

HISTORY OF THE CORINTHIAN LODGE No. 561.

CHAPTER 1.

At the end of the eighteenth century Newark was an agricultural market town of nearly 7,000 inhabitants. In the town itself there was an extensive trade in coal, corn and malt. The corn trade accounted for 20 mills, whilst in 1820, 480,000 bushels of malt were produced. There was also a flourishing linen industry with Hawton Mills in the South of the town, whilst in North Gate was a large brewery. It was under such conditions that Masonry was introduced in 1790 by the formation of the Corinthian Lodge No. 561. It was a "Modern" Lodge working under a Provincial Warrant granted by Thomas Boothby Parkyns, afterwards 1st Lord Rancliffe, The Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire from 1783 to his death in 1802. A Provincial Warrant, I might explain, was one issued by a Provincial Grand Master under his patent of appointment which authorised him to constitute lodges under his own name and authority, in contradistinction to one issued by the Grand Master or his Deputy.

The Consecration took place on June 5th 1790 at the Wing Tavern for in the issue of "The Freemason" for June 9th 1877 in speaking of the Consecration of the Newton Lodge No. 1661 we find

"On the 5th of June 1790 the Corinthian Lodge at Newark was consecrated at the Wing Tavern, and the Brethren on this occasion assembled in the room 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,"

Having started their life at the Wing Tavern they remained there for the first year at the end of which they removed to the Rutland Arms whilst in 1794 they again moved, this time to the Ram Inn, Castle Gate.

Whether they had any other meeting place is a moot point. In the only minute book that we possess we find under August 1st 1822

"It has been in contemplation by the Brothers at length of time to take a private room for a Lodge Room which is now effected, also proposed in open Lodge and unanimously agreed to by the Brothers present. Brother C.O. Chapman proposed Brother Kelk to make the necessary Joiners alterations and seconded by Brother John Chapman. Brother Chris: Sheppard proposes Messrs. Duke and Co. to perform the Bricklayers work and seconded by Brother John Chapman afterwards put to the members and agreed to."

The question arises as to the situation of this new Lodge room, and when, if ever, it was used. The only other mention of it in the minutes is in April of the following year:

"Paid Brother Sheppard for Coal for New Lodge 2/11."

It had always been taken for granted in Newark that the building on the best side of Carter Gate, demolished in 1961, was the building in question. The archway at the entrance, now in the possession of the Newark Masonic Hall Company, is engraved "Corinthian Lodge" whilst the keystone, is decorated with Masonic emblems, and underneath is the date A.L. 5823 which tallies with the date of the above minutes. But the minutes from 1817 - 1834 are all headed "The Ram Inn" and Grand Lodge have no record of any meetings in Carter Gate.

Trying to read between the lines I am inclined to think that a certain amount of friction - in fact quite a lot - was caused by the resolution passed on August 1st. In the book labelled "General List" which we fortunately still possess, against the name Jabez West is the entry:

"Resigned in 1824, on account of the new building belonging Brothers M. Hage and Kelk".

whilst in the minute book under the date June 27th 1825 we find

"Brother Matt. Haze sent in his resignation, Brother Kelk ditto dated 23rd June and not before at any time."

These two entries MAY not be connected but it seems to me that these resignations were all due to some trouble over the new Lodge room, a trouble so serious that despite the money spent on alterations, the premises were never occupied. This is all the information that I have been able to discover and I can only hope that at some future date the mystery may be solved. It is interesting to note that the design of the summons of the Newton Lodge No. 1661 is based on this old archway.

In 1792 the Lodge number was altered to 470, in 1814 to 524 whilst in 1832 it became 347.

Unfortunately it is not possible to give a really detailed history as the first minute book is missing. The information that follows has been obtained from the one existing minute book which dates from December 19th 1817 to January 27th 1834, a book labelled "Subscribing Members" and another stamped "General List". In addition the archives of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge have been searched and references taken from other Lodge records and contemporary newspapers. Many of the minutes are of a very scrappy nature and really give one practically no indication of what transpired. Here is an example:-

"Corinthian Lodge Ram Inn. July 29th 1822

The Lodge opened in Due Form 2nd Degree- Expenditure £1. 1/-"

It is also difficult to visualise how the entries were written up. The minutes of November 29th 1822 are followed by those of March 12th 1823. Then follow two blank pages after which we get the minutes of December 6th 1822, January 7th 1823 and February 8th 1823!

The minutes for December 3rd 1821 are on an odd scrap of paper, loose in the book, whilst there are no entries from July 1823 to April 1824, or from October 1824 to June 1825.

These facts will help to explain the difficulty of obtaining a continuous and full story.

In no case are the minutes signed by the Master but usually by the Secretary, and apparently it was not customary to confirm them at the next meeting. The first mention of this being done is on May 6th 1822 where under the entry of that date we find a footnote:

"These minutes were confirmed June 3rd 1822 in open Lodge."

J. Newton as Sec.

There is however no mention of this fact in the minutes of June 3rd and the only other occasions on which there was such confirmation were on September 2nd and 30th of the same year.

From August 19th 1822 to February 8th 1823 there is a Deputy Master in addition to a Past Master but no reason is given for the necessity for such an appointment:

Many monetary items are interspersed such as:-

Passing fee	2/6
Raising	5/-
1/4 years Sub,	5/-
Quarterage	2/-
Initiation	£3. 3/-
Pd. Lodge Expenses - This varied from 12/- to £1. 7/6	
Br. J. Collins, duly install'd	7/6 yet to pay
Remitted to Grand Lodge.	£3. 4/-
Carriage	1/8
Apron	6/8
Pd. Br. Collins acd.	£1. 8/6
Pd. Br. Longdens acd.	12/1½
Pd. Smith Acc. for Gin	17/2
Pd, Tyler for postage to G.L.	1/-

These give interesting information as to charges etc. but are not items that we should expect to find in modern minutes.

From the following letter brought about by the Unlawful Societies Act of 1799 and written to the Grand Secretary, there was evidently a Benefit Society in connection with the Lodge. This is the only mention that I have come across of this "side line" of the Craft in Newark but about this time Masonic Benefit Societies were not uncommon.

There was one large one that covered the country generally which had agencies in most towns of any size and which had the approval of Grand Lodge.

Extract from Grand Lodge minutes April 10th 1799. The Earl of Moira who presided:

"acquainted the Grand Lodge that several Brethren had established a Masonic Benefit Society, by a small quarterly contribution, through which the members would be entitled to a weekly Allowance in Case of Sickness or Disability of Labour, on a Scale of greater Advantage than attends other Benefit Societies; representing that the plan appeared to merit not only the Countenance of Individuals, but of the Grand Lodge, as it would eventually be the means of preventing many Applications for Relief to the Fund of Charity, whereupon it was RESOLVED, that the Masonic Benefit Society meets with the Approbation of the Grand Lodge, and that notice thereof be inserted in the printed Account of the Grand Lodge."

In the following year a further resolution was passed recommending the Provincial Grand Masters:

"to give every Aid and Assistance in their power, within their respective Provinces, to promote the Object and Intentions of the Masonic Benefit Society."

I think it is probable that the Newark Society was connected with this organisation, though some of the larger cities - Sheffield for example - had institutions of their own, and at the end of the Treasurer's Account book of the Sheffield Society is a note that the Rules of the Society shall be sent to 15 towns, including Newark. The Newark letter reads:-

Sir,

In consequence of your letter dated 4th October Respecting the Registering of Masons in order that we may comply with the Rules and Orders of the Grand. Lodge, as it is most certainly the duty of every Provincial Lodge to do. I am requested by the Master the Rev. Dr. Stanley to make application to the Grand Secretary for a list of those who are already registered since the establishment of the Lodge. It has always been our custom annually to send up the Registering fees (together with the contribution of the Lodge) for all the Bros. made the preceeding year. However in order to be correct, if you will send us a copy of the names of those who already appear upon the Books, we shall then see if any are wanting.

The present establishment of our Lodge is the following viz

Officers	Bro. Rev. LT, Stanley	Master
	Bro. James Curtis	Snr. Warden
	Bro. William Shacklock	Jnr. Warden.
	Revd. Thomas Nelson	Secretary
Members.	Bros. W.J.Clark, Revd.P. Thoroton, Fran. Robinson, John Hage, Samuel Barnsdale, Geo Aram, Wm Holt Jnr, Edwd Lee, P- Bulliavnt, Jas Wallis, R. Fowler, Wm Hilton, R. Hough, R. Tinney and R. Adams.	

These are all we can muster at present as members. All the rest are dispersed or have discontinued their subscriptions. And even some of the above are not regular attendants of our Lodge. Therefore if you will be so good as to examine whether these be registered or not it will be quite sufficient. In addition to the forementioned who are not members of our Lodge (sic) but who belong to the Benefit Society, viz Bros. John Strong Jnr, Baxter, T. Robertson, John Wright, Revd. John Mounsey and Ro Pocklington. Should be much obliged to you to send some Copper Plate Certificates from the Grand Lodge for the following names:

Bro. Revd. Thos. Nelson	July 4th 1790
Bro. Jas. Curtis	Nov. 19th 1798
Bro. P. Bulliavant	Sept 29th 1800

Please to send them to Robinsons the Bookseller Paternoster Row directed for Messrs. Ridges, Booksellers Newark

I am Sir Your most obedient humble servant

Thos. Nelson. Sec.

Of the members of the Benefit Society I find that

John Strong Jnr. was J.W. in 1790, S.W. in 1791, W.M. in 1792 and a member in 1793 & 1794,
G. Baxter was a member in 1790
T. Robertson was a member in 1792 - 1797
J. 'Wright was a member in 1798 - 1805
R. Pocklington was a member 1792, 1795, 1796
Revd. J. Mounsey was a member 1790, 1791.

Also dealing with the registering of Masons under the Unlawful Societies Act of 1799 is an entry taken from the minutes of the Newark Quarter Sessions and sent to me by the late W. Bro. G.G. Bonser:-

"1799, 9th October. At this (Quarter) Sessions a certificate upon the oaths of the Rev. Thomas Nelson, clerk and James Allis, builder, two of the members of a lodge of Freemasons held at the Ram Inn, Newark and being No. 170 in the List of Lodges, was deposited with the Clerk of the Peace on 31st August to be registered, and now produced was ordered to be filed and enrolled among the records."

According to Tweedale Meaby in his "Notts" County Records of the 18th Century this was the only County registration in the year.

Early public notices of the Lodge are contained in the following two advertisements and one notice from the Nottingham Journal, June 30th 1792:

Freemasonry.

Rutland Arms.

Newark.

The Master, Wardens and Brothers of the Corinthian Lodge present their fraternal respects to the Brothers of the neighbouring Lodges and others and beg to inform them that they have for various good reasons postponed their Anniversary until Monday the 9th of July when they will esteem it a particular favour to have the honour of their Assistance to celebrate the same.

Attendance at 11 o'clock, Dinner at two; Corinthian Lodge Newark.

Thomas Nelson, Secretary - June 14th 1792.

July 9th 1796.

Anniversary of the Freemasons, Corinthian Lodge, Newark. The Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Corinthian present their fraternal Respects to the neighbouring Lodges and request the Favour of their Company to DINNER, on Tuesday the 19th inst. at the Ram Inn Newark. Dinner on the table at two o'clock

Thomas Nelson. Secretary.

Newark, 5th July 1796.

Nottingham Journal. August 20th 1808.

Friday last being the birth-day of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and accepted Masons, for this county of Lincoln, met at their Lodge at the Rein Deer Inn, and went in procession, in proper order, with music playing, to the Cathedral, accompanied by the visiting brethren from the Lodges of Newark, Louth and Horncastle, Boston, Gainsborough, Barton etc. which was conducted in a masterly style. The service was read and performed by brother William Gray, and the anthem, selected from the Psalms, was sung by the choir of Lincoln. The sermon, from Micah v1 - v8 was delivered to a numerous congregation by the Rev. Brother Dr. Orme, of Louth, Grand Provincial Chaplain, in an appropriate and pathetic manner, which drew the sincere

attention of every hearer. After service, the brethren partook of a sumptuous dinner, at the Rein Deer, where the day was spent with conviviality.

The Lodge appears to have experienced many vicissitudes. At times it is active, at other times the reverse. The minutes of December 19th 1825 are entered and then there is an ominous silence until February 22nd 1830. Inserted between these dates is the following note:-

"As a sufficiency of Brethren have not attended on any night from the 11th of December 1826 to the 22nd of February 1830 those nights excluded no Lodge has been held during that period but the Lodge has been adjourned from time to time.

W. H. Caparn. Sec. Pro. Tem."

This is another instance of the casual way that the minutes appear to have been kept, since there is no mention of any meeting on December 11th 1826.

It is rather surprising to find such a lack of interest since in 1818 the Lodge consisted of 29 members and in 1822 they were as has been mentioned, in a position to take a private room in Carter Gate for their meetings and have the necessary structural alterations made. From the number of minutes dealing with the non - payment of subscriptions it would appear that at times the Lodge was leading a very "hand to mouth" existence and it was probably the lack of funds owing to the small membership that was the cause of its ultimate collapse. Nevertheless during its active life it possessed many well known local men as members and was held in high esteem, not only in its own province, but also in the adjoining one of Lincolnshire.

The Provincial Grand Lodge library has a letter from Colonel Wildman, dated May 3rd 1823, addresses to Henry Percy, a Nottingham solicitor, whose son became Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Notts. This letter informs Bro. Percy that the Duke of Sussex has appointed him, Col. Wildman, to Pr. G.M. and the writer asks for information as to the present condition of Notts, Lodges. At the back of the letter Bro. Percy has pencilled rough notes of his reply. He notes the three Nottingham Lodges, —Warren, Union and Newstead, and then adds "Corinthian Lodge at Newark meets regularly; in good repute.

That it was in good repute is not surprising since at different times it numbered amongst its members such men as William Gibson, its first Worshipful Master, and a very prominent Notts. Mason, Sherbrooke Lowe, High Sheriff of Notts. and many of the best known citizens of Newark, at least four of whom became Mayors of the Borough viz W. Farmerie in 1797 and 1810, Robert Buck in 1795, 1808 and 1820, E. Godfrey in 1812 and William Hilton in 1814.

The Nottingham Journal of December 6th 1794 has the following account of the funeral of Bro. Sherbrooke Lowe at Southwell:-

"Monday afternoon the remains of Sherbrooke Lowe Esquire of Southwell (One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County) who died suddenly the preceeding Wednesday were deposited in a vault in the South aisle of the Collegiate Church in that place.

The deceased gentleman having been a Brother of the Corinthian Lodge of Free and accepted Masons in Newark, a great number of the Brethren of that and other Lodges attended his Funeral. The procession began to move about four o' clock in the following order:

"The Rev. John Becher, Chaplain.

The body borne by the deceased's Tenants:

the Pall supported by Gentlemen of his acquaintance.

Friends and relatives (as Mourners) in cloaks, etc.

The Tyler with a drawn Sword.

Two Deacons with Rods cloth'd with Crape.

The Brethren out of Office, in black, with white stockings and Aprons and Black Crape in their hats - Two & Two.

The Secretary with a white scroll, tied with Crape.

Senior and Junior Wardens, with Rods cloth'd with Crape

The Past Master. The Holy Writings, with the Square and Compass thereon borne on a Black Cushion, trimmed with Crape.

The Master.

In this manner, the Procession entered the great west door of the Church, and was of such length that the Body had reached the Choir before the Master (Roger Pocklington Esquire who closed the awful Procession) had entered the area of the Church. The funeral service was read by the Chaplain in a very impressive and pathetic manner, and after the Body had been deposited in the vault, and the service ended, the Brethren being assembled near the same, an excellent and solemn ORATION was delivered by Brother Gibson, who on this occasion represented the Master. This done, the Secretary threw the Scroll into the vault, and the procession moved back to Brother Gurney's the Freemason's Arms, in the Market Place."

The earliest record of the Lodge's activities that I have been able to obtain is from Dixon's "History of Freemasonry in Lincolnshire" and helps to show the high standing and prestige of the Lodge. It refers to the part it played in the consecration of a new lodge in that province The Doric Lodge at Grantham. The minute book of that Lodge records:-

Lodge Night October 13th 1791 at the George Inn.

Lodge opened in ye degree of Master and ye officers installed by Bro. Gibson"

Then follow the names of 9 Brethren all of whom, with the exception of the R.W.Master, had been initiated a few months previously in Newark. Nine members of the Corinthian Lodge were present as visitors.

The following notes also taken from Dixon's history will show, think, the enthusiasm of our ancestors. when one realises that each of these visits to a neighbouring province, before the days of trains or motor cars, must have necessitated at least one, and probably two, days absence from home, one can but admire their zeal. On August 13th 1792 the Prince of Wales Lodge, Gainsborough, celebrated the Prince of Wales' birthday by a procession to church, and amongst the lodges attending was the Corinthian.

On December 5th 1793 the Witham Lodge, Lincoln, records that Bros. Sullen, Simpson, Robinson and Peacock were pass'd the Chair by Bro. Gibson of the Corinthian Lodge, Newark. This meeting

was evidently held by dispensation as the Lodge was not consecrated until the following year as is shown by the following minutes,

"In pursuance of the resolutions entered into by the Brethren of this Lodge, the advertisements were made, the invitations sent and the necessary preparations made for consecrating this Lodge, which was accordingly performed by Bro. Gibson of Screveton (in this county)"

I can only hope in the face of this last statement that Brother Secretary's masonic knowledge was better than his acquaintance with local geography, Screveton being at least 13 miles within Notts! The Corinthian Lodge was again in Lincolnshire in 1794- when the Provincial Grand Lodge met at the "White Hart" Gainsborough, to celebrate, by attending divine service, the anniversary of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince of Wales, Grand Master.

Brother Gibson is noted as visiting the Witham Lodge on December 6th 1814 whilst on April 20th 1820 three other Brethren from Newark visited the same Lodge.

The Lodge was also active in its own Province. W.Bro. Haunch the Vernon Lodge No. 1802 has kindly supplied me with the following extracts from the minute books of the now extinct North Notts. Lodge of Retford:

"On 31st of July 1792 a "Grand Meeting" was held in the Town Hall, Retford," for the opening of the North Nottinghamshire Lodge in solemn form". "The following visiting brothers did the honour of attending, and walked in form to Church, to hear prayers read, and a sermon preached, suitable to the Occasion, viz"

Then follows a list of names including

"Newark Corinthian Lodge No. 561
Brothers R. Hippingstall Tyler
W. Holt, N. Hutchinson, S. Lowe Royal Arch
whilst Bros. T. Stanley D.D. read the prayers"

On June 25th 1792 The following are the Names of those Brothers who intend to attend at the General Meeting at Newark on Monday 9th July next — viz,"

This was the Annual Festival, the advertisement of which has already been noted.

A later entry is:-

"Paid for 'White Ribbands for the Jewels at Newark, on the: Procession day there 4s 6d."

14th September 1792.

"At a regular Lodge held this day in the Council Room at East Retford - it being a Masters Lodge - Bro. Gibson a visitor from Newark Lodge called the Corinthian, in the Chair and Bro. Holt a visitor from the same Lodge - when the following Bros. passed the Chair - James Ormond, Wm. Lyster, John Fowler, Henry Mason, George Booth, Darker Parker, John Booth Jnr. and John Parker.

This Lodge being duly closed and opened again as an entered Apprentice Lodge - the following Brothers being present - Gibson. D.M., Holt. D.S.W. Henry Mason. J.W. and 13 others.

At this Lodge, Brother John Booth proposed as a Candidate for Masonry, the Reverend Benjamin Brown, Brother John Fowler, Mr. Wright of Tickhill, Derbys."

Friday April 11th 1794.

"Bro. Gibson of the Corinthian Lodge at Newark and P.J.G.W. then raised the following Brothers to Pass - Masters, viz, Bro. Dixon and Bro. Ogle, who severally paid into the hands of Bro. Lyster, five shillings for such raisement.

Bro. Gibson then installed Bro. White as Master during the Pleasure of Bro. Holland who was unanimously elected to that office the preceeding Lodge Night but could not conveniently attend tonight.

Bro. Gibson then invested Bro. Lyster, by Order of Bro. T.B.Parkyns Esq., the P.G.M. with a Blue Apron, conferring the Honour of Provincial Grand Sword - Bearer upon him . He likewise invested Bro. White with a Red Apron, conferring the Honour of Provincial Grand Steward, upon condition of the same being resigned to Bro. Holland in case he chooses to accept it."

Among the visitors at this meeting was "Bro. Hough of the Corinthian Lodge, Newark".

It is interesting to note that at the next meeting on April 29th

"Brother White then invested Brother Holland with the P.G.S. Apron resigning him that Office according to the Condition on which he was invested with the said Apron the last Lodge Night".

in 1812 a movement was on foot to unite the two Grand Lodges – the "Ancients" and the "Moderns" - into which at that time the Craft was divided. The "Antient" Lodge in Newark, No. 107, decided to apply for a Warrant from the Grand Lodge of the "Moderns". Their application of the reaction of the Corinthian Lodge are shewn in the following correspondence extracted from Grand Lodge records.

To - The Most Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.

Most Worshipped and Honoured Sir,

We the undersigned John Emerson Master, Francis Shaw Senior Warden, Robert Barnsdale Junior Warden, Thomas Brand Secretary and for the others; Members of the Lodge of Freemasons No. 107 White Hind, Newark under the sanction of John Duke of Athol, have been accustomed to hold Meetings, and to make, pass and raise Masons, according to the established Customs of our order, and have endeavoured to the best of our ability to maintain and preserve the general principles of Masonry, and to promote and advance the Interests of the Craft.

We have been too long kept in the dark (which we fear is too generally the case; and particularly with the Country Lodges) as to the real cause of the Division in the Family of English Masons: but having lately had put into our hands by a Member of a Lodge under the Sanction and Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, the Grand Master of English Masons, a pamphlet entitled "Masonic Union" being an address to the Duke of Athol, in which we are solemnly assured that the Breach is kept open by a few

interested Members of that Lodge which calls itself the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons.

And also that the Arms of our Illustrious Prince as Grand Master of Masons like those of an Indulgent Parent are open to receive all Masons returning to their obedience, to restore them to the paths of truth: and this we find to have been invariably the Language of that ornament to Society at large as well as to the Fraternity; the Earl of Moira the Acting Grand Master.

There is also another clause which we beg leave to point out to you "As a proof of which there are instances of Lodges in the country since the execution of M?..... having surrendered their warrants to the Grand Lodge, and soliciting regular warrants, such alterations have been uniformly complied with and the Brethren admitted to all the privileges of the Society, free of expense. Now tho' zealous Masons and loving Masonry for itself alone, we cannot consistent with the Obligations we owe to our families and to our Characters as honest men profusely spend our money, we therefore pray you will recommend this our Petition to the Grand Lodge, beseeching them to take us into their most generous Consideration, and that they will also grant us a Regular Warrant on our surrendering the warrant we at present hold; having regularly paid for the same, together with the customary fees of the Lodge under the Duke of Athol.

We pray your immediate attention to the above, and that you will forward the Resolutions we have signed on the other side to the Grand Lodge, so that all convenient speed may be made to constitute us a regular and lawful Lodge; we are Most Worshipped and Honor'd Sir, your humble servants and obedient Brothers

In the Name of, and for the Lodge

John Emerson	Master
Frs Shaw	S.W.
Robert Barnsdall	J.W.
Thomas Brant	Secretary
Thomas Hutchinson	Tyler

Newark, 16th of June 5816 A.M.

The present Master John Emerson holds his Certificate as having been regularly initiated in the Three Degrees of Craft Masonry from the Grand Lodge of Ireland given the 3rd June 5801 and on the 4th August 1801 he was exalted to the Degree of Royal Arch Mason by the Lodge 846 and on the 18 day of December 1801 he was further exalted to the Sublime Degree of Knight Templar, in Ireland.

At a meeting of the Lodge No. 107 A.Y.M. Newark It was unanimously resolved:

1st. That it is altogether inconsistent with the Nature and Constitution of Masonry that the private views or interests of any Individuals should interrupt that universal Harmony and Brotherly Love which ought at all times to exist in the Great Family of Masons.

2nd That it is the bounden duty of every Mason, and of every Lodge of Masons to use all their power and influence in bringing about so desirable an event as a Brotherly and Perfect Union between all the Masons in England.

3rd That we immediately petition the Provincial Grand Master to aid us in our endeavours to bring about a Union with this Lodge in particular humbly praying him to give us such further instructions as he may see necessary.

4th That having the Prosperity of the Fraternity at heart we are willing to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the Art; and for the conveniency of our respective dwellings, and other substantial reasons, have agreed to form a new Lodge to be named "The Union Lodge of Newark."

5th That in consequence of these Resolutions, we pray for a Warrant of Constitution, to empower us to meet as a regular Lodge on the first Monday after full moon, at the White Hind Inn, Newark, and then and there to discharge the Duties of Masonry in a regular and constitutional manner, according to the original forms of the Order, and the Laws of the Grand Lodge. That, the prayer of the Petition being granted, we promise strict conformity to every regular edict and command of the Grand Master, and to all the Constitutional Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Given under our hands, and to which we have affixed the seal of our Lodge, this 16th day of June A.D. 1812 and in the year of Light 5816. In the name of, and for the Lodge No. 107

John Emerson	Master
Frs. Shaw	S.W.
Robert Barnsdall	J.W.
Thomas Brand	Secretary
Thomas Hutchinson	Tyler

The following was from the Corinthian Lodge to the Provincial Grand Master:

R.W. Sir and Brother,

Having understood that a Lodge of Irregular Masons who for some time past have met in this place, are now desirous of obtaining a Warrant to meet under the sanction of the Grand Lodge of England and also find their application for that purpose has been made in an irregular way and manner.

The Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Corinthian Lodge No. 470 have forwarded to the Grand Secretary a letter of which they beg most respectfully to hand you a copy and at the same time further to state to you that the Members of the Corinthian Lodge acting in sole conformity to the Regulations from time to time have given to them by the Grand Lodge have uniformly abstained from countenancing or forming any connection with irregular Lodges that the irregular proceedings of such Lodge have been carried on without the least sanction, advice or assistance of the Corinthian Lodge and that it is our determination at all times strictly to conform to such orders as shall issue from the Grand. Lodge for the government of regular masons. Ye shall feel ourselves honoured R.W. Sir by your paternal advice in what manner it will be

necessary for us to proceed in case any application should be made by the members of this irregular Lodge for our assistance.

By order of the Master, Wardens and Brethren, of the Corinthian Lodge R.W. Sir Your most obedient servant

J. Newton. Sec

Newark. June 22nd 1812

Corinthian Lodge Ram Inn

To Sir J. B. Warren

P.G.M. for the County of Nottingham.

From the Corinthian Lodge to the Grand Secretary.

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Being made to understand that a Lodge in this Town calling themselves Ancient Masons No. 107 under the sanction of the Duke of Athol, have made an interest through the Reverend Brother W. Peters, Prov. Grand Master for the County of Lincoln to obtain them a warrant winder the Grand Lodge of England which Bro. Peters promises to obtain by writing to you. Now, as we the Master Wardens and Brethren of the Corinthian Lodge No. 470 of Newark, find it our duty to write to ye Grand Lodge previous to any such Application be made to say, we have never refused admitting any member of the said Duke of Athols Lodge the privilege of becoming a Member of our Order on accepting to be obedient to our Bye-laws, paying the usual Fees of the Entrance according to the Rules and orders established belonging to the Grand Lodge of England. We find it our bounden Duty to state that if their Petition be granted and made legal under the Grand Lodge of England it may lead to a greater controversy in this place among Masons, for as there are a great many Masons who had belonged the Lodge in this Town but are not subscribing at the present, the few Members left to support the Corinthian Lodge may... Opposition of Party in the same Order under Style or belonging to the Grand Lodge, would tend to lessen its members more and more, and would erase the Memory of the Corinthian which has stood with Credit for 22 years. We therefore as united Brothers wholly recommend that no other Lodge be opened in this Town under the name of an Union Lodge or any other Name in our Order, as at all Lodges we are willing to accept him and make Brothers thats worthy the Name of Mason and suitable that Degree, that are likely to become obedient to our most ancient and honourable Institution

By order of the Revd. W.M. Wardens and Brethren

Sir Yr most obd Servt and Brother

J. Newton, Secretary No. 470

Newark, 22nd June 1812

P.S. As Masonry regards no Man for his worldly wealth or possessions yet there are certain Degradations in the Society of Masons Order that would render it

unpleasant to associate with lowest Order as Journeymen and Apprentices who are under the *Restrictions of their Masters which ought strictly to be observed.

To. Wm. White Esq., Grand Sec. Freemasons Hall London.

This letter placed the Provincial Grand Master in a quandry. se would have liked another Lodge in the Province but did not desire to offend the Corinthian Lodge.

He therefore wrote to the Grand Secretary

Stapleford Hall near. Nottingham.

June 28th 1812.

R.W. and Brother,

I have enclosed two letters, one from the Brethren of the Lodge 470 and another with a petition from the Brethren of a Lodge of the Duke of Athol 107 and of a different Government from ours, the latter Brethren are desirous of being Incorporated under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, but our Brethren of the Corinthian Lodge seem apprehensive that the establishment of another Lodge independent of themselves, may prove detrimental to the interests of Masonry. I must however request that you will represent these circumstances to Ma. and Noble Acting Grand Master and the Grand Lodge for them to decide, whether the brethren who wish to resign their present arrant and to be incorporated anew, should be established as a New Lodge, or annexed to the Corinthian Lodge NO.470. I should..... the Union of an additional number of Brethren, if they are respectable, cannot prove injurious to our Order, altho' there may be some reasons for the jealousy of our Brethren of the Corinthian Lodge

I remain

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother

Your affectionate Brother and servant

John Borlase Warren

Provd. G.M. for Notts.

The result of the petition was that a warrant was issued for the "Union" Lodge No 132 but it was never taken up and Lodge 107 became extinct in 1813.

In the "General List" one entry serves to remind us of the times through which the Lodge lived - the time of the Napoleonic wars.

Spilsbury F.B. Surgeon from the Lodge of Integrity Manchester

Atlantic Ocean had a Grand Certificate at Manchester as Master Mason taken by the French.

CHAPTER TWO - RELICS.

The Newark Brethren are fortunate is possessing the following relics of Corinthian Lodge, which can be seen in the museum at the Masonic Hall

1 The Warrant. Engrossed on parchment it measures 25 x 20 and reads

as follows:-

Seal of Grand Lodge No. 561.

T.B. Parkyns G. M.

TO ALL AND EVERY our Right Worshipped and Loving Brethren. We Thomas Boothby Parkyns Provincial Grand Master for the County of Nottingham ACTING under the Authority of His Royal Highness HENRY FREDERICK Duke of CUMBERLAND etc. etc. Grand Raster of the Most Ancient and Honourable SOCIETY of Free and Accepted Masons send Greeting.

KNOW YE that We at the humble petition of our Right Worshipful and well beloved Brethren, Sherbrooke Lowe Esquire, Reverend Charles Fowler Clerk, William Gibson, John Flewker, John Strong Senior, John Strong Junior, John Newzam, James Wallis, George Baxter, Thomas Hall and James Clerk and several other Brethren residing at Newark upon Trent in the County of Nottingham do hereby Constitute the said Brethren into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the title or denomination of THE CORINTHIAN LODGE to be opened at a house known by the name of the WING TAVERN in Newark upon Trent aforesaid and do further at their said petition and of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the said above named Brethren Do hereby appoint the said William Gibson to be Master, John Flewker, Senior Warden and John Strong Junior, Junior Warden for the opening of the said Lodge and for such further time only as shall be thought proper by the Brethren thereof it being our Will that this our appointment of the above Officers shall in no wise affect any future Election of Officers of the Lodge but that such Elections shall be regulated agreeable to such Rye Laws of the said Lodge as shall be consistent with the General Laws of this Society contained in the Book of Constitutions and We hereby Will and Require you the said William Gibson to take Special Care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons and that they do Observe Perform and keep all the Rules and Orders contained in the said Book of Constitutions AND FURTHER that you do from time to time cause to be entered in a Book kept for that purpose an Account of your proceedings in the Lodge together with all such Rules Orders and Regulations as shall be made for the good Government of the same that in no wise you Omit once in every Year to send to us or our Successors Provincial Grand Masters or to Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master or to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the time being an Account in writing of your said proceedings and Copies of all such Rules Orders and Regulations as shall be made as aforesaid together with a List of the Members of the Lodge and such a Sum of Money as may Suit the Circumstances of the Lodge and reasonably be expected towards the Grand Charity MOREOVER WE hereby Will and require you the said William Gibson as soon as conveniently may be to send an account in writing of what shall be done by Virtue of these Presents

Given at London under our Hand and Seal of Masonry this fifth day of June A.L. 5790 A.D. 1790. By the Provincial Grand Masters Command

Witness William Gibson P.G. Sec

This document has quite an interesting history. A note printed at the end of the Agenda for the Consecration of the Newton Lodge No. 1661 in 1877 says:

The late Corinthian Lodge No 561, at Newark, was consecrated on the 5th day of June 1790, and was registered under the successive numbers 470, 522+ and 347, and ceased to hold any regular meetings after 1832, after which date the Warrant was returned to the Grand Lodge through the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottinghamshire."

This would appear to dispose of it, but W.Bro. H.B.E. Stevens P.Dep. Prov Grand Master informs me that in the records of provincial Grand Lodge is this minute, dated 28th November 1849:

"The Prov 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."

The suggested action was out of order and the Mansfield Lodge was granted a Warrant by the Grand Master. The next reference to it is in the minute book of the Newton Lodge 1661 under date April 14th 1882.

"Bro. W. Newton, communicated to the Lodge that the Ancient Charter of the Corinthian Lodge of Newark had been entrusted to him for presentation to the Lodge, having been in the possession of Wor. Bro. Edward Percy P.D.P.G.M. Notts. After some interesting remarks he made the following proposition, which was seconded by Bro. W.N. Nicholson. M.P. who remarked that one of the founders of the Corinthian Lodge whose name appears in the Charter, Bro. Wm. Newzam, was his grandfather, "That a hearty vote of thanks be given to Bro. Edward "Percy P.D.P.G.M. Notts. for kindly having restored (through Bro. W. Newton P.D.P.G.M) the Ancient Charter of the Corinthian Lodge of Newark - they assure him that valuable document will be highly prized and cherished by members of Newton Lodge 1661, "Carried unanimously"

2. Three Tracing Boards by Harris produced in 1820 and measuring $8 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $4 \frac{5}{8}$ ". According to Brother Haunch who has made a special study of tracing boards these specimens appear to be unique. History usually records that Harris joined the Craft in 1818 and produced his first boards in 1823, so these are the earliest of his design and the first degree board is of an unusual type. They have been illustrated in A.Q.C. in an article by Bro. Haunch on Tracing Boards. On the back of the second board, is written

"Presented by Bro. W.H. Caparn 939. Handed down from his father the last surviving member of the Old Lodge - Tuesday June 5th/77 being the anniversary of the day on which the old Corinthian Lodge was consecrated. June 5th 1790".

The minutes of the Newton Lodge 1661 record June 5th 1877

"Bro. H. Caparn presented the Lodge with a set of (3) tracing boards a relic of the Corinthian Lodge No. 561 for the use of this Lodge. The thanks of the Lodge were unanimously given to Bro. Caparn for his valuable gift."

These tracing boards were in use until quite recent years.

3. The Tylers Sword. This is of the basket hilted type and is still in regular use. It carries the inscription "Presented to the Newton Lodge 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 470. May 24th

1877". The reverse side of the blade is decorated with scroll work and the Square and Compasses and is stamped with the name ofRARA all that remains of Andrea Forrara the celebrated swordsmith.

4 A "breeches" Bible. "Imprinted at London by Robert Banker 1600" and stamped "Corinthian Lodge No. 470" Presented to the Newton Lodge 1661 by Wor. Bro. William Newton P.M.G.R.

5 Book of Constitutions dated 1784 - The cover is tooled with a design in gold and bears the inscription "Corinthian Lodge No. 561. Book of Constitutions"

Inside are affixed the following two letters from Col. Cook of Warwick.

June 21st 1905.

Dear Sir and Brother, A gentleman at Warwick - a non mason - has a copy of the Book of Constitutions of the year 1784 - with a History compiled by order of Grand Lodge from old records and Tradition. The book is bound in and is lettered on the side Corinthian Lodge No. 561.

I have written to the Grand Secretary to know when this was situated and he replies it was located at Newark on Trent in 1784 and was erased in 1851. I thought your Lodge might like to possess the book and the owner I think would part with it for (the sum has been crossed out)

I am Dear Sir and Brother

Yours fraternally W. Cooke P.M. 284

P.P.S.G. Warden Warwickshire

The W.M. Newton Lodge 1661.

June 24th 1905.

Dear Sir and Brother, I have had the book forwarded to you for your inspection, and I should like to see it "rested" in the Town of its origin. I have place the G.S.'s letter at the commencement of the book and this be authority for the placing of the Lodge

Yours fraternally

W. Cooke

W. Bro. F. J. Brown.

there is also attached the letter mentioned by Col. Cooke from the Grand Secretary. Its donor is shewn by the following inscription:-

'Presented to the Newton Lodge October 1905 by Fred. Jas. Brown W.M.

6 A minute book dating from December 19th 1817 - January 27th 1834-

7 A book labelled "Corinthian Lodge". Subscribing members". containing a list of members - in some years incomplete - between 1790 and 1833.

8 A book labelled "Corinthian Lodge". "General List".

No's 7 and 8 are mentioned in the Newton Lodge Minute Book. June 8th 1877.

"Brother W. H. Caparn, Organist, presented the Lodge with the General List of the Members and also the subscribing members of the Old Corinthian Lodge and the thanks of this Lodge were given to Bro. W. H. Caparn for them".

A Grand Lodge Certificate issued to Henry Cotton of the Corinthian Lodge 1819. This is of particular interest as it contains two mistakes. The letters A.D. and A.L. have in one case been transposed whilst the dates given shew that the Brother was initiated 1st August 1818, admitted to the third degree, 4th of January 1819 and Registered 19th February 1818, In other words he was registered almost six months before being initiated! On the back is the endorsement.

These are to certify that Brother Henry Cotton was regularly Initiated into Masonry on 1st August 1818, afterwards passed to the second and raised to the third degree on the 4th day of January 1819 in the Corinthian. ;odge No. 524 held at the Ram Inn, Newark on Trent, Nottinghamshire°
Witness our hands this day February 23rd 1819 A.D. 5819 A.L.

Matt. Hage	W.M.
John Chapman	S.W.
T.D.Tripp	J.W.
Thomas Petchele	Secretary.

10 A cutting from the Nottingham Journal of March 3rd 1823, kindly presented to me by W.Bro. S. Race P.P.G.W.

"At Newark, on the 8th inst, fully believing in the atoning merits of a crucified Saviour, and in the cheering hope of a blessed immortality, Mr. T. D. Tripp, after a short but serious illness. His remains were removed from the Lodge room of the Corinthian Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of which fraternity he had been for many years a distinguished member, and were attended to the place of internment by the whole of the Brethren belonging to that Lodge, and by a number of visitors, all dressed in a manner peculiar to their order. The usual ceremonies were observed at the grave, where an impressive oration was delivered, and a prayer offered up by the Past Master, which appeared to be deeply felt by an unusually large concourse of spectators.

11 A cutting from the Nottingham Journal of April 5th 1822 also presented to me by W.Bro. S. Race.

"On Saturday last the 30th ult. after a very short illness, aged Go, Thomas Sinit, the Tyler of the Corinthian Lodge No. 524 Newark. As it was his dying request to be interred with Masonic honours, Mr. Chapman, the treasurer, waited on the vicar, Mr. Bartlett, to solicit his permission for the performance of Masonic rites on the occasion, which was not only acceded to, with an ingenuousness worthy of a Christian Minister, but very liberally tendered his services to perform the ceremony. The members of the Lodge moved in solemn silence from the lodge room to the house of mourning, from whence, joined by the band etc, "with dirges due in sad array to the church way path the corpse was borne". On entering the church a funeral dirge was played by Mr. Bridges, the organist, and on quitting an anthem was sung by the choristers. After the funeral service had been performed by the vicar at the grave, an occasional oration was delivered by the Worshipful Master in such an audible and impressive manner, as

could not fail to have its due effect on the minds of attentive hearers: this was accompanied by the ceremonies consistent with the second order of the brotherhood. The members then repaired to the Lodge Room, preceded by the band, to unite with a large assemblage of visiting brethren, for whose attendance the members of the Corinthian Lodge felt themselves greatly obliged - notwithstanding the vast concourse of people assembled to witness the novel scene, we are happy to state that the whole was conducted with the most perfect order and regularity."

12 A print consisting of Masonic emblems dedicated "To Thomas Boothby Parkyns Esq., Corinthian Lodge No. 561 this plate is humbly inscribed by his obedient servant and Brother F. Strong Junior."

13 Rough Ashlar - Extracted from a letter from the late Mr. T. M. Blagg to W.Bro. S. Race P.G.S.B.

"The Corinthian Lodge had the rooms exactly opposite my father's house in Carter Gate, Newark. The Christadelphians had the room in my time.

When we went to live in the house in 1889 the original Ashlar of the Corinthian Lodge was used by us as a "door porter" to prop open the spring door of my father's wine cellar. He subsequently gave it to the late William Bradley (probably about 1905)"

William Bradley was a member of the Newton Lodge 1661."

14 Three engraved Copper Plates.

Further extract from above mentioned letter.

"I also got hold of a set of original plates of copper engraved with set outs for Lodges etc. and other instructional matters and emblems which I passed on to Bradley. He was very particular about them, and said they ought never to have been allowed to get into the hands of the uninitiated public. He was quite perturbed and left me no peace till he got them. That is nearly forty years ago."

These plates measuring 4 5/8" x 3 1/8" are actually engraved with designs for producing copies of the three tracing boards, similar to, though not identical with, the modern design."

15 The original arch from the entrance to the Corinthian Lodge room in Carter Gate. The keystone is decorated with Masonic emblems and underneath is the date A.L. 5823. It was demolished in 1961 and presented by the owner, Mr. D. Clark, to the Masonic Hall Company who has had it inserted in a wall in the entrance of the present Masonic Hall.

16 The Jewel worn by the Senior Deacon of the Newton Lodge and also the jewel on his wand of office is the figure of Mercury, which was the Deacon's badge in pre-union days. As the Newton Lodge was not founded until 1877 I think that it is highly probable that both these jewels have descended from the Corinthian Lodge though I am unable to produce any evidence to this effect. The collar jewel is engraved "Presented by Brother. S. Job. Royal Sussex Lodge No. 402 to the Newton Lodge No. 1661. First S.D."

Unless it was originally connected with Newark I can see no reason for the presentation of an out of date jewel.

CHAPTER THREE. EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTE BOOK.

The following extracts from the minute book will give some idea of the work done in, and events connected with, the Lodge.

"Minutes of the Corinthian Lodge, Ram Inn, Newark December 19th 1817

Present	W.M.	Bro Matthew Hage
	S.W.	Bro. John Chapman
	J.W.	Bro. C.O. Chapman
	S.D.	Bro John Hage
	J.D.	Bro T.D. Tripp

J. Newton, Thos. Birkitt, Pelcall, Chamberlain, Bauser, Longden, G. Aram Snr, Butler and Kelk.

Visiting Brothers Fortescue and Gillispy 153.

Mr. Geo. Aram Jnr. proposed by Brother Tripp and seconded by Brother Jn. Chapman and duly elected. Bro, Thos. Birkitt proposed for second degree by Bro. Jn. Chapman and Tripp. Bro. Saml. Longden proposed for second degree by Bro. Jn. Chapman and Pelchall.

Bro. Reynolds present.

Bro. Geo. Aram Jnr, duly initiated.

Visitor Bro. Fortescue No. 2. Lodge of Antiquity.

Visitor Bro. Gillispie No. 153 Sea Captains Lodge.

N.B. Bro. Aram Jnr. has a just claim for being balloted for and initiated in our Lodge being a Lewis.

J. Newton. Treas.

Thos. Sinnitt. Tyler

December 19 Bro. Birkitts Passing 2/- recd.
Bro. Longdens 2/- ditto
Bro. Chamberlains Entrance 10/6.
Ditto his registering fees 2/6
Ditto. G. Aram Jnr. Subscription £3. 3/-
Years subscription 21/- registering fees 2/-
Quarterage 2/- Reynolds Subscription and quarterage 23/-
Ditto Tripp 23/- Sinnitt Ditto 23/- Butler ditto 21/- Jn Chapman 23/-
Bouser ditto 21/-
Total sum collected: £12. 0/-

Mr. George Aram Jnr. admitted a Member of this Lodge and balloted for, on account of being a Lewis - the son of a Master Mason initiated in the New Form by Brother Fortescue acting Master.

It will be noted that Mr. Aram Jnr. was initiated in the "New Form". This would almost certainly be the method approved by the Lodge of Reconciliation and Grand Lodge at the time of the Union in 1813, which had in all probability not previously been worked in Newark. The first portion of this

minute was written by the Secretary but the financial items and the repetition of Mr. Aram's initiation have been added by the Treasurer.

Brother Fortescue was a member of the Lodge of Antiquity No.2 but was not a member of the Lodge of Reconciliation. He was apparently well versed in the new working and again acted as Master on December 27th for a Raising and another Initiation, on December 31st for an Initiation, on January 18th for 3 passings and 2 Raisings and on February 16th when there is no record of any ceremony. Two years later on January 4th 1819 he visited the Lodge again whilst on December 14th that year he acted as W.M. at the Installation. Dixon's History of Freemasonry in Lincolnshire tells us that the minutes of the old R.A. Chapter at Boston have an entry,

"1820. Cash to Brother Fortescue £4. 15. 0".

This is probably the same Brother and it looks as though he may have travelled about the country giving instruction for which he was paid at any rate travelling expenses. He appeared again at the same Chapter as a visitor and yet again when he acted as First Principal.

St. John's Day kept December 27th 1817

Brother F. Fortescue acting Master
Brother Matth. Haze W. Master
Brother Bulman raised to the Sublime Degree Master Mason has paid his fees accordingly 5/-
Mr. Jos. Cowell brt. in and was initiated in due form on account of being from a distance.
Received of Bro. Cowell Initiation 3. 3/-
Years subscription 15/-
Registering fee and quarterage 12/-
Expenses calling the Lodge £1. 1/-

Brother Cowell, as was customary in those days, paid the expenses of the Lodge of Emergency.

December 31st 1817 "Lodge of Emergency

Brother Fortescue Acting Master
Mr. Solomon Bacon of Sleaford initiated
Expenses for Lodge of emergency £1. 1/-
Circular from Grand Lodge, requesting us to take into consideration what may be the mode of Lecturing in future."

January 18th 1818

Lodge opened in due form.
Brother Fortescue Acting Master
Bros. Aram Jnr. Cowell and Bacon proposed by Bro. C.O. Chapman to be passed to the degree of Fellow Craft and seconded by Bro. Tripp.
Bros. Aram, Cowell and Bacon duly passed and the regular fees paid.
Bro. Aram's passing fee 2/6 Bros. Birkett and Longden duly raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and the regular fees paid. Bro. Longden's raising fee 5/-
Lodge closed in due form".

This is the first occasion on which the Lodge is said to have been Opened and closed in due form.

March 16th 1818. "No business transacted".

April 20th 1818. "Yr. Chas. Linby, Mansfield proposed as a candidate for Masonry by Bro. Lang and seconded by Bro. Y. Hage."

May 18th 1818. "Wm. Lang Acting Master.

Mr Linby, Mansfield forfeited 10/6

Here we have an example of a common custom in those times. Any candidate not appearing for initiation without reasonable cause, forfeited the sum that had been deposited when he was proposed.

July 13th 1818. "Nomination of officers for the ensuing year took place as follows:

Installation to take place on the following Lodge Night. - The election of officers appears to have taken place at irregular intervals e.g. July 13th 1818 May 3rd 1819 December 14th 1819 June 18th 1821 November 8th 1822 January 27th 1834 and it is quite possible that there were other occasions which were not entered in the minutes.

January 4th 1819 Mr. Wm. Parker to stand over 3 months by order of the W.M."

April 5th 1819 "Ballot for Mr. Berry (not elected)"

May 3rd 1819 "Bro. Hage proposed by Bro. Lang and seconded by Bro. Tripp to continue W.M. for the ensuing year.

From the impropriety of Bro. T. Burkett conduct towards a Bro. Mason and those who are not Masons it was proposed. by Bro. Collins and seconded by Bro. Newton to have his name erased from G.L. and our Lodge."

June 7th 1819. 'Made application by letter regularly sign'd to Sir John Borlase Warren Knt. & K.B. Provincial Grand Master for the county of Nottingham to hold a provincial meeting on the 12th August 1619 or arty other day which he may think proper to appoint. Erasure of Bro. Burkett's name postponed".

From this and the following entries of July 5th and November 30th it is obvious that the Lodge was dissatisfied with the attention that the Prov. G.M. was giving to the Craft. Their action may have been unconstitutional but it shewed their great interest in Masonry and I am unable to trace any record of a reprimand being received.

July 5th 1819. "Bro. Jno. Chapman proposed the letter to be read which was sent to Sir. John Borlase Warren Kt. K.B. respecting the Provincial meeting and seconded by Bro. Lang, A copy of the letter been duly read Bro. Lang proposed a copy should be sent to the Grand Lodge for immediate investigation, on account of the non-attending of Sir. J. B. Warren our provincial G.M."

November 30th 1819 "Wm. Berry being regularly proposed a candidate for Masonry, last Lodge night. The Ballot was postponed until his name was duly specified in the regular notice. A letter was regularly formed and duly signed in open Lodge to the Board of General Purposes complaining of the inattentiveness of our Provincial G.M. Sir. J. B. VT. in order that they may appoint one or a deputy more zealous for Masonry and for the good of the Craft."

"September 27th 1819. Yr. Heathcote forfeit 10/6. propos'd by Pro. Newton and seconded by Bro. Tripp that the thanks of this Lodge be given to Bro. J. Reynolds for the honour of presenting the Gift of a Sword as a Jewel for the Inner Guard."

December 14th 1819 – Lodge of Emergency.

Lodge opened in due form" Then follows a list of officers and Brethren present.

Lodge of Pastmasters - Bro. Jno. Chapman regular]y passed, Installed and sworn into the office as W.M. for the year ensuing also the other officers was regularly divisted (sic) to their offices. Requested by the W.M, that those Bro. who stand indebted to the Lodge pay up their arrears and the same to be specified in the notices - and in future the regular yearly subscriptions to be paid Quarterly."

Here we have the first and only mention of a Board of Installed Masters and the first hint of the financial troubles of the Lodge owing to non-payment of dues.

December 28th 1819

Mr. Johnson of Normanton regularly balloted for and duly elected.
Mr. Geo. Foster regularly balloted for but rejected.
Forfeit of Mr. Welby 10/6

January 27th 1820

The Bye Laws of the Lodge was proposed by Bro. Collins to be printed."

February 28th 1820 - Proposed to pass the Chair next Lodge Night:

Bro. Collins by Bro. Tripp and sec'd by Bro. Lang.
Bra. Longden by Bro. Tripp and sec'd by Bro. Chamberlain.
Bro, Town by Bro. Tripp and sec'd by Bro. Lang.
Bro. Rodgers by Bro. Tripp and sec'd by Bro. Newton.
Bro. Smith by Bro. C.O. Chapman and sec'd by Bro. Tripp

If this was a preliminary to Exaltation it would be interesting to discover in which Chapter the ceremony took place. The R.A. was not worked in Newark at this time.

The following members of the Corinthian Lodge were exalted in the Chapter of Justice in Nottingham. The warrant of this Chapter was later transferred to Derby and attached to the Tyrian Lodge, where it still remains.

Geo Baxter.	Bingham	July 4 th 1790	Draper
Wm. Gibson	Bingham	July 4 th 1790	Gent. Farmer
Jno. Giles	Car Colston	July 4 th 1790	Grazier
Wm. Holt	Newark	July 4 th 1790	Grocer
Richd. Hutchinson	Southwell	June 6 th 1791	Surgeon
Sherbrooke Lowe	Southwell	July 4 th 1790	High Sherriff of Notts
Jno. Langwith	Grantham	April 4 th 1791	Architect
Thos Nelson (Rev)	Newark Academy	July 4 th 1790	
Jno.Stron Snr.	Bingham	July 4 th 1790	
J. Strong Jnr.	Bingham	July 4 th 1790	
Thos. Stanley (Revd) LLD		Dec 9 th 1799	

Peter Tyler	Bingham	July 4 th 1791	Stone Mason
Jas Walker	Newark	July 4 th 1790	Architect
Wm Cooper	Grantham	Sept 5 th 1791	Innholder
Clarke Eyre	Ollerton	Oct 3 rd 1791	Paper maker

April 24th 1820 – donations towards the banner

Jno. Chapman	£1. 1/-
Chas. O. Chapman	£1. 1/-
Wm. Lang	£1. 1/-
T. D. Tripp	£1. 1/-
J. Newton	£1. 1/-
Wm. Smith	£1. 1/-
M. Hage	£1. 1/-

This is the first reference to a banner and the only other occasion on which it is mentioned is on July 9th 1821.

Sleaford	4/-
Flag carrier	2/6
Total	6/6

May 22nd 1820

"Propos'd by Bro. Chapman for the Secretary to write to the G.L. for a Dispensation to hold a Provincial meeting 1st Aug. 1820."

This sounds like a renewal of the grievance of the previous year.

October 18th 1820

"Bro. Alex. Veitch passed to the Leg. of F.C. and paid. the regular fees 2/6 and also 3/- for a Lodge of Emergency agreeable to the revised Bye Laws".

There has hitherto been no-mention of revising the Bye Laws, the minute of January 27th merely referring to "The Bye Laws". Evidently the fee for a Lodge of Emergency had been reduced from £1. 1/- to 3/-

November 21st 1820.

Wm, Lang, J.Chapman, C.O.Chapman J.Newton Wm.Smith forfeited 6d each for being beyond limit agreeably to the new Bye Laws. Bro. Robertson's application respecting a Bespeak generally canvassed".

It was not unusual at this time for theatres, on behalf of one of the company, to hold a special performance that was patronised by the Craft. T. Robertson ran the Newark theatre for many years at a time when Newark ranked very high in the estimation of the stock touring companies and many of the foremost actors and actresses appeared under his management. He was son of James Robertson of the York Theatre, head of a famous theatrical family who died in 1795. James Robertson, brother of the Newark actor was grandfather to Dame Madge Kendal who was so well known on the Victorian Stage.

January 22nd 1821.

"Holden at the Ram Inn pursuant to Notice given for the special Purpose of taking into Consideration the Propriety of celebrating the Birth Day of our Royal Grand Master and our Royal Grand Patron's accession to the Throne. Resolved that the Members dine together for the above Purpose - that Invitations be circulated throughout the neighbourhood - and the Members assemble in Lodge at 12 o'clock on Monday 29th instant and that Dinner be on the Table at two."

January 29th 1821.

The King's Accession to the Throne.

Present. C.O.Chapman. T.Tripp. Jno. Newton. J. Chapman. W. Lang. Longden, G. Aram Snr. G.Aram.Jnr. J. Collins.

Visiting Brothers.

Shacklock & Nicholson of Southwell

Smith of Kirklington

Butler, Chamberlain,

Barnsdale & Taylor of Newark

Collinson & Shipman of Mansfield

March 12th 1821.

"On account of a Deficiency of Members, tho Lodge was adjourned by order of the W.M. 8 o'clock".

June 18th 1821

"Bro. James Collins duly installed W.M. for the year ensuing"

Then follows a list of Officers

"Bro. James Collins duly installed 7/6 yet to pay.

As many as can find it convenient to attend the Grand Lodge at Sleaford

The terms Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge seem to have been very loosely used. The meeting in question was one of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire held on June 28th at the Hope Lodge, Sleaford. There was a procession of over 100 brethren to Church, a sermon by the Rev'd. G. Oliver, one of the best known Masons in the country, followed by a banquet at the Old White Hart Inn.

July 9th 1821.

"Consideration about Bro. Petchell leaving the Lodge.

Bros. Tripp and Newton did attend the Grand Provincial Lodge held at Sleaford on 27th (?) ultimo. Expenses of Banner to and from Sleaford."

	4/-
Flag carrier	<u>2/6</u>
Total	6/6

August 13th 1821.

"The business being over the Lodge was closed in due form and harmony."

October 8th 1821.

"Bro. Gilks from London acting W.M.

Bros. Smith and Bagley raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons - Fees not paid. Lodge closed in due form and harmony.

Bro Wm Marshall's certificate sent to him at Lincoln for which he stands Indebted 6/6

This entry arouses ones curiosity. Was Bro. Gilks from London the renowned Peter William Gilkes the great exponent of Emulation working? He was in the habit of going around the country teaching that particular ritual and is known to have visited the Witham Lodge, Lincoln in August 1620 and June 1824 and to have held four Lodges of Instruction in Lincoln in September 1825. Is it not quite possible that in his journeys be called at Newark and visited the local Lodge? I wrote to the late W. Bro. Heron Lepper, the Grand. Lodge Librarian and curator, and the essential part of his reply says:

"I think you would be on safe ground in assuming the Gilks who attended in 1821 as being the famous Peter William Gilkes, the ritualist so until Gilks is proved to have been a different fellow, I shall vote for his being Peter William of Emulation fame".

P.S. I am making a note in my file that Gilkes probably visited Corinthian Lodge on the date mentioned. It seems a new discovery. Many thanks.

December 3rd 1821.

"Proposed by Bro. W.M. that Bro. Tripp and Bro. Newton do call on each Bro. in arrears for their subscription for the year and Quarterage seconded by Bro. Lang as soon as possible."

January 7th 1822.

"Bro. Newton S.D. deputed to collect all the Aprons and make a Return of Proper Names of Bro's. who are entitled to be upon the List which was accordingly sent up to the Grand Lodge of England directed to the Grand Secretaries."

January 17th 1822.

"It was agreed that Bros. Tripp and Newton should go about and gather the arrears and quarterages."

Remitted to the Grand Lodge	£3. 4/-
Carriage	1/8
Carr. back	1/8
Tyler salary	£1. 1/-
Postage (?)	4d.

May 6th 1822

"Bro. Sam'. Naylor of Newark proposed by Bro. Tripp to become a member of this Lodge seconded by Bro. Longden and unanimously elected".

Bro. S. Nayler was cutler and one of the petitioning brethren for the formation of Lodge 107 (Antients) in Newark in 1806. At that time he was a member of Lodge 28.

"Those minutes were confirmed June 3rd 1822 in open Lodge"

J. Newton as Sec.

This is a footnote evidently added after the meeting on June 3rd.

June 3rd 1822.

"Bro. Robert Turner of Grantham Acting Master. The petition of the late Tyler's widow taken into consideration."

September 30th 1822.

Bro. Sheppard for apron	6/8
Bro. Taylor for ditto	6/8
Paid Lodge expenses	£1. 3/-
Paid Smith's ace. for Gin	17/-

October 10th 1822

"Bro. Brand from Lodge No. 107 (The Antient Lodge in Newark) duly obligated to the third degrees." After taking the obligations he was elected Tyler

November 8th 1822,

Bro. Lang Proposes Bro. Saml. Longden and Wm. Nayler to pass the chair seconded by Bro. Tripp. Bro. Tripp proposes Bro. Josh. Taylor to pass the chair which is seconded by Bro. Lang afterwards duly installed and regular fees paid. Longden 7/6,"

These brethren apparently wished to join the Royal Arch although this degree was not at this time being worked in Newark.

November 29th 1822.

Bro. W. M. proposes a petition to be sent to the Grand Lodge on behalf of Col. Wildman of Newstead Abbey (to ?) succeed our late provincial Grand Master for this province and seconded by Bro. Collins and afterwards unanimously agreed to by the Bros, present."

Colonel Thomas Wildman was appointed Provincial Grand Master in 1823.

January 27th 1823

"Emergency to celebrate the Birth Day of our Royal Grand Master the Duke of Sussex."

February 8th 1823.

Visitor. Bro. Wallam originally from the Smcient Lodge Liverpool No. 53.

May 8th 1823.

"Bro. W.M. communicates to the Lodge a letter from the G.L. announcing the appointment of Coll. Thomas Wildman as Provincial Grand Master for the Coun. of

Nottm. a copy of which letter is hereunder written and likewise the copy of the letter of congratulation sent to Bro. Wildman on the occasion."

Copy of R letter from G.L; Freemasons Hall. London. 1st May 1823.

W. Master, We are commanded by the M.W.G.M. the Duke of Sussex to acquaint you that His Royal Highness has been pleased to appoint the R.W. Bro. Col. Thos. Wildman to be Provincial Grand Master for the County of Nottm. in the room of the R.W. Brother Sir J. B. Warren dec'd.

We are etc (Signed) W. H. White, Edward Harper, G. Sec's.

Unfortunately Brother Secretary omitted to give a copy of the letter Of congratulation.

April 12th 1824.

"Bro. Lang has paid One Year's Salary to the present Tyler 42/- due November 1823",

There does not appear to have been a meeting between July 21st 1823 and this date.

"Acct's. to be made out to every Brother being absent and at Southwell next Saturday. Ordered that J.N. visits Southwell to receive arrears There due".

J. N. was John Newton the treasurer.

June 9th 1824

"Bro. W, Lang absent on acct. of the Death of a Relation could not be Installed as proposed".

He was installed on August 10th.

July 5th 1824

"Lodge not opened on account of the Keys being mislaid. Choice of officers postponed. Treasurer paid the Tyler 1 guinea for half years services."

August 10th 1824

"Write to the Grand Lodge for a certificate for Bro. Chapman, has paid Bro. Lang 6/6 for it."

June 27th 1825

"Bro. Matt Haze sent in his resignation. Bro. Kelk ditto dated 23rd June and not before at any time."

August 29th 1825.

"Having an invitation from the Lodge of Harmony No. 512 Boston to attend a provincial Grand Meeting on the 21st of September next, it is thought necessary to (write) Coln. Wildman P.G.M. of this county to grant us a dispensation to join them in their procession."

October 31st 1825

"This Lodge was postponed a week on (account) of the Masters absence. The Sermons from Bro. Oliver at Gt. Grimsby received and to be sold to individuals as wants them."

December 19th 1825

"Names of Brethren No. 524 Corinthian Lodge who intend to subscribe to Bro. Rev, Geo. Oliver's publication..... in Number have agreed to subscribe 7/6 each to his Lectures together with Bro, W. Marshall, Bro. Thos. Robertson, Comedian, and their names to be entered as such."

December 11th 1826.

"As a sufficiency of Brethren have not attended on any night from the 11th December 1826 to the 22nd February 1830 those nights exclusive no Lodge has been held during that period, but the Lodge has been adjourned from time to time.

WM. Lang W.M.

W. H. Caparn, Sec Pro tem"

February 22nd 1830

"The Quarterly communication to the Grand Lodge approved and signed by W.M. and Acting Sec. in open Lodge and is requested to transmit the same to the G.S."

Evidently an effort was being made to resuscitate the Lodge.

March 8th 1830

"Brother James Collins was proposed to be readmitted a member of this Lodge as also was Bro. John Batchelor and they were duly admitted accordingly. Brother. John Belcher after his admission was proposed to be passed to the second degree."

September 27th 1830.

"The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed. The Bye Laws were read in open Lodge and unanimously approved - the Secretary being requested to copy them for transmission to the P. G.M. "

November 1st 1830

"Bro. Elson having withdrawn the Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees."

November 29th 1830

"A quarterly communication received by the Worshipful Master was read. Bro. Batchelor was raised to the third degree after which the Lodge was reduced and closed in the first degree."

March 28th 1831.

A quarterly communication received by the Worshipful Master, a communication from the P.G.M. a circular from the Lodge of Harmony Richmond and also a communication from Bro. Collins were read."

December 10th 1831.

A communication from the Leicester Lodge 525 as also a quarterly communication was read."

September 23rd 1833,

"Brothers Smith, Batchelor and Caparns fees 7/6 each - Bro, Caparn passed gratis by order of the worshipful Master."

November 4th 1833,

"A sufficient number of Brethren not having assembled to constitute a Lodge no business was done."

November 11th 1833.

A communication from the D.P,G,M. signifying the intention of the P.G.M. to visit the Corinthian Lodge officially in November or early in December was read."

November 25th 1833.

"A communication was made to the D.P.G.M. fixing Tuesday the third of December for receiving the visit of the P.G.M. and his officers."

December 3rd 1833

"Lodge opened in due form.

Present

Bro. Lang	W.M.
T. Lang from 348 St. John's Lodge Leicester P.M. & M.C.	
Robt. Chamberlain	S.W.
C.H. Sheppard	J.W.
Wm. Smith	S.D.
S. Naylor	J.D.
Jno. Strong	
Jerh. Nicholson	
Wm. Dawkins of Doric Lodge 466	
Sandaver, Revill, Shacklock & Jno. Harket - visitors	
Thos. Petchell	I.G.
H. Caparn	Sec
Fras. Shaw	Tyler

The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed, Bros. Thomas Dank, David Firm, William Wright, George Simons from the commercial Lodge Nottingham No, 594 were admitted visitors. Bro. Thomas Leech from St. Johns Lodge Leicester 348 a visitor Bro. Wm. Smith from the Commercial Lodge Nottingham 594 was admitted as a visitor.

Bros. Wm. Ashton, Dalby and Wm..... from the Royal Sussex Lodge Nottingham 576 were admitted visitors. Bro. John White from the Royal Sussex Lodge was admitted a visitor.

G. Simons Commercial Lodge Nottingham 594, Thomas Leech, St. John's Lodge Leicester 348, Smith Commercial Lodge Nottingham 594 Ashton, Dalby, Royal Sussex Lodge Nottingham 576 John White Royal Sussex Lodge 576.

The P.G.M. with his P.G. Officers consisting of the D.P.G.M. F.G.S.W. and P.G. Swordbearer having entered the Lodge after saluting the P.G.M. the address prepared for the purpose was read by the Secretary. The accounts with the Grand Lodge were examined - together with the list of the members and the Minute Book by the P.G.M. and approved -After the P.G.M. and his officers had retired the Lodge was duly closed.

W.H. Caparn, Secretary

The comparatively large number of visitors on this occasion is possibly accounted for by the following advertisement which appeared in the "Nottinghamshire Review" on November 29th

Masonic Festival.

Colonel Widman the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for Notts. having signified his intention of visiting the Corinthian Lodge 547 in company with his grand Officers on Tuesday the 3rd December next at The Ram Inn. Newark, the attendance of all Free and Accepted Masons is particularly requested. The Lodge w171 meet at twelve o'clock. Dinner on the Table at Four o'clock

Brothers requiring tickets are requested to apply to the 'Masters of their respective Lodges or to the W.M. of the Corinthian Lodge on or before Saturday the 30th inst. Tickets for the Festival 5/- each.

A now we come to the last minute in the book.

January 27th 1834.

Lodge opened in form. Present:

Bro. Wm. Lang	W.M.
Robt. Chamberlain	S.W.
C.H. Sheppard	J.W.
W. Smith	I.G.
Jas. Collins	P.M.
Wm. Shacklock	Visitor
W.H. Caparn	Secretary
Fras. Shaw	Tyler

The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed. The special business of the Lodge having been to elect a Master for the ensuing year Bro. C. H. Sheppard was proposed by Bro. Chamberlain as a fit and proper person to serve the office for the ensuing year which proposition was seconded by Bro. W.H. Caporn . A petition from Bro. Shacklock to the Lodge of Benevolence was read by the Secretary approved and signed by the Master and members in open Lodge.

Bro. Sheppard having been duly installed proceeded to appoint Bro. Wm Smith S.W. and Bro. W.H. Caparn J.W. Bro. S. Naylor S.D. Bro. Jno. Batchelor J.D. Bro. Jas. Collins Sec.

The final minute in the book is dated January 27th 1834 and it may be noticed that even at its last gasp it upheld the principles Of Masonry for:

"A petition from Bro. Shacklock to the Lodge of Benevolence was read by the secretary, approved, and signed by the Master and members in open Lodge."

And so the old Lodge faded away although it was not erased for non-payment of dues until 1851 despite the fact that its last payment had been made in 1833.

But the foundation stone in Masonry had been well and truly laid. as is proved by the three Craft Lodges, one Royal Arch Chapter, one Mark Lodge and one Rose Croix Chapter at present working in the town.

WBro H.W. Mace

P.M. 1661, 3595 P.A.G.D.C.

P.Z. 1661 P.G.StdB