

The Plumblīne



NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER | MAY 2021

Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster

Freemason's Hall, 27 Tuckey Street, Cork.



Dear Brethren

I hope you and your families are safe and well in these trying times. As I sit down to write these notes just before Easter, we are encouraged by the numbers being vaccinated and also the hope that we able to resume normal Masonic meetings in the not too distant future. It is now over twelve months since we had to suspend our zoom meetings due to Covid 19 and everyone I talk to has mentioned how much they enjoy our monthly meetings and look forward to when we can meet in Lodge again. It is encouraging to know that members in the Province are continuing to keep in touch with each other on different online platforms and by telephone. This has to be encouraged as we go forward. We published The Plumblīne in May and again December 2020. Which was circulated by post. You will be receiving the sixth edition again by post.

We held an informal Provincial Zoom catch up on the 6th of January with over sixty members logging on. All provincial officers gave a short report and **R. W. Bro. Derek Dunne** informed us of the possible redevelopment of Bishop Lucey Park and the opportunity we have to upgrade our Provincial Headquarters at Tuckey St. All thirteen loges gave a short update on the different activities they are undertaking to keep members engaged with their Lodge.

We held another Zoom meeting in March and again it was very well attended with all lodges reporting and our Provincial Treasurer **V. W. Bro. Marcus Calvert** presenting the annual accounts. Lodge 27 held their now monthly Zoom catch up again on the second Thursday in March. It was an



Leslie Deane

opportunity for the lodge to mark the enormous contribution **R. W. Bro. Alan Campbell** has made to the Masonic Order here in Munster and beyond over the last fifty years. I would like to congratulate our Past Provincial Grand Master on reaching such a significant milestone in his masonic journey. The knowledge, understanding and support which Alan has given so freely to me and others over the years has been invaluable. In time when restrictions are


lifted, we will have an opportunity to formally acknowledge his fifty years of dedication to the Masonic Order.

We are all in uncertain times as the third wave of Covid 19 has new restrictions imposed upon us since the 26th of December. I would encourage you to keep in contact with members and their families as they may have lost their job, or a family member may be ill. In these trying times, each member now more than ever has to be aware of the needs of others in their Lodge.

You will be reading the next edition of The Plumblīne in what are unprecedented times for us all. We all react in different ways; we all rely on our friends and family more as we try and get through the difficult times Covid 19 has brought to our lives.

I would like to wish you and your families every good wish as we move forward.

Yours sincerely & fraternally


Leslie Deane
PGM Munster

Charles Edward Fleury

Provincial Grand Master 1995 – 2002

Writes R. W. Bro. Alan Campbell

I was deeply saddened to receive a phone call on Wednesday morning, 14th April from Mrs Sheila Fleury to inform me that her beloved husband Ed had passed peacefully away earlier that morning. I know that all the Brethren in the Province who knew him will share my sadness.

He had been ill for a long period and it was due to the wonderful, loving care he received from his wife, Sheila, his children and latterly with some outside professional assistance that he was able to continue to live very comfortably at home right to the end. I sincerely hope that his family will draw much comfort from the thought that they cared for him so wonderfully.

He was, of course, a very committed Mason until ill health caused his retirement some 6 years ago. He was initiated in the Third

Lodge of Ireland on 26th. March 1968, passed on 22nd of April & raised on 20th May, all in that year. His father had been a leading light in the Third Lodge for many years and indeed his grandfather was also a Mason though not in Munster. He went on to occupy the chair of his Lodge in 1973, 1974 & 2008.

It was when he was Provincial Grand Secretary that I first encountered him since I was at that time secretary of my Lodge and I was struck immediately by his kind, courteous and helpful personality. Nothing was too much trouble to give a helping hand.

In 1990 he was appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Master to the then PGM, R.W.Bro. C.W. Olden and he held that office until 1995 when he succeeded as PGM himself.

I was honoured when he invited me to be his Deputy and I continued in that role until he decided to retire in 2001. That year marked the 275th anniversary of the Province and as we were inviting Grand Lodge to meet in Cork he very generously decided to step down so that I could be installed at that meeting.

While acting as his Deputy we always got on in absolute harmony, I can safely say. At that time

both the PGM and Deputy were members of the Grand Master's Council and we would travel to Molesworth Street by train together, go through the meetings and then head for the bus to Houston Station, stopping always at the lovely unspoiled Victorian pub, the Palace Bar in Fleet Street for a badly needed pint. To quote Flann O'Brien "A pint of Plain is your only man" and

on that we also agreed completely! Early in his time as PGM, he & I became very concerned that membership had fallen to its lowest in recorded history. We had many discussions and decided on certain actions including weekly coffee mornings where visitors could attend and learn about

Freemasonry, encouraging the two smallest Lodges in the city to amalgamate, give Provincial support to country Lodges in difficulty, hold an annual lunch for the widows of deceased members and generally to be more open and friendly to try to

encourage new members.

We were delighted when our plans started to work and from a low of 356 members in 1998 we rose to 444 in 2019, just prior to the current pandemic situation. That represents an increase of some 25% and is a great legacy for which we can thank R.W. Bro Ed Fleury and the open and agreeable manner in which he ran the Province. In addition to his Craft membership he was also a member of Royal Arch Chapter no 3 and in the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster he held the office of Past District Grand High Priest.

He also, at one time, held membership in the Council of Knight Masons, The Order of the Temple & the Chapter of Prince Rose Croix Masons.

He always welcomed a visit from myself and from the stalwart almoner of the Third Lodge, W.Bro Noel Bishop. He loved to hear the news of the goings on in Tuckey Street and around the Province.

A truly decent, kind and honourable man whom all who knew him will miss greatly.

"A perfect ashler, fit for that Temple above, not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens "



50 Years A Freemason

**Writes W. Bro Fraser Sim,
Shamrock Lodge 27**

March 31st, 2021 marked a very special anniversary for **R. W. Bro Alan Campbell** of Shamrock Lodge no.27 and past Provincial Grand Master of Munster. It had been exactly fifty years since he had been initiated as a member of the Masonic Order. It was with the greatest pleasure that I was able to announce to the Brethren of this fact at our regular monthly Lodge Zoom meeting in early March.

R. W. Bro Campbell responded with his inimitable smile, and shared fond reminiscences of his Initiation as an Entered Apprentice, into Concord Lodge No. 71, on March 31st, 1971. He regaled us



R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell

with his colourful recollections of the occasion and of his early days as a Freemason in Cork. The opportunity to congratulate and pay tribute to him was quickly seized by the Lodge Brethren - most notably, **R.W.**

Bro.Keith Roberts and **R.W. Bro.Wilfred Baker**, **W. Bro Paul Colton** and Junior Warden, **Bro Michael Birrane**. They were all delighted to share their special memories and recollections of their experiences with Alan.

The Presentation of his “50 Year Jewel” and an appropriate celebration will most certainly take place when “normal” Lodge activities resume...hopefully, this will be in the near future. We will all look forward to such a joyous occasion where Brethren will be able to gather again.

My Canine Companion

Writes Bro. Michael Birrane

My Canine Companion came into my family's life over 8 years ago. My wife and I heard about the brilliant work these wonderful dogs did for the benefit of people with autism, especially children. This was the case for my son, and when “Kimmy” became part of the family we never looked back. She has helped him through good and bad, from supporting him through sensory overload and melt downs, anchoring him from bolting, becoming more independent as he got older and giving love and joy, it was priceless.

My Canine Companion was set up in Blarney back in 2011 by husband-and-wife team **Cliona O'Rourke** and **Niall Ruddy**. Currently it is headquartered in Blackpool and provides a nationwide service for the provision of over 60% of Ireland's autism servicetiassistance dogs. They currently have 275 working dog partnerships in Ireland.

The dogs are placed with their future end user families when they are just puppies. The child's parents will socialise and carry out basic training with the puppy under the supervision of their My Canine Companion



instructor and mentors who have been through it. This makes the bonding process easier because the child and dog grow together.

You see My Canine Companion does not charge families for the provision of its service dog programmes. However, the cost of providing a fully qualified service dogs over the two-year programme plus lifetime support is €10,000.

Like all charities, It relies heavily on public fundraising, which during these times has become especially challenging, which is way any donations are so greatly appreciated.

It is poignant for me to write this as “Kimmy” recently became unwell and had to be put to sleep. Devastated that we were, we are still so grateful for those 8 wonderful years she gave us, and what she gave to my son was priceless. I would like to thank all who have supported and continue to support this fantastic charity, knowing that thanks to their donations, deserving families will be so blessed.

Thanking you
Michael Birrane

Robert Burns Night 2021 Goes Virtual

Report By **W. Bro Fraser Sim.**

Each year, on January 25th, the Scottish Brethren of the Province unite in Tuckey Street for a night of Scottish revelry all in the name of the late, great radical poet and **Brother, Robert Burns** (1759 to 1796). Guests are treated to an evening dedicated to the Scottish National Bard feasting on the very best Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, followed up by drams of whisky, poetry, traditional toasts, song and cheer.

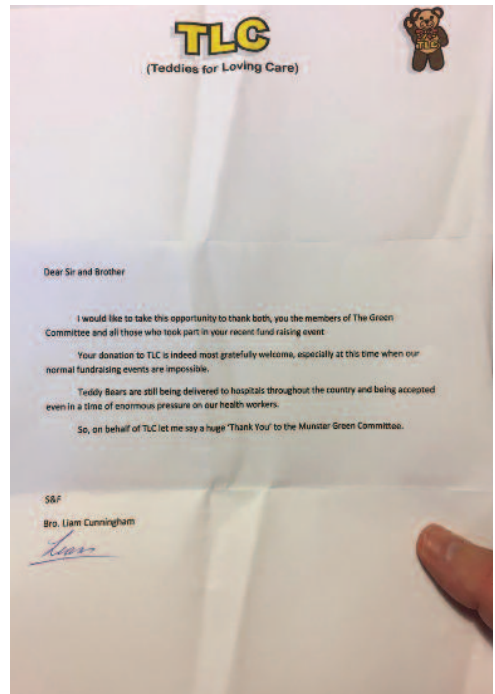
This year was no different (albeit minus the Haggis) where up to 40 guests sharing 27 screens joined the Scottish Brethren at their virtual and alternative dedication a 'Toast to Burns'. This event marked a successful 3rd annual Burns Night for Munster Brethren and their guests.

In addition to the festive fun, the Scottish Brethren were thrilled to announce that a total of €200 was raised for Teddies for Loving Care. A big thank you goes out to Brothers' **Davie McLean** for debunking the Haggis myth and **Hans Bonne** for his reading of the Star o' Rabbie Burns (both of Lodge 190), **Gavin Richardson** for his expert knowledge of the Poet and the Selkirk Grace (Lodge 95) and **Alex Brown** (Lodge 68) for his reading and analysis of The Master's Apron. I was impressed and highly entertained by the level of participation on the night and most especially for the continued dedication to Burns each January 25th. An extra thank you goes to **Bro. David O'Leary of Lodge 95** representing the Munster Green



Robert Burns

Committee that generously supports the annual event. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who participated on the night and who have supported the event the past couple of years. We look forward to meeting you again at our next Robert Burns event in January 2022, whether online or at a real event ideally in the refurbished 'Bill Macgahy' **Supper Room** in better times to come.



The Broken Column

Writes R.W.Bro Alan Campbell

I saw a little piece within a BBC programme recently concerning the Glasgow Necropolis, a Victorian cemetery on a low but very prominent hill and in which 50,000 individuals have been interred. I was interested since I think that two of my great grandparents may be buried there. I took to doing a little further research and to my surprise I found that the Necropolis, which is spread over 37 acres, is considered by some to be one of the world's biggest Masonic sites. These researchers, it is said, have found unseen patterns in the design of the cemetery which they say suggests it's layout mirrors the Masonic journey from darkness to light.

Whatever about these theories, what is certain is that a great number of Masons were interred there. I know that because many of them had their affiliation to the Craft recorded on their tombstones.

This gave me the idea of a little piece for the Plumblin on the Broken Column which often marks the last resting place of a Mason of times gone by.

Our Victorian forebears were obsessed with death. I think this must have come from the death, at an early age, of Queen Victoria's husband. She was devoted to him and went into deep mourning which lasted a number of years. In the end, she had to be coaxed and encouraged to return to public life as the people were growing impatient. However, she wore black for the rest of her life and had a huge mausoleum built for her beloved husband's earthly remains and in time for her own interment.

This seems to have influenced the British and Irish people. Of course, at that time Ireland was part of Britain. Many, who could afford it, put up elaborate monuments to the dead. There were mourning brooches made in black or other dark colours and some containing a lock of hair of a deceased loved one. After the death of her husband a woman was expected to wear black for the first year, grey for the second followed by purple for the third. I think, because many died young at the time, once a woman was seen in purple it was time for a single man to try his luck for her hand!

If you visit an old cemetery with burials dating back to the 19th century, stand and look around. If you see one in the shape of a broken column you can be fairly sure it marks the grave of a Mason. Not entirely all have Masonic significance but most have and if the broken column's top slants from the high side on the right, to the low side on the left (as you face the front of it), you can be fairly sure it has.



Here is a picture of one in St. Luke's churchyard in Douglas. It marks the grave of **William D. Stephens** who died in 1883 and was a member of the Third Lodge. There is no doubt it is a Mason's grave since the square & compasses are engraved on the western side of the monument.

The wreath around the column is known as the victory wreath symbolising the successful completion of life's race and immortality which triumphs over death. The bird on the top is symbolic of the winged soul.

The broken column is an emblem of mortality & mourning. I have yet to find one which has other than the broken column but I am led to believe some have had a weeping maiden with a sprig of acacia in her hand, an open book, an urn and even the grim reaper, Father Time with his scythe in his hand.



Here is an illustration of such a Broken Column by T. Horton & Co, from “True Masonic Chart”, 1857 edition .

In some Lodges to this day the alms box is in the form of a broken column, indicating the alms were for the assistance of the widows and orphans of our deceased Brethren. (Nowadays the deacons have to have the top open as they collect since they were made to receive coins and notes stick in the entrance slot.)

There are several rather fanciful ideas as to where the symbol came from. One is that it was traditionally the design of a monument erected to the memory of **Hiram Abif**.

Another that it recalls the pillars placed at the entrance to the Temple of Solomon which were a memorial of the two miraculous pillars of fire & cloud that assisted the Israelites in their flight from Egypt.

In more modern times the Broken Column has been used in a more useful way. In the 1970s in the Grand Lodge of Washington State they designed a widow’s pin in the form of a broken column. They said that as in the usual Masonic form the broken column’s top slants from the high side on the right to the low side on the left it wouldn’t be correct procedure for a non-mason to use the symbol in this way. They, instead made the pin slant from left to right.

This idea which spread to other Grand Lodges is explained by the card which accompanies it in New Zealand

“The brooch depicts an incomplete column in

symbolic form, the passing of a member of the Craft, and represents the character and spirit of him whose earthly life has ended. It is our wish that it be a reminder of your ties with us, a relationship wherein you will find friends who will assist you in times of need, join with you in times of gladness and welcome you to a continual association with us as we continue our labours of Friendship, Brotherly Love and Truth”

It was created and presented with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when travelling, so that she may be recognised, greeted and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world.



To conclude, above is another fine example of a broken column marking the last resting place of a Mason in **St. Finbarre’s Cemetery** in Wilton, Cork City.

It is the grave of Thomas Justly Green Chatterton who was a member of the First Lodge and passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 25th.May, 1884.

On the plinth of this monument are the square & compasses on the right and the five pointed star (pentalpha) representing the five points of fellowship, on the left.

I know there is another example in Old Church Graveyard in Cobh but current travel restrictions have stopped me from going to photograph it.

References

The Lodge of Research no 200

A Reference Book for Freemasons by Frederick Smyth

Ms Rebecca Hayes, Archivist & Curator to The Grand Lodge of Ireland

Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland Famine Doctors

By W. Bro. Denis O'Driscoll.

L15's Famine Doctors

The National tragedy of the famine, *An Gorta Mór*, particularly ravaged the Mizen Peninsula and its emotional impact still resonates in the area to this day. Skibbereen was the famine's 'ground zero' as much of the contemporary reporting by London newspapers emanated from the town and its surrounding districts. A few decades later, famine stalked the land again with a return of potato blight in 1879, commonly known as *An Gorta Beag*. Fortunately, the later famine's impact was not as devastating in terms of deaths given a proactive response from the London Government and the new railway system in Ireland facilitated the efficient distribution of food aid.

Two remarkable members of the Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland, both medical doctors, exemplified the masonic virtues of brotherly love and relief though their steadfast humanitarian work in both famines: Dr David Hadden M.D. during *An Gorta Mór* and Dr Samuel William Robinson M.D. during *An Gorta Beag*.

W. Bro. David Hadden M.D.

Dr David Hadden was born on 30 June 1817 at Abbeyleix. He was number eight of eleven children of Rev. John Hadden and his wife Elanor. His father, entered the Methodist ministry in 1802 and was stationed in Skibbereen. David Hadden became a doctor having been apprenticed to his brother, John. He graduated in



Portrait of Dr David Hadden

Medicine at the University of Glasgow in 1846 and moved back to Skibbereen. During the famine he was physician to the Castletownshend Dispensary and later to the Drimoleague Dispensary. He along with Dr Daniel Donovan, tended tirelessly and compassionately to the misfortunate victims of the Great Famine which afflicted the town and district.

His son, Dr William Edward Hadden (1858-1949) of Portadown recalls: "*My father never cared to speak of his experiences during the famine years; any time he did so tears came into his eyes. During the famine he was in charge of a Dispensary in Castletownsend. His district included Toehead and many other very poor areas... People were often found by the roadside dying of starvation. In the Abbey grave-yard near Skibbereen; large trenches were dug where the people were buried together in large numbers, having been brought in cart loads without coffins...In December 1860, my father got a public presentation from his "friends in West Carbery" of a silver tea and coffee service with a purse of 200 sovereigns in recognition of his work during and after the famine times*".



Dr David Hadden's medicine bottles

The years of ill health occasioned by his exposure to the “*misery and wretchedness prevalent in the locality*” whilst undertaking his professional duties finally took their toll as he died in his sixty-first year on 17 February 1878. He is buried at Abbeymahon Graveyard, Skibbereen.

A newspaper report at the time of his death noted that on three occasions during his years in practice “*he was brought apparently to a hopeless condition by fevers*” and after such a fever following the famine “*he narrowly escaped with his life*.” The report continued, “*Twice the Freemasons in the town, to which body he belonged, testified their appreciation of his worth in a very practical manner. The last occasion was on his recovery from a serious illness about two years since, when they welcomed him back to active life by a presentation of a very neat and comfortable carriage.*”

Following his death, the Brethren of the Lodge commissioned an impressive oil-on-canvas portrait by the artist James Brennan R.H.A. which, fittingly, will ever be positioned at ‘*high-noon*’ on the South wall of the Lodge room.

W. Bro. David Hadden M.D. had six sons, five of whom were medical doctors. He was affiliated to The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland on 27 December 1842. He was Worshipful Master in 1860 and 1873 and served as Treasurer from 1863 until his death in 1878.

W. Bro. Samuel William Robinson M.D.

W. Bro. Samuel William Robinson M.D. practised at Baltimore (Tullagh) and the Islands during the last famine of 1879 and died prematurely as a result of fever contracted whilst attending to the unfortunate famine ravaged inhabitants of Cape Clear and Hare Island. A vote of sympathy for his wife and family was passed at a Lodge meeting on 1st April 1880. The Brethren of Lodge 15 subsequently set up a fund and appealed to other lodges for fraternal beneficence and relief in aid of Brother Robinson’s destitute wife, young family and elderly father.

No additional words are needed to supplement the Lodge’s appeal at that time to record and honour our late Brother’s character and dedication to the service of his fellow man:

The late Dr S.W. Robinson, for many years an active Brother of this Lodge, has been recently cut

off in the prime of manhood by fever, caught in the self-denying and heroic discharge of his professional duties among the wretched Islanders of Cape Clear and Hare Island, stricken by famine and fever, where, for several weeks, he had denied himself the comforts of life, sleeping in their wretched hovels, and partaking of their poor and scanty fare. He has left a numerous and helpless Family totally unprovided for- a wife, three sons, and four very young girls, and an aged father, of eighty years, who was dependent on him.

At a Lodge meeting on 1st July 1880, the Treasurer, Richard Carey, stated that the appeal had resulted in the collection of £43 and 5 shillings for the benefit of Brother Robinson’s wife and family (a sum equating to approximately €6,000 in 2021).

Dr Samuel Robinson was initiated in The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland on 2nd June 1870, passed on 7th July 1870 and raised on 3rd November 1870. He served as Lodge Secretary in 1876.



Dr David Hadden’s headstone

inscription:

“In Loving Memory Of
David Hadden M.D.

Born June 30. 1817

Died February 17. 1878

And of Ellen his wife

Born October 9. 1816

Died February 8. 1898

The Four Lodges of Cobh



Lodge 190 Cobh: The officers, brethren, and visiting brethren

Writes: Bro. Stephen McSweeney, Neptune Lodge 190.

On a small side street in Cobh, there sits a small and quaint Lodge.

Many who visited “Neptune” Lodge 190 Cobh, will be familiar with its quirky workings that are unique to this Lodge.

However, the historical records show that there have been 4 warrants issued to Cobh in total.

On the 1st February 1748 the first of these were issued to Lodge 190 under the title “Royal Arch Lodge 190”.

Records show that 241 brethren registered between 1750 and 26th February 1806.

The warrant was cancelled on 1st July 1815 and re-issued to Ballymacarret Belfast on the 27th December 1817 (In lieu of No. 931).

It worked under the title “Trinity Lodge” until cancelled on the 6th February 1845.

On the 3rd April 1846, it was re-issued a second time to Cobh under the title “Neptune Lodge 190” where it is still worked today (Note: This year, 2021 is our 175th Anniversary and we hope to celebrate this achievement after Lockdown).

The second warrant of Cobh is a bit of a dubious one, (Note: I did not say “Issued to Cobh”).

Warrant 988 was issued to Mountrath Co Laois where it worked from the 5th May 1808 by 4th

Veteran Battalion until suspended on the 8th March 1811.

The Master and Wardens pleaded relief and another warrant was issued, again No. 988. In April 1815 The Grand Lodge cancelled 10 Lodge numbers as the warrants were either lost or had not been acted upon for a number of years, No 988 was one of these warrants. This warrant was illegally detained in Cobh Co Cork by **Charles Haire** from the Battalion.

The third Lodge in Cobh was No 267. This lodge received its warrant on the 3rd of March 1756 to brethren in Cork city and later (1813) to Cobh where it worked until cancelled on the 3rd July 1822 – 72 brethren registered. This warrant was later re-issued to Banagher Co Offaly on the 3rd of October 1822 where it was worked until cancelled in 1833.

The fourth Lodge, warrant No 557, was issued to Benburb Co Tyrone on the 2nd of April 1778 until it was cancelled on the 7th July 1825, but it was restored after a 3-year hiatus, on the 5th June 1828 before again being cancelled on the 6th February 1845. The warrant was re-issued to Cobh on the 6th January 1863 where it worked for over 20 years before being sent in on the first February 1884.

It was re-issued for a second time to Belfast (Rosetta) on the 3rd March 1923 under the title “Fidelity Lodge” where it works to this day.

Report by W. Bro Kevin Ryan

As we enter the third year of “Vision 2020”, we too are experiencing all the negative “fall-out” resulting from Covid-19. Traditional opportunities for fundraising events are no longer available to us. We, therefore, need to be more creative than ever, while being cognisant of peoples’ limited resources, as we appeal for your ongoing support for our chosen beneficiaries - **Simon Communities North & South: R.N.L.I. North & South and Medecins Sans Frontieres (M.S.F.)**. Because it reflects my own situation, I’ve taken the liberty of assuming that we are all less familiar with the workings of M.S.F. than we are with the others. So by way of educating myself, and anybody else who’s in need of enlightenment, I asked Ruth Hanahoe (Major Gifts Manager, M.S.F.) to inform me, “from the horse’s mouth”, so to speak!

Ruth Hanahoe writes:

Medecins Sans Frontieres Doctors without Borders (MSF) is an independent, global humanitarian organisation that delivers medical care to those most in need.

Our teams of over 39,000 doctors, nurses, logisticians, epidemiologists, mental health professionals, administrators and others assist people caught in crises around the world. In more than 70 countries, we save the lives of people threatened by violence, disease, malnutrition, exclusion from health care and catastrophic events.

It’s easy to write inspiring words that define an organisation’s mission - it’s harder to put those principles into practice. Since its founding in 1971 MSF has operated with a fierce - and challenging - commitment to independence, impartiality, and neutrality and it is these principles also what make it possible for us to respond rapidly to emergencies and provide lifesaving medical care in situations where many other organisations can’t or won’t go. This commitment ensures that we can help people most in need,

rather than following other priorities—whether they be those of politicians, funders, or the media. The impact and efficacy of our ability to put these principles into practice was recognised in 1999 when MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Responding To Crises During A Crisis: MSF’s Work In A Pandemic

Brice de le Vingne was the leader of MSF’s task-force for COVID-19 in 2020. Today he’s the head of the Emergency Desk, which continues to run COVID-19 interventions. Here, he explains MSF’s work in combating the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year.

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic. At MSF - where providing medical care during epidemics is at the core of what we do - we faced a dual challenge. We needed to find a way to respond to outbreaks of this new disease, while keeping our regular medical programmes running and reacting to new emergencies, such as the conflict in Ethiopia and the Ebola outbreaks in Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea.

In January 2020, MSF’s first COVID-19 project opened in Hong Kong, focusing on health education for vulnerable people, such as the elderly and the socio-economically disadvantaged. By March, the epidemic was spreading like wildfire across Europe, and MSF launched projects in some of the most severely affected countries, including Belgium, Spain and Italy. We provided support to hospitals, sending in medical teams experienced in outbreaks of infectious diseases. We also did what we could to train our colleagues in how to keep themselves safe, knowing how exposed health staff can be during outbreaks.

Increasingly we turned our attention to elderly people in care homes, whose age and living environment made them extremely vulnerable to COVID-19. From March onwards, as the epidemic continued to spread around the world, MSF followed in its tracks, opening new projects and adapting existing ones, as we always do during epidemics, but this time on a global scale.

But it was not just the scale that was different. At the first sign of other epidemics, such as cholera or yellow fever, we increase the size of our teams in the area, send in our experts and deliver tons of additional supplies. As coronavirus tightened its grip in more and more countries, many governments closed their borders. Moving medical staff and supplies to where they were needed became very challenging.

But the differences are only superficial. At its heart, our response to COVID-19 has been no different from MSF's other medical projects. We focus on those places where the highest numbers of people are falling sick and dying, and we look for the most vulnerable people.

During the pandemic, this approach has seen us setting up medical projects in places where we rarely work, such as the US and several countries in Europe. It has seen us helping groups of people we don't often help, such as residents of care homes. But our medical reasoning has not changed. And a lot of the people we have assisted are not new to MSF: refugees and people on the move, people in rural areas with poor access to healthcare, neglected communities in cities.

In trying to help the people most in need, MSF has deployed a wide range of activities over the past 14 months, depending on what forms of support were most useful to local health systems. We have organised large numbers of training sessions for frontline health staff, both in well-equipped hospitals in wealthy places and in very basic facilities. We supported them with infection prevention and control and disinfection, triage of patients, staff and patient flow.

We have cared for patients: the mildly sick, the severely sick and the dying. In some places we've supported intensive care wards, in other places we ran them. We have distributed masks and taught people how to employ simple preventive

measures to keep themselves safe, such as keeping a distance and washing their hands. We reached millions of people with these messages on social media. And we have provided many, many sessions of mental healthcare, mainly for staff on the frontline of the pandemic.

One year after its official declaration, the pandemic has not faded. Safe and effective vaccines now exist, but for the vast majority of people they are not yet available – and may not be for a long time. Often the people who fall through the cracks in the system when it comes to preventive measures and access to healthcare are the very same people who will again fall through the cracks for vaccination. Dedicated to help the most vulnerable, it looks as if MSF's role in this pandemic is not over yet.

Thomas Marchese is a Dublin-based logistician with Médecins Sans Frontières /Doctors Without Borders (MSF). He explains his work in helping to build a new ICU facility for COVID-19 patients at an MSF-supported hospital in Mosul, Iraq.

Voice From The Field: How I Helped Build A 20-Bed ICU In Iraq During The Pandemic

I arrived in Mosul, northern Iraq, to work as an emergency logistician with MSF in August 2020. My task was clear and urgent; help plan, develop and open a 20-bed ICU facility to allow MSF to respond to the rapidly deteriorating COVID-19 situation in the city.

Iraq had missed the worst of the first wave in spring 2020, but as the year went on, cases rose, and the medical needs were increasing. MSF supports a hospital in Mosul with multiple health activities, including a maternity ward. As more and more patients, many very ill with COVID-19, were admitted for care, the need for extra high support beds was clear. While there was already some ICU capacity in the hospital itself, it wasn't enough for the cases that were presenting to our medical teams. COVID-19 took a serious toll on some of our patients in Mosul and tragically a number died.

Logistician's Role

As a logistician with MSF, my role has been very varied – you need to be adept at building, but also sourcing supplies and infrastructure. You need to think quickly in creative ways and be able to adapt to different situations at short notice.

The location for the new ICU was a leaking and dilapidated structure on the hospital grounds. In collaboration with the local Directorate of Health, we quickly got to work in planning its transformation into a high-tech new care facility. Soon, a crew of local construction workers were busy transforming the old building. Because of the pandemic, it was vital that we facilitated the work of all these builders, electricians, roofers and many more in a safe, socially distant work environment. In planning the building, we made sure to include protection measures for the safety of all staff. Implementing this plan, by ensuring social distancing on a busy building site was challenging at times, and we needed to find a balance between the necessity of finishing this project quickly, while making sure everyone kept safe.

Meanwhile, we set about sourcing the specialist medical equipment needed in the ICU; not an easy task in Iraq in the best of time, but even less so during a global pandemic. Mosul is under reconstruction after years of conflict, most recently the Battle of Mosul in 2014 - 2015. The high levels of construction and development happening in the city sometimes made it tricky to locate supplies.

The Problem

The problem MSF's medical staff were facing on their wards was in providing a reliable and high-volume flow of oxygen to patients who were suffering badly from COVID-19. Normally for respiratory diseases like tuberculosis, oxygen concentrators are used. But for COVID-19, we found that some critical patients' oxygen saturation was so low that a stronger supply of oxygen was needed. We decided to try to locate and

install C-PAP and BiPAP devices, ventilators that ensure a flow of high-pressure oxygen directly to the patient.

This was challenging, but we finally were successful in sourcing the devices. Once we determined that they met our own standards, the next task was to train medical staff on how to use the machines. The oxygen management is very demanding in terms of skills, so this was a lot of work to make sure all the nurses and doctors could use it. Once the construction phase was complete, we started training with medical staff on site for a week. They had to get to know how the device works, how to operate and maintain it. We were all working hard for the same goal, while seeing patients die, and trying to stay focussed.

In a month and a half, we had built the entire unit, and opened it for COVID-19 patients straight away, making a huge difference for their care. When I left the project, two weeks after its completion, the ICU facility was working smoothly at 50% - 70% capacity.

Coming back to Ireland from such a busy mission, it was strange to totally isolate in solitude for two weeks - I had a lot of time to reflect on what I learned while there. My way of clearing my mind has been playing music while in isolation.

While working on a project like the one in Mosul, I was entirely mentally and physically focussed on the work, as was the entire team. Ultimately, we all needed to keep calm and focus finishing our task; opening this vital care unit, which we knew would save lives.

I am certainly better-informed regarding the phenomenal work done by Medecins Sans Frontiers! It would be superfluous of me to attempt to articulate why these "charities" need our support. I appeal to you all: Please continue to support in the manner you have done to date. Vision 2020 Bank Details:

Ref: Grand Masters Festival IBAN: IE24 AIBK 9312 2501 2720 58 BIC: AIBKIE2D



Médecins Sans Frontières doctors at work



R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Leslie Deane, “Walks the Walk!”

As we all struggle with “Covid fatigue”, it was inspirational, to say the least, to hear that R.W. **Bro Leslie Deane** was donning his walking socks and boots to commit to a project of a physical nature, with a very positive purpose, for the month of April!

“Having spent over a year with restricted movements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have decided to get moving and lose some of the COVID kilos, and in doing so try and benefit those less fortunate than myself.

My goal is to walk the equivalent distance from my address to Molesworth Street in Dublin, a total distance of 265.7 km in the 30 days of April, adhering to current government guideline regulations. The walk will be in aid of four charities (RNLI, Simon Communities, Medecins Sans Frontieres and Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund) The money raised will be divided equally amongst the charities.

Any donations would be very much appreciated.

*Thanks,
Leslie.”*



R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Leslie Deane

At the time of going to press, Leslie has raised more than his target €2,000, and is going strong. Thank you, Leslie, for “stepping up” (terrible pun!), when our ideas for fundraising are almost exhausted. Below are the “Go Fund Me” details, for the benefit of anybody who hasn’t yet had an opportunity to donate:

Leslie’s Walk for Others

https://www.gofundme.com/tiftileslesies-walk-for-others?utm_source=whatsapp-visit&utm_medium=chat&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Where in Doneraile Court was Elizabeth St. Leger initiated?



Writes The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro Leslie Deane

The fifth edition of “Memoir of the Lady Freemason” was produced in 2019 and in doing so **W.Bro. David Butler** included some additional and extremely interesting material to embellish the story.

One such additional piece of great interest is the plan of the ground floor of the house which appeared in an article by **Edward Condor** in 1895. It is quite different to the one we had all been accustomed to seeing in the previous editions of the book stretching back to the original publication in 1914 by **Bro. John Day**.

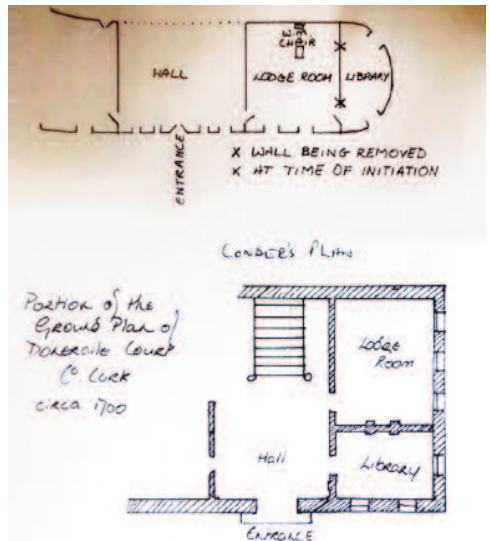
Here are the two plans:

John Day's plan

Edward Condor's plan

During the period that Doneraile Court was in the care of the Irish Georgian Society, **Arthur Montgomery** lived in there as Curator. Indeed, when my predecessor **R W. Bro Alan Campbell** prepared the 4th edition, he had a great deal of help from Mr. Montgomery, and he prepared a page for that edition to bring the story of Doneraile Court up to that time which was 1996.

I decided to ask Arthur Montgomery if he would



give his view as to exactly where he felt **Elizabeth St. Leger** was initiated. I was delighted to receive his informed and interesting view on the matter which I now quote for the interest of our readers;

“I believe I can add to the story of the Lady Freemason’s initiation at Doneraile Court. It was first thought she was in the library which was indi-

cated in the bow being built into the “lodge” room (page 7 of the Memoir). The Lady Freemason’s initiation took place between 1710 and 1712. The bow was not added until after the 1800’s, so that is not the case. But, on page 23 the plan drawn by **Mr Condor** is right. The lodge room was behind the existing library. One will note the lodge room and library fireplaces are back to back in Mr Condor’s plan. These were changed to the corners of both rooms in line with the fireplaces in the



Arthur Montgomery

two bedrooms above these rooms. This would have been part of the alterations taking place at the time. So, if the Lady Freemason was sitting in front of the fire reading in the library, she was beside the loose bricks where the fireplace had been removed. She would have been so close, I would imagine, she would have heard the conversation with ease, but couldn’t see the proceedings.

She then made her escape to the hall, there was no wall at the bottom of the stairs (just as in Mr Condor’s plan). Her father’s butler (**Tyler**) was guarding the lodge room door, saw her enter the hall and stopped her.

Also, during the alterations there was a new wide wall built at the far end of the lodge room to make a strong room. This left the lodge room with two windows instead of three.

In the summer of 2019, I was asked back by the OPW to help their team prepare the house to open to the public. A few weeks before the opening, **John Lenehan** from Kanturk, who has a great knowledge of old houses, telephoned to say could he bring a fireplace for us to see. He believed it was from the lodge room! He had bought it from Newmarket Court. The Lady Freemason had married **Richard Aldworth** and lived there. The fireplace was removed from her dressing room.

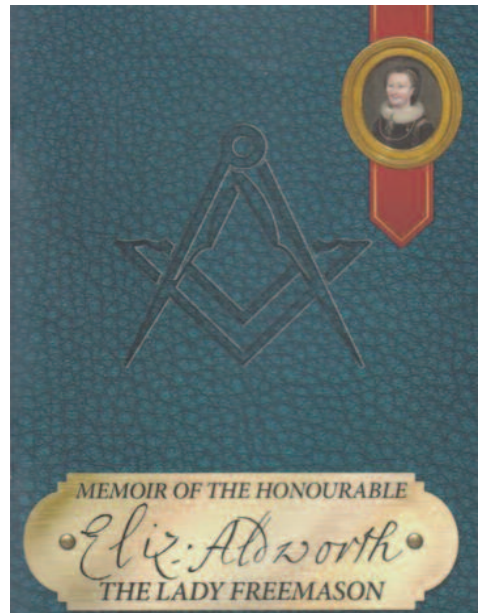
We took it in and it fitted perfectly!

The lodge room had a black timber fireplace and I always wondered why it was not marble like all the others. Now this is the bit of the puzzle I make up!!

The Lady Freemason may have asked her father if she could have the original fireplace to take when she got married as a memento of the occasion of her initiation. Her father, **Lord Doneraile** said “of course” and then asked the estate carpenter to make a temporary timber fire-

place until he bought a new one. That went on the long finger and was forgotten about.

This, I feel, would prove that the lodge room was not in the library, but in the room behind it, just as Mr Condor’s plan shows.”



I think you will all agree that is a most interesting new twist in a very old story.

If you haven’t already purchased a copy of the 5th edition of “Memoir of the Lady Freemason,” I really recommend that you consider getting one. It can be obtained by contacting the Provincial Grand Secretary on secretary.pgl.munster@gmail.com. The cost is €12 incl. p & p within Ireland and €15 to the U.K. All profits from sales are for the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund

R.W. Bro Leslie Deane

As I sit down to write my ninth annual report, it's difficult to know where to start.

We held our Provincial Grand Lodge Installation Meeting on the 8th of January which was very well attended.

All but two lodges held their Installation Meetings and dinners before the 12th of March when all Masonic Meetings were suspended until September. Little did we realize that we would not return to normal meetings for the remainder of the year, due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Over the year **VW.Bro. George Roche-Perks** P.P.Snr Grand Warden & stalwart member of Lodge 68, Youghal, **W.Bro. Ronald**

Winterbottom of Ancient Bandon Lodge 84 and **W.Bro. Tom Ryan** of Star of the West Lodge 130, Kenmare passed to the Grand Lodge above. Our deepest sympathy to their families and indeed to all those who have lost loved ones over the year.

At our PGL meeting on the 4th March, **R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne** presented plans for the refurbishment of the Supper Room in Tuckey Street. I am delighted to be able to report that this work was completed over the summer. We look forward to when restrictions are lifted and getting back to normal installation dinners and coffee mornings in the refurbished room. Our thanks to all involved in this work. When the supper room was nearing completion the Third Lodge of Ireland informed the House Committee that in consequence of a generous bequest from the late **Bro. Bill Macgahy**, they were willing to underwrite a considerable portion of the cost. Our thanks to the Third Lodge for this generous gesture.

We held a PGL Zoom evening on the 1st of October. Over 80 members joined the call, and all Loges gave a short report on the different activities they were doing to keep members in touch with their Lodge.

V.W. Bro. Rowland Newenham organised a Secretaries information Zoom meeting on the 27th of October. This was attended by all Lodge Secretaries and **V. W. Bro. David Robinson** Assistant Grand Secretary gave a detailed demonstration of the Salesforce data base and the correct

procedure when making the annual returns and how to update members' details throughout the year.

The 2nd annual Burns Supper was held on Friday the 24th of January. Once again this was a sell-out event with some sixty brethren and friends attending. Our Scottish brethren entertained us with interesting readings and recitals. Our thanks to **W. Bro. Alex Browne, W. Bro Fraser Sim, W. Bro. Tom Wyper**, and **Bro. Gavin Richardson**, along with family members for organizing this enjoyable evening.

We published two editions of the Plumblin, one in May and again in December. Both publications were posted to each member in the Province and the reaction from members was most positive. It was a welcome change from receiving e-mails.

The hard copy is definitely worth the effort in producing and getting it to members that have not got access to the Internet. Since the first edition was published in December 2018, it has been downloaded almost one thousand times from our Provincial web page. Our thanks to all who have contributed to each edition, and to **W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan** for his time and expertise given so freely to getting each edition of the Plumblin published.

From the end of March, most lodges have been keeping in touch with members by zoom, telephone and WhatsApp messaging. This has helped to keep spirits up and help us all in what has been a most difficult year with Covid 19 restrictions. As we settled into the restrictions that the virus brought, some lodges came up with different ideas that could help raise much needed funds for different charities. Most notable was Lodge 67 under the watchful eye of **W.M., W.Bro Martin Mason. R.W.Bro Ted Rea** decided to forego haircuts during lockdown. He finally had his haircut on the 21st of September. This was recorded by **W. Bro. Ewe Schiller, Bro. George Bolster** organized the Go Fund me page and over €4,000 was raised for Vision 2020 and other Lodge charities.

W.Bro. Kevin Ryan has continued to co-ordinate Vision 2020 under very difficult circumstances with Covid 19 restrictions. However over €10,000 was raised for the Grand Masters Festival, Vision

2020 over the year. Numerous online events were organised. **V.W.Bro. Joe Patterson** organised an on-line Provincial Grand Lodge Bingo evening which raised €600. **Bro. Hugo Beasse** of Lodge 95 held two very entertaining quiz nights and raised €550.

Lodge 68 in Youghal raised €1,650 for three local charities. They were also able to provide the necessary furniture to help set up the reception and office areas of a domestic violence charity which had just started in Youghal.

The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland had a busy year reaching out to three local charities. €5,000 was divided equally between SVP Skibbereen, Meals on Wheels and West Cork Cancer Connect. The year ended with the first lodge of Ireland organizing an on-line monster raffle. €5,899 was raised and divided equally between Vision 2020 and the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund. Our thanks to **W.Bro. Alan Dowling** and the Brethren of The First Lodge of Ireland for the effort which they put into this event.

I was privileged to be able to donate €750 divided equally between St. Vincent De Paul, Bumbleance and Schools and Health Foundation from the Provincial Grand Masters Discretionary Fund. Again, this year the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund was able to send out a small holiday grant to all annuitants of the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent fund and the Masonic Boys & Girls Benefit funds. The letters of thanks which we receive always show how much these grants are appreciated by the recipients.

As the year ended I was pleased to hear from **W. Bro. Uwe Schiller** PGL Steward of Charities that the monies collected from the different lodges amounted to €12,782. This is to be divided between the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund, The Welfare Fund and the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund. Included in this amount is €840 for Vision 2020 and €638 for TLC.

W. Bro Liam Cunningham continues to coordinate T.L.C. on our behalf. Almost 1000 teddy bears have been delivered to the emergency departments of the hospitals around the Province. He was assisted in North Cork by **W Bro. Leo**

Spillane and Kerry by **Bro. Cliff Peskett**. We are most grateful to these Brethren for their work for this most worthy cause.

Culture night and Heritage Day went ahead but not in the way we have been used to. **W.Bro. Vincent O'Donovan** coordinated the recording of a virtual tour of our Provincial Headquarters in Tuckey Street. **W. Bro. David Butler** gave a short talk on the different items of interest in the Royal Arch Room and the Lodge Room. Lodge 68 had a similar on-line tour with **Bro. David O'Sullivan** guiding us through the Museum and Lodge Room. The Fifteenth Lodge of Ireland also brought the cameras in for culture night. A very impressive video is now permanently available on u-tube with **V.W. Bro. Dermot O'Brien** and **W. Bro. David Butler** taking us through the different historical items in Lodge 15's two hundred years of Free Masonry in Skibbereen.

We would normally hold the Christmas lunch on the second Saturday in December. This year due to Covid 19 restrictions it was decided to send a small hamper to all Lodge widows. All thirteen lodges contributed most generously and the surplus funds of €693 was given to the Munster Masonic Benevolent Fund. This was truly a team effort with all lodges getting involved. Our thanks to **W. Bro. Stuart Brownlow**, PGL Almoner and all Lodge Almoners for the distribution of the hampers along with the December issue of the Plumline.

I would like to thank all those mentioned above and all members of the Masonic Order in Munster for the support given to the different events that have taken place. In particular my thanks to **R.W. Bro. Derek Dunne**, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, **R.W. Bro. Ray Gordon**, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, **V.W. Bro Marcus Calvert**, Provincial Treasurer and **V.W. Bro. Rowland Newenham** Provincial Grand Secretary for the time given so freely in the running of the Province.

My thanks also to the staff in Molesworth Street for the support given throughout the year and finally to my wife **Eliz** for her support and understanding in what has been a most difficult year.

Foreign Grand Lodge Representatives: II

Following on from the May 2020 article on our recent acquisition of two further Foreign Grand Lodge Representative seats – for China and for Monaco – this, the second in the series, looks at our three other Craft representations, and the histories of their respective Grand Lodges.

United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory

A compilation drawn from online resources including www.masons.org.au and mof.org.au

Freemasonry came to Australia with the arrival, in New South Wales, of officers and soldiers in regiments of the British Army soon after the First Fleet arrived in 1788. The first lodges who held regular warrants in the colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land [Tasmania] were the British Regiments of Foot, who held their regular travel warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, hence the Irish Connection. These regiments, in their chronological order and proper time frame were: The New South Wales Corps – raised in London in 1789, specifically for garrison duties; The 73rd Regiment of Foot, from 1 January 1810, which had no lodge attached to it; however, its commanding officer, Lt Col. Maurice C.P. O'Connell, was father of Sir Maurice C. O'Connell, the first Provincial Grand Master of Queensland (Irish Constitution); The 46th Regiment from February 1814; The 48th [Northamptonshire] Regiment of Foot from July 1817, containing Lodge No. 218, which in turn granted dispensation for some civilian members and petitioned a warrant for them, which led to Warrant No. 260, dated 6 January 1820, being forwarded to them. This lodge – named 'The Australian Social Lodge' – was consecrated and established in Sydney on 12 August 1820, and it is of some interest that No. 260 was the first stationary warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland outside of the island of Ireland. The members changed their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, as 'The Australian Social Lodge No. 0', on 24 August 1878 and, ten years later, on the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, became Lodge No. 1. Soon after its centenary, in 1920, it adopted the title, 'The Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1'.

Under the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), a Military Lodge – Warrant No. 1780 – was the first to admit several civilians to membership under that Constitution, becoming Sydney Lodge No. 1, formed with 39 brethren on 13 April 1845, and continuing to work in Sydney until its closure during 1968. The first Provincial Grand Lodge of New South Wales (UGLE), was opened in Sydney that same year and had eight lodges (numbers 1 to 8) working by 1850; simultaneously, The Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland continued warranting lodges, and creating their own Provincial Grand Lodges in the colonies.

The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory originated from the union on 16 August 1888, after considerable consultation, of the 183 lodges assembled by combining this Provincial Grand Lodge with the District and Provincial Grand Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland: its responsibility subsequently also encompassed Freemasonry in the

Australian Capital Territory, containing the national capital city, Canberra. The first Grand Master was The Lord Carrington, Governor of New South Wales.

Soon after its formation the Grand Lodge adopted 'assumed Arms' (that is, commenced using a Shield and a Crest without ever applying for a formal Grant of Arms). These assumed Arms were well known to thousands of Masons in the jurisdiction and the fact that the Grand Lodge had assumed Arms was itself not a major issue. However, the 4th Quarter (that is, bottom right) of that Shield displayed the Royal Arms doubtless in acknowledgement that the Grand Master of the day usually held a Vice-Regal appointment. No Warrant from the Monarch has ever granted permission for the Royal Arms to be so used. As the Royal Arms are not only personal to the Sovereign but also represent the British Government it was considered inappropriate for them to continue to remain on this Grand Lodge's Arms. Accordingly, the Grand Master of the day initiated the project to design new Arms in collaboration with Mr William Hunt CStJ TD FCA, *Windsor Herald*, and a Freemason. The official blazon (description) from the College of Arms and symbolism follows:

Shield: Checky *Sable* and *Argent* on a Cross *Gules* four Mulletts of eight points *Or*, over all on a Chevron *Argent* a pair of Compasses *Sable*.



The background black and white checkerboard pattern represents the Mosaic Pavement found in all Lodge Rooms. The red cross with an eight-pointed gold star on each arm is taken from the Arms of the State of New South Wales and is reminiscent of a similar device found in the previous Arms.

The inverted V, known as a *chevron*, on which is superimposed an extended pair of compasses represents the Square and Compasses, is taken from the Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England and of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Crest: Upon a Helm with a Wreath *Argent* and

Sable A Masonic Square apex downwards *Or*, in front of a Waratah Flower *Gules* slipped and leaved *Vert* in front of a pair of Compasses *Or*.

Mounted on top of an appropriate helmet and 'on a wreath of the colours' (the principal colours found in the shield, in this case black and white) is a conventional representation of the Square and Compasses in gold (distinguishing Grand Lodge jewels) superimposed on a red Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) with green leaves: the New South Wales State flower, which appears on all Grand Lodge collars.

Supporters: On the dexter a Kangaroo pendent from the dexter forefoot a Junior Warden's Jewel and sinister a Lion guardant pendent from the sinister forefoot a Senior Warden's Jewel all *Or*.

The animals either side of the Shield are known as Supporters. On the viewer's left (or, 'dexter') is the Kangaroo holding the jewel of the Junior Grand Warden whilst on the viewer's right (or, 'sinister') is a Lion holding the jewel of the Senior Grand Warden.

The Supporters are taken from the Arms of the State of New South Wales, but their respective positions have been exchanged and they each hold a jewel: this is to differentiate

them from the State's Arms. The granting of Supporters is itself a reflection of the Grand Lodge's status, granted if the College of Arms is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so.

Badge: A Sun in splendour Or, charged with a Masonic Square apex downwards in front of a pair of Compasses Sable.

The blazing Sun (formally 'the Sun in its splendour') is in allusion to the rising Sun, both in the Arms of the State of New South Wales as well as the previous Grand Lodge Arms. The symbolism of the Square and Compasses is self-explanatory: however, the colour black has been chosen simply for the purpose of differentiation. It is available for the Grand Lodge to use where the entire Arms or Crest would be inconvenient or inappropriate.

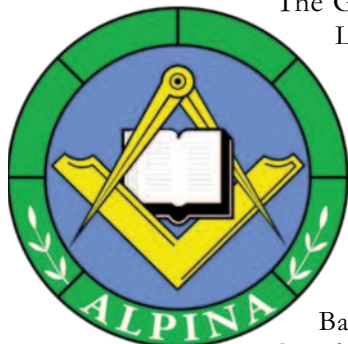
Motto: The motto 'JUNCTA JUVANT', translated from Latin means 'Unity is Strength'. It is taken from Grand Lodge's previous Arms.

The Grand Lodge is led by an elected Grand Master, assisted by a Deputy Grand Master and an Assistant Grand Master. It comprises Four Regions, each led by a Regional Grand Counsellor (RGC), in turn organised into various Districts, led by a District Grand Inspector of Workings (DGIW), comprising groups of lodges based on geography. The Grand Lodge, 279 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, is headquarters for some 8,000 members across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster has held the seat of Foreign Representative of this Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Ireland for generations; when the late R.W. Bro. Edward H.W. Newenham was asked to take on the position, he was particularly honoured to do so, in succession to his late father. The incumbent is third in direct succession in the family to hold the office. Readers may be interested to know some of these holders: The Right Worshipful Brothers Percy W. Newenham, 1959-69; John H.R. Kelly, 1969-79; J. Keith Carroll; 1979-83; William H. Black, 1983-88; Douglas Wakefield, 1989-99; John G. Whittaker, 2000-03; Edward H.W. Newenham, 2004-13; Kenneth H. O'Galligan, 2014-18; Robin E.W. Newenham, 2019.

The Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland

A compilation drawn from online resources and the Grand Lodge website, [www. freimaurerei.ch](http://www.freimaurerei.ch).



The Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland is one of the Grand Lodges of Freemasons in Switzerland. Freemasonry came to Switzerland through the Scottish Freemason, George Hamilton, who founded the first lodge in Geneva in 1736. Another lodge was established in Lausanne in 1739, founded by the English. From these beginnings, over 30 lodges had developed by 1844, working according to different systems. There were mergers of lodges in French-speaking Switzerland and, from 1822, even a 'Grande Lodge Suisse', to which neither Zurich nor Basel belonged. It took years of negotiations before the Grand Lodge 'Alpina' could be established, in 1844, when about 30 masonic lodges worked in Switzerland.

Switzerland is the only country worldwide which has tried to ban freemasonry. After Hitler rose to power, right-wing Swiss Army colonel Arthur Fonjallaz attempted

to orchestrate a legal ban on the Order (and other societies), apparently in sympathy with bans introduced by Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy at that period. The attempted ban was rejected by the Swiss people in a 1937 referendum.

In 2008 the Grand Lodge listed 4,000 members in 83 lodges under its jurisdiction. It has since consecrated three further lodges, taking the total to 86. It is recognised by the three Home Grand Lodges: England, Ireland, and Scotland. Although traditionally linked to the more liberal Continental Freemasonry of the Grand Orient de France, Alpina became closer to the United Grand Lodge of England after World War II. As a result, some liberal members left, ultimately setting up the rival *Grand Orient de Suisse*.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster has held the seat representing The Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland at The Grand Lodge of Ireland for generations and, for its part, the Swiss Grand Lodge is meticulous at sending its *Alpina* quarterly magazine to the incumbent, for our Archives. The holders of the office have included The Right Worshipful Brothers: Herbert M. Robertson, 1937-; John MacLeod Pratt, 1969-79; T. George F. Stoney, 1979-88; C. Edward Fleury, 1989-99; Leslie K. Dawson, 1999-2011; T.P. Benson McDowell, 2011-14; Edward J. Rea, 2014-19; Brian C. Johnson, 2019.

The National Grand Lodge of Poland & Freemasonry in Poland

An historical compilation from notes by M.W. Bro. Tadeusz Cegielski, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Poland; Bro. Norbert Wójcicki 'Freemasonry in Poland'.



There were legends of Masonry circulating in Poland under the French name 'La Confrérie Rouge' for some years before the first lodge was founded, in 1742 in Wisniowiec as an initiative of the nobleman Andrzej Mokronowski, just returned from abroad, where he had met British and German Freemasons. The following year the Polish King, August III,

opened the lodge at his court under authority from Scottish sources and, with royal sanctioning and approval, the institution blossomed. In 1744, Mokronowski opened a lodge 'Trzech Braci' (*translates* 'Three Brethren') in Warsaw. The lodge swiftly attained 75 members and, in 1747, a new lodge 'Trzy Boginie' (*translates* 'Three Goddesses') opened in Lamberg. Lodges were founded in Gdansk (Danzig), Dukla and other places. It is believed all lodges worked the *Constitution of 1723*, of English Freemasonry.

In the commencement, Polish Freemasonry had very few indigenous Poles among its members. In 1767, however, a purely Polish Lodge was founded, called 'Cnotliwy Sarmata' (*translates* 'The Virtuous Sarmatie'): as the Polish Mother Lodge.

The eighteenth-century membership was composed of people from all walks of life: noblemen, catholic clergy, officers in the Polish army, artists, actors, musicians, with laymen making the majority. On 28 September 1769, a Grand Lodge (under the French name Grande Lodge 'du Vertueux Sarmate' de Varsovie) was consecrated. The number of Polish Craft lodges at this time stood at nine: seven in Poland, with two abroad for political refugees, seeking safety in Austria from the Russian Government.

In 1772, the first partition of Poland occurred. The ambassadors of Russia, Prussia, and Austria exercised great influence on public life, under which Polish Freemasonry started to weaken, and lodges ceased to convene. Finally, a new Grand Master, Alois Frederic Brühl, put the Polish Craft lodges under German obedience. This unpopular situation did not last very long: Mokronowski, Ignacy Potocki and others succeeded in establishing the new Polish mother lodge 'Katarzyna pod Gwiazda Polnocna' (*translates*, 'Catherine under the North Star'). Ignacy Potocki re-established connexion with British and French Freemasons and secured their patronage. The delegates of the mother lodge 'Catherine' and thirteen other lodges restored the Grand Lodge of Poland on 27 December 1781 (as the 'Grand Mastery of Poland and Lithuania'). They adopted the regular English constitutions, established by-laws, elected Ignacy Potocki as Grand Master and were duly recognised by Freemasonry in Western Europe.

In 1784 Mokronowski was elected Grand Master, until his death in the same year, when succeeded by Szczesny Potocki. The latter was induced to resign due to his pro-Russian disposition. The mother lodge adopted a new, more acceptable name for Poles, 'Stanislaw pod Gwiazda Polnocna' (*translates* 'Stanislaus under the North Star') in honour of the King, Stanislaw August Poniatowski, himself a mason.

In 1788 the Warsaw headquarters oversaw 23 symbolic lodges and 4 Scottish lodges, with about 1,000 members in its ranks, intellectuals, and patriots. Masonic influence was in evidence in almost every sphere of public life: in the education system, in charitable works, as well as in the campaign for granting equal rights to the commoners; in the endeavour to amend the famous 'May 3rd Constitution' (the second oldest in the world after the American one).

From this time, freemasonry in Poland entered a period of visible stagnation. The activities of the Great Parliament (1788-91) left the brethren engaged in politics, with less time to work in lodges: they numbered one-fifth of the Members of Parliament. The direct result of the Constitution of the 3rd May was an intervention of the neighbouring states and the second partition of Poland.

The second partition of Poland (1792) was followed by Kosciuszko's failed War for Independence (1794). After the downfall of the Polish Republic (1795), Freemasonry was declared unlawful by the invaders and practically ceased to exist. This lasted until Napoleon's victories in Poland brought about its revival: for he himself was a mason. The following wars, which placed a great part of Poland under the rule of the Russian Emperor, did not impede the rapid expansion of the Order. Indeed, Kostka Potocki, served simultaneously Minister of Education of Poland and Grand Master of Polish Freemasonry. Tsar Alexander I, showing liberal tendencies since 1804 as protector of Russian Masonry, revived the organisation in the Polish Kingdom and, by 1821, the symbolic lodges subordinate to the Grand Orient contained about 3,000 members. Unfortunately, the liberal period under Russian domination was of short duration; Tsar Alexander I issued a decree on 1 October 1821, closing all lodges and confiscating their archives, ending eighty years of Polish Freemasonry.

Almost a century passed until November 1909, when seven candidates from Warsaw were initiated in the Parisian lodge 'Les Rénovateurs' and commenced work in the 'Wyzwolenie' (Liberation) movement, not only by spreading Masonic ideals, but

also in trying to efficiently and actively aid every effort in returning the country's lost independence. In 1918, Poland finally regained its independence and, in 1920, the Mother Lodge 'Kopernik' was established; eight Polish lodges came together to establish the 'United Poles' Grand Lodge, swiftly renamed the Grand National Lodge 'United Poles' and, in the early 1930s, the Grand National Lodge of Poland: all within the one hundredth anniversary of its extinguishing. By this time, there were thirteen lodges, ten of them in Warsaw, with a total membership less than 500. Only a few were known publicly as Freemasons and Roman Catholic newspapers frequently attacked them. Nevertheless, Polish Freemasons became influential in public life as intellectuals; amongst them, well-known politicians, artists, businessmen and scientists.

The National Grand Lodge of Poland (NGLP) was admitted in December 1925 to the Association Maconnique Internationale (AMI), sponsored by the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland, the Grand Lodge of Netherlands, and the Grand Orient of Belgium; by 1938, more than twenty obediences recognised the NGLP when, under pressure from the clergy and radical right political circles, the Masonic Order was banned in Poland on 22 November 1938, by presidential decree. This was preceded by a decision by the freemasons from the NGLP to close their own lodges, as they had always emphasised the legality of their activities. In February 1940, outside Nazi-occupied Poland, Polish Freemasons resumed activities. Politicians of the government-in-exile in Paris set up the lodge 'Kopernik', (*translates* 'Copernicus').

After World War II, the Communists battled against Freemasonry, declaring it had lost its original progressive character. However, in 1961, seven Past Masters initiated before the war established the mother lodge 'Kopernik' in the Orient of Warsaw, based on the authorisation given by the last Grand Commander. The 'Kopernik' lodge, sister of its exiled Parisian equivalent, was where Polish democratic opposition was forged.

In 1963, personal contacts were established between the mother lodge 'Kopernik' in the Orient of Warsaw and the lodge 'Kopernik' in the Orient of Paris. In 1989 the Paris lodge was asked to represent Polish Freemasonry. In 1991, following advice from the Grand Orient of Italy regarding rebuilding of the Order in Poland, two new lodges were established: 'Walerian Lukasinski' in Warsaw and 'Przesad Zwyciezony' (*translates* 'Prejudice Conquered') in Cracow: on 27 December 1991, these three Lodges revived the National Grand Lodge of Poland.

During the next three decades Freemasonry in Poland expanded slowly as, due to negative public opinion in Poland, activity remained discreet. At present, there are about 150 members across eight lodges: the three listed above; two in Warsaw (one French speaking), one each in Poznan and Gdańsk; and one in Wrocław (this last under the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Germany).

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster obtained the seat representing The National Grand Lodge of Poland at The Grand Lodge of Ireland two decades ago – in 2002, at the commencement of the Provincial Grand Mastership of R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell. Since that time, there has been two holders of the office: The Right Worshipful Brothers Gordon A. Thompson, 2002-15 and Wilfred Baker, 2016.

A Trio of Sixty Year Brethren, 1961 – 2021

David J. Butler writes:



Pictured at Freemasons' Hall, Cork, in May 2011, left to right:

R.W. Bro. Campbell, *PGM*; V.W. Bro. Williams, *PPSGW*;
W. Bro. Perrott, *PPGStev*; R.W. Bro. Deane, *PDGM*

This year of 2021 sees three Munster brethren celebrate their diamond jubilee: namely, V.W. Bro. Alwyn Williams and W. Bro. Bill Perrott of Antient Bandon Lodge No. 84 and W. Bro. Robert C. (Bob) Thompson of Neptune Lodge No. 190.

W. Bro. William T.L. (Bill) Perrott, *PPGStev*, a chemist by profession, was initiated into Lodge 84 during 1961, and was Worshipful Master

for 1966, going on to serve a decade each in the lodge offices of secretary (1967 to 1976) and treasurer (1985 to 1994). He has since served Bandon lodge with distinction, as chaplain for many years.

V.W. Bro. Alwyn C. (Al) Williams, *PPSGW* was initiated into Lodge 614 during 1961; he came to Bandon as Headmaster of Bandon Grammar School during 1972, affiliating to Lodge 84, and serving as Worshipful Master for 1977 and 1986. He was lodge secretary in 1980-81; in Royal Arch Chapter 84, he served a remarkable thirty years, from 1985, as treasurer and registrar. In 2011, his fiftieth membership year, he served as Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

The Bandon duo are pictured above at the May 2011 communication of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, chaired by R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell, P.G.M., who presented them their fifty-year jewels and certificates in his final meeting as Provincial Grand Master. These two brethren have been able to continue their Masonic connexion to the present time, as they complete their sixtieth year in membership.

A third brother in his diamond jubilee year hails from the east of the province. **W. Bro. Robert C. (Bob) Thompson** *PPSGD*. Originally from Greystones, Bob came of a maritime family, serving in the Merchant navy and with Irish Lights, before purchasing his own trawler in the mid-1950s. He joined Neptune Lodge



Pictured at The Masonic Hall, Cobh, in 2011, left to right:

R.W. Bro. Campbell, *PGM*; W. Bro. Thompson, *Chaplain*;
W. Bro. Hamilton, *W.M.*; R.W. Bro. Deane, *PDGM*

No. 190, Cobh during 1961, serving an incredible five terms as Worshipful Master: 1966; 1976-77; 2000 and 2007, as well as lengthy terms as Treasurer (1996-2003) and Almoner (1996-2009).

As a country member of Harmony Lodge 555 from 1968, he gave four decades of active service up to and including the office of Senior Warden.

An equally valued member of Youghal Lodge since 1978, Bob served as

Worshipful Master for 1984-85, followed by eighteen years as Almoner of the lodge (1991-2008).

In the Province of Munster, he held the offices of Provincial Grand Steward (1971 and 1976), Provincial Grand Master's Standard Bearer (1986), Provincial Junior Grand Deacon (1995), and Provincial Senior Grand Deacon (2004). He was a most capable supper steward at provincial meetings and assistant at Friday coffee mornings for decades, with a smile and a friendly word for all.

A past king of Neptune Royal Arch Chapter No. 190, Cobh and Youghal Royal Arch Chapter No. 68, Bob served the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster offices from District Grand Standard Bearer (1985) to District Grand High Priest (2000). He was most regular in attendance at his three lodges and two royal arch chapters – as well as his appendant memberships in knight's council, preceptory and chapter – until 2012, when ill health required him to step back from all Masonic commitments and he was elected an *emeritus* member in gratitude for decades of faithful service rendered; now in his 95th year, he has lived for the past number of years, together with his wife, Ada, at the Cobh Community Hospital.

The Munster Masonic Swords Collection

III: Halls in the Provincial Towns

Writes **W. Bro. Henry Brennan**, Secretary, Ormonde Lodge 201, North Munster.

In this, the third in the series surveying the swords in the Halls of our Province, the focus is on the military port town of Kinsale (Bezaleel 234 and its predecessors), and our Kerry heritage (Star of the West 130 and Salem 62).

BEZALEEL LODGE 234, KINSALE



For some years it was popular for the members of my Mother Lodge, Ormonde 201, meeting at Limerick in the province of North Munster, to pay a visit to Bezaleel Lodge 234 Kinsale for their June meeting. It was on one of those visits that I first noticed the variety of swords retained by the lodge and decided to see a bit more of them. Covid-19 restrictions throughout 2020, and since, never really permitted this and these

notes are based upon a visit made in September 2019, augmented by photographs recently taken by W. Bro. Robert Acton, secretary of the lodge.

As befits this ancient seaport town, four swords have naval associations:

1. *1780/90 sword of regulation pattern, 5 Ball type hilt*, with a straight blade. Unfortunately, the blade is heavily rusted and pitted, so that any decoration is long lost. This formerly elegant sword has a characteristic gilt brass knuckleguard of 5 balls and a matching side loop, which is cracked and bent inwards. The grip is of Ivory with a characteristic 'cigar band' around the middle, engraved with a naval fouled anchor and crown. This type of sword was known as a Spadroon and was favoured by Naval Officers, as here.



- *Naval Officer sword of about 1805/1820*, with a straight heavy single edged fighting blade. Probably for a Midshipman, or mid-rank officer. This has a stirrup type hilt of brass with an integrated backpiece and sloped pommel cap. A fouled anchor is engraved on both langets and the rear quillon is slightly bent. This sword is based in a pattern introduced in 1805 and used with varying degrees of decoration by officer ranks from Midshipman to Admiral. The grip, either horn or wood, is heavily varnished.



- *Cutlass/cut down sword*. This was once a sword, possibly mid-1800s; the broken single edged curved blade has been reshaped to form a form of short sword. The grip is wood, and the bowl guard is not identifiable. It is currently associated with the remains of a scabbard, possibly belonging to no 7.
- *Royal Navy Ordinary Seaman's fighting Cutlass, ca 1800/1815*. The sheet iron hilt of 'figure of 8' type, with a tubular iron grip and the knucklebow simply riveted to the top of the grip. Pitted overall, but possibly with its original black paint. These simple weapons with short, curved blades, were the perfect close quarter fighting weapon of sailors as they could be used effectively in the cramped confines of a ship and were strong enough to cut rigging if needed. Unfortunately, being exposed to saltwater rust is a common problem. Not the most attractive sword, but certainly the most romantic, given its association with the days of 'Fighting sail, Nelson, Trafalgar', and so forth.



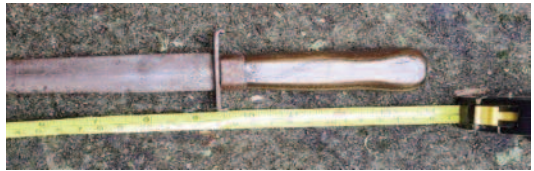
- *French 'Chassepot' bayonet, Model 1866*, with a downcurved Yataghan type blade. Brass hilt with a large, hooked quillon. No scabbard. Not illustrated.

- *Georgian era, Pattern 1803 Infantry Officer (Flank Officer?) sword.* The elaborate hilt of gilded brass, with a sharkskin grip, bound with twisted copper wire. The knucklebow incorporates a GR crowned royal cypher (George III) and a well-cast and chased lion head. Unfortunately, the heavily varnished curved, single edged blade has suffered and is well worn and pitted, with a few edge nicks. Nonetheless, it is still an attractive sword, sought after by collectors.



- *Victorian Infantry Officer sword of regulation 1822 pattern.* Gilded brass hilt of ‘gothic’ style, incorporating a VR cypher. The non-folding inner part of the guard and blade type indicate 1854 or later. The curved blade is pitted and worn. The remains of the scabbard from this sword are currently paired with No 3.

- *Dagger/Dirk, assembled from parts.* The blade early-1800s, and the wooden grip later. The cross guard reversed. The leather and brass scabbard also assembled.



- *British Army Infantry Officer, 1796 pattern, in its leather covered scabbard.* This elegant spadron bladed sword is typical of an Infantry officer’s sword from its introduction in 1796 to 1822. An attractive and intact gilded brass hilt, with a squared knucklebow, silver wire covered grip and urn pommel. The inner part of the guard folds down to prevent uniform chafing. The straight single edge blade still retains some of the original blue and gilt decoration. The original scabbard is in good condition and bears



the retailer/cutler name of *Nicholson, Cork* on the locket, although it is very unlikely that the sword was made by Nicholson, just retailed by him. This is a relatively common sword, but scarcer in this better condition and particularly with its Cork roots. M.S. Dudley Westropp M.R.I.A., writing in *Journal of the Arms and Armour Society* 2:1 in 1957, noted Joseph Nicholson, Cork as a Cutler in 1756 and 1805.

This sword is currently in use as the Inner Guard's sword at Kinsale.

STAR OF THE WEST LODGE 130, KENMARE

The light of 250 years of Freemasonry in Kerry extinguished in 1974 and, since that time, Salem 62 (1994-2011) and Star of the West 130 (since 2013) have worked in Kerry. The hiatuses doubtless generated losses, and there has not been opportunity to accumulate a collection of substitute swords or daggers.

The present lodge has two pieces, photographed by W. Bro. Alan Storey, secretary of Lodge 130:



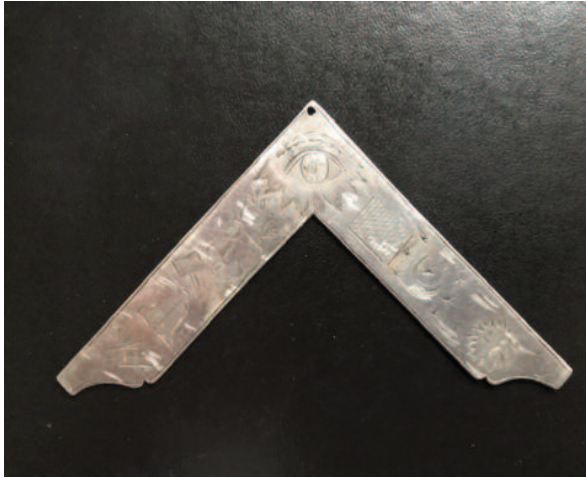
1. An assembled Masonic type sword with a straight, plain blade and a brass cruciform hilt with trefoil ended quillons. The quillons engraved 'SALEM LODGE' and on the opposite side '62 TRALEE'. The grip is of deer antler. No scabbard. This sword was the Inner Guard sword at old Salem 62, when it met in a purpose-built hall Tralee and has seen use in both Lodges 62 and 130 since.

2. An unusual Masonic dagger presented to Lodge 130 at its constitution in 2013, by the Province of Munster, comprising a cut down bayonet blade (French?) mounted

with a turned wood grip. The Aluminium cross piece in the form of a shooting 5-point star is engraved 'Presented to Lodge 130 Star of the West by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster March 23rd 2013', with 130 also engraved in the star. The scabbard is formed from the locket (top mount) and chape (bottom mount) of two late nineteenth century court dress swords and silvered.

St. Fin Barre's Lodge No. 8, Cork

The W.M.'s Jewel



The W.M.'s Collar Jewel – Front View



The W.M.'s Collar Jewel – Rear View – “No.8 Lodge”



The W.M.'s Collar Jewel – Rear View - Hallmarks

The Hallmarks shown above can be seen in better detail from a photograph downloaded from the internet.



Silversmith

The 'JT' tells us that the silversmith who made this jewel was John Townsend of Dublin. It is probable that John Townsend subsequently migrated to Cape Town in

South Africa because the very same stylised 'JT' is later to be found in the hallmark listings for Cape Town and credited to a John Townsend.

MARK OF ORIGIN - TOWN MARK



The lower mark on the jewel (middle in above internet photograph and directly above) is the "*Mark of Origin*" or "*Town Mark*"; The "*Crowned Harp and Hibernia*".

This duty mark was introduced in 1730. This mark is still in use today, and should always be present.

This mark identifies the Assay Office where the silver item was verified - Dublin.

London origin is identified by the use of the leopard's head, crowned and uncrowned from 1821. In reality the leopard's head was a standard mark and its use applied to all goldsmiths throughout the land. It was not until 1856 that the leopard's head mark could have been used for any purpose other than a fineness mark. Birmingham has the anchor, Chester the three wheat-sheaves and sword, Sheffield the crown and the Tudor rose (from 1975). York has a five lions passant in a cross, Exeter a castle with three towers and Newcastle-upon-Tyne three castles.

In Scotland, Edinburgh has the castle and Glasgow the "tree, fish and bell".

In Ireland, Dublin origin is deduced by the presence of the figure of the crowned harp and Hibernia.

DUTY MARK

The top mark on the jewel [2nd from right on internet photo] is called the 'Duty Mark'.

This mark is of the king's head. This is a duty mark, used from 1809 until 1895. The particular king's head on the WM's jewel shows that it was entered in 1812.

The King's head duty mark was first struck in 1784. In that year and the following year, the head faced left and was debossed rather than embossed. This mark has become known as the Incuse Duty Mark. From 1786 to Victoria's reign, the King's head Duty Mark always faces right and is embossed like all other hallmarks. When Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the mark was replaced with the Queen's head duty mark which always faces left. The use of a duty mark was dropped in 1890.

The Sovereign's Head demonstrates the payment of the duty on the piece bearing it. In Glasgow the Sovereign's Head was introduced in 1819 while, from 1798, watchcases were exempted from the fee.

From July 15 1797, for nine months, the King's Head was duplicated owing to the Duty being doubled.

The "Duty Drawback" mark was used from December 1, 1784 to July 24, 1785 to claim back the duty when the item was exported.

A special duty mark (Hibernia) was used in Dublin from 1730 to 1806.

"Duty dodger" is the definition of unscrupulous silversmiths that used fraudulent methods to avoid paying the tax (e.g. inserting into a large piece a small disk bearing marks from an article on which a low tax had been paid).

Hallmarks

Hallmarks are authenticating marks struck on most silver items produced or offered for sale in Ireland. Since 1637 the Assay Office in Dublin Castle has been the only body with the authority to perform this task. The marks serve several functions:

- * they verify that the item is of the correct quality. In Ireland, sterling silver is not less than 92.5% pure silver, the rest is alloy.
- * they give the year of manufacture.

- * they record the maker or sponsor of the item.
- * where appropriate, they record that duty has been paid on the item.

Hibernia. Originally this was a tax “for the encouragement of tillage”, but after 1806 when Irish silver was struck with the king’s head duty mark it became the mark signifying the Dublin Assay Office.

The Hibernia mark was only introduced in 1730, and the monarch’s head mark came in in 1806.

Lodge Warrant 1808

No.8 Lodge was issued its Warrant in 1808 (over 210 years ago). To put this into perspective the following are some of the major world and Irish events of the early 19th Century. It puts the jewel, and the people who wore it, into a historic time frame that helps us appreciate that we are the custodians of a tradition that we must cherish and preserve.

Early 1800’s – Some World Events

- 1801: Thomas Jefferson elected President of the United States by the House of Representatives, following a tie in the Electoral College – United States



Thomas Jefferson

- 1801: The Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland merge to form the United Kingdom.
- 1801: Ranjit Singh crowned as King of Punjab.

- 1801: Napoleon signs the Concordat of 1801 with the Pope.
- 1801: Cairo falls to the British.
- 1801: Assassination of Tsar Paul I of Russia.
-
- 1802: Ludwig van Beethoven performs his *Moonlight Sonata* for the first time.
-
- 1803: William Symington demonstrates his *Charlotte Dundas*, the "first practical steamboat".
- 1803: The United States more than doubles in size when it buys out France's territorial claims in North America via the Louisiana Purchase. This begins the U.S.'s westward expansion to the Pacific referred to as its Manifest Destiny which involves annexing and conquering land from Mexico, Britain, and Native Americans.



The Louisiana Purchase

- 1803: The Wahhabis of the First Saudi State capture Mecca and Medina.
- 1803: War breaks out between Britain and France; this is considered by some to be the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars.



Napoleonic Wars

- 1804–1813: Russo-Persian War.

- 1804: Austrian Empire founded by Francis I.
- 1804: Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of the French.
- 1804: World population reaches 1 billion.
- 1804: First steam locomotive begins operation.
- 1804: Morphine first isolated.
- 1805: The Battle of Trafalgar eliminates the French and Spanish naval fleets and allows for British dominance of the seas, a major factor for the success of the British Empire later in the century.
- 1805: Napoleon decisively defeats an Austrian-Russian army at the Battle of Austerlitz.
- 1805–1848: Muhammad Ali modernizes Egypt.
- 1806: Holy Roman Empire dissolved as a consequence of the Treaty of Pressburg.
- 1806: Cape Colony becomes part of the British Empire.
- 1806–1812: Russo-Turkish War, Treaty of Bucharest.
- 1807: Britain declares the Slave Trade illegal.
- 1807: Potassium and Sodium are individually isolated by Sir Humphry Davy.
- 1808: Beethoven performs his Fifth Symphony
- 1808–1809: Russia conquers Finland from Sweden in the Finnish War.
- 1808–1814: Spanish guerrillas fight in the Peninsular War.
- 1809: Napoleon strips the Teutonic Knights of their last holdings in Bad Mergentheim.



The discoveries of Michael Faraday formed the foundation of electric motor technology

- 1810: The University of Berlin was founded. Among its students and faculty are

Hegel, Marx, and Bismarck. The German university reform proves to be so successful that its model is copied around the world.

- 1810: The Grito de Dolores begins the Mexican War of Independence.
- 1810s–1820s: Most of the Latin American colonies free themselves from the Spanish and Portuguese Empires after the Latin American wars of independence.
- 1810s–1820s: Punjab War between the Sikh Empire and British Empire.
- 1812: The French invasion of Russia is a turning point in the Napoleonic Wars.



The Napoleonic Wars.

- 1812: British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval is assassinated.

1812–1815: War of 1812 between the United States and Britain; ends in a draw, except that Native Americans lose power

Some Events in Ireland

Ireland opened the 19th century still reeling from the after-effects of the Irish Rebellion of 1798. Prisoners were still being deported to Australia and sporadic violence continued in County Wicklow. There was another abortive rebellion led by Robert Emmet in 1803. The Act of Union, which constitutionally made Ireland part of the British state, can largely be seen as an attempt to redress some of the grievances behind the 1798 rising and to prevent it from destabilising Britain or providing a base for foreign invasion.



Robert Emmet

In 1800 the Irish Parliament and the Parliament of Great Britain passed the Act of Union which, from 1 January 1801, abolished the Irish legislature, and merged the Kingdom of Ireland and the Kingdom of Great Britain to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801 – 1922. The "Saint Patrick's cross" was added to the earlier Union Flag of Great Britain and counterchanged with the "Saint Andrew's cross" to represent the inclusion of Ireland in the Union.

After one failed attempt, the passage of the act in the Irish parliament was finally achieved, albeit, as with the 1707 Acts of Union that united Scotland and England, with the mass bribery of members of both houses, who were awarded British peerages and other "encouragements".

In this period, the administration of Ireland consisted of authorities appointed by the central British government. These were the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who represented the King, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland appointed by the British Prime Minister. Almost equally important was the Under Secretary for Ireland, who headed up the civil service in Ireland.



Cork Quays early 1800's

This was all prior to:

- the Great Famine. 1845 – 51, and
- Danial O'Connell

W.B. Eamonn McCarthy
St. Fin Barre's Lodge No.8, Cork
January 2019

*To submit articles for December 2021 issue please email W. Bro. Vincent O'Donovan
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