total cost of the new installation was only £17 12s. 0d.

The ceremonial entry into the Lodge by the Worshipful Master and his Officers dates from 1913, in which year also the Lodge decided upon the purchase of a safe for the custody of the Lodge records.

A tragic event in 1913 was an outbreak of scarlet fever in the tyler's quarters which led to the death of one of his children. This sad event caused the abandonment of the January installation meeting but, after fumigation and much cleansing of the premises, the installation ceremony took place by dispensation in February.

Shortly afterwards, as a result of complaints of overcrowding, it was deemed wise to appoint a new tyler and caretaker. The new tyler then appointed, Bro. Golley, gave the Lodge loyal service until his death in 1935.

The "Imperfect Ashlar" became part of the Lodge's furniture in 1914, having been purchased from Mr. Grant for 1/-. This year also saw the outbreak of World War I, and some consequential temporary decrease in Lodge activities.

In 1916 W.Bro. John Kingdon Braddon was installed as Worshipful Master, having been initiated into Dunheved in 1901. He occupied the same office again in 1946. Soon after his first Mastership "J.K."—as he was familiarly known—became D.C. of the Lodge and was re-appointed to that position annually until 1952, except during the year of his second Mastership. J.K. had a great love of Freemasonry and possessed an outstanding knowledge of ritual and ceremonial work. He attained Grand Lodge rank both in the Craft and Royal Arch. Some ten years before his death in December, 1952, he was honoured by a presentation made to him on behalf of the Lodge of a full edition of the Oxford Dictionary.

In 1917 the Minutes record that Bro. John Olver, who was initiated in 1865, was still alive. This is only one of many striking records of longevity amongst members.

A Launceston journalist who achieved great distinction in his profession, Bro. Sir Alfred Robbins, was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in 1919. Sir Alfred became a national figure, being for some years editor of "The Times". But he never lost his love of Launceston and devotion to Dunheved, and bequeathed to the Lodge his unique collection of Masonic jewels which are now displayed on the north wall of the Temple.

In the following year the silver square and compasses now in use were given to the Lodge by W.Bro. J. K. Braddon, while W.Bro. C. Brown presented the metal scroll work arch for the lamp lighting the approach pathway to the Lodge.

The present Deacons' chairs were purchased in 1921 with the aid of a legacy given by W.Bro. John Kittow, whose son, W.Bro. Horace Kittow, was also a benefactor to the Lodge in many ways. The latter was the donor of the entrance gate to the Lodge, replacing the original gate which was taken away and melted down for scrap during World War II. He also left the Lodge a legacy by his Will.

The central-heating system was installed throughout the Lodge in 1924, and if brethren have, on occasions, since then suffered from "cold feet", the symptoms can undoubtedly be ascribed to natural causes!

Provincial Grand Lodge met again in Launceston in 1926, when the brethren marched in public procession and in full regalia to St. Mary's Church.

As part of the close association between the Cornish town and its daughter City of Launceston, Tasmania, there has always been a strong bond between the Masonic Lodges of the two. In 1929, the gavels, made of Tasmanian wood and now in use, were a gift to Dunheved from the sister Lodge in Tasmania. In the same



year, Dunheved reciprocated by presenting to the sister Lodge the three volumes of Gould's "History of Freemasonry".

On many occasions Dunheved has had visitors from Tasmania, of whom, perhaps the most distinguished and best known, has been Bro. The Rt. Hon. Sir Claude James, P.C., the Tasmanian High Commissioner in London during the 1930's. The photographs of the Tasmanian Lodge in the refectory were a gift to Dunheved from Tasmania, for which Sir Claude was responsible. He was made an honorary member of Dunheved in 1938.

In 1929, the day and meeting of the Lodge was once again the subject of alteration, the day decided upon being the Tuesday on or before full moon in each month. In spite of the fact that, by then, motor vehicles had become for many years the normal mode of transportation, the date of meeting retained its early link with the state of the moon.

The Volume of the Sacred Law used in Dunheved was printed in 1647. It bears the names of some of the Kingdon family, and a curious cypher is inscribed in its flyleaf. There is no record of how this Book came into the possession of the Lodge, but Sir Alfred Robbins was of the opinion that it had been previously used by Lodge Cornubia which, by tradition, was a predecessor of Dunheved.

The "Broken Column" used for the Samaritan Fund was given to the Lodge by an anonymous donor in 1931, and in the same year the photograph of W. Bro. A. K. Lee was hung in the Lodge.

In 1935 W. Bro. F. T. Glasscock, a joining member of Dunheved, who had constructed the well-known "King Arthur's Hall" at Tintagel, now used and owned by the King Arthur Lodge, presented Dunheved with a complete set of Lodge furniture and equipment. This was subsequently loaned by Dunheved to "Truro School" Lodge on its formation, and is now, most appropriately, back in King Arthur Lodge at Tintagel.

The Summons issued for the meeting in September, 1936, at which W. Bro. Alfred W. Johns was initiated, was the last to be printed from the original block used at the formation of the Lodge. A specimen of this Summons hangs in a frame on the south wall of the Lodge.

The year 1937 saw honorary membership conferred upon W. Bro. G. H. Gardner of Molesworth Lodge, now the Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Owing to the establishment of a regular weekly cattle market at Launceston on Tuesdays, and to the growth of that market, it became necessary, in April, 1937, to change the day of meeting of the Lodge. At last the link with the moon was abandoned, and the less interesting, but more readily ascertainable, date of the second Wednesday in each month (except August) was selected.

1938 saw Provincial Grand Lodge at Launceston again, and this was the last occasion that a Masonic procession in full regalia

took place in the town. The brethren attended St. Mary Magdalene's Church, preceded by the Lodge Banner and four Lewises carrying the Volume of the Sacred Law.

The new Lodge Banner was made in 1939 at the Penzance School of Art, under the direction of Bro. Lias, then its Principal. It now hangs in the Temple alongside the original banner.

In 1952, Dunheved was happy to sponsor the formation of "King Arthur Lodge" at Tintagel. Since then a very close relationship between the two Lodges has been maintained.

## The Lodge Title Deeds

The title deeds of the Masonic Hall and the land surrounding it commence with a Deed of Appointment and Conveyance dated 25th May, 1876, made between the Rev. John King Lethbridge of Lameast, Cornwall, of the one part and Darrell Holled Webb Horlock of Ogbear Hall, Devon, Philip Francis Simcoe of Penheale, Cornwall, and Charles Gordon Archer of Trelaske, Cornwall, of the other part. This Deed recites that at a Court or meeting of the Council of the Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston, held at the Council Chamber on Monday, 2nd October, 1865, before Richard Peter (the Mayor) and John Ching, William Richard Gerry (gentlemen Aldermen) and John Doidge, Abraham Shepherd, George Graham-White (gentlemen Councillors), the Rev. J. K. Lethbridge was admitted tenant of certain customary hereditaments within the Borough by the description of portions of a certain meadow called Cyprus Well otherwise Post Meadow on the western or higher side of a road leading from Launceston to Tavistock in the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalene in the said Borough upon payment of one penny to the Mayor of the Borough according to the custom thereof. This Deed goes on to give effect to a sale by the Rev. J. K. Lethbridge to the four brethren before mentioned at the price of twenty-five pounds. The property conveyed by this Deed consisted of a roughly rectangular plot of land containing 21 perches—or about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre—together with a full right of way for all purposes over a new roadway then making or intended to be made of a width not exceeding 15 feet through part of the field called Cyprus Well.

On 24th November of the same year Bros. Horlock, Simcoe and Archer were admitted customary tenants of the Borough of Dunheved otherwise Launceston before George Graham-White (Mayor), John Ching (gentlemen Alderman) and Edward Pethybridge, Thomas Stephens, William Derry Pearse, Thomas Shearn and Henry Short (gentlemen Councillors), the Brethren appearing by their attorney Christopher Lethbridge Cowlard. They were then admitted customary tenants of the portion of the meadow called Cyprus Well (as the same was then lately marked out with stakes to define the boundary thereof and on which the Freemasons' Hall was then being built).

The document went on to provide that, as the land in question had been purchased by the three brethren on behalf of the Dunheved Lodge of Freemasons Number 789 Launceston, formed in the said Borough of Dunheved otherwise Launceston, and the purchase money had been paid out of the funds of such Lodge and a Hall for the purpose of the Lodge was then being erected thereon out of the funds of the Lodge, the three brethren executed

a Declaration of Trust defining that they held the property in trust for the Lodge for ever.

By a Mortgage Deed dated the next day (25th November, 1876) the Trustees mortgaged the property to secure the sum of £300 in favour of Henry Martin Harvey of Hexworthy, Lawhitton, at 4% interest.

It does not appear that there was very much money to spare in the Lodge funds in those days because the documents show that on 17th October, 1881, the trustees borrowed a further sum of £13 16s. 4d. from Henry Martin Harvey for the purpose of enfranchising or converting into freehold the trust property and paying the expenses of the enfranchisement (effected by a Deed of the same date). It was not until 25th May, 1887, that the £13 16s. 4d. was repaid to H. M. Harvey by the trustees.

On 28th February, 1889—Henry Martin Harvey having died on 12th March, 1888—his executors transferred the mortgage of £300 to the Rev. William Cowlard of the Rectory, Marhamchurch, Cornwall, and Christopher Lethbridge Cowlard of Launceston.

It was not until 16th February, 1909, that the Rev. William Cowlard and Christopher Lethbridge Cowlard received repayment of their mortgage money amounting to £300 from Brother Horlock. Brother Simcoe had died on 12th October, 1885, and Brother Archer on 5th September, 1908.

In 1878 Bros. Horlock, Simcoe and Archer took a Lease for a term of 21 years of the triangular piece of land amounting to 18 perches in extent lying to the north of the site of the Masonic Hall, agreeing to pay a yearly rental of 10/-.

In 1901, by a Deed dated 25th January, the freehold of this land was conveyed by the owner, the Rev. John King Lethbridge, to the Lodge trustees at a price of £25.

In 1904 the Lodge was still enlarging the area of its property and by a Conveyance dated 9th August of that year the Rev. J. K. Lethbridge sold to Bros. Horlock and Archer and Bro. William Andrew of Launceston—who was a doctor—a strip of land to the east of the Masonic Hall, having a depth of 100ft. from Tavistock Road and a width of 25ft. at a price of £22 10s. 0d. This land, like the earlier purchases, was to be held in trust for the Dunheved Lodge of Freemasons Number 789 Launceston their successors and assigns forever.

By 1909 owing to the fact that Bro. the Rev. D. H. W. Horlock, then of Milton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, was the only surviving trustee, it had become imperative to appoint new trustees. By a Deed dated 17th February, 1909, Bros. William Andrew, Herbert Egerton White and Horace Kittow were appointed as new trustees to act jointly with Bro. Horlock.

This trusteeship lasted for more than 40 years but, in the course of that time, Bro. Andrew died (on 25th January, 1911).

Bro. Horlock on 25th February, 1911, and Bro. White on 18th February, 1949. By a Deed dated 18th March, 1952, Bro. Horace Kättow, who was then the last surviving trustee, retired from his trusteeship and appointed Bros. T. R. Symons, W. E. Miller, R. M. B. Parnall and E. V. Dunn, as trustees.

Prior to the appointment of the present trustees in 1952 it was thought desirable to obtain the Opinion of Counsel in view of the nature of the trust upon which the Masonic Hall and its surrounding land was held. In his opinion, Counsel said, "The Deeds imposing the original trust upon the lands in question created a simple or bare trust in favour of the Dunheved Lodge No. 789 without either imposing a trust for sale or creating a settlement. Such a bare trust is unusual but it is, in my opinion, quite valid since the Dunheved Lodge is a definite and identifiable body notwithstanding that it is unincorporated. Accordingly in my opinion the trustees hold the property in question to the order of the Lodge and are at liberty to carry out whatever instructions the Lodge sees fit to give from time to time". At the same time Counsel advised against increasing the number of trustees to any number in excess of four.

It should perhaps be added, to avoid any confusion from a perusal of the Lodge Minutes, that at a Lodge Meeting held on 12th October, 1938, it was proposed by Worshipful Bro. J. H. Hayne and seconded by W. Bro. S. J. Fitze, that W. Bros. J. K. Braddon and A. Y. Oag be appointed trustees of the Lodge in place of W. Bros. Horlock and Andrew, who had died. Owing to the intervention of the 1939-45 War this proposal was never implemented.

## Gleanings from the Lodge Minutes and Account Books

The Pedestals as now used in the Lodge were made by Mr. H. Geake at a cost of £5 10s. 0d. The account was paid on 2nd December, 1859.

On 28th June, 1860, Mr. Prockter was paid 6d. for a pair of compasses for the Lodge.

The original Lodge Banner was painted for the sum of £7 10s. 0d., the account being paid on 22nd June, 1860. There is no reference as to the maker, but it is interesting to note that, in 1862, when certain repairs became necessary, the work was entrusted to Mr. F. Jones of Plymouth. He was paid the sum of £2 for his services on 26th March of that year.

On 15th January, 1862, W. Robbins received 2/3d. for a pair of slippers.

The Deacons' wands were purchased from Messrs. Spencer on 6th July, 1877, at a cost of £1 2s. 3d.

The Junior Warden's Chair was acquired from Mr. Snowden on 5th September, 1877, when the sum of £5 was paid to this gentleman.

The Tracing Boards date from the year 1877. There is no trace of the purchase in the Account Books, but the following entries leave us without any doubt on the matter:

5th July, 1877, Railway carriage, Tracing Boards—5/11d.

6th July, 1877, Tracing Board case empty back to London  
—1/6d.

The spring blinds used to cover the Tracing Boards date from 1911.

The collection of Past Masters' photographs was first displayed in the Lodge at the Installation Meeting held on 9th January, 1912. The photographs were collected by W. Bro. A. K. Lee, enlarged and mounted by Bro. Brimmell and framed by W. Bro. H. T. Green.

On 17th December, 1912, the brass lamp-standard still in use on the Secretary's table was presented by Bro. Charles Brown.

The Lodge Ballot Box dates from the year 1913, when it was made by W. Bro. H. T. Green. It is an exact copy of one then in use at Bedford Lodge, Tavistock, in the Province of Devonshire.

The book-case in the ante-room dates from 1915, when it was made by Bro. J. R. Quick at a cost of £2 5s. 0d. The frame containing the list of Lodge Members now hanging in the Refectory was carved and presented by Bro. W. Broad on 16th May, 1915.

The Minutes of a Meeting held on 10th June, 1919, contain a reference to the Spheres adorning the Two Pillars as follows: "It was reported that the Building Committee had made an important discovery. On examining the Spheres which adorn the Great Pillars it was found that both are very old terrestrial globes, one dated 1782 embodying the then latest discoveries of Captain Cook and Furneaux and the other 1797 showing the World as then known".

In April, 1921, three settees were purchased for the Temple at a cost of £37 16s. 0d.

The Masonic Pointer used in our ceremonies dates from 7th February, 1922, when it was presented by Bro. Charles Brown.

A wooden Urn, similar to the Ballot Box was presented by Bro. F. S. Bright on 8th May, 1930. This is the receptacle now used to contain the means of ballot.

The Ceremonial Dagger was presented by W. Bro. J. K. Braddon on 12th July, 1932. It is described as being of "antique native work".

At an Installation Meeting held on 14th January, 1908, it was established for the first time that a Past Master should occupy the position of Director of Ceremonies. W. Bro. H. Rendell was appointed to that Office.

During 1908 there was an abortive attempt to form a Royal Arch Chapter. The attempt failed through lack of support.

The Installation Meeting held on 14th January, 1919, saw the appointment of W. Bro. J. K. Braddon as Director of Ceremonies.

There have been two unsuccessful attempts to form a Lodge of Instruction at Dunheved. In 1913 the idea was mooted, and after considerable discussion was finally dismissed through lack of support. In 1920 the idea again appealed to certain brethren, the principal being obviously Bro. Charles Brown. But after some consideration it was decided to hold more Lodges of Improvement, and it was agreed that these be held on the second and third Wednesdays after the regular Lodge.

At a Meeting on 21st September, 1915, it is noted that for the first time separate Stewards were appointed for the C.M.C.A. and C.M.A. & B. Funds.

The following extract from the Minutes of the Installation Meeting of 22nd January, 1918, will be of interest: "The tables, as has been the case beyond the memory of the Senior Brethren, were again adorned and beautified with camellias from Trelaske".

It would appear from the Minutes that the first Dunheved Ladies' Festival was held in November or December, 1932, when a profit of £1 0s. 8d. was recorded.

### *The Firing Glasses*

An entry in the Account Book dated 3rd January, 1861, records the payment of £2 18s. 0d. to Bro. C. T. Pearce "for glasses", and this could well represent the purchase of the 1091 Firing Glasses, some of which are still zealously preserved by the brethren in the Refectory.

Although no record can be found in the Minutes, there can be little doubt that Firing Glasses have been in use at Dunheved from earliest days.

On 4th May, 1909, it is recorded that a 1091 Glass was sent to the Grand Lodge Museum in London. In 1911 new Glasses were purchased. These would be the 789 specimens still used by the brethren.

At a meeting on 3rd July, 1928, it was agreed that a 1091 Firing Glass "moulded in 1860" be sent to the Masonic Museum in Launceston, Tasmania.

### *Lodge Music*

On 16th November, 1880, the Lodge approved the sending of a circular to the brethren soliciting contributions in order to clear the Organ and Decorating Funds by the end of that year. This is the only reference to the purchase of an organ, and there is no means of identifying the builder. It is probably the work of Brewer of Truro, as the instrument contains certain indications of his particular style of craftsmanship.

As part of the Centenary Celebrations the organ has been cleaned and an octave of pedal pipes added by Mr. Eric Sergeant of Launceston, who now maintains the instrument. It consists of one manual and pedals with five speaking stops.

On 19th July, 1883, it was agreed that "the thanks of this Lodge be tendered to Bros. Daunt and Cater for introducing the hymns as an additional pleasure to our Service".

The Minutes of a Meeting held on 30th March, 1915, contain the first reference to a Masonic Ode being sung at the Opening and Closing. Previous Minutes had always referred to the singing of hymns.

The National Anthem was first sung by the brethren at the close of a Meeting held on 29th September, 1914, "as a mark of their real Loyalty on this present serious occasion".

### *The Charity Box*

At a Meeting of the Lodge held on 24th February, 1880, it was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously, that each Brother pay one penny at each Lodge meeting to form a Relief Fund, and that a collecting box be fixed in the Lodge Room for the purpose of receiving these contributions.

It is quite apparent from a perusal of the Lodge Minutes that this custom was continued for some years, but that it gradually fell into disuse and was finally forgotten altogether.

At a Meeting of the Lodge held on 17th June, 1913, the Secretary, W.Bro. A. K. Lee, raised the matter, and it was agreed to revive the old custom of the penny contribution and "that these donations be received in a box kept in the Ante-room on ordinary Lodge Meetings and carried to each Brother in the Lodge Room on the occasion of an Initiation".

In the Minutes of the next Lodge Meeting held on 15th July, 1913, the following entry is noted: "At this Meeting the use of the Charity Box was revived, and on being opened was found to contain the sum of 4/-".

At a Meeting held on 9th September, 1913, we find it reported that a Charity Box had been made by W.Bro. H. T. Green, and presented by him to the Lodge. From the description given, this is obviously the Box still used in Dunheved.

It appears that the Brethren were not very interested in a Charity Box kept in the Ante-room, as, on 7th April, 1914, there is a resolution that the Charity Box be carried around the Lodge before the singing of the closing Hymn.

In the Minutes for the 23rd February, 1915, we find this resolution: "that the money collected in the Charity Box be counted at the close of each Lodge, the amount entered in the Minutes and announced at the following Meeting, and that the cash be kept by the acting Charity Steward, W.Bro. A. J. Eastlick". It is interesting to note that the amount collected that evening was 2/10½d. and that twenty-six brethren were present.

From this date until the present day successive Secretaries have all noted meticulously in the minutes the contents of the Charity Box.

On 21st September, 1915, we find a record of the first payment from the Box, when it was agreed that the sum of £2 be taken therefrom to relieve a necessitous widow. A suggestion on 16th November, 1915, that the contents of the Box, including a special collection, be forwarded in response to an appeal made by the Grand Secretary for the relief of Freemasons interned in the civilian camp at Ruhleben, near Berlin, did not find favour with the members, and the interned Masons were only relieved to the extent of £2 12s. 0d. from the Charity Box. We find on 6th February, 1917, that a sum of two guineas has been donated to the Freemasons' War Hospital.

The value of the Box was obviously increasing as, on 25th September, 1917, it was agreed that the Secretary should keep a record of the amounts received for and disbursed from the Fund, and that he should invest the cash to the best advantage. We learn that the balance then available was £4 13s. 0d.

In 1918 the interned Masons were again assisted from the Box to the tune of £2 12s. 0d., and on 17th December, 1918, the total contents, amounting to £4 4s. 0d., were sent to the Freemasons' War Hospital.

By March, 1920, the amount held was £19 9s. 5d., and there was considerable discussion as to the general use of the contents of the Box. The question was deferred until the Meeting of 30th March, when, despite the presence in Lodge, and guidance, of W.Bro. J. R. Tijou, P.A.G.D.C., Senior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence, no decision was reached.

In 1922 the Festival on behalf of the Institution for Aged Masons and Widows was presided over by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall, and £42 was taken from the Box and applied to this Festival.

On 23rd October, 1923, we find our four guineas being donated out of the Box for the relief of Brethren suffering because of an earthquake in Japan.

The Minutes of the mid and late twenties, and of the following three decades, contain little reference to the Charity Box. From the Annual Reports it is obvious that the Fund was used on behalf of local and itinerant Masons in distress, and that for some years a regular donation was made to the Royal Masonic Hospital. However, in spite of these payments, the balance steadily grew year by year, and it must be recorded that the statement of account as at 31st December, 1959, disclosed that the amount available in the Box was £215 3s. 11d. In addition, fifty-nine National Savings Certificates, at a purchase price of £45 4s. 0d., were held.