

Newton Lodge No1661

A Hundred Years of Masonry 1877 - 1977

By L. H. HORDLE

Foreword by

R.W. Bro. C. H. V. ELLIOTT, T.D., M.A., Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Nottinghamshire.

The Newton Lodge, No. 1661 kept the banner of Freemasonry flying in Newark on its own from 1877 to 1910. In these years many difficulties were met and overcome.

I congratulate the Lodge on attaining its Centenary and wish it continued and uninterrupted success in the future. I also congratulate the Lodge on the admirable Centenary Booklet which is full of interest and a pleasure to read.

Preface

"The lyf so short, the Craft so long to lerne"

Geoffrey Chaucer

Freemasonry has a fascinating history and this brief account attempts to portray the contribution of Newton Lodge during the first hundred years of its life.

In the words of Dr. Samuel Johnson, .. "A man may write at any time if he will set himself doggedly to it", but the task is eased if sufficient material can be found. This Lodge is fortunate that successive Officers were most meticulous in preserving minute books, financial statements and documents to provide an authoritative and complete picture from the very beginning.

I am most grateful to the elder Brethren who have dredged their memories to describe events over the past 50 years, and I would also express my indebtedness to Bro. G. J. Greenfield (Borough Librarian), to the proprietors of the "Newark Advertiser" for their ready permission to quote from old issues stored at the Gilstrap Library, to Bro. L.J. Ray of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, also to Bro. T.O. Haunch, Grand Librarian for making available to me at Grand Lodge the file of Antients Lodge No. 107 together with the early correspondence and Petition of Newton Lodge, to Brothers H. Emerson and D. R. L. Evans who kindly undertook to read through the original draft and to Brothers W. E. Coppin, A. H. Dowse and B. Storer for their advice in finalising the proof.

It is my hope that in a hundred years from now, some Brother as yet unborn will derive as much pleasure and interest in delving through the Lodge records for the second century as I have found in the first.

Bro. L. H. Hordle.

EARLY FREEMASONRY IN NEWARK-ON-TRENT

In his "History of Freemasonry", Robert Freke Gould, Past Senior Grand Deacon and Barrister-at-Law, writes in 1887 . . .

"Freemasonry can only in strictness be deemed to commence from the period when the chaos of mythical traditions is succeeded by the era of lodge records. In Scotland, the veritable proceedings of lodges for the year 1599 as entered at the time of their minute books are still extant. In England, we have no lodge minutes ranging back even into the 17th century, and the records of but a single lodge [Alnwick] between 1700 and the date of formation of the first Grand Lodge 1717. "

The craft was established in Nottinghamshire with the founding of Newstead Lodge No. 47 in the City of Nottingham in the mid-eighteenth century and was embraced by the loyal and ancient Borough of Newark-on-Trent on 5th June 1790 with the consecration of Corinthian Lodge No. 561 at the Wing Tavern, then adjoining the newly erected Town Hall in the Market Place. The Lodge prospered and until the turn of the century maintained a membership of some two dozen, but by 1830 it was in low water and failing fast despite the sustained efforts of the dozen or so remaining Brethren to resuscitate it. On the 27th January 1834, it held its last recorded meeting at the Ram Inn, Newark to install Bro. C. H. Sheppard as Master, bringing to an end almost half a century of early Masonry in Newark.

During this period, Lodge No. 107 of the Antients was active in the town. Little information on it is available, but in 1915 during restoration work on the old Parish Churchyard, the gravestone of a certain Lieutenant John Crampton was uncovered. Enquiries revealed him to have been prominent in the Newark Volunteers, and Adler Adjutant of the Royal Veterans at the Tower of London. His descendants produced a Certificate, registering him on the Books of Lodge No. 107, at the initial meeting at the White Hind, Carter Gate on 9th February 1807. Six years later, it held its last meeting to record ..

"the returning of the Warrant till we have the appearance of better times".

Amongst the surviving relics of the old Corinthian Lodge are the original Warrant, three unique miniature Tracing Boards, a "Breeches" Bible, the Rough Ashlar and the Tyler's Sword. The Warrant is on parchment, about 25" x 20", and was purported to have been returned to the Provincial Grand Lodge for transmission to Grand Lodge after the last regular assembly of the Brethren at Newark, but the Archives of Provincial Grand Lodge for 1849 reveal that . . .

"The Provincial Grand Master reported that the Warrant of the Corinthian Lodge No. 561 has been handed to him by the relatives of the last surviving member and he stated it to be his intention to transfer such Warrant for the purpose of establishing a Lodge at Mansfield."

This proved abortive. and on 14th April 1882 the ancient document was presented to the Newton Lodge by Lieut-Colonel William Newton to whom it was entrusted by Brother Edmund Perch. P.D.P.G.M., (Notts.).

Eighty-seven years to the day after the consecration of the Corinthian Lodge Brother W. H. Caparn, Organist, bestowed upon Newton Lodge the three Tracing Boards which had been handed down from his father, the last surviving member of the Old Lodge. The Boards were made by Harris in 1820, measuring only 8 3/4" x 4 5/8" each, and were in regular use until 1924.

The valuable Holy Bible was also recovered by Lieut-Colonel Newton. Printed by Robert Barker.

"Printer, to the Queenes moft excellent Maieftie, 1600",

It was the work of Whittington, Coverdale, Goodman, John Knox and other exiles, based on the first printed version in English by William Tyndale. Originally published in Geneva during 1557-60, the edition is known as a "Breeches" Bible from the substitution of the word "breeches" for "aprons" in Genesis Chapter 3, Verse 7, when Adam and Eve:

"knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons".

A letter from the late Mr. T. M. Blagg describes how for some years the Rough Ashlar had served as a door-porter propping open the spring door of his father's wine cellar in Carter Gate. About 1905, it came into the possession of Brother William Bradley, and subsequently it was acquired by the Newton Lodge.

One side of the blade of the Tyler's Sword is inscribed:

"Presented to the Newton Lodge No. 1661 by Wor. Bro. William Newton, P.P.G.R., Notts. and P.M. Royal Sussex No. 402 the first Worshipful Master. A relic of Corinthian Lodge No. 470 — May 24th 1877".

The reverse bears Masonic emblems, and the letters — RARA are still discernible indicating that it may have been made by Andrea Ferara. Such blades were in much demand by the old Scottish clansmen, and the Burgh Librarian and Curator of Inverness opines that it may be taken for granted that practically every Highland gentleman of any standing who fought at Culloden in 1746 bore one. Who Andrea Ferara was remains a mystery. One authority credits him with working at Belluno in Venetia during the 16th Century, and another that he came from Ferara, in Italy to Banff, in Scotland to set up his workshop. What is certain is that his workmanship was such that to meet the demand, blades bearing his name were forged in Germany, Spain and possibly Scotland. Local legend suggests that this particular specimen saw service during the three sieges sustained by Newark between 1643 and 1646 in the Civil War, ending when Charles I finally surrendered to Cromwell just outside the town. Today, it is still in regular use by the Newton Lodge.

DEDICATION AND CONSECRATION OF THE NEWTON LODGE No 1661

After the demise of the old Corinthian Lodge, upholders of the fraternity in the town wishing to bridge the resulting hiatus of over 40 years were obliged to travel to the established Lodges in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

In 1876 Major William Newton, an influential resident and Past Master of the Royal Sussex Lodge No. 402 (Nottingham) and which he had been a member for seventeen years, supported by other local worthies including Brothers Richard King, William E Dawson, James Tomlinson, William Kelly and William Caparn, all of Pelham Lodge No 939 (Worksop) petitioned for the re-establishment of a Lodge in Newark. Ample proof of a resurgence of interest in Freemasonry is provided by the subsequent flow of new members and the petitioners could be pardoned for relishing an opportunity to reduce the heavy demands made on their time for travelling to their respective meeting places.

The Grand Lodge Charter for the Newton Lodge No. 1661 was issued on 13th December 1876. A contemporary writer in the "Newark Advertiser" reported the inaugural meeting in full, listing the prominent masons in attendance with a graphic description of the proceedings of Dedication and Consecration at the Town Hall on Thursday, 24th May 1877. The account, covering two columns, discloses that:

"whilst the bells of the Parish Church made the town echo with their merry peals in honour of the Queen's birthday, the borough was further enlivened by an influx of visitors from various parts of the country. The ceremony of consecration was performed by the V. W. Bro. Jno Hervey, P.D., Grand Sec., the officer appointed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., M. W. Grand Master.

Bro. Hervey was assisted by upwards of a hundred of the brotherhood belonging to lodges in this country as well as New Zealand and South Africa.

On 5th June 1790, the Corinthian Lodge at Newark was consecrated at the Wing Tavern, and the brethren on this occasion assembled in the rooms adjoining the Council Chamber, which at that time formed the Wing Tavern. There can be no doubt therefore that the site of the meeting place was identical with that of the gathering in 1790. We were permitted to see the manner in which the Council Chamber was fitted up as a lodge-room, and to our un-Masonic eyes the appointments appeared to be extremely good. The best pieces of furniture were three oak pedestals, made according to the three masonic orders of architecture by Mr Hoe, cabinet maker, Carter Gate, Newark. The workmanship and material were very superior and reflected great credit upon him. A Masonic Brussels carpet had been obtained from Kidderminster and the jewels, which were of silver (each Officer presenting his own) were supplied by Messrs Bragg of Birmingham.

The working tools and the furniture and fittings, other than those already mentioned, were supplied by Mr Kenning of London.

The Lodge having been opened in due form the ceremony was proceeded with and carried through in a most impressive manner, lasting about two hours.

The narrative continues in generous detail to amplify the basic information of the minutes into a complete picture of the events of that afternoon and evening.

As Consecrating and Presiding Officer, V.W. Bro. Hervey, Grand Secretary of England called upon P.G. Sup Weeks to ascertain the correctness of the various appointments and requested the assistance of Bro Voules P.G.S.W. Bro, Robinson P.G.J.W., Bro. Attenborough, P.G. Secretary and Bro Terry, G.D.C. to constitute and consecrate the new Lodge under the name of Newton No. 1661, dedicated:

"To Virtue, and to Universal Benevolence"

Bro. William Newton, P.P.G.R. (Notts.), was installed as first Master and he invested his officers:

P.M. and Chaplain, Bro. Brough Maltby;

S.W. Bro. C. Johnson;

J.W. Bro. R.F.H. King;

Treasurer Bro. J. Irving;

Secretary, Bro. W. E. Dawson;

S.D. Bra. S. Job;
J.D. Bro. G. Branston (Bro. J. Barnett acting pro-tem);
D.C. Bro. J. Castle;
Organist, Bro. W. H. Caparn;
Asst, Organist, Bro. A, Wildsmith;
Stewards, Bros. J. Myring and W. Curtis;
I.G. Bro, J. H. Tomlinson;
Almoner, Bro. E. Liddell; and
Tyler, Bro. L. Ward.

In his remarks, the Grand Secretary expressed his gratification at the formation of a Lodge which he trusted might be of great benefit to the town, and on conclusion advised care in the choice of future brethren to avoid any disturbance of harmony.

Later, an oration by Bro. Brough Maltby, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, earned the acclaim of those present, with a request that it be printed for circulation. Then, the 27 Founder Members and the large body of visitors sat down in the Ballroom to enjoy the banquet prepared by Walton & Son of the Clinton Arms Hotel.

"The room was elegantly decorated and arranged with great taste, the W.M. elect occupied the chair and a most agreeable evening was spent."

The First Master

William Newton was born in Chatteris in Cambridgeshire and was educated at Oundle Grammar School. He was later articled to his uncle, a solicitor at Retford. Shortly after passing his final examinations, he moved to Newark-on-Trent, entering into partnership with Mr. Robert Caparn, Clerk to the local Magistrates, Clerk to the Poor Law Guardians, Clerk to the Court of Requests and a member of an old and respected Newark family.

In the Law List for 1856, William Newton appears as Coroner for Notts., Clerk to the Burial Board and Secretary to the Waterworks Company. The firm of Solicitors bore the title of Caparn, Newton & Harrison after its principals, operating from offices in Kirk Gate which were later occupied by Edward Bailey & Son. After the deaths of his two partners, William Newton moved his business to larger premises in Middlegate.

He married Miss Mary Hutchinson of Retford, the couple at first residing in Baldertongate until "Hill-Side". on Beacon Hill, Newark was erected for them.

As Secretary to the private Waterworks Company he was instrumental in providing a proper water supply to the town, until the undertaking was acquired by Newark Corporation. In his Clerk to the Burial Board, he negotiated the laying-out of Newark Cemetery at a cost of some £5,000 including the two chapels and the lodge.

He was made Clerk to the Borough Justices in 1858 and on the creation of District Councils, he was appointed Clerk to the Newark Rural District Council.

In 1859, the Government called for volunteers to be formed into regiments to resist any possible invasion from France, and William Newton enrolled in the Newark Volunteers as a Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in 1867, Major of the 1st Notts. Administrative Battalion in 1875, and Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel in 1885. He was awarded the Volunteer Officers' decoration and according to one of his confreres he made 7 bull's eyes in succession at 500 yards with the muzzle-loading rifle on one occasion.

Lieut-Colonel Newton farmed at Middlethorpe and Langford, serving on the Committee of the Newark Agricultural Society. As a keen horticulturalist, he frequently contributed articles to gardening periodicals and was in much demand as a judge and lecturer.

When Lady Ossington founded her Coffee Palace on Beeston Hill, he was made one of the Trustees. He was prominent in the affairs of the Hospital and the Parish Church, a member of the Trent Navigation Company which was then the statutory authority charged with the administration and maintenance of much of the River Trent, and a member of the Newark Advertiser Company.

Even though he was actively engaged in so many other spheres, Freemasonry remained his prime interest. Joining the Royal Sussex Lodge No. 402 (Nottingham) in 1859 he was Master in 1866. Founder and first Master of Newton Lodge in 1877, his services to the craft received worthy recognition when, on Thursday, 9th June 1892 at the Town Hall, Newark-on-Trent, he was installed Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire, with the further honour of Grand Deacon of England in 1895.

First Principal of Alexander Chapter No. 1661 of Royal Arch Masons in 1883, P.M.W.S. (32°) of Magnus Rose Croix Chapter No. 109, Officer of Knights Templar (Abbey Chapter Preceptory),

he actively participated in all aspects of Freemasonry. Installed as Master of Fleming Mark Lodge No. 265 in 1881, Lieut-Colonel Newton held the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Mark Master of Nottinghamshire from 1883 until his appointment as Provincial Grand Mark Master in 1889. He was also P.N. of the Trent Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners then attached to the Fleming Mark Lodge.

He was one of a distinguished party of some forty English Freemasons who journeyed to Palestine, and in the "Illustrated London News" for 26th February 1898 appeared an engraving taken from a photograph of the group in the quarries of King Solomon.

Mrs. Newton had died in 1886 whilst with her husband on visit to Soissons with an archaeological society, and she was brought home from France to be interred in Newark Cemetery, When Lieutenant-Colonel Newton died in his 70th year on 6th February 1899 he was laid in the same vault. An Official Notice issued by the Mayor, James Hole, listed the Order of Procession for the funeral, and the cortege included the Corporation, Magistrates, Solicitors, Freemasons, Newark Volunteers and representatives from the many bodies on which he had served.

He died without issue, and a local journalist reported:

"One by one, and very rapidly of late years, the able men who have been the leaders of Newark in Victorian days have been passing away. They have, however, left their impress behind them in much good work worthily done, and the name of Mr. Newton is writ so large upon the or records of the last half century that it will never be effaced."

A CENTURY OF ACTIVITY

Twelve days after inauguration, at a Lodge of Emergency, called by the Master, the By-Laws were read in open Lodge, each member present denoted his assent by signing, before receiving his own copy. The sum of £8.16/- collected at the Festival of Consecration was increased to £10.0/- and voted to the Masonic Benevolent Institution, together with a similar amount donated by the Treasurer, an indication that the Lodge was already mindful of its charitable obligations. Instruction was imparted in the ceremony of initiation and three days later, the five persons proposed at the inaugural meeting were approved as candidates. Three of these were immediately initiated. During the first year, 20 meetings were held and such was the determination to build membership that three separate ceremonies on the same evening were not unusual, even rising to five "passing" in one instance. On 10th May 1878, the proceedings were adjourned for 7 days, after which the Lodge reassembled to resume business precisely at the point of adjournment, a practice that found favour on several occasions. These strenuous efforts achieved a membership of 50 as recorded in the Subscription Roll when the Master presented his first annual report to Provincial Grand Lodge. Sixteen had been initiated, thirteen of these raised, altogether a most creditable performance in twelve months. The fee for initiation was five guineas and the annual subscription two guineas.

In the minutes of the meeting of 14th June 1878 the Lodge recorded:

"its abhorrence at the dastardly attempt to assassinate His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany and Grand Protector of Prussian Freemasons, "

expressing thanks for the preservation of:

"a life so valuable in the Councils of Europe"

and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the resolution to the Emperor. A note of discord crept into the proceedings in December 1879 when Bros. Walton, Heppenstall and George complained to Provincial Grand Lodge that they were kept waiting outside the Lodge Room on 14th November despite 2 signals for admittance, that a ballot for an initiate was taken whilst they were excluded, and that the Lodge opened before the proper time. The Worshipful Master maintained that the Lodge was opened punctually, but admitted to leaving for a short period during the opening when a Past-Master officiated in his stead, and whilst passing through the ante-room on his way downstairs he saw some members gathered there. As he recalled, the first signal was made during the reading of the minutes, and the second after the ballot, when they were admitted.

After enquiring into all the circumstances at a special meeting at the Lodge Room on Tuesday. 9th December 1879 at 12-00 noon. 11, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. J. Watson ruled that:

"the complaining Brethren ought to have been admitted into Lodge so as to enable them to take part in the ballot and that their exclusion was a denial of their undoubted rights."

The improper ballot to be taken again, W. Bro. Watson took the Chair at the next regular meeting to announce that:

"the cause of dissension had been removed, a reconciliation happily effected and that the complaint was withdrawn in open Lodge, so restoring harmony to the satisfaction of the members."

In its early life, the Lodge seems to have concerned itself to an unusual extent in the organisation of the Annual Installation Banquet. Various notices of motion on this topic were submitted, many

to be subsequently withdrawn or not adopted, including proposals that the cost should not exceed six shillings and sixpence per person, that newly initiated members attending be a charge on Lodge funds, and that ladies be admitted. The menu for the Installation Banquet of Bro. Sir Henry Bromley on 11th June 1880 would satisfy any gourmet, who could satiate his appetite on Spring Soup, Turbot, Salmon, Fillets of Soles, followed by Lambs' Fry, Cutlets and Mushrooms, Calves' Head Hash, supplemented by Venison, Lamb, Boiled Chickens, Ducklings, Pigeon Pie, then on to Lobster. Prawns, Cabinet and Plum Pudding with a final offering of Jelly, Cheesecakes and Gooseberry Tart for any trencher-man able to accommodate them.

The propensity for increased membership continued, with ceremonies being held immediately before and after the Installation proceedings and up to four at Regular meetings. By 1884 the number on the roll was 70, but its attainment incurred a reprimand from Grand Lodge. Writing in a letter on behalf of the Board of General Purposes from the Grand Secretary's Office, Freemasons Hall, London on 22nd October 1884, the Assistant Grand Secretary W. Bro. H.G. Buss admonished the Lodge for its infraction of the laws by improperly raising 4 members at a less interval than four weeks, contrary to the Constitutions. The Lodge was cautioned to exercise more care for the future and was instructed to re-obligate the four Masons after the appropriate period.

On 13th February 1880. Bros. W. Newton, Rev. F. V. Bussell, R. F. H. King, F. H. Appleby and J. Crossley were appointed as a Committee to purchase a suitable banner. For its motif they chose the Coat of Arms of the Borough of Newark-on-Trent granted to the town in 1561 by:

"G. Dethic Kt Garter, Principal King of Armes, under the great seale of Englande and also by the Authoritie geven by the right high and myghtie prince Thomas Duke of Norfolk, Erie Marshall of Englande."

In the original Grant of Arms, it is described as:

"Barre wave of six peces silver and azure, a chefe goules therein a peacocke displayed proper collor, betwene a flowre de luce and a lyon passant regardant, golde on the helmet on a wreath silver and assure a morfex silver, beaked sable, therein holding a Ele in proper collor mantled gules doubled silver bottoned golde, the said Armes assisted between two supporters. A Otter and A Beaver, both in proper collor."

There is no mention in the minutes of any Ceremony of Dedication, but the Treasurer's Accounts later record payments of expenses to the Tyler

"for conveying the banner"

to Provincial Grand Lodge meetings held at Nottingham, Worksop and Retford, a practice which continued until after the Second World War.

At the Lodge meeting on 9th June 1882, a small Committee was authorised to obtain a suitable combined Past Master's and Treasurer's Jewel for Bro. W. Newton on relinquishing the office of Treasurer. This was purchased at a cost of £6.15/-

"as a recognition of his past valuable services to this Lodge,"

and bears the inscription:

"Presented to W. Bro. Major Wm. Newton P.P.G.S.W. Notts. 1st W.M. and sometime Treasurer of the Newton Lodge No. 1661, November 10th 1882."

Traditionally, the Stewards of Newton Lodge have drawn up the menus, purchased the ingredients and served the meals, and at the January meeting in 1884, the Brethren agreed to reimburse 12/6:

"on account of 12 having been given as the number to provide for, at supper on December 14th 1883 and only 7 attended."

The offer was declined but it was a foretoken of the catering problem that has bedevilled many Stewards since then.

In 1887, two nominations were received for the position of Master Elect, Brothers E.M.H. Riddell and J.H. Tomlinson. In the ensuing ballot, 16 votes were cast for Bro. Riddell, and eleven for Bro. Tomlinson, but the latter was unanimously elected in the following year. At the Regular Meeting on 9th March 1888, of the 65 members in the Lodge, only 9, together with the Tyler and the Assistant Tyler, were present and proceedings were deferred until the next month.

Bro. T. Thorpe served as Master of the Newton Lodge in 1885, being appointed Provincial Grand Sword Bearer (Notts) on 10th December 1889. A permanent reminder of his office may he found monial Sword of the Province which is inscribed Hutchinson & Co, Masonic Depot, Newark. The scabbard bears a gold plate engraved

"Presented to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottinghamshire by Bro. T. T. Thorpe, P.G.S.B., for the use of all Provincial Grand Masonic Meetings in Nottinghamshire. Newark. March 1890".

During his visit to Jerusalem in February. 1898, Lieut-Colonel Newton had carved a piece of stone from King Solomon's quarries which was presented to the Lodge and wrought into a small keystone by Bro. John Brown, a builder by trade.

From the onset, a loan of £50 by the first Master had ensured the financial security of the Lodge. and on 11th July 1878 the Auditors wrote in the Treasurer's Account Book:

"There is a debt due from the Lodge to the Worshipful Master, Bro. Newton of fifty pounds which it seems desirable to liquidate at the earliest convenient opportunity."

Despite pressure from members, he refused to accept any interest and he was finally repaid on 2nd June 1883. In a series of Masonic Balls at the Town Hall, which members of the fraternity were authorised to attend in Masonic Clothing, money was raised for various charities. By dint of thrift and judicious management, but without parsimony, the Lodge funds were strengthened. Early entries in the Treasurer's records provide intriguing reading, such items as:

"Ringling minute bell 5/-, Wine and grog 11/4, Cigar loops for banquet 10/6, Tyler's expenses at Southwell including trap 15/-, Flys to Muskham and back .£1.10/-" recall the more leisurely life enjoyed in the Victorian period.

The Nottinghamshire Fund of Benevolence was established in 1879 with the Duke of St. Albans as President and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master as Vice-President, heading a committee of five nominees of Provincial Grand Lodge plus the Master of each of the twelve Lodges in the Province. Income was by quarterages from the Lodges until 1885, when the first donation of £21 was received from Newton Lodge. The Benevolent and the Education Funds were amalgamated to form the present Provincial Fund in 1906. By this time the resolution of 9th December 1881:

"That this Lodge do vote annually from its Funds such a sum as may reasonably be spared towards the Masonic Charities" was amply fulfilled, the donations totalling some £94 to the Provincial

Benevolent and Education Funds. £138 to the boys and girls schools, and £26 to Newark Hospital. Amongst the more unusual disbursements was one of £3.3/- in 1888 to a Scottish Mason who sought assistance to move his travelling theatre from the grounds of the Horse and Jockey Inn to Stamford. In 1901, the Lodge subscribed to an appeal in aid of a member of Commercial Lodge No. 411 of Nottingham who was charged with the murder of his wife. He was believed to have suffered sunstroke when in India and his Counsel was endeavouring to obtain medical evidence from that country which might help the defence.

December 1903 found the Lodge mourning the loss of its long serving Secretary, Brother Henry George who had held this position for 20 years, only broken by his term as Master. A memorial fund was launched throughout the Provinces of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire but hardly had it reached fruition when a further blow was suffered in the sudden death of the Master, Brother T. Cosham, only two months before the end of his term of office. In a letter of condolence, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V. W. Canon H. T. Hayman writing from Edwinstowe Vicarage, agreed to officiate at the installation of the new Master, but illness prevented him and W. Bro. S. Pegler. P.A.G.D. of C. (Eng.) acted in his stead.

In the autumn of 1905, the Worshipful Master reminded members that the office of Assistant Tyler, created at the formation of the Lodge, was vacant but it remained so until January 1907. Within seven years the same situation recurred, after which no further appointments were contemplated. It was usual to invite the Masters of all other Lodges in the Province to Installation Meetings, and in response to an enquiry by the Provincial Grand Secretary, the Brethren dogmatically resolved in 1911:

"That this Lodge is not in favour of any change" an opinion which found favour with the Provincial Grand Lodge.

A Scheme to form a Masonic Charitable Association in connection with the Lodge received unanimous approval at the meeting on 8th January 1909 and varying amounts were granted to one or other of the Masonic Institutions. As a garrison town, particularly after the establishment of a Royal Engineers' Training Depot, the outbreak of the Great War brought a large influx of military Brethren to whom the Lodge extended its hospitality and during the period of hostilities the contents of the Charity Bag were regularly subscribed to the several funds for servicemen. The annual banquet was discontinued and in keeping with this decision, when replying to a proposal by Provincial Grand Lodge that a portrait in oils be presented to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1917, the Newton Lodge considered that the time was inopportune and suggested that:

"it be deferred until peace was in sight."

On 26th May 1919, Colonel H. Tallents. Clark of the Peace wrote to the Secretary:

"At the last Quarter Clerk drew my attention to the fact that none of the Lodges of Freemasons had registered with the Clerk of the Peace, as they should do in every year before March 25th. It appears therefore, that all such Lodges or Societies are unlawful assemblies within the Acts of 1798 and 1817 for "supressing Seditious Meetings" and that every member attending a meeting is liable to imprisonment for 2 years without bail, and to a fine of £20, or to be transported for 7 years. I fancy that the practice of registering has been dropped almost everywhere [except in Derby] but it may be of some Academic interest to your members to find that they are criminals!" Needless to say, no prosecutions or transportations resulted.

Correspondence in a more serious vein was directed at the Lodge in December 1922 by the Provincial Grand Secretary who advised that a ballot taken earlier in the year for 3 candidates was irregular, as failure to adhere to the time sequence stipulated by the Constitutions had invalidated their election. They were re-nominated immediately, the following month found them successful in the ballot and all three were initiated without further transgression of procedural regulations.

Together with Magnus Lodge, No. 3441, members in full Masonic Dress supported the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone for the new Nurses Home by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire, His Grace the Duke of Portland, K.G., on 22nd April 1926 when a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Newark.

A capitation fee was introduced in 1929 by a resolution:

"that an annual amount equal to three shillings for each of the subscribing members of the Newton Lodge, No. 1661 be paid from Lodge Funds until further notice to Pr. G. Lodge of Notts for the purpose of office expenses."

The remaining direct link with the foundation of the Lodge was finally broken on 11th November 1936 with the death of Bro. H.H. Cubley, aged 93. the last survivor of the founders, listed in the Petition of 1876 as a Commercial Traveller and member of No. 200, Old Globe Lodge, Scarborough.

An unforeseen difficulty arose on the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Almost on the eve of his installation, the Master Elect, Bro J. W. Howard was obliged to withdraw due to quasi military duties and his commitments under the Fuel Control Commission in the district. The breach was filled by W. Bro. J. H. Knight who agreed to serve as Master for the second time in three years. After a month or two, Bro. Howard was able to resume his Warden's duties and he passed the chair in 1940. On the cessation of hostilities, a statement to Provincial Grand Lodge on the effects of the war on local Freemasonry disclosed that meetings had been exceptionally well attended, with regular visits by Service Brethren stationed in the locality. Six members served in the Armed Forces, 64 enrolled in the Auxiliary Units of the Royal Observer Corps, Civil Defence, Special Constabulary and Home Guard, all surviving the holocaust without serious injury.

During this period, the Lodge numbered some 90 members, rising to 100 in 1947, 1948 and 1952, reaching a peak of 101 in 1953.

Early in 1952 after thirteen years loyal service, Bro. W. E. Coppin (Senior) intimated that he wished to relinquish the office of Tyler. For the next two years, the Lodge was without a regular custodian, members acting in turn in this capacity until 25th May 1954 when the present holder, Bro. A. R. Kemp accepted the appointment, later serving as Provincial Grand Tyler.

The minutes of the meeting for 25th February 1958 reveal that only 9 Officers, 4 Acting Officers, 1 Past Master and 9 Brethren, a total of 23 in all were present instead of the usual 60 to 65. An explanatory note by the Secretary records:

"The small attendance was entirely due to extremely bad weather, many Brethren and visitors were prevented from attending as most of the main roads were impassable, the W.M. and candidate being snow-bound en-route".

By this time the banner obtained for £26 in 1880 was in a dilapidated state and restoring the intricate embroidery to its former glory entailed an expenditure of more than four times the original purchase price.

The most recent acquisition, a new Authorized Version of the Bible, was presented to Newton Lodge on 28th November 1972 by W. Bro. B. Storer, P.Pr.G. Treas., to preserve the ancient 'Breeches' Bible, handed down from the old Corinthian Lodge and in constant use for the past 95 years, for Installations only.

In 1967, the Lodge donated £1 for each member to a Grand Lodge Fund for Medical Research in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the formation of the first Grand Lodge and in acknowledgement a badge is worn on the Master's Collar.

Newton Lodge, No. 1661 has contributed in no small measure to the Masonic Charities with a growing tendency to provide added aid in the form of direct donations by members through personal covenants.

MEETING PLACES

The "Petition for a Lodge to meet of the Town hall, Newark upon Trent in the County of Nottingham on the 2nd Friday of every month. recommended for the favourable consideration of the Most Worshipful Grand Master by the Officers of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 402" and signed by H.T. Greenhalgh, W.M., E. Chas. Buckoll, S. W. and Wm. Bryan, J.W., was enclosed with a letter to Grand Lodge on 4th December 1876 from "Bro. W.E. Dawson (Secy Pro Tem)" who became the first Secretary of Newton Lodge. An Accountant by profession, living at 5 Appleton Gate, Newark and a member of Pelham Lodge, No. 939, his correspondence with the Grand Secretary, which is preserved in Grand Lodge Library and Museum, was prolific.

On 7th December 1876 he wrote:

"two names have been proposed for the new Lodge, one is the 'Newton' Lodge, the other the 'Trent' Lodge, but I would rather the name was left open for a few days for further consideration."

Three days later he advised that:

"The name of the proposed Lodge I may tell you has been fixed, viz The 'Newton' Lodge."

The Petition was approved on 13th December 1876 and the founders hoped that the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro-Grand Master, or Lord Skelmersdale, his Deputy, might officiate at the Consecration, but some delay ensued in finding a convenient date. Finally Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary 1868/1880, performed the ceremony.

Constructed in 1773 at a cost of £17,000, arched entrances and four Tuscan columns supporting a pediment carrying the Statue of Justice flanked by a lion and unicorn, all of Mansfield stone, and inside a magnificent Adam ceiling on Corinthian columns and pilasters, the Town Hall provided an elegant setting for the initial gathering on 24th May 1877. Even at this stage, the Brethren were having second thoughts on the Town Hall as permanent quarters, probably due to the size and expense, for notice was given of a proposal to hold future meetings at the Savings Bank, Lombard Street, Newark.

This change of venue was agreed on the 5th June 1877, although the Lodge returned to the Town Hall for the Installation Meetings from 1884 to 1887 and from 1917 to 1938. Other occasions that the Town Hall found favour were 9th June 1892 for a meeting immediately followed by the installation of Lieut-Colonel Newton as Deputy Provincial Grand Master: 9th February 1899:

"for purpose of passing resolutions of sympathy and condolence with the relatives of W. Bro. Lt. Col. W. Newton, P.G.D., D.P.G.M., 1st W.M. of the Newton Lodge on his lamented death, also to attend his funeral"

the Installation Meeting on 12th June 1908 which preceded the Summer Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held there at the invitation of Newton Lodge; 12th March 1909 in the Mayor's Parlour and 2nd April 1923 for the initiation of the Marquis of Titchfield.

In a report to Provincial Grand Lodge the Master wrote that:

"the Lodge is held in a large room rented of the Newark Savings Bank Trustees and which has been appropriately fitted up and supplied with Lodge furniture and Masonic

accessories. The Jewels are silver and have been presented to the Lodge by old Masons, a considerable outlay has also been made and at present the Lodge is in debt £50."

On 19th August 1878, a proposition was moved "That it is desirable this Lodge should be removed to more capacious premises" at which the Master "declared it was not competent for the Lodge to pass the resolution but that they could express an opinion upon the question". A committee of twelve was appointed "to take into consideration the propriety of removing this Lodge to the premises lately occupied as a Billiard Club if such premises could be converted into a Masonic Lodge and Dining Hall". Nothing came of this, and the members turned their attention to improving the comforts of the room at the Savings Bank. It was redecorated, the landlords meeting half the expense. New seating costing £26 was purchased, Bros. Hutchinson & Milthorp were constituted "a committee to make provision against draught through doorway of Lodge Room which they and others complained of", but a scheme for gas lighting was abandoned after the Savings Bank advised of its inability to assist in financing the project. The original rent of the room was six pounds per year, increasing to ten pounds in 1883 and to fifteen pounds in 1888. In 1893, the building was advertised for sale, the Master and Treasurer attended but the premises realised a higher sum than they thought justified in offering, and together with the Secretary and Bro. Appleby they agreed to seek a new home for the Lodge. On 10th November 1893, the Secretary announced that the first floor over the former Ridge's Shop in the Market Place had been taken at an annual rental of £15. A recommendation that two of the four rooms . . . "be made into one and all to be suitably furnished and used for the last time on 8th December 1893, ending a sixteen year tenancy of the upper floor of the building which later became the Estate Offices of the Duke of Newcastle and in 1945 was taken over by the Newark Rural District Council.

The early 19th century house on the Bridge Street corner of the Market Place had been the home of Mr. John Ridge, printer and first publisher in 1806 of the poems of Lord Byron. The members now passed through the same door earlier used by the illustrious poet when correcting his proof-sheets. An article in the Newark Advertiser for Wednesday, 17th January 1894 commences:

"The Freemasons of Newark having provided themselves with a local habitation worthy of the distinguished position which their Lodge occupies as one of the largest and most flourishing in this Province, the dedication ceremony took place on Friday afternoon in the presence of an influential assemblage"

and later continues

"The dado and frieze, as well as the ceiling, are replete with beautifully designed Masonic emblems full of meaning and instruction to those versed in Masonic lore. Every part of the adornment of the Hall is most appropriate and tasteful."

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon of 12th January 1894, the Lodge Rooms were dedicated by Lieut-Colonel Newton in his capacity as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Gifts from Brethren listed in the minute book include table linen, cutlery, kitchen ware, engravings, photographs and psaltors, illustrating their enthusiasm for the new meeting place.

A pen and ink sketch, based on the "Byron Doorway" of the building, presented to the Lodge by Bro. Edward Renard on 10th June 1898, was adopted for the front cover of the Lodge Summons together with his drawing of the Old Corinthian archway for the reverse. Those designs have appeared on every Summons since that date.

The Senior Deacon's wand of office is also of particular interest, bearing a winged Hermes with Caduceus and Rod of Power. At the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, this emblem was superseded by the winged Dove holding an Olive Branch. Where the original figure of Hermes is still possessed by a Lodge, old custom permits its continued usage but on no account may it be renewed or replaced. if such a necessity arises. the new wand must carry a Dove. Although no firm evidence is available to authenticate the origin of the wand of the Senior Deacon. it is undoubtedly of great antiquity

It is reputed to be that of Antient Lodge No 107, which operated in Newark for six years between 1807 and 1813 meeting at the White Hind Inn. Carter Gate and at the White Lion Inn, Stodman Street. under a Warrant of 1762 transferred to it from a defunct Lodge at Bewdley (Worcs). Lodge No. 107 was reduced to 5 members when on 27th January 1813, Thos. Brand, Sec, wrote to Grand Lodge:

"We find it more than we can afford to keep open the Lodge of ourselves and relieve indigent Brothers that call upon us, and there being no prospect of us increasing in numbers has caused us to come to this resolution of returning the Warrant unto you till we have the appearance of better times."

Twenty-five years after its foundation, the Newton Lodge achieved a long cherished ambition for a Club of its own, when in 1902 the premises were registered as the Newark Masonic Club. Mr. & Mrs. E. Smith were appointed as caretakers at a salary of £1.5/- a quarter.

At an Emergency Meeting called on 10th December 1923, it was unanimously agreed to establish a Newton Lodge Building Fund, the fee for Initiation to be 20 guineas, of which ten guineas would be for general Lodge Funds, two and a half guineas for the Provincial Grand Lodge Building Fund, and the balance allocated to the Newton Lodge Building Fund. A paragraph in the minutes for 11th April 1924 records

"W. Bro. W.W. Ford asked the W.M. to accept for the use of the Lodge 3 new Tracing Boards which were presented by a few brethren."

The donors would be gratified to learn that these have been in constant use since the day of presentation.

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the Lodge, extensive alterations were carried out at the Market Place premises, electric lighting was installed, a new dining room added, and the whole interior renovated.

The ideal of a permanent home for Masonry in the town was never far from the thoughts of the Past Masters who seized with alacrity the opportunity to purchase a private house, "The Towers", in The Avenue, Newark from Bro. C. Jenkinson in April 1938 for £300. By the Autumn, plans for converting the ground floor of the house into a bar and office with caretaker's flat over, and adding a new Temple, dining room and kitchen were prepared, and tenders invited for the work involved.

Meanwhile. the Brethren were kept abreast of these developments, and at a special meeting of the Lodges and Chapter on 24th October 1938, whole hearted approval was given to the scheme. The purchase price of the property and the cost of alterations, £4,215 in all. was partially met by gifts from members, the remainder by Debentures in multiples of £10.

The Newark-on-Trent Hall Co. Ltd., was issued with its Certificate of Incorporation on 9th March 1939. It is a Company limited by guarantee. not having any share capital. Each member of a Lodge

or Chapter using the Masonic Hall is a member of the Company and is liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £5 in the event of it being wound up.

The Lodge met for the last time in the Market Place on 30th May 1939. Arrangements were well advanced for the Dedication of the new Hall in The Avenue on 31st October 1939 when the building was commandeered for military accommodation on the outbreak of the Second World War. Fortunately, it was released within a short period, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro F. H. Starling, P.G.D. supported by 77 Brethren including many distinguished visitors, was able to perform the Ceremony on the chosen date.

For many years, W.Bro Mace, P.A.G.D.C. Magnus No. 3441, devoted his leisure hours to a study of early Masonic developments in the district, accumulating in the process many books, old prints and articles of sentimental or historic value forming an interesting and instructive museum and library.

In 1966 a room was set aside in his memory and named "The Mace Museum", where on display are the Warrant, "Breeches" Bible, Tracing Boards, Rough Ashlar and records of the old Corinthian Lodge, the Jewels of Lieut-Colonel Newton including the combined Past Master's and Treasurer's Jewel, his keystone from King Solomon's quarries, with pottery, glassware and various other relics. Below, built into the wall of the foyer is the entrance archway of Corinthian Lodge, given to the Company when the old buildings in Carter Gate were demolished in 1961.

The affairs of the Company are managed by a Board of Directors representing the various Masonic bodies. From 1939 to 1965, W. Bro. J. H. Knight, P.Pr.G.W., served as Chairman, followed by another Founder-Director, W. Bro. J.W. Howard, P.G.St.B., from 1966 to 1971 when W. Bro. Muddell, P.Pr.G.S. of W. took office. The present Chairman, W. Bro. S.I. Derry, P.Pr.S.G.D, was appointed in 1974. For the past few years the Board has concentrated on modernising the amenities, yet preserving the best of the old to provide a home worthy of Freemasonry in the town.

THE BRETHREN AND THE FAMILY

Founder Members

Wm. Newton. P.M. Royal Sussex No. 402	W. Hirst, P.M. Southwell No. 1405
C. Bailey	J. Irving
J. Barnett	S. Job, P.M. Royal Sussex No.402
R.J. Bennett	C. Johnson
G.H. Branston	W. Kelly, P.M. Pelham No. 939
J. Brookes	R.F.H. King P.M. Pelham No.939
W.H. Caparn	E. Liddell
J. Castle	W. Lilley
H.H. Cubley	Rev. B. Maltby, P.M. Royal Sussex No. 402
W. Curtis	J. Myring
W.E. Dawson	P.D. Scruton
J. Dooly	J.H. Tomlinson
F. Dorks	L. Ward
J. Goodwin	A. Wildsmith

A distinguished contribution to Freemasonry, local business and civic life runs as a golden thread through the weft and warp woven over the years by the brethren of Newton Lodge, some to grace the Chair,, attaining Provincial and Grand Lodge honours, others as captains of industry and commerce, or serving the town as Mayors, Aldermen, Councillors and Magistrates, each conscientiously applying those tenets instilled by the Craft. All are worthy of mention but space alone demands restriction to these of outstanding merit.

The eldest son of the Vicar of Newark, Frederick Vernon BUSSELL took his M.A., degree at Oxford before choosing to follow the profession of his father. During his curacy of Priory Church, Worksop he was initiated on 16th January 1873 in Pelham Lodge No. 939, of which he was Master only three years later. He was proposed as a Joining Member of Newton Lodge on 11th October 1878, elected on 8th November 1878 and was appointed Chaplain in the following February. He was one of the prime movers in the founding of Alexander Chapter No. 1661, Newark in 1881 serving as its First Principal, and was Worshipful Master of Fleming Mark Lodge No. 265 in 1884.

His investiture as Past Grand Chaplain was performed by W. Bro. John Watson, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, in the Town Hall, Newark on 11th November 1887 when the Regalia of office, purchased by the Lodge at a cost of £16-6-0 was presented to him:

"as a token of esteem and regard, and to mark the appreciation of his services to Masonry generally but more especially the Newton Lodge."

At Worksop, on 20th June 1889 he was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire, but he did not long survive to enjoy high office. He died at Balderton Vicarage on 21st February 1892, at the early age of 45, Members of the Lodge were authorised to attend the funeral "in full Masonic Costume", and a copper tablet in the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene reads:

"In pious memory of Frederick Vernon Bussell, M.A., P. Gr. Chaplain, Eng: Dep. Prov. Gr. Master, Notts., Vicar of Balderton, [eldest son of Rev.-Preby Bussell, M.A., Vicar of Newark], born at Newark Vicarage Apl 2, 1846 Died at Balderton Vicarage Feb 21 1892.

This tablet was erected and a Verger's Staff of silver given for use in this Church by his Brother Freemasons in fraternal regard and esteem."

To this day, the Verger precedes the Vicar in Church, holding the silver Staff aloft, with its head shaped to represent the pot of ointment "of spikenard, very costly", with which Mary "anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair.

Quoting the "Freemason", in the history of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys appears a precis of the outstanding and energetic career of James Morrison McLeod who was initiated on the 5th March 1877 in the Lodge of Unanimity, No. 113, Preston and joined Newton Lodge on 10th October 1879. Twice W.M. of the Derwent Lodge, No. 884, Wirksworth, Master of the Starkie Lodge, No. 1070. Southport in 1896 and a member of Lathom Lodge, No. 2229, Liverpool, he was also a founder and first W.M. of Barnet Lodge, No. 2509 then at New Barnet, and a founder member Masonians Lodge, No. 2700. A recipient of Provincial Honours in Derbyshire as Prov. G. Std. Bearer in 1885 and S.G. Warden of the same Province in 1890, he had conferred upon him in 1896 the still greater honour of Past G. Sword Bearer of England.

In Royal Arch Masonry, he was exalted in the Chapter of Unanimity No.113, Preston in 1878. Three years later, he helped to found the Alexander Chapter, No.1661 Newark, and was installed MEZ in 1887, his services in that capacity being rewarded by his appointment of Provincial G.S.B. (Notts.). He was also PZ and Treasurer of Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73 and Past Grand Standard Bearer in Supreme Grand Chapter.

Mark Masonry saw him advanced in Preston Lodge, No. 143 in 1878, Master of Fleming Lodge, No. 265, Newark in 1885, with Provincial honours in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; he was founder in 1893, P.M. and Secretary of the Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 458. In the degree of Royal Ark Mariner, he was a founder and Past C.N. of the Byron Lodge attached to the Newstead Mark Lodge, as well as of the Trent Lodge, attached to the Fleming Mark Lodge.

Bro. J.M. McLeod was appointed Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on 9th August 1890. At a complimentary banquet on 14th November 1890 members of the Newton Lodge presented him with an illuminated address. and congratulated him in verse to mark the occasion as was the custom of the period. His diligence and assiduity in this office until 1918 have earned him a deserved niche in Masonic affairs.

Cornelius Brown was born at Lowdham in 1852 and devoted his life to antiquarian and historical subjects. His "Notes about -Notts' appeared in the 'Nottingham Guardian' and at the age of 22 was appointed editor of the Newark Advertiser. Initiated in Newton Lodge on 28th October 1881, he was a regular attender at meetings but never sought office. The momentous occasions in the early life of local Masonry are graphically described in the columns which he penned for the "Newark Advertiser" during his editorship, providing material that would otherwise have been lost to posterity. He wrote several books, of which the best known "History of Newark-on-Trent, the Life Story of an Ancient Town" is accepted as the standard reference by historians. It occupied him for the last fifteen years of his life. and he died on 4th November 1907 only four days after correcting his final proof for the printer.

Born at 8 London Road New Balderton, Newark on 20th April 1902, Sir Donald WOLFIT, C.B.E., the famous Shakespearean actor adopted a slightly modified form of his surname, Woolfitt, for his stage career. His father, W. Bro. William P Wolfit occupied the Chair of the Newton Lodge in 1920, was later a founder member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 5528, and figured prominently in the ceremony of initiation when Donald joined Newton Lodge on 26th January 1937. Sir Donald was a

joining member of the London Nottinghamshire Lodge No 5133 and served as WM of the Green Room Lodge, No. 2957 in 1966. He died in the Royal Masonic Hospital at Hammersmith on the 17th February 1968

Samuel Ashburner Hildage, B.A., originated from Old Trafford, was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Culham College, Oxon, was appointed Headmaster of Newark Lovers Lane School in 1898 and became the first Head of Newark Barnby Road School ten years later, a position which he filled with distinct success until his retirement in 1931.

At the age of 35, he was initiated in Newton Lodge on 13th October 1905, became W.M. in 1917, then undertook the office of Secretary from 1922 to 1947. He was made Prov. G. Swd. Bearer in 1925, invested as P.Pr.J.G.W, in 1933 and received Grand Lodge honours as P.A.G. Std. B. in 1940. In Royal Arch he was exalted into Alexander Chapter, No. 1661, becoming 1st Principal in 1924, received Grand Chapter recognition as P.A.G.D.C. in 1940, and was 3rd Provincial Grand Principal in 1941. He was closely associated with the acquisition of the present Masonic Hall and with the formation of the Newark-on-Trent Masonic Hall Co. Ltd., of which he was one of the first Directors.

V.W. Bro. C.G.H. Richardson, C.B.E., P.G. Treas., passed through Rawlins School, Quorn, the Manchester School of Technology and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, obtaining a B.Sc. (London), A.R.C.Sc., M.I. Mech. E., and A.M.I.C.E. As Managing Director of Ransome & Marles Bearing Co. Ltd., Newark, he became a well-known figure in the world of engineering both in the United Kingdom and abroad. His services in this field, particularly during the Second World War, were acknowledged in 1946 by his appointment as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Initiated into the Craft on 8th October 1920 at the age of 28, W.M. of Newton Lodge in 1933, founder member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 5528 in 1935 and its Master in 1948, appointed P.Pr.J. G.D. in 1942, he was elected Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1951, and filled the office of Grand Treasurer of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1956. First Principal of Alexander Chapter, No. 1661 in 1936, he was invested Grand Treasurer of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1956. In Magnus R.C. Chapter No. 109 Newark, he was appointed to the 30° in 1951

The election of Bro. Richardson to the eminent office of Grand Treasurer brought great satisfaction to Freemasons in the Newark area for many years, he gave unstinted service to the industrial and Masonic life of the community.

John William Howard was born in the village of Rolleston, Nottinghamshire on 31st July 1893. The foundations for a successful career were laid at the Magnus Grammar School, Newark and as senior partner in the family firm of B.J. Howards, industrial and domestic fuel distributors established in 1900, he was closely concerned with many local commercial organisations; a founder member of Newark Chamber of Commerce, Past President of Newark Tradesmen's Association and Honorary Secretary of the Newark Coal Distributors' Association. He was with the Royal Engineers during the Great War and served with the Royal Observer Corps for the period of the Second World War. As a member of the Special Constabulary, he was the recipient of the Long Service Medal and the Police Medal.

"Bill" Howard was initiated in Newton Lodge on 9th October -25 and became W.M. in 1940. After a term of five years assistant Secretary to W. Bro. Hildage, he accepted the Secretaryship of the

Newton Lodge in 1947, devoting himself to this office until 39. Nominated to the Provincial Committee of General Purposes the Lodge in 1947, he was Chairman in 1958. In Nottinghamshire Province, he was appointed Pr.G.D. in 1948 followed by P.Pr.G.W. 1958, and his sustained efforts were fittingly rewarded when the Brand Lodge honour of P.G.St.B. was conferred upon him in 1962.

Always a great advocate of, and a regular attender at the Lodge of Instruction, the Installation of his son, W. Bro. D.C. Howard as Master of Newton Lodge in 1968 was amongst his proudest moments.

First Principal of Alexander Chapter, No. 1661 in 1943 and Scribe E. for many years, with Grand Chapter Rank of P.A.G.D.C. in 1962, he also extended his activities to include the Masonic Hall Co. Ltd. Appointed a Director on incorporation in 1939 he was indefatigable when Chairman in pursuing a programme of renovations to the fabric and improvements in the furnishings.

It was not long after its formation that the members of Newton Lodge began to extend their activities into other Degrees of Masonry. Reference is made to a proposed Mark Mason Lodge in the minutes of 14th May 1880, when a Committee was appointed to "arrange the rent to be paid for the use of the furniture." Fleming Mark Lodge, No. 265 was consecrated under a Warrant dated 7th July 1880, "the amount of rent to be charged for use of room and organ to be two guineas per annum."

W.Bro. W. Newton gave notice on 11th February 1881 of a series of resolutions that he proposed to move for "the formation of a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Newton Lodge." Consent was granted at the following meeting and on 11th November 1881, Bro. Rev. F.V. Bussell "addressed a few words to the Brethren upon the Alexander Royal Arch Chapter 1661 to be consecrated at the Town Hall, Newark on 17th November. " It was subsequently agreed that the newly formed Chapter pay the same rent as Fleming Mark Lodge, two guineas a year.

Then after an interval of seven years the Secretary of Newton Lodge, Bro. Henry George announced on 14th December 1888 . . . "that a Rose Croix Chapter was about to be formed in Newark" and obtained the sanction of the Lodge to use the furniture. Magnus 26th Chapter, No. 109 was consecrated at the Town Hall on February 1889.

The first move for another Craft Lodge came on 11th March 1910, in a letter from Past Master J.R. Hirst asking for "sanction to the formation of a new Lodge to be called the Magnus Lodge. Sponsored by Newton Lodge on 18th March 1910, the new Magnus Lodge, No. 3441 came into being on 26th May 1910, to "accepted as sub-tenants at an annual rental of £10.10/- until such time as their prosperity should justify an increase."

By the nineteen thirties, the need for a further Lodge in the town was apparent, and on 27th December 1934 the founders presented a petition for the formation of Corinthian Lodge, No. 5528. It received the unanimous approval of Newton Lodge, was signed by the Acting W.M. W. Bro. C.G.H. Richardson, Bro. R.F.V. Appleby, S.W., and Bro. G H Ducksbury, J.W. , for submission to Grand Lodge, the Ceremony of Consecration taking place at the Town Hall on 12th April 1935.

The most recent addition to the family was the grand-daughter, Newark Lodge, No. 8332 on 11th September 1970. Sponsored by, Corinthian Lodge, the founders also included several Brethren from Newton Lodge.

The Lodge of Instruction is first mentioned on 10th August 1877 when the Wardens proposed that it should be held on the second Friday in September. Over a year elapsed after this one meeting before a committee of six was elected to make arrangements for regular meetings under a Warrant granted by the Newton Lodge. Then nine years later,

by a resolution early in 1877, it was agreed "that the Pr.Gr. Secretary be requested to grant the proper authority for a Lodge of Instruction to be held in connection with the Newton Lodge"

The earliest minute book commences on 18th March 1899 with the preparation of the By-Laws which were adopted at . . . "The First Meeting of the Lodge of Instruction held on Monday, 1st May at 8-20 p.m. in the Masonic Hall." These included a clause . . . "that any Brother accepting office and not attending be fined sixpence unless he shall have given three days notice to the Secretary." Instruction was originally imparted by a Preceptor assisted by a Prompter, but this latter office soon gave way to a Director of Ceremonies, the Past Masters taking turns at both duties.

One of the earliest established in the Province, the Newton Lodge of Instruction has continued to flourish under Preceptors of acknowledged Masonic ability each carefully preserving those significant variations in ritual which distinguish an old Lodge.