

**THE  
HOLME VALLEY  
LODGE  
No.652**

Its foundation and the history of the first one  
hundred and sixty years

**‘By Industry We Prosper’**

By

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## **PREFACE**

In 2007 I was asked to prepare a short history of the Druids' Hall for inclusion in the one hundred and fiftieth year celebrations programme.

Whilst preparing this much of the early history of The Holme Valley Lodge began to unfold, and as this had not been previously documented I felt that it should be recorded before much more of it became forgotten.

The minutes of the Lodge meetings held between its commencement in 1855 and 1878 were unfortunately lost many years ago but it was nevertheless possible to piece together the early history from the documents in our possession and also reference to the newspapers printed in the mid-nineteenth century.

Whilst there are no records of the first twenty years of the Lodge's existence much information was gleaned from the newspapers of that time, particularly relating to its founding members who are very well documented.

I would like to thank the Huddersfield Examiner for kindly allowing me to use several of their reports of events that occurred during that period.

Many interesting facts have come to light during my researches, many previously unknown both to myself and to the members of The Holme Valley Lodge.

This history, which has taken over two years to compile, became to a great extent a labour of love and one which I have thoroughly enjoyed pursuing.

Whilst certain events recorded may not appear at first sight to relate to The Holme Valley Lodge they do nevertheless bear some relevance to the decisions that were made by its members at that time and give an insight to the events which have taken place in the Holme Valley and beyond over the last one hundred and fifty years and which have in some way involved the members of The Holme Valley Lodge.

Unlike many lodge histories, its chapters do not necessarily relate to one particular subject but have been written, very much in the form of a diary, recording the events in the sequence that they happened.

My thanks must be expressed to W. Bro. Derek Beaumont for his encouragement and help in correcting certain anomalies and for pointing me in the right direction with regard to certain areas of research. Also to W. Bro. Brian Martyn for his help in preparing this book for publication.

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### **A NEW LODGE IS FORMED**

On Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1855, three years after the great flood caused by the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir, a disaster that devastated the village of Holmfirth, the following article appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle;

*FREEMASONRY; We understand that some influential brethren of this ancient fraternity, resident in this neighbourhood, contemplate the formation of a new masonic lodge at the Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth, the large room of which is specially adapted for the purpose, having been originally planned with an eye to a lodge, as some masonic emblems let into the plasterwork would indicate. As we ourselves take pride and pleasure in the avowal that we belong to the craft, we may venture to predict that the introduction of "the mystic art" into this favoured locality, under proper auspices and management, will commend itself to the attention and esteem of a large number of right-thinking men of all classes; that many will flock to its standard; and that its blessings and advantages will be rapidly diffused. We learn that the necessary petition for a warrant to hold the lodge has been numerously signed, and forwarded to the Grand Lodge in London for confirmation, and that it is expected the new lodge may be opened the early part of next month.'*

Seventeen Brethren from five lodges signed the petition which read as follows: -

**To the Most Worshipful Grand Master**

*of the Fraternity of Ancient Free and accepted Masons of England.*

*We the undersigned being regular registered Masons of Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the craft at heart are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the art and for the consequence of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a New Lodge to be named The*



Holme Valley Lodge. In consequence of this desire, we pray for a Warrant of Constitution, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge at the Victoria Hotel, in Holmfirth in the County of York, on Friday nearest to the full moon in every month, and there to discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the Order and the Laws of the Grand Lodge. And we have nominated and do recommend Brother Cookson Stephenson Floyd to be the first Master, Brother Joseph Mellor to be the first Senior Warden and Brother John Burton to be the first Junior Warden of the said Lodge. The prayer of this Petition being granted, we promise strict Obedience to the commands of the Grand Master and the Laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

C.S. Floyd	P.M. 342	P.P.S.G.W. of West Yorkshire
Bentley Shaw	P.M. 342	P.P.J.G.W. do.
James Peace	P.M. 342	P.P.J.G.WD.
William Kilner	P.M. 763	P.P.G.S.W.
William Smith	P.M. 365	P.G.D.C.
Frederick Robert Jones	W.M. 174	
Joseph Batley	W.M. 342	
Edward Fozzard	P.M. 422	
Geo. Eastwood	S.W. 174	
William Aston	S.W. 365	
Charles Dyson	J.W. 174	
Thomas Dyson	M.M. 342	
John Burton	M.M. 342	
James Taylor	M.M. 342	
William Dransfield	M.M. 342	
Joseph Mellor	M.M. 365	
John Moorhouse Woodhead	M.M. 365	

Holmfirth  
26<sup>th</sup> May 1855

The following letter of recommendation from the Masters and Wardens of the Lodge of Harmony, the Huddersfield Lodge and the Lodge of Truth accompanied the application:

We the undersigned being the Masters and Wardens of the Lodge of Harmony No. 342 of the Huddersfield Lodge No. 365 and of the Lodge of Truth No. 763 respectively Do most cordially recommend the petition of our Brethren for a

warrant to hold a Lodge at Holmfirth believing it to be for the good of the craft that a Lodge should be opened there where a sufficient number of Brethren already reside to carry on the Lodge with efficiency.

Joseph Batley Jnr	W.M.	Lodge
N.S. Thornton	S.W.	of Harmony
D. Bottomley	J.W.	342
Joshua Lee	W.M.	Huddersfield
William H. Anston	S.W.	Lodge
William Hanson	J.W.	No. 365
George L. Wright	W.M.	Lodge of Truth
Walter Bradley	S.W.	No. 763
J.A. Bottomley	J.W.	

Huddersfield  
26<sup>th</sup> May 1855

Credit must be given to Grand Lodge for the speed with which they dealt with this application, for on the 7<sup>th</sup> June A.L.5855, A.D.1855 the following Warrant of Constitution was approved and subsequently issued on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1855 by Grand Lodge at a cost of £7.7.6d. Strangely however payment for the warrant does not appear to have been made until the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1858, some seven months after the consecration of the Lodge.

*To all our Right Worshipful and Loving Brethren.*

*We, Thomas Dundas Earl of Zetland; Baron Dundas, of Aske, in the County of York, Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of free and accepted Masons of England,*

**SEND GREETING:**

*Know ye that we, by authority and under the sanction of the United Grand Lodge of England, vested in us for that purpose and at the humble petition of our Right Trusty and Well Beloved Brethren, Cookson Stephenson Floyd, Joseph Mellor, John Burton, Bentley Shaw, James Peace, William Kilner, William Smith and others **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** the said brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the title and denomination of No.937, **THE HOLME VALLEY LODGE.***

*The said Lodge to meet at the Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth, in the County of York, on the Friday nearest the full moon in every month empowering them in the said*

*Lodge when duly congregated, to make, pass, and raise Freemasons according to the Ancient Customs of the Craft of all Ages and Nations throughout the known world: and further at their said Petition and of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the above named Brethren We do appoint the said Cookson Stephenson Floyd to be the First Master; the said Joseph Mellor to be the first Senior Warden; and the said John Burton to be the first Junior Warden, for opening and hold the said Lodge, and until such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and installed, strictly charging that every Member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge, who must previously have served as Warden in a warranted Lodge, shall be installed in the Ancient form and according to the laws of Grand Lodge, that he may hereby be fully invested with the dignities and powers of his office, and we do require you the said Cookson Stephenson Floyd to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons, and you and they and all the Members of the said Lodge, do observe, perform, and keep the Laws, Rules and Orders mentioned in the Book of Constitutions and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge, or transmitted by us or our Successors, Grand Masters, or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being.*

*And we do enjoin you to make such By-laws for the Government of your Lodge as shall, to the majority of the Members appear proper and necessary, the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with the general Laws and Regulations of the Craft, a copy whereof you are to transmit to us. And we do require you to cause all such By-laws and Regulations and also an account of the proceedings in your Lodge to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose; and you are in no wise to omit to us or to our successors, Grand Masters, or the Right Honourable Charles Anderson Worsley Pelham, Earl of Yarborough, Baron Yarborough, Baron Worsley\_\_\_\_\_ our Deputy Grand Master for the time being, at least once in every year a list of Members of your Lodge, with the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon, it being our will and intention that this one warrant of constitution shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of our Grand Lodge, and you the said Cookson Stephenson Floyd are further required as soon as conveniently may be to send us an account, in writing, of what shall be done by virtue of these Presents.*

*Given under the hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge, at London, on this 7<sup>th</sup> June, A.L. 5855, A.D. 1855*

*By Command of the M.W. Grand Master.*

*YARBOROUGH, D.G.M.*

*WILLIAM H. WHITE, G.S.*

Following the approval of the warrant the following item appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 1855.

*'FREEMASONRY, - A warrant of constitution under the seal of the Grand Lodge of England has just been issued, empowering the brethren to hold a new Masonic Lodge (No 937), at Holmfirth to be called 'The Holme Valley Lodge.'*

*Brother C.S. Floyd is appointed the first W.M., brother Joseph Mellor, the first S.W., brother John Burton, the first J.W.*

*We understand the brethren intend to shortly open their new lodge with the usual attractive forms and ceremonies belonging to the craft.'*

Whilst The Holme Valley Lodge was originally thought to have functioned since 26<sup>th</sup> October 1855, the centenary warrant from Grand Lodge reads that:

*'satisfactory proof has been provided of the uninterrupted existence of the said Lodge for one hundred years dating from the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 1855.'*

This date is the Friday in December nearest to the full moon, the day on which the Brethren met, and is the date the lodge initiated its first member Mr John Harpin. Both these dates are however incorrect, as the lodge commenced business on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

It is quite likely that it was the intention of the Brethren to hold the first lodge meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 1855. However a report in the Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner the following month suggests that the ornamenting, decoration and general preparation of the lodge room were not completed until November.

Suprisingly the Worshipful Master, Cookson Stephenson Floyd was not present on this auspicious occasion and in his absence W. Bro. James Peace occupied the Master's chair.

It was reported in the local newspaper the following week that *'about twenty gentlemen, principally influential inhabitants of the town were initiated, with the prospect of that number being considerably increased at the next gathering.'*

At the conclusion of the enrolment of its new members, about thirty Brethren dined together for a meal, composed mostly of delicacies of the season, and served up in 'Mrs Kippax's best style.' Following 'the removal of the cloth' several loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk before the proceedings terminated at an early hour.

\*

Little was known until quite recently about the rooms occupied by The Holme Valley Lodge at the Victoria Hotel. However an entry made in the Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1855 was to clarify this, when it was reported that the proprietor of the Victoria Hotel, Bentley Shaw Esq:

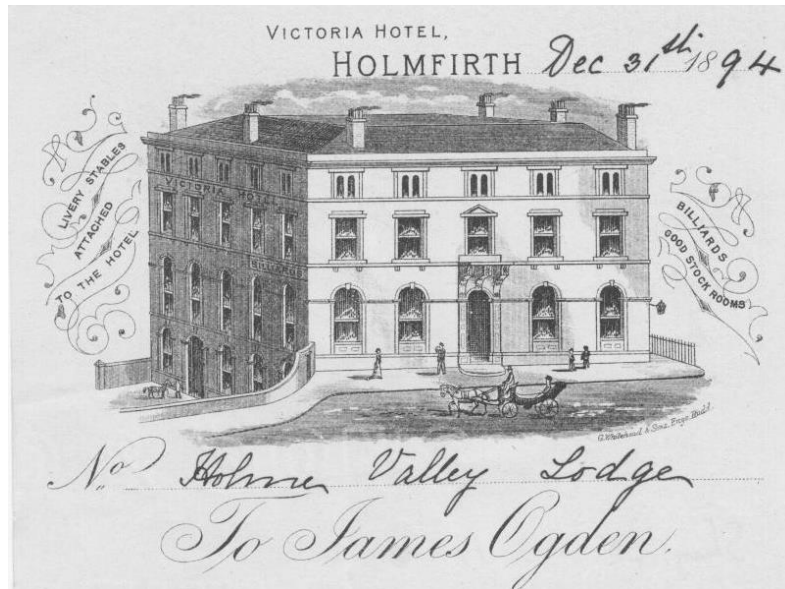
*'has spared no expense in making it the most convenient and perhaps the most elegant room for such a purpose in England. The painting is truly magnificent. Four figures, emblematic of Law, Physic, Divinity and Science, each six feet in height, are painted upon the walls, and finished in excellent style. The furniture is equally rich, and in unison with the other decorations, being red, white, blue and gilt, and is in accordance with the Masonic order.'*

\*

Some two years were to pass however before Provincial Grand Lodge visited, and consecrated the lodge at a meeting held on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1857.

R.W. Bro. George Fearnley, M.D., D.P.G.M. of Dewsbury performed the consecration ceremony, when the following visiting Brethren signed the attendance register:

<i>Visiting Brethren</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Name of Lodge</i>		<i>Rank</i>
<i>Henry D.C. Willis D.D.</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>R.G.C.</i>
<i>A.F. Woodford</i>	<i>Swillington</i>	<i>Philanthropic</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>P.G.S.W.</i>
<i>C. Waude</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>P.P.J.G.W.</i>
<i>R.R. Nelson</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	<i>Three Grand Principles</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>Pro.G.Sy.</i>
<i>John Batley</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>Philanthropic</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>P.G.Reg.</i>
<i>James Franklin</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>Probity</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>P.G.J.W.</i>
<i>William Kilner</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony &amp; Truth</i>		<i>P.P.S.W.</i>
<i>Not known</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	<i>874</i>	<i>P.M. P.G.S.</i>
<i>William Gath</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Hope</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>W.M. P.G.S.</i>
<i>H. Baines</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>W.M. P.G.S.</i>
<i>George W. Rhodes</i>		<i>Harmony</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>William George Dyson</i>		<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>J.D. Cartwright</i>		<i>Harmony</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>Probity</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>P.P.G.S.B.</i>
<i>Walter Matthewson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Thomas A. Haigh</i>	<i>Meltham</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>S.W.</i>



*The Victoria Hotel.  
Home to The Holme Valley Lodge from 1855 until 1921  
Picture taken from an account  
sent to the Lodge in 1894*

<i>John Brook</i>	<i>Heckmondwike</i>	<i>Amphibious</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>P.P.S.G.D.</i>
<i>James Clay</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	<i>Three Grand Principles</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Matthew B. Hick</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>727</i>	
<i>John Beckett</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>727</i>	<i>P.G.J.</i>
<i>William Dixon</i>	<i>Morley</i>	<i>Integrity</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>P.G.Treasurer</i>
<i>C.S. Floyd</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>H.V.L.</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>P.P.S.G.W.</i>
<i>George Eastwood</i>	<i>Holmfirth &amp; H.V.L</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>P.M. Secretary</i>
<i>David ----</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>937</i>		
		<i>Hope</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>J.J.V. Hardy</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>&amp; P.G.S.B.</i>
<i>Jo. Wood</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>P.G.J.D.</i>
<i>John Siddall</i>	<i>Cleckheaton</i>	<i>Zetland</i>	<i>877</i>	<i>P.G.Or.</i>
<i>W.C. Marsh</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>P.G.S.</i>
<i>James Hale</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>George Milnes</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>W. Corkshott</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>M.M.</i>
	<i>Keighley</i>	<i>Loyal Yorkshire</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>W.M.</i>

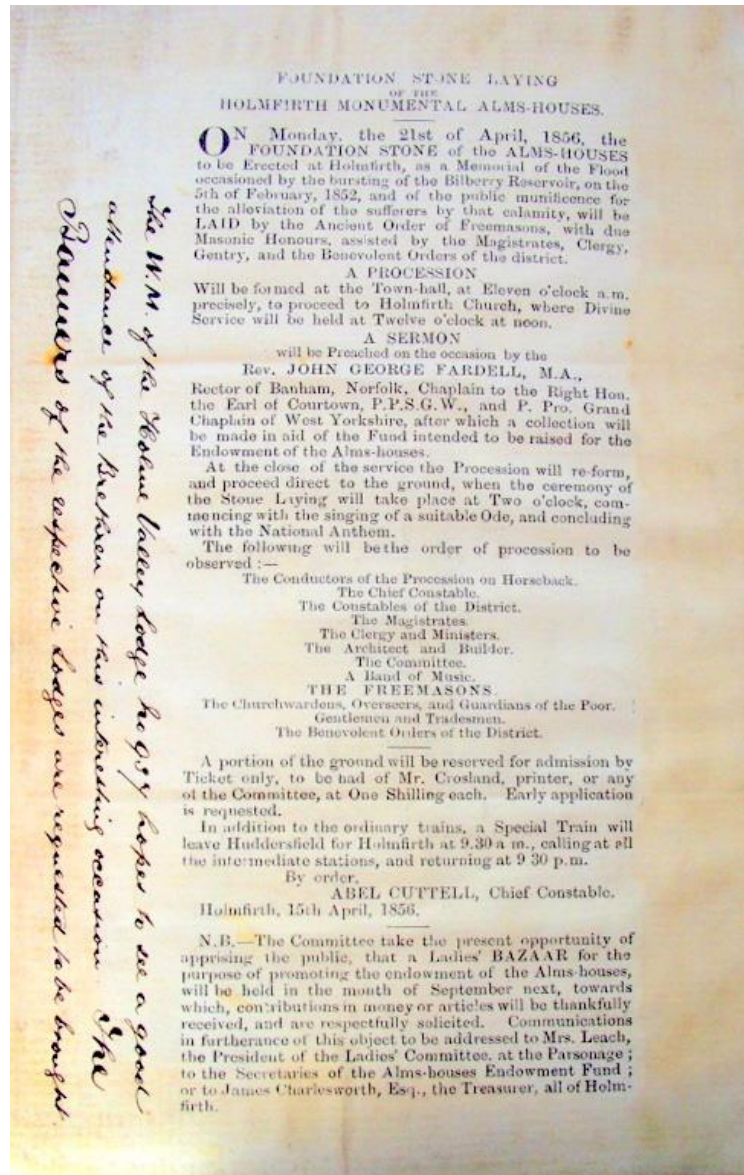
<i>Richard Goldthorpe</i>	<i>Cleckheaton</i>	<i>Zetland</i>	877	<i>W.M. &amp; P.G.SP.G.S.W.</i>
<i>S.Thornton</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	342	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>William Hanson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	365	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Sam Stork</i>	<i>Cleckheaton</i>	<i>Zetland</i>	877	
<i>Jonathan Roberts</i>	<i>Heckmondwike</i>	<i>Amphibious</i>	322	
<i>George Fox</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	<i>Three Grand Principles</i>	251	
<i>Charles Taylor</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>H.V.L.</i>	937	<i>M.M. &amp; D.C.</i>
<i>Jas. Peace</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>		<i>P.M P.P.J.G.W &amp; P.P.G.Or. P.P.S.G.W.</i>
<i>Bentley Shaw</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	342	
<i>H.M.Beaumont</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Commercial Glasgow</i>	360	
<i>William Taylor</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony</i>	365	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>George Taylor</i>	<i>Meltham</i>	<i>Peace</i>	174	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Wood</i>		<i>Candour</i>	422	<i>P.G.S.</i>
<i>J. Oldroyd Gill</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	<i>Three Grand Principles</i>	251	<i>P.P.G.P.</i>
<i>John Woodhead</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>H.V.L.</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Charles Dyson</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>Peace</i>	174	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Hinchliffe</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>H.V.L.</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Frank Littlewood</i>	<i>New Mill</i>	<i>H.V.L.</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>

It is interesting to note that at the consecration ceremony, W. Bro. Cookson Stephenson Floyd was recorded as holding the rank of P.P.S.G.W. and not Worshipful Master, the position he had always been assumed to hold, whilst neither Bros. Joseph Mellor or John Burton were shown as being present.

The lack of these signatures was probably an oversight on their part as they did in fact hold the office of Worshipful Master and Senior Warden respectively.

Following the consecration of the lodge the proceedings were fully reported in The Huddersfield Chronicle on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 1857 when the list of the officers of The Holme Valley Lodge present on that occasion were shown as being Bro. Jos. Mellor W.M.; Bro. John Burton S.W.; Bro. G.N. Nelson J.W.; Bro. George Eastwood Secretary; Bro. John Woodhead S.D.; Bro. John Harpin J.P., J.D.; Bro. Charles Taylor, D.C. and Bros. Frank Littlewood, Henry Tinker and Thomas Hinchliffe as stewards.

This report corrected the mistaken belief, held for almost over one hundred years by the Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge, that Cookson Stephenson Floyd had been Master of the lodge at its consecration, and put into doubt the dates that subsequent Masters had served in office.



*Notice of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Alms Houses found in Bazaar minute book showing the request by the Worshipful Master of The Holme Valley Lodge No. 937 for as many of its members as possible to attend the ceremony.*



### **LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE ALMSHOUSES**

Following the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir and the consequent devastation of the village of Holmfirth, and after much deliberation by the local Flood Relief Committee, it was decided to build almshouses to accommodate some of those people who had suffered great loss in the flood.

Cookson Stephenson Floyd was to play a large part in the organization of their erection, as were the members of The Holme Valley Lodge, along with many other prominent freemasons who took part in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone.

The flood had occurred in February 1852 but difficulty had been experienced in purchasing suitable land on which to build them.

This problem was overcome in 1855 when it was reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December in the Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, that a field had been obtained near the railway station for the long talked of almshouses at Holmfirth, and that the committee had been spared further trouble by the kindness and liberality of Cookson Stephenson Esq., (Floyd's nephew) who had in the most handsome manner presented to the committee about 400 yards of land in a commanding position for this purpose.

The committee met the following Wednesday evening when the plans of the competing architects were presented to them for consideration.

Following this meeting Mr W. Hill, architect, of Leeds was awarded the contract for the building of the houses.

The decision to appoint an architect from outside the Holme Valley created a great deal of disquiet amongst the local public, particularly when it was discovered that the workmen to be used to build the almshouses were also to come from towns outside the valley, this at a time when local tradesmen were having difficulty in finding work.

The date of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone was fixed for 21<sup>st</sup> April 1856 and it was expected that the local inhabitants of the valley would look forward to this event with enthusiasm.

This however was not the case and it was reported that:

*'the people of Holmfirth were greatly dissatisfied with what they consider the parsimonious and niggardly manner in which the Relief Committee apportion the funds at their disposal, so that the loss of property in the valley was but partially replaced, and the district has been in a state of depression ever since.'*

The ceremony was widely advertised as follows;

**FOUNDATION STONE LAYING  
of the  
HOLMFIRTH MONUMENTAL ALMS-HOUSES.**

-----

On Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1856, the FOUNDATION STONE of the ALMS-HOUSES to be Erected at Holmfirth, as a memorial of the flood occasioned by the bursting of the Bilberry Reservoir, on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1852, and of the public munificence for the alleviation of the sufferers by that calamity, will be LAID by the Ancient Order of Freemasons, with due Masonic Honours, assisted by the Magistrates, Clergy, Gentry, and the Benevolent Orders of the district.

**A PROCESSION**

Will be formed at the Town Hall, at Eleven o'clock a.m. precisely, to proceed to Holmfirth Church, where Devine Service will be held at Twelve o'clock at noon.

**A SERMON**

will be preached on the occasion by the  
Rev. JOHN GEORGE FARDELL, M.A.

Rector of Banham, Norfolk, Chaplain to the Right Hon. The Earl of Courtown, P.P.S.G.W., and Pro Grand Chaplain of West Yorkshire, after which a collection will be made in aid of the Fund intended to be raised for the Endowment of the Alms-houses.

At the close of the service, the Procession will re-form, and proceed direct to the ground, when the ceremony of Stone Laying will take place at Two o'clock, commencing with the singing of a suitable Ode, and concluding with the National Anthem.

The following will be the order of procession to be observed; -

The Conductors of the Procession on Horseback.

The Chief Constable.

The Constables of the District.

The Magistrates.

The Clergy and Ministers.

The Architect and Builder.

The Committee.  
A Band of Music.  
THE FREEMASONS.  
The Churchwardens, Overseers, and Guardians of the poor.  
Gentlemen and Tradesmen.  
The Benevolent Orders of the District.

\*

A portion of the ground will be reserved for admission by Ticket only, to be had of Mr. Crosland, printer, or any of the Committee, at One Shilling each. Early application is requested.

In addition to the ordinary trains, a Special Train will leave Huddersfield for Holmfirth at 9.39am., calling at all the intermediate stations, and returning at 9.30 pm.

By order,

ABEL CUTTELL, Chief Constable.

Holmfirth, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1856.

\*

N.B. – The Committee take the present opportunity of apprising the public that a Ladies BAZAAR for the purpose of promoting the endowment of the Alms-houses, will be held in the month of September next, towards which, contributions in money or articles will be thankfully received, and are respectfully solicited. Communications in furtherance of this object to be addressed to Mrs. Leach, the President of the Ladies Committee, at the Parsonage; to the Secretaries of the Alms-houses Endowment Fund; or to Mr. James Charlesworth Esq., the Treasurer, all of Holmfirth.

\*

The day of the ceremony arrived and the procession departed from the Town Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> April shortly before 12.00 noon. It then proceeded to Upperbridge and through Hollowgate to the Church where about one hundred and sixty people attended a service.

Following the sermon they then departed from the church and proceeded up Station Road, to the site of the new building.

The procession, consisting of one hundred and fifty-four people, was led by the Chief Constable, Abel Cuttall, and marshalled by James Bates Esq., factory inspector of Winney-Bank, each on horseback, and was assembled, as shown above, in the following order: -

The Chief Constable, District Constables, Magistrates, Clergy and Ministers, Architects and Builders, Committee, Band, Freemasons, Churchwardens, Overseers and Guardians, Gentlemen and Tradesmen.

It had been advertised that the procession would consist of several benevolent secret orders, freemasons, gentlemen and tradesmen and was expected to exceed two hundred people in number. In the event many of them refused to appear and had it not been for the presence of approximately one hundred and twenty freemasons the procession would have been a complete failure. The principle band of musicians in the valley refused to provide their service in protest of the manner in which the funds had been allocated and whilst there was a large assembly of people to witness the procession no demonstrations of welcome or enthusiasm were displayed.

The ceremony of the laying the foundation stone commenced with the singing of the hymn:

Almighty Lord! our heavenly King  
Before whose sacred name we bend;  
Accept the praises which we sing,  
And to our humble prayer attend.  
All hail great Architect Divine,  
This universal frame is thine!

Following this, a short prayer was offered by the Rev. John George Fardell, who was the rector of Barnham, Norfolk, and chaplain to the West Riding Freemasons. It was reported that the interesting Masonic ceremonies were then commenced by Brother C.S. Floyd, Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, the Worshipful Master of The Holme Valley Lodge No.937, when it was reported:

*‘he stated that the bottle intended to be placed in the hollow of the stone, contained the preceding number of the Times, Leeds Mercury, Leeds Intelligencer, Manchester Examiner and Times, Huddersfield Chronicle and Holmfirth Examiner, and a pamphlet reprinted from the latter paper containing the proceedings of the committee in connection with the relief fund. The bottle also contained specimens of all the silver and copper coins of the realm of the present year. It was then deposited in its resting place in the hollow of the foundation stone, and was covered by a brass plate on which is engraved the following inscription: -*

*“The foundation stone of the Holmfirth Monumental Almshouses, erected to commemorate the great flood caused by the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1852 (by which upwards of eighty lives were lost), and the munificent liberality of the British public, was laid by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons of West Yorkshire on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1856, A.L. 5856.”*

*After the plan and elevation of the building had been produced and inspected, Mr Floyd proceeded to spread mortar on the lower stone, previous to the lowering of the upper stone into its place.*

*The Provincial Junior, W. Widdop, of Brighouse, and the Provincial Senior J. Lee of Leeds, Grand Wardens, applied the level and plumb line, after which the Grand Master applied the square, and afterwards he took the mallet and struck the stone three times, declaring the stone qualified and set.*

*He then prayed that Almighty God, the great architect of the universe, would prosper the undertaking. The corn was then strewed over the stone, and the wine and oil poured upon it. They were each contained in silver cups, and were handed to the operator by masters of lodges who had carried them round in procession.*

*Mr Floyd then prayed that Almighty God would preserve the village from flood, fire, tempest, and rain, and conduct it to prosperity, the assembled brethren responded devoutly, "So mote it be."*

The crowd, which by this time numbered approximately four thousand, were then addressed by W. Bro Floyd who said he regretted the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Master, The Earl of Mexborough, through other important engagements, as the task had devolved upon him in his absence and in the absence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Charles Lee, through illness. (A dispensation had been received from Provincial Grand Lodge for Floyd to officiate as Deputy Provincial Grand Master). Unwillingly therefore, he had taken upon himself the duty, though he felt proud yet diffident, that the selection had fallen upon him.

He spoke of the example that was set by the people of Huddersfield, its gentlemen, tradesmen, operatives, Sunday school teachers and scholars who came forward and contributed of their means liberally and abundantly, whilst the widow's mite and the pence of the poor had also helped to swell the amount, so as to enable the neighbourhood once more to smile and look up.

Floyd continued to outline the aims of the Relief Committee and concluded by saying that he would not detain them further other than to repeat some lines, in which he had often joined in heartily:

Genius of masonry: descend,  
And bring fair virtue, brightest maid;  
Bring love, bring truth, bring friendship here,  
And smooth the wrinkled brow of care.  
Come, Charity, with goodness crowned,  
Encircled with thy holy robe,  
Diffuse these blessed comforts round,  
To every corner of the globe.

Three times three cheers were then given for the houses, and the 'National Anthem' was sung.

Previous to leaving the ground three times three were given for the ladies, and the procession then returned to Victoria Bridge, where cheers were given for the town and trade of Holmfirth, for freemasons and for the clergy, after which the proceedings closed.

Following the ceremony a dinner took place at the Elephant and Castle Inn and was attended by sixty gentlemen interested in the affairs of the almshouses.

\*

Money donated by the public towards the losses and damage sustained by the people of Holmfirth by the flood raised £69422. 8sh. 4d of which over £31,000.0.0 was distributed to those who had suffered loss, and after all liabilities had been met a balance of £31,011.11.1d was returned to the subscribers.

However £1000.00 was required to provide an annuity for those residents of the Alms houses who had been affected by the flood and as a consequence of this the ladies of Holmfirth, held bazaars on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 1856, when the necessary funds were raised.

\*

A large engraved brass plate was placed in a niche in the tower of the building, bearing the inscription:

*'IN DEI GLORIAM'*

*'These Almshouses built and endowed by Public Subscription, and by the proceeds of a Bazaar promoted by the Ladies of the neighbourhood, as a memorial of the Holmfirth Flood, caused by the bursting of the Bilberry Reservoir on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1852, by which 81 lives were lost, and an immense amount of property destroyed; and as a further memorial of the National Munificence for the alleviation of that calamity, are dedicated to the Poor of the townships of Holme, Austonley, Cartworth, Wooldale, Upper-Thong, Nether-Thong and Honley for ever.'*

It was purchased from D.A. Cooper, silversmith and jeweller of Huddersfield in February of 1859, at a cost of £22.2.0 and was paid for by The Holme Valley Lodge.

\*

The following Brethren were recorded as having attended the ceremony:

<i>Visiting Brethren</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Lodge No.</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<i>C.S. Floyd</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>342 – 937</i>	<i>W.M. P.P.S.G.W.</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>P.G.D.C.</i>
<i>Joseph Mellor</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>Swallow Leyland</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>364 – 73</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>George N. Nelson</i>	<i>Hagg</i>	<i>763 – 937</i>	<i>D.C.</i>
<i>William Henry Aston</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>John Burton</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>342 – 937</i>	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>John M. Woodhead</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>George Milnes</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	
<i>George Eastwood</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>174 – 937</i>	<i>Sec. W.M.</i>
<i>Charles Dyson</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	<i>174 – 937</i>	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>William Barkhouse</i>	<i>Cleckheaton</i>	<i>277</i>	
<i>Richard R. Nelson</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>P.M. P.G.S.B.</i>
<i>William Kilner</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Harmony &amp; Truth</i>	<i>P.P.S.W.</i>
<i>William George Dyson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>736</i>	
<i>G.H. Hebblethwaite</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>Truth 736</i>	
<i>Alfred Palmer</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>736</i>	<i>D.C.</i>
<i>Samuel Hardy</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>736</i>	<i>D.C.</i>
<i>John Lee</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>P.M. P.P.G.R. P.G.S.W.</i>
<i>John Beckett</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>727</i>	<i>P.G.T.</i>
<i>Edward Farrar Leeds</i>		<i>384</i>	<i>P.J.W.</i>
<i>B.E. Bennett</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>Thomas M. Benton</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>763</i>	
<i>William Watkinson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>Richard Carter</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>G. Riley</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>384</i>	<i>P.G.W.</i>
<i>Harry Baines</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>763 – 330</i>	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>George Mitchell</i>	<i>Yew Tree</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>P.P.J.S.B.</i>
<i>W.C. Marsh</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>763</i>	<i>W.M.P.G.S</i>
<i>J.S. Rhodes</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>William Marshall</i>	<i>Spring Mill</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>M.M.</i>

<i>William Scott</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>S.D.</i>
<i>William S. Thornton</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Henry Wilkinson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>Tom Learoyd</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>S</i>
<i>George Taylor</i>	<i>Meltham</i>	174	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Thomas A. Haigh</i>	<i>Meltham</i>	174	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>Jos. Hargreaves</i>	<i>Marsden</i>	422	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>J.G. Fardell</i>	<i>Strotbrough</i>	298	<i>P.P.S.G.W</i>
	<i>St. Geo.</i>		
<i>Walter Bradley</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Matthew H. Hirst</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>W.H. Brooke</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>J.G. Armitage</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>P.P.J.G.W.</i>
<i>W.H. Butterworth</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	382	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Dyson</i>	<i>Thongsbridge</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>William Lockwood</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	
<i>Thomas Collins</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Robinson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>James Hall</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>S.D.</i>
<i>J.D. Cartwright</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Kenyon</i>	<i>Kirkburton</i>	763	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>James Peace</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>P.P.J.G.W.</i>
<i>William W. Widdop</i>	<i>Brighouse</i>	342 & 422	<i>P.J.G.W.</i>
<i>John Brook</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>James Fielding</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	73	<i>J.W. P.G.S</i>
<i>John Johnson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Benjamin Hutchinson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>J.D.</i>
<i>William Hanson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>John Brearley</i>	<i>Batley</i>	322	
<i>John Hirst</i>	<i>Batley</i>	330	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Josiah Thomas</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>P.G.P.</i>
<i>William Stott</i>	<i>Halifax</i>	73	<i>J.D.</i>
<i>John Danson</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>James Chapman</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>G. Crowther</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Joe Wood</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	<i>P.G.O.</i>
<i>William Corking</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>P.J.W.</i>
<i>George W. Rhodes</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>M.M. Sec.</i>
<i>M. Liebmann</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	333	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Thomas Heaton</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	342	<i>P.J.W.</i>



<i>Bentley Shaw</i>	<i>Lockwood</i>	342	<i>P.P.S.G.W.</i>
<i>Thomas Wood</i>	<i>Saddleworth</i>	422	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>Miles Mayall</i>	<i>Saddleworth</i>	422	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>Jonas Eastwood</i>	<i>Saddleworth</i>	422	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>A.H. Shaw</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	422	<i>S.D.</i>
<i>Beckett Bradbury M.D.</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	422	<i>J.D.</i>
<i>Jos. Aldroyd Gill</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	251	<i>P.P.G.P.</i>
<i>Thomas Lawton</i>	<i>Dobcross</i>	422	<i>P.S.W.</i>
<i>Charles F. Shaw</i>	<i>Saddleworth</i>	422	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Benjamin Oates</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>Henry Jas. Fearn</i>	<i>Mill Bridge</i>	257	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Joshua Whiteley</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Robert Watkinson</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>James Hunter</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>William Faulkner</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	763	
<i>Dan Day</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>P.S.W.</i>
<i>Charles France</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>George Milnes</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	365	
<i>Luke Hinchliffe</i>	<i>Dewsbury</i>	257	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>Frank Littlewood</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Charles Taylor</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>Edward Fozzard</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	422	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>George Lawton</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>John Harpin</i>	<i>Holmfirth</i>	937	<i>M.M.</i>
<i>J.D. Wardman</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	382	<i>M.M.</i>

\*

The lodge continued to meet regularly, and during the period prior to its consecration some fourteen members from other lodges visited the newly formed Holme Valley Lodge, one travelling from as far away as Warwick Lodge No.356. London.

Those who visited between the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1856 and the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1857 were:

<i>Visiting Brethren</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Name &amp; No. of Lodge</i>	<i>Rank</i>
<u>16<sup>th</sup> May 1856</u>			
<i>M. Liebermann</i>	<i>Huddersfield</i>	333	<i>R.C.</i>

<u>18<sup>th</sup> July 1856</u>			
James Hall	Huddersfield	365	S.D.
<u>12<sup>th</sup> September 1856</u>			
W.S. Thornton	Huddersfield	342	W.M.
William Brook	Huddersfield	342	
Tom Learoyd	Huddersfield	342	
<u>10<sup>th</sup> October 1856</u>			
Nil			
<u>14<sup>th</sup> November 1856</u>			
William Taylor	Huddersfield	365	M.M.
William Eastwood	Peace	174	
<u>12<sup>th</sup> December 1856</u>			
George Mills	Huddersfield	365	W.M.
William Hanson	Huddersfield	365	
William Taylor	Huddersfield	365	
<u>10<sup>th</sup> April 1857</u>			
J. Wood	Huddersfield	763	P.G.O.
J.E. Carpenter	London	356	Warwick P.M.
George Taylor	Meltham	174	Peace P.M.
.			
<u>8<sup>th</sup> May 1857</u>			
George Taylor	Meltham	174	Peace P.M.

### **THE HOLMFIRTH MONUMENTAL ALMSHOUSES BAZAAR**

Whilst the brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge did not play a direct role in the running of the bazaar, several of its members and a number of their wives took an active part in its organisation.

John Harper, the first initiate of The Holme Valley Lodge, along with George H. Hinchliffe, who was to become a member of the Lodge in 1858, Richard Jessop, who had recently been appointed Commissioner to administer oaths in the High Court of Chancery in England, and Robert Aaron Floyd, the son of Cookson Stephenson Floyd, the first Master of The Holme Valley Lodge all served on the bazaar committee.

The minutes of these meetings were lost for many years and it was only because of a chance conversation in 2011 between Simon Foster, the current holder of the minutes, and Bro. Christopher Townsend that they were rediscovered.

It would appear that a preliminary meeting of the secretaries took place at Holly House, on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1856, although this cannot be confirmed as the first page of the minute book is missing. Richard Jessop acted as Chairman at that meeting. No business took place that evening and the meeting was adjourned until Friday of that week when it was convened once again at Holly House.

The following is a transcript of those minutes and helps to shed a light on the events following the flood and the part played by the members of The Holme Valley Lodge in the events leading up to the holding of the bazaar and the subsequent alleviation of suffering of several of the inhabitants of Holmfirth.

#### **MINUTES OF BAZAAR COMMITTEE 1856**

*Messrs. John Harpin, G.H. Hinchliff, Rd. Jessop & Robt. A. Floyd after which the meeting adjourned.*

*At a meeting of the Secretaries held at Holly House on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> February*

*Mr. Rd. Jessop in the chair  
It was resolved*

*That the meeting be adjourned.*

*Richard Jessop  
Chairman*

*At a meeting of the Secretaries held at Holly House on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February  
Mr. R. Jessop in the chair*

*It was resolved*

*That a meeting of ladies be convened at the National School on Friday next (the 15<sup>th</sup> inst) for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of promoting the Bazaar*

*That the ladies of Holmfirth and its vicinity be solicited personally to attend the meeting and to contribute (by work or otherwise) to the Bazaar.*

*That for the purpose of saving time and in order to invite as many ladies as possible to the meeting, the Secretaries should canvas the district in two parties.*

*That Mr. Harpin & Mr. R.A. Floyd take the North West or Almondbury side of the river and Mr. G.H. Hinchliff and Mr. Jessop the Kirkburton side.*

*That for the discussion of business the Secretaries shall hold their meetings at the houses of each other in succession and that the Secretary at whose house the meeting is held be Chairman for the evening.*

*That the meeting be held on Wednesday evenings and be weekly, fortnightly or monthly as the nature of the business to be discussed may require.*

*That the Secretaries meet at Sands on Wednesday next (the 13<sup>th</sup> inst) to report what progress they have made.*

*Richard Jessop  
Chairman*

*At a meeting of the Secretaries held at Sands on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> February*

*Mr. R.A. Floyd in the chair.*

*It was found*

*That the following ladies had been seen by the Secretaries since last meeting, all of whom had promised their countenance & support to the Bazaar and if possible & convenient to attend the meeting on Friday next (the 13<sup>th</sup> inst)*

Miss<sup>rs</sup> John Harpur, G. H. Hinchliff  
R<sup>d</sup> Jessop & Robt. A. Floyd  
after which the meeting adjourned.

2:14 a meeting of the Secretaries  
held at Holly House on Wednesday the  
6<sup>th</sup> of February  
W<sup>m</sup> R. Jessop in the Chair  
It was Resolved  
That this meeting be adjourned  
Richard Jessop  
Chairman

2:14 a meeting of the Secretaries  
held at Holly House on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>  
of February  
W<sup>m</sup> R. Jessop in the Chair  
It was Resolved  
That a meeting of Ladies be convened  
at the National School on Friday next (the  
15<sup>th</sup> inst) for the purpose of taking into  
consideration the best means of promoting  
the Bazaar  
That the Ladies of Holmfirth and its  
vicinity be solicited personally to attend

First recorded page of Minutes of Bazaar Committee. Richard Jessop, Chairman.  
(The actual first page appears to have been torn from the book)

By

*Mr G.H. Hincliff*  
*Mrs. Leach,*  
*Mrs. Booth,*  
*Mrs. Henry Moorhouse,*  
*Mrs. Hinchliff,*  
*Miss Woodhead,*

&

*Mr Jessop,*  
*Mrs. Josa Charlesworth,*  
*Mrs. Thomas Dyson,*  
*Mrs. Sam Mellor,*  
*Mrs. Abel Cuttell,*  
*Misses Sykes.*

By

*Mr Jns Harpin*  
*Mrs. Beardsell,*  
*Mrs. Nelson,*  
*Mrs Thos Mellor,*  
*Mrs. G. Mellor,*  
*Mrs. Joe Mellor,*  
*Mrs. J.H. Farrar,*  
*Mrs Jas Brooke,*  
*Mrs Boothroyd,*  
*Miss Hill,*  
*Mrs J.S. Battye,*  
*Mrs. Broadbent,*  
*Mrs. Lawton,*  
*Mrs. Kendal,*  
*Mrs. Walton,*  
*Miss Beeley,*  
*Mrs. Chs. Moorhouse,*  
*Mrs. Josp Moorhouse,*  
*Mrs. J.T. Taylor,*  
*Miss Elizth Moorhouse,*  
*Mrs. Ro. Bower,*  
*Mrs. D. Charlesworth,*  
*Mrs. N. Wimpenny,*  
*Mrs. C. Bashforth,*  
*Mrs. Josh Butterworth,*  
*Mrs. Jas Charlesworth,*  
*Mrs. Wm. Haigh*  
*Miss Lockwood*  
*Mrs. G. Crosland*

&

*Mr R.A. Floyd*  
*Mrs. Hallas,*  
*Mrs. John Moorhouse,*  
*Mrs. Floyd,*  
*Mrs. Josa Moorhouse,*  
*Miss Gartside.*  
*Mrs. Nathan Thewlis*  
*Mrs. Town*  
*Mrs. Trotter*  
*Mrs. Thos. Barber (Broadlane)*  
*Mrs. Thos. Hinchliff (Netherhouse)*  
*Mrs. Tom Barber (Upperthong)*  
*Mrs. D Brook*  
*Miss Harpin*  
*Mrs. Jonn Roberts (H. Mill)*  
*Mrs. John Roberts do.*  
*Mrs. Wm. Roberts do*  
*Misses Roberts do*  
*Mrs. Josh Barber do*  
*Mrs. Hy. Butterworth do.*  
*Mrs. Fearon*  
*Miss Furbank*  
*Mrs. Saml Wimpenny*  
*Burnlee*  
*Mrs. C. Trotter*  
*Mrs. Wylie*  
*Mrs. Tom Dyson*  
*Mrs. Hawksworth*

*And it was resolved*

*That the Secretaries meet at Birkshouse on Wednesday next (the 20<sup>th</sup> inst)*

*Robert A Floyd  
Chairman*

*At a meeting of the ladies convened by the Secretaries, held in the Committee Room of the National School o Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.*

*Mrs. Leach in the chair.*

*Ladies Present*

*Mrs. Fearon,  
Mrs. Towns,  
Mrs. Walton,  
Mrs. Kendal  
Mrs. Josa Charlesworth  
Mrs. Josa Moorhouse  
Mrs. Gartside  
Mrs Hinchliff  
Mrs. Farrar  
Mrs. Floyd  
Mrs. Dyson  
Mrs. Booth  
Miss Floyd  
Miss Beeley  
Miss A. Beeley  
Miss Woodhead  
Miss Lockwood*

*Mrs. Nelson  
Mrs. Josh Mellor  
Mrs. J.T. Taylor  
Mrs. G. Mellor  
Mrs. Wm. Haigh  
Mrs. Lawton  
Mrs. Thos Barber  
Mrs. Tom Barber  
Miss Fairbank  
Miss Farrar  
Miss Gartside  
Miss E. Hinchliff  
Miss A. Sykes  
Miss Moorhouse  
Miss Beardsell  
Miss Mellor  
Miss M.J. Mellor*

*It was resolved*

- 1. That the bazaar be held in the Town Hall, Holmfirth, on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> days of September 1856.*
- 2. That a committee be appointed to make the necessary arrangements consisting of the following ladies:*

<i>Mrs. Leach</i>	<i>Mrs. Floyd</i>
<i>Mrs. Walton</i>	<i>Mrs. Dyson</i>
<i>Mrs. Fearon</i>	<i>Mrs. Booth</i>
<i>Mrs. Kendal</i>	<i>Mrs. Nelson</i>
<i>Mrs. Towne</i>	<i>Mrs. Josh Mellor</i>
<i>Mrs. Josa Charlesworth</i>	<i>Mrs. J.T. Taylor</i>
<i>Mrs. Josa Moorhouse</i>	<i>Miss Stephenson</i>
<i>Mrs. Gartside</i>	<i>Miss Farrar</i>
<i>Mrs. Hinchliff</i>	<i>Miss Harpin</i>
<i>Mrs. Farrar</i>	<i>Miss Lockwood</i>
<i>Miss Woodhead</i>	<i>Miss Beardsell</i>
<i>Miss A. Sykes</i>	<i>Miss Mellor</i>

*Miss M.J. Mellor*

*With the power to add to their numbers and that any 7 of the Committee so appointed shall be competent to act.*

- 3. That Mrs. Leach be appointed President of the Committee.*
- 4. That Mrs James Charlesworth be appointed Treasurer.*
- 5. That the following ladies be appointed Secretaries*

<i>Miss Gartside</i>	<i>Miss Beeley</i>
<i>Miss E. Hinchliffe</i>	<i>Miss Floyd</i>

- 6. That the first meeting of the Committee be held in the National School on Friday next, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February inst at half past 2 o 'cl. In the afternoon.*

*At a meeting of the Secretaries held at Birkshouse on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.*

*Mr John Harpin in the chair*

*It was resolved*

*That Mr. Hill of Leeds (the Architect) be immediately instructed to make a small lithographed drawing (note paper size) of the Almshouses intended to be erected to head the various letters written in connection with the Bazaar.*

*John Harpin*  
*Chairman*



*At a meeting of the Committee held at the Nation School on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February*

*Mrs Leach in the chair*

*Ladies present*

<i>Mrs. Towne</i>	<i>Miss Gartside</i>
<i>Mrs. Josa Charlesworth</i>	<i>Miss E. Hinchliff } Secretary</i>
<i>Mrs. Josa Moorhouse</i>	<i>Miss Floyd } Secretary</i>
<i>Mrs. Hinchliff</i>	<i>Miss Stephenson</i>
<i>Mrs. Dyson</i>	<i>Miss Farrar</i>
<i>Mrs. Josh Mellor</i>	<i>Miss Harpin</i>
<i>Mrs. J.T. Taylor</i>	<i>Miss Lockwood</i>
<i>Mrs. C. Trotter</i>	<i>Miss Woodhead</i>
<i>Mrs. Iveson</i>	<i>Miss Beardsell</i>

*It was resolved*

- 1. That the following ladies be added to the Committee viz.:*  
*Mrs. Iveson & Mrs. C. Trotter.*
- 2. That there be 5 tables of plain and fancy work and other articles, one juvenile table and one table for refreshment and that the following ladies be appointed to preside.*

<i>No. 1.</i>	<i>Mrs. Leach {</i>	
	<i>Mrs. Hinchliff {</i>	
	<i>Mrs. Cuttall {</i>	<i>Work Table</i>
	<i>Miss Gartside {</i>	<i>and</i>
	<i>Mrs. Gartside }</i>	<i>Refreshment Hall</i>
	<i>Mrs. Iveson }</i>	
<i>2.</i>	<i>Mrs. Town</i>	<i>Mrs. Charlesworth</i>
	<i>Mrs. Farrar</i>	<i>Miss Stephenson</i>
<i>3.</i>	<i>Mrs. Floyd</i>	<i>Mrs. Nelson</i>
	<i>Mrs. Dyson</i>	<i>Miss A. Sykes</i>
<i>4.</i>	<i>Mrs J. Moorhouse</i>	<i>Misses Harpin</i>
	<i>Mrs C. Trotter</i>	<i>Miss Woodhead</i>
	<i>Mrs Hawksworth</i>	

3. *That a Sub Committee be formed consisting of the following ladies, viz;*

*Mrs. Leach*

*Mrs. Hinchliffe*

*Mrs. Gartside*

*Who shall have the power to purchase materials for useful articles, in order to distribute the same to such persons as are kindly disposed to work for the Bazaar, and that such articles be afterwards divided amongst the different tables.*

4. *That a banking account be opened with the Huddersfield Bank & Co.*  
5. *That the next general meeting of the Committee be held on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March at half past 2 o'clock in the afternoon.*

*At a meeting of the Committee held at the National School on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.*

*Mrs. Leach in the chair.*

*It was resolved*

1. *That the Bazaar shall be under Patronage.*  
2. *That the following parties be applied to and their Patronage solicited by the Rev. R.E. Leach viz*

*The Duchess of Kent*

*The Duchess of Leeds*

*The Earl & Countess of Harewood*

*The Earl & Ladies Fitzwilliam*

*The Earl of Dartmouth*

*The Earl of Carlisle*

*The Earl & Countess of Zetland*

*The Countess of Milton*

*Lord & Lady Goderick*

*Lord Loundsborough*

*The Bishop of Ripon*

*The Honourable Mrs Ramsden.*

*And such other influential individuals as the Committee hereafter may think advisable.*

3. *That Mr. Hill the Architect be instructed to order and send as soon as possible 500 sheets of note paper headed with the lithographed drawing of the Alms Houses for distribution by the Secretaries.*

4. *That Mr. J. Harpin, G.H. Hinchliff & R. Jessop wait upon the Holmbridge ladies for the purpose of forming another table at the Bazaar.*
5. *That the services and company of 4 gentlemen Secretaries be dispensed with at the future meetings of the Committee.*
6. *That the sub Committee meet on Saturday morning next to purchase material for work.*
7. *That*

*Mrs. Hinchliff  
Mrs Gartside  
Mrs Booth  
Mrs Town  
Mrs Farrar  
Mrs Nelson  
Mrs Dyson  
Mrs Hawksworth  
Miss Woodhead*

*And Miss Harpin meet (or provide each a substitute) at the National School on Wednesday (the 12th inst) at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon to sort out materials etc.*

8. *That the next general meeting of the Committee be held in the National School on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> April at ½ past 2 o'clock in the afternoon.*

*At a meeting of the Committee held at the National School on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.*

*Mrs. Hinchliffe in the chair.*

*It was resolved*

1. *That the idea of Patronage for the Bazaar shall be rejected as several unfavourable replies have been received from the persons solicited since our last meeting.*

*(Robert. Floyd, on behalf of the Ladies Committee, had, at their request, applied to Sir John Ramsden for a donation in aid of the fund. Sir John, with his characteristic liberality, in lieu of a donation sent the following letter;*

*Buckden, Sept. 12, 1856*

*Sir John Ramsden acknowledges the receipt of Mr. Floyd's letter, requesting him to subscribe to the Holmfirth bazaar. Sir John regrets that he cannot comply with this request. Owing to the great number of similar applications he receives, he is compelled to limit his contributions to those places which have an especial claim upon him.*

*C.S. Floyd, Esq., Holmfirth.*

*(This response was in total contrast to the liberality of the Earl of Dartmouth, who, having no property in Holmfirth, presented £10; whilst Sir John had a large tenantry residing in Holmfirth and its neighbourhood, and held stands and shops in the Huddersfield Piece-Hall, and warehouses in the town. It was recorded that a gentleman, on hearing this letter read, characteristically remarked;*

*“Well our firm have been tenants to Sir John Ramsden’s family for the last 60 years, and I did not expect an answer like that.”*

*The receipt of Sir John’s letter caused great surprise, not only amongst the ladies of the committee, but amongst the gentlemen of the district, who had certainly, for such an object, expected better things from one whose property and possession derived no small share of benefit from the enterprise and energy of the inhabitants of the vale of the Holme).*

- 2. That the circular drawn up by Mr. Robt. Floyd being approved of by the Committee be given into the care of Mr. John Harpin who shall see about its lithographing immediately.*
- 3. That the next general meeting of the Committee be held in the National School on --- the --- of--- at ½ past 2 o’cl. in the afternoon.*

*At a meeting of the Committee held at the National School on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> August.*

*Mrs. Hinchliff in the chair.*

*It was resolved*

- 1. That all the ladies use their best endeavours to procure bread, meat flour etc., or any other requisite for the refreshment stall and report progress at the next meeting.*
- 2. That the Bazaar open each day at 11 o’cl. and close at 6 o’cl. in the evening.*
- 3. That a band of music be engaged by Mr. John Harpin to play in Holmfirth.*
- 4. That Mr. Wood’s offer of a piano & harp for the room be accepted.*
- 5. That Messrs. G.H. Hinchliffe & Rd. Jessop be appointed to superintend the cleaning and decoration of the Town Hall.*
- 6. That Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September be fixed for the private view day.*
- 7. That the prices of admission to the Bazaar shall be as follows:-*

<i>1<sup>st</sup> On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.</i>	<i>2/6</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> “ Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> do.</i>	<i>2/-</i>

- 3<sup>rd</sup> “ Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> do. 1/-  
 4<sup>th</sup> “ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> do. -/6
8. That a season ticket of admission during the last 3 days shall be 2/6
  9. That the next general meeting of the Committee be held on Monday next the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. at 2 o’cl. in the afternoon.

*At a meeting of the Committee held at the National School on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August*

*Mrs Leach in the chair*

*It was resolved*

1. That the circular No. 2 drawn up by Mr. Jessop, be immediately put into the printer’s hands & printed copies be extensively circulated.
2. That the next general meeting of the Committee be held at the Town Hall on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> September at 3 o’cl. in the afternoon

*At a meeting of the Committee held at the Town Hall on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.*

*Mrs. Leach in the chair.*

*It was resolved*

1. That Mr. John Harpin be commissioned to obtain the cocoa nut matting (if possible) from the Church and Chapel for the Town Hall floor.
2. That the stall or tables be covered over the top with pink & white calico.
3. That Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Hinchliff and Mrs. Iveson be appointed to superintend the arrangements etc. of the refreshment table.
4. That the care of providing soup & wine be left with the Gentleman’s Committee.
5. That the Gentlemen Secretaries see about providing Carvers for the meat.
6. That Mr. Harpin & Mr. Robt. Floyd shall attend the flower show held in the Town Hall on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sept. inst. to beg fruit, flowers etc. for the decoration of the room and for the refreshment table.
7. That the next general meeting of the Committee be held at the Town Hall on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. inst. at 2 o’cl. in the afternoon.

*At a meeting of the ladies Committee held at the Town Hall on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1865*

*Mrs Leach in the chair*

*It was resolved*

1. *That in the event of any of the articles or work remaining undisposed of on the evening of Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. inst. the same shall be retained by the respective ladies by whom it shall have been given and a sale shall take place during the spring of 1857 for the purpose of finally disposing thereof.*

*Moved by Mrs. Hinchliff*

*Seconded by Mrs Hawksworth.*

2. *That 2 men be engaged to watch all night in the Town Hall during the 4 nights of the Bazaar. Viz: the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of September inst.*
3. *That a bill of fare shall be draw up for the refreshment table & copies printed for distribution. (not carried out).*
4. *That a dinner consisting of cold meat with hot vegetables, pastry & cheese be provided for any person at a cost of 2/6: Beer, wine, jellies etc., not included in that charge.*
5. *That refreshments be provided at the following rates:*

	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Glass of wine</i>	<i>0. 6</i>
<i>Glass of ale</i>	<i>0. 3</i>
<i>Sandwich</i>	<i>0. 3</i>
<i>Jellies Custards etc.</i>	<i>0. 6 each</i>
<i>Cup of tea or coffee</i>	<i>0. 6</i>

\*

*The receipts for admission to the bazaar for the four days were – Tuesday and Wednesday, £47.0.0; Thursday, £17.0.0; Friday, £6.0.0; totalling £70.0.0, and the necessary money required by the committee to provide the annuity needed for the residents of the almshouses was raised by the ladies of Holmfirth, with the help of several members of The Holme Valley Lodge.*

# BAZAAR FOR THE ENDOWMENT OF THE HOLMFIRTH MONUMENTAL ALMS-HOUSES.

YOUR ATTENDANCE AND THAT OF YOUR FRIENDS IS EARNESTLY REQUESTED AT THE ABOVE

# BAZAAR,

WHICH WILL BE HELD

**IN THE TOWN HALL, HOLMFIRTH,**  
**On Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, the 17th, 18th & 19th of September, 1856.**

The Bazaar will be open FOR INSPECTION ONLY on the previous Tuesday Afternoon, from Two o'clock to Six.

*Suitable Music will be provided on the days of Sale.*

*The following Ladies have kindly undertaken to preside at the Stalls:—*

Mrs. LEACH, The Parsonage, Holmfirth; Mrs. HINCHLIFF, Nabb House; Mrs. IVESON, Holmfirth; Mrs. GARTSIDE, Carr House;  
Mrs. H. BOOTH, Thorp Hey; and Mrs. A. CUTTELL, Undercliffe.  
Mrs. FEARON, The Parsonage, Holme Bridge; Mrs. FLOWER, The Parsonage, Upperthong; Mrs. CHARLESWORTH, South House;  
Mrs. FARRAR, Lane House; Mrs. JOHN BARBER, Holme Bridge; Mrs. EDMUND BARBER, Holme Bridge;  
and Miss STEPHENSON, South House.  
Mrs. FLOYD, Sands; Mrs. DYSON, Moorfield House; Mrs. G. N. NELSON, The Hagg; Misses SYKES, Holmfirth; and  
Misses BEELEY, Holmfirth.  
Mrs. MOORHOUSE, Holmfirth; Mrs. HAWKSWORTH, Holmfirth; Mrs. TROTTER, Burn Lee; Miss HARPIN, Birks House;  
and Miss WOODHEAD, The Ridings.

Prices of Admission—Tuesday, September 16th—2s. 6d.				
"	"	Wednesday,	"	17th—2s. 0d.
"	"	Thursday,	"	18th—1s. 0d.
"	"	Friday,	"	19th— 6d.

Children under twelve years of age will be admitted at half-price during the three days of Sale. Season Tickets for those three days may be had for 2s. 6d. each at Mr. Joseph Crosland's, Stationer, Holmfirth. The Bazaar will be opened on each of the days of Sale at 11 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m.

It is requested that Contributions not intended for any particular Lady may be sent (with the prices affixed) not later than the 10th September, to Mrs. Leach, the President of the Committee; or to Miss Gartside, Miss E. Hinchliff, Miss Beeley and Miss Floyd, the Secretaries, and they will be divided amongst the Ladies at the different Stalls.  
Holmfirth, 26th August, 1856.

*Poster Advertising the Bazaar*

### **THE ALMS-HOUSES NEAR COMPLETION.**

There can be little doubt that the decision by Cookson Stephenson to donate land to be used as the site for the erection of alms-houses to be occupied by the poor of the Holmfirth affected by the flood was, in some part, due to the influence of his uncle, Cookson Stephenson Floyd. Cookson Stephenson was to marry Mary Anne, the eldest daughter of Floyd some three years later.

Floyd himself was instrumental in organising the participation of the Masonic movement in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the building and did in fact perform that duty himself on behalf of the Province of West Yorkshire.

As the completion of the building drew near the following article appeared in the local press on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1856. It illustrates the thought leading to its construction, the problems experienced and details of the subsequent bazaar, held to raise funds for the annuity required to support the future occupants of the almshouses.

Whilst this may not appear to relate directly to the history of The Holme Valley Lodge it does nevertheless show the interest shown in this project by its early members, future members and their families.

### **THE HOLMFIRTH ALMS-HOUSES' BAZAAR**

*The Holmfirth Almshouses are now rapidly approaching completion. Situate on the slopes of the hill near the railway station, their small and elegant spire attracts the attention of all visitors to the building, and enquiries are naturally instituted as to the object for which they are in course of erection.*

*It may not be amiss, therefore, shortly to revert to the melancholy catastrophe of the bursting of the Bilberry Reservoir, of which this structure is intended to be an enduring and significant memorial.*

*In the sermon preached by the Rev. J.G. Fardell, M.A., rector of Banham, on the occasion of the laying the foundation stone of these buildings, which has just been published, the event is thus eloquently described: -*



*“Perhaps there never was a more distressing instance, or one than at that time created greater sympathy from the throne to the cottage, than the calamity which took place here on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1852. The day had been spent as all other week-days had been spent, and things looked just as usual. Some of the inhabitants had been to their fields, some to their mills, some to other avocations, and had returned home to their nightly repose. The man of money and enterprise had inspected his great works of adding house to house and had now given his mind to rest. The minister of God had visited his people, and had prayed in his secret chamber, or had sat by the bed-side of the sick man to read God’s book, and had retired to recruit his wearied spirit and seek renewed strength. The philanthropist had given his alms into the poor man’s hand, and in return had received a poor man’s prayers and a poor man’s thanks. The fond but humble parents had heard their infants’ evening prayer, and had committed them to rest under the Divine protection; and mankind, in this retired and beautiful vale had resigned exhausted nature to evening repose. All were at rest save a very few, whose duty seemed to be that of watching the mighty mass of water, banked up to supply this place with a power to earn their daily bread. In a moment – in the dead of that dreary and stormy night – the mighty mound of earth which held up this great reservoir, now deeply saturated and undermined below, and broken in above, gave way, cleft asunder from the top to bottom; and down the vale came the pent-up water full of destruction and death! As the morning broke, how many a vacant spot was seen, where the recollection told of happy and contented spirits. – where memory remembered houses full of thriving inmates; yea, where even houses themselves were gone with the inhabitants! In fact ruin was everywhere.”*

*It was indeed an awful night, and the feeling of fear, or rather the certain foreboding of the catastrophe, which pervaded the inhabitants of the valley, is well described in a short poem by a lady, just published, entitled*

*“A Reminiscence of Holmfirth Flood.”*

*Evening sank down in silence,  
Foreboding, dark, and drear;  
On her low hush broke solemnly  
A rumbling sound of fear;  
And, through the shuddering gloom afar,  
She felt a measured tread;  
The mighty watcher came, to seal  
Her slumberers for the dead.  
Night deepen’d. In the valley,*

*The red lights one by one,  
Went out, and brooding silence  
Waited tomorrow's sun  
Strong men, fatigued with labour,-  
Young children, tired of play,-  
Age, weary of its feebleness,-  
In tranquil slumber lay;  
Ah! Was no guardian spirit near  
To bid those dreamers start?  
A sense of peril imminent  
Flash'd on each shrinking heart.*

*As stated by the Rev. T. James, of Netherton, in an appendix to the sermon we have before referred to: -*

*“On Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> February, the rain continued to descend heavily and without intermission throughout the entire day. The water rose in the reservoir at the rate of 18 inches an hour. This hourly increase, according to the calculations of an engineer, would amount to 2,850,480 gallons, and weigh 14,725 tons. About eleven o'clock at night, the water began to wash over the middle of the embankment, and gradually carried away the outer slope. The puddle-bank in the middle of the embankment next gave way, and at midnight, between twelve and one o'clock, when the rains had ceased, and the moon was shining brightly, in the presence of many spectators, who had been brought hither by the alarm, the inner embankment, just as if it had been struck by lightning, suddenly gave way with a loud thundering crash; and the pent up waters rushed out with terrible fury, and rolled down the valley like a mighty deluge, carrying with it immense ruin of property and desolation, and leaving at every step of its course melancholy proofs of its irresistible power. The impetuous torrent swept before it factories with all their engines, machinery, and varied contents – dwelling houses with their sleeping inmates of fathers, mothers, and children – outbuildings, containing horses, horned cattle, and other animals. It invaded churches and chapels, overthrew tombstones, and disturbed the dead in their graves. It cleared out and carried away the contents of warehouses, dyehouses; and shops. The scene which presented itself at daybreak, along the Digley and Holme valleys, was one of a deeply overwhelming nature, and of which the most graphic description would fail to convey to the reader an adequate idea. Roads and streets had been ploughed up. Some fences had been swept away, and bridges had disappeared. Wherever the eye rested it witnessed a scene of havoc and ruin. The land along the valley was strewn for miles with uprooted trees, massive stones, and wrecks of buildings. Here and there were seen huge boilers and other ponderous bodies*

*which had been dislodged by the torrent, and thrown on the banks of the river. It was subsequently ascertained that 81 individuals had perished in this flood; that property variously estimated at from £50,000 to £250,000 in value had been destroyed, and 7,000 industrious artisans thrown out of employment."*

*How nobly the appeal for assistance was responded to by the nation is well known – and the mode of distribution of the fund raised equally so.*

*It was felt that such a calamity, and such generosity ought not to be allowed to pass away unheeded and unrecorded. As a permanent record it was decided that five almshouses should be erected; and the plan of Mr. Hill, of Leeds, having been selected, the foundation stone was laid with all due ceremony on the 21<sup>st</sup> April in this year, by C.S. Floyd Esq., on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons. The houses are now nearly completed; and whilst they form the most ornamental building yet erected in Holmfirth, all has not been sacrificed to ornament; for within they are comfortable and complete in their arrangement, In a niche in the tower, a tablet is placed, bearing the following inscription: -*

*"IN DEI GLORIAM"*

*"These Almshouses built and endowed by public subscription, and by the proceeds of a bazaar promoted by the ladies of the neighbourhood as a memorial of the Holmfirth Flood, caused by the bursting of the Bilberry Reservoir on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1852, by which 81 lives were lost, and an immense amount of property destroyed; and as a further memorial of the national munificence for the alleviation of that calamity, are dedicated to the poor of the townships of Holme, Austonley, Cartworth, Wooldale, Upperthong, Netherthong, and Honley, for ever.*

*"MDCCCLVI"*

*At the principal entrance, when completed, will be inscribed on a scroll the name of "William Hill, architect;" and also on a table the names of the donor of the site of the building – Cookson Stephenson, Esq., and the fourteen original trustees.*

*The funds in hand being not more than sufficient to pay for the erection of the building - the site having been given - a question arose how sufficient funds were to be raised for the endowment of the alms houses, for which, at least, £1,000 would be required. At this juncture the ladies of Holmfirth, with ready hands and benevolent hearts, came forth and prevented the whole scheme from becoming nullified. They suggested the holding of a bazaar, and the proposition was readily assented to. A committee of ladies was at once formed to carry the design into execution. From that time numbers of ladies have been untiringly devoting their talents and energies to the production of articles suited for the intended*

bazaar. Other patronage was also vouchsafed to the undertaking, - donations of various valuable articles being received from beyond the immediate neighbourhood. The ladies committee were thus encouraged to cheerfully carry on their self-imposed work to a triumphant issue.

The following donations of sums of £5 and upwards have been received by the Ladies Committee, viz : - The Earl of Dartmouth, £10; Mrs. Cooper, of Leeds, £10; J.T. Fisher, Esq., of Marsden, J.P., £10; William Bingley, Esq., of Ellerslie Lodge, near Peniston, and Miss Bingley, £10; E.H. Harrison, Esq., of Liverpool, £10; a friend, by William Harpin, Esq., of Liverpool, £10; the Bishop of Ripon, £5; Mrs. Burton, of Leeds, £5; a friend, ditto, £5; the Rev. R.H. Shaw, ditto, £5; T.P. Crosland, Esq., of Gledholt, J.P., £5; Abraham Hirst, Esq., of Hullen Edge, £5; George Jessop, Esq., of Honley, £5; Edward Hardy, Esq., of Shepley Hall, £5; Bentley Shaw Esq., of Woodfield House, £5; Samuel Leycock, Esq., of Bradford, J.P., £5; S. Leycock Tee, Esq., ditto, £5.

Many contributions of minor amounts were also liberally forwarded; besides articles, some of them of considerable value, from our principal shopkeepers in Huddersfield, including Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Gregory, drapers, Mr Robinson, of Westgate, grocer; Mr. Heslop and Mr Cooper, silversmiths; Mr. W.H.A. Roebuck, cabinet maker; and Mr J. Brook, Stamp-office. To name these contributors only, must not be thought invidious; and it is possible that inadvertently we may have omitted names that ought to have been mentioned. In addition to the refreshments announced last week, as contributed by Mrs. Wigney, of the George Hotel, Mrs. Bradley, of the Imperial Hotel, Mrs. Bottomley, of the Cherry Tree Inn, and Mrs. Veevers, of the Queen Hotel, the name of Mrs. Moore, of the Railway Station Hotel, Huddersfield, must also have a place. It will be seen that no mention is here of the contributions in Holmfirth; for where all have done their duty, it becomes unnecessary and impossible to give particulars.

Mr. Floyd, on behalf of the Ladies Committee, and by their request, applied to Sir John Ramsden for a donation in aid of the fund. Sir John, with characteristic liberality, in lieu of a donation sent a letter, which we think ought to be placed on record : -

Buckden, Sept.12, 1856

Sir John Ramsden acknowledges the receipt of Mr. Floyd's letter, requesting him to subscribe to the Holmfirth bazaar. Sir John regrets that he cannot comply with this request. Owing to the great number of similar applications he receives, he is compelled to limit his contributions to those places which have an especial claim upon him.

C.S. Floyd, Esq., Holmfirth.

*This response furnishes a remarkable contrast to the liberality of the Earl of Dartmouth, who, having no property in Holmfirth, presented £10; whilst Sir John has a large tenantry residing in Holmfirth and its neighbourhood, who hold stands and shops in the Huddersfield Piece-hall, and warehouses in the town. A gentleman, on hearing this letter read, characteristically remarked, "Well our firm have been tenants to Sir John Ramsden's family for the last 60 years, and I did not expect an answer like that."*

*The receipt of Sir John's letter caused great surprise, not only amongst the ladies of the committee, but amongst the gentlemen of the district, who had certainly, for such an object, expected better things from one whose property and possession derive no small share of benefit from the enterprise and energy of the inhabitants of the vale of the Holme.*

### **THE BAZAAR**

*All was preparation on the part of the committee, and anticipation on the part of the public, during the early portion of the week. On Tuesday afternoon the Town Hall was opened for public inspection – each visitor paying an entrance fee of half a crown for the privilege. The coup d'oeil from the gallery was magnificent. The stalls were arranged on each side of the hall, covered with white and pink calico; and in front were variegated designs in needlework serving for bannerets. The Corinthian pillars supporting the roof near the platform were entwined with wreaths, having pendant the letters V.A. and a star, formed of dahlias; whilst on one side of the hall was a large union jack, and on the other a tricolour. The decorations were beautifully and tastefully completed under the superintendence of Mr. Iveson and Mr. Chas. Taylor.*

*The platform was filled with various ornamented articles of domestic use; the stalls were crowded to excess with every variety of needlework, glittering in all the colours of the rainbow, and space could not be found for display of the whole stock which had been provided. The body of the hall was filled with the elite of the neighbourhood, given to the whole a rich and animated appearance.*

*Such a display of articles of needlework, both for variety and execution, has perhaps never been equalled in this district, and it was declared by several who have witnessed both our metropolitan and large provincial bazaars, that though the latter exceeded Holmfirth in quantity, yet it was not surpassed for the artistic excellence of the productions.*

\*

## THE STALLS

*The ladies who had undertaken to preside at the stalls, balloted for precedence, and thus the order in which they had been announced was altered. The following was the order in which they fell by the ballot: -*

**STALL No. 1** – *Mrs. Fearon, the Parsonage, Holmbridge; Mrs. Flower, The Parsonage, Upperthong; Mrs. Charlesworth, South House; Mrs. Farrar, Lane House; Mrs. John Barber, Holmbridge; Mrs. Edmond Barber, Holmbridge; and Miss Stephenson, South House.*

*One of the most attractive objects on this stall was a splendid specimen of needlework in a finely carved rosewood frame, shield form. The flowers were worked in wool, consisting of roses, lilies, convolvuluses, tulips, and other flowers artistically grouped on a dark ground so as to display them more effectively. Antimacassars were in great variety. Splendidly worked dark crimson and drab smoking caps were in great number. On hassocks, ladies bags, and chair covers, the whole art of ornamentation in wool seemed to have been lavished. There were also some droll-looking dolls, more remarkable from their grotesqueness than elegance of form. A splendid ornamented cushion, with white, crimson, and blush roses, worked in beads on a white ground, was deserving of commendation. There were several mats of pearl and beads, interspersed with silver thread and wool work; and some light and fanciful ivory fans; and there seemed to be an endless amount of bead work - whilst at the end of the room, under the gallery, was arranged a vast quantity of babies clothing.*

**STALL No. 2** – *Mrs Moorhouse, Holmfirth; Mr Hawksworth, Holmfirth; Mrs Trotter, Burn-lee; Miss Harpin, Birks-house; and Miss Woodhead, the Ridings.*

*A splendid worked stool cover, having a design in the centre of roses in different tints, interspersed with moss rose buds, was remarkable for beautiful execution. There were also some finely formed hand screens, having groups of flowers painted upon them. A large number of cushions in blue, green, olive-green, and crimson, with ornamental foliage in wool work. Artificial roses of various tints, which viewed at a distance, might have mistaken for the productions of nature. A delicately worked and tastefully designed pincushion, with white satin ground, decorated with bunches of artificial snowdrops at each corner, and a small wreath of flowers in wool work in the centre; and a magnificent group of water-lilies in wax, on a gilt stand. There was besides a tiny mahogany Tudor bedstead, with well worked fringes, hangings and all other appurtenances complete, even to the recumbent doll. For the convenience of the gentlemen, a large number of handsomely worked slippers in wool were provided. There were also excellent specimens of jacquard weaving displayed, the most attractive being a full-length portrait of General Washington. Patience must surely have been almost*

*exhausted in the labour of producing the numerous fine chair and stool covers exhibited.*

**STALL No. 3** – *Mrs. Floyd, Sands; Mrs. Dyson, Moorfield-house; Mrs G.N. Nelson, The Hagg; Misses Sykes, Holmfirth; and Misses Beeley, Beech-house.*

*The most attractive article on this stall was a unique chair in Berlin and German wools, consisting of floral and foliage designs of exquisite workmanship. Another object of admiration was an alabaster vase, filled with artificial roses, lilies, fuchsias, petunias, hyacinths, and laburnums. Near this was a china time piece, and a group of water-lilies in wax, with a few delicate forget-me-nots artistically introduced. There were also displayed a tiny Tudor bed-stead complete, with wax doll reposing thereon; some elegantly worked ladies slippers in crimson and gold; a miniature cot in wood, with ivory mountings, furnished with checked silk coverlid, surmounted by a crown in bead work. There were also several ornamental octagon ladies' work boxes, furnished with all the necessary requisites; and a large number of light hand baskets, with different shaded silk trimmings. Here also the comfort of the gentleman had not been forgotten; for we noticed a large number of braces and smoking caps, on which an almost endless amount of labour had been extended in their decoration. A small carved German box was much admired for the carvings upon the lid. The was endless variety of book-marks;, with mottoes from scripture, and various languages; some splendidly worked cushions in wool of elegant design; and a large amount of bead work; consisting of articles of nearly every description to which the art can be applied. Connected with this stall was two elegant chairs made up, beside a beautiful banner screen and several ottomans, which were placed on the platform, as also were other things of the same kind belonging to other stalls.*

**STALL No. 4** – *Mrs. Leach, the Parsonage, Holmfirth; Mrs. Hinchliffe, Nabb House; Mrs. Iveson, Holmfirth; Mrs. Gartside, Carr House; Mrs. H. Booth, Thorp Heys; and Mrs. Cuttell, Undercliffe.*

*At this stall attention was first rivetted by a beautiful chair cover in wools, the design consisting of a group of roses, lilies, and other choice flowers of giant size. Next, a pair of small cushion covers in wool, the one representing a family of spaniel dogs, and the other a tiger cat with its litter of young. There was also a fine screen in wool, representing a bird perched over a group of flowers. Amongst the smaller articles displayed was an exquisitely executed card basket in leather, the border being decorated with flowers and foliage of the same material; a magnificent basket of flowers in wool and wax, elegantly designed; a large number of table mats in wool, and an elaborately executed alum basket, filled with artificial flowers.*

**THE PLATFORM** *was covered with a splendidly worked Jacquard carpet, on which was displayed a large variety of articles suitable for domestic and*

devotional comfort. These articles have been referred to, and belong to the various stalls, but had been placed there for want of room on the respective stalls. In the centre was a superb fire screen, with gilt pillar and claw in dead and burnished gold, the screen being in the bannerette form; the ground work was of white beading, the centre filled with a tasteful bouquet of flowers and foliage in wool. There was several pew kneeling cushions, with Mosaic work in Berlin wool; numerous hassock, stools, buffets, and music stools, covered with needlework of elegant design. Two magnificent easy chairs were also displayed. The frames were carved rosewood, the seats and backs being covered with floral wool-work; there were also other chairs similarly decorated. On the walls were suspended two engravings – the frames of which were universally admired and commended. The larger was an engraving, entitled, “Coming of age in the olden time,” having a most elegant frame in oak coloured leather. The chasteness and beauty of its design, and the intricacy of manipulation which had been evidently required for its completion, must have been immense, and redounds to the credit of the fair ones who have devoted time and exercised ingenuity in producing such an artistic and tasteful work. Hanging beside this, was a lithograph of an angler, in an oval frame of drab leather; both picture frames being the work of the same lady, who designed the larger leather frame. At the top was a cluster of grapes intermingled with various flowers. At the bottom was a pendant group of the fir apples and foliage. The surrounding frame was of ample width, displaying great taste and delicacy in its formation. There was also a fine watercolour drawing, in gilt frame, of the object for which the bazaar was held – the Holmfirth Monumental Houses. An excellent cottage piano, which was for sale, was played by a pupil of Mr. J. Wood, accompanied by Mr. Drake on the cornopean. In addition to the articles for sale, a Holmfirth gentleman generously contributed a valuable phaeton, with lamp, rug, whip, and everything complete, together with a good set of harness, in aid of the bazaar, which was raffled for in 30 shares at £1 each, Mr. G.H. Hinchliff being the lucky winner.

Wednesday morning, the day on which the sale was to commence, dawned most gloomily; and about twelve o’clock the rain commenced and continued pouring down for the remainder of the day. The morning was inaugurated with joyous peals from the church bells; and the temperance brass band, seated in front of the Town Hall gave selections of approved music. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a large number of respectable families arrived by the morning train, and others poured in from all parts of the district. The hall was soon filled with a gaily attired assembly, and purchases were made on a most extensive scale, giving every prospect that the anticipations formed of a sufficient fund being raised would be fully realised – a result which will be deemed by the ladies an ample recompense for the really hard work they have so cheerfully undergone, for



*Charity ever  
Finds in the act reward, and needs no trumpet  
In the receiver*

*At six o'clock, as a signal for departure, the band struck up the National Anthem, when the whole of the persons present spontaneously joined in singing "God save the Queen." Three cheers were afterwards given for the ladies with one more, after which, for that day, the bazaar closed.*

*About 24 gentlemen subsequently dined together in one of the refreshment rooms, at which C.S. Floyd Esq., presided, and James Bates, Esq., occupied the vice-chair. On the right of the chair the Rev. T.B. Bensted, of Lockwood, the Rev. J.Fearon, of Holm-bridge, T.P. Crosland, Esq., J.P., and others; and on the left, Joshua Moorhouse, Esq., J.P., George Hinchliffe, Esq., Abel Cuttell, Esq., the Chief Constable, and others. The usual toasts were given, and that especially befitting the occasion, "The ladies promoting the bazaar," proposed from the chair, was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, and was responded to by several of the gentlemen present, who divided the honours amongst them. Able speeches were likewise delivered by the rev. gentlemen present, Mr Crosland and Mr Moorhouse; and after a most happy evening spent, the company separated.*

*On the evening of the following day the ladies connected with the bazaar, to the number of 24 – a beautiful sight – sat down to coffee, after which the gentlemen followed with a repast of the same beverage; and the toasts becoming the occasion were drunk with enthusiasm.*

*On Thursday the day was more propitious; but it was not until afternoon that the room became crowded, and it then became crowded in every part. It was impossible for anyone to get to the stalls, and the ladies, every active, were to be seen carrying various articles and offering them for sale whilst winding about through the company. In this task they also found assistants in several young gentlemen.*

*It was announced early yesterday (Friday) morning that the bazaar would finally close at eight o'clock. At that hour, however, it was found impossible to close, owing to the large influx of visitors; but about nine o'clock the Nation Anthem was struck up as a signal for the bazaar to be closed; and after the air had been played, the Rev. John Fearon stepped forward on the platform along with other gentlemen, and in a few eloquent remarks, proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for their kind and indefatigable exertions in promoting the bazaar, - Mr Floyd seconded the motion, and proposed three hearty cheers for the ladies, which were most enthusiastically responded to. One cheer was also given for the almshouses, and one for Holmfirth, after which the Nation Anthem, led by Miss Charlesworth and Miss Hinchliffe, of the neighbouring church choirs, was sung in good style, and the company began very reluctantly to separate.*



*The Alms Houses on completion in 1856*

*The receipts for admission for the four days were – Tuesday and Wednesday, £47; Thursday, £17; Friday, £6; total £70.*

*We are not in a position to state the gross receipts of the bazaar, the accounts not having been made up at the time our parcel was despatched by the last train; but we believe we are warranted in saying that the most sanguine hopes of the promoters will be realised, and that the noble sum of £1000 will be the result of the united endeavours of the ladies of Holmfirth to endow the almshouses. All honour and praise are due to them!*

## THE CONSECRATION OF THE HOLME VALLEY LODGE

The Holme Valley Lodge was consecrated two years after receiving the Warrant of Constitution. Regrettably as the minutes of the lodge for that period are lost, there is no record of the event.

However the following report of the ceremony appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 1857 and gives a clear account of the proceedings of what must be regarded as the most important event in the lodge's history:

*A Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire was held at the Victoria Hotel, in the lodge-room of The Holme Valley Lodge, No 937, on Wednesday, at which, besides the usual business, the interesting ceremony of the consecration of The Holme Valley Lodge took place. There were present Bro. George Fearnley, M.D. of Dewsbury, the W.D.P.G.M.; Bro. The Rev A.F.A. Woodford, M.A. rector of Swillington West, Leeds, P.S.G.W.; Bro. C.S. Floyd, of Holmfirth, P.P.S.G.W.; Bro. Bentley Shaw, J.P., of Woodfield House, P.P.S.G.W.; Bro. James Franklin of Halifax, P.J.G.W.; Bro. Christopher Waud, of Bradford, P.P.J.G.W.; Bro. James Peace, of Huddersfield, P.P.J.G.W.; Bro. The Rev. H. De L. Willis D.D. of Bradford, P.G. Chaplain; Bro. William Dixon of Morley P.G. Treas.; Bro. John Batley of Leeds, P.G.Reg.; Bro. William Perkin, P.P.G R.; Bro. R.A. Nelson, of Dewsbury, P.G. Sec.; Bro. R Addiman, P.S.G.D.; Bro. G.T. Wright, P.P.S.G.D.; Bro. J.T.V. Hardy P.J.G.D.; Bro. D. Berry, P.G.Sup. of W.; Bro. William Kilner, P.P.G.S.; Bro. Wm. Smith, P.P.G.D.C.; Bro D. Salmond, P.G.S.B.; Bro. Joe Wood, P.G.Org.; Bro. J. Siddall, P.G. Par.; Bro.W. Gath, P.G.S.; Bro. T. Wood, P.G.S.; Bro. Harry Baines, P.G.S.; Bro. A. Ingleman, P.G.S.; Bro. John Beckett, P.G. Tyler; Bro. George Ingleson, P.G. Tyler; together with other P.P. Grand officers and a large assembly of other brethren from the several lodges in the province, including the following brethren belonging to The Holme Valley Lodge: - Bro. Jos. Mellor, W.M.; Bro. John Burton, S.W.; Bro. G.N. Nelson, J.W.; Bro. George Eastwood, Sec.; Bro John Woodhead, S.D.; Bro. John Harpin, J.P., J.D.;*

*Bro. Charles Taylor, D.C. Bros. Frank Littlewood, Henry Tinker and Thomas Hinchliffe, stewards.*

*After the Lodge had been duly consecrated according to the ancient ritual of freemasonry by Bro. The Rev. Dr. Willis, the P.G. Chaplain, and after the P.G. Lodge had closed, about fifty of the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet provided for the occasion by Mrs Kippax, which was got up in her best style and gave evident satisfaction to all assembled. The chair was taken by Br. Dr. Fearnley, W.D.P.G.M., the vice-chairs being occupied by Bros. the Rev. A.F.C. Woodford and Bro. Jas. Franklin.*

*On the right of the chair were Bro. Christopher Ward, Bro. Bentley Shaw, Bro. J.T.V. Hardy, Bro. R.R. Nelson, &c. On the left Bro. the Rev. Dr. Willis, Bro. C.S. Floyd, Bro. William Dixon, Bro John Batley, Bro. William Perkin, Bro. G.T. Wright, Bro. John Harpin, &c.*

*The following toasts were proposed in succession by the D.P.G.M. "Her Majesty the Queen." "H.R.H. the Prince Consort, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Army and Navy," responded to by Bro. Harpin. "The Right Hon. The Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M. of England."*

*"The Right Hon. Lord Panmure, R.W.D.G.M., and the Officers of Grand Lodge." Bro. The Rev. A.F.A. Woodford proposed, "The Right Hon. The Earl of Mexborough, R.W.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire," responded to by Dr. Fearnley, Bro. The Rev Dr. Willis proposed, "Bro. Dr. Fearnley, W.D.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire," responded to by Dr Fearnley; who then proposed – "The S. and J.G. Wardens, and the rest of the P.G. officers," responded to by the several brethren included in the toast.*

*Bro. C.S. Floyd proposed "The Rev and Worshipful P.G. Chaplain and the P.P.G. Chaplains," responded to by the Rev Dr Willis. The D.P.G.M. proposed, "The W.P.P.G. Wardens and the P.P.G. Officers," responded to by Bro C. Ward (Bro. Bentley Shaw had been obliged to leave at an early hour.)*

*The D.P.G.M. also proposed, "Prosperity to The Holme Valley Lodge, 937," responded to by Bro. Floyd.*

*The following toasts were also proposed: - "The W.M's and P.M's of Lodges," responded to by Bro. Jos. Mellor. "Our visiting brethren," responded to by Bro. T.A. Haigh, of Meltham. "Masons' Wives and Masons' Sweethearts," responded to by all the bachelor Masons.*

*The toasts and speeches were interspersed with excellent songs and glees. Bro. Joseph Wood presided at the pianoforte; and after spending a most pleasant evening, the brethren separated. The next P.G. Lodge meeting will be held in Leeds.*

\*

On Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1858, the year following the consecration, Provincial Grand Lodge again held it's meeting at the Town Hall, Holmfirth, and was attended, on this occasion, by the Earl of Mexborough, the R.W.P.G.M., and W. Bro. Dr. George Fearnley, D.P.G.M.

The Earl of Mexborough had reached the age of seventy-five the previous Saturday.

Following the close of business, which commenced at 2.30 pm, fifty-two of the Brethren adjourned to the Victoria Hotel where they dined at the festive board and where the chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough. The cost of the banquet provided was 3/6d each. After the festivities music played a large part in the celebrations, as songs accompanied each of the fourteen toasts.

Following the festive board thanks were returned with a rendering of Non Nobis Domine 'Not to us, not to us, O Lord, But to your name give glory', the loyal toast was proposed, after which the brethren sang, 'God Save the Queen'. This was followed in turn by 'Gentlemen of England,' 'When stormy winds do blow,' 'Azure main,' 'Rule Britannia,' 'Prosper the Art,' 'Hail to the Craft,' 'When Time was Entwining,' 'Prosper the Art,' 'Pass the Red Wine,' 'The Rolling Zidder Zee,' 'Good night,' 'Join all in Harmony,' 'Here's a Health to Old England,' 'Pratty Flowers,' 'Farmers Boy,' 'Prosper the Art' and finally 'Here's a Health to all Good Lasses.' This was the first occasion that Pratty Flowers was recorded as having been sung at The Holme Valley Lodge.

The toast, 'to the Worshipful Masters and Masters of Lodges in the Province', was proposed by W. Bro. G. Fearnley D.P.G.M. and the response given by John Burton, who although no records of his installation exist, was recorded in the Huddersfield Chronicle on Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1858, as being the Worshipful Master of The Holme Valley Lodge at that time.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.			
On Wednesday, July 7th, 1858.			
PROGRAMME OF THE TOASTS, &c.,			
AT THE			
BANQUET AT THE VICTORIA HOTEL,			
HOLMFIRTH.			
(Dinner at half-past Two o'Clock.)			
Toasts.	Proposed by	Music.	Responded to by
1 Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen ..	Br. Dr. Lennan	God Save the Queen	Mr. Lennan
2 H.R.H. Prince Consort; Albert, Prince of Wales; and the rest of the Royal Family .....	R.D.P. & Co.	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
3 The Army and Navy .....	Earl of Wessex	Agree Magna Carta	Mr. Lennan
4 The M. W. G. M. of England, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland .....	Earl	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
5 The R. W. D. G. M. the Right Hon. Lord Panmure; and the rest of the Officers of the Grand Lodge .....	Earl	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
6 The R. W. P. G. M. of West Yorkshire, the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough .....	P. & C. Chaplin	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
7 The W. D. P. G. M. of West Yorkshire, Br. Dr. Fearnley .....	Earl	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
8 The W. P. Senior and Junior Grand Wardens .....	Br. Lennan	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
9 The W. Prov. G. Chaplains, and our Clerical Brethren .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
10 The W. Prov. G. Treasurer, and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
11 The W. Past Prov. G. Officers .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
12 The Masonic Charities .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
13 The W. Masters and P. Masters of Lodges in the Province .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
14 The Countess of Mexborough, and the Ladies .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan
15 Our next Merry Meeting .....	Br. Lloyd	God bless the Queen	Mr. Lennan

On Wednesday, July 7th, 1858.

PROGRAMME OF THE TOASTS, &c.,

AT THE

BANQUET AT THE VICTORIA HOTEL,  
HOLMFIRTH.

(Dinner at half-past Two o'Clock.)

Consts.	Proposed by	Music.	Responded to by
1 Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen ..	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
2 H. R. H. Prince Consort; Albert, Prince of Wales; and the rest of the Royal Family .....	R. W. P. & Co.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
3 The Army and Navy .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
4 The M. W. G. M. of England, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zealand .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
5 The R. W. D. G. M. of the Right Hon. Lord Pannure; and the rest of the Officers of the Grand Lodge .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
6 The R. W. P. G. M. of West Yorkshire, the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
7 The W. D. P. G. M. of West Yorkshire, Br. Dr. Pearnley .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
8 The W. P. Senior and Junior Grand Wardens .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
9 The W. Prov. G. Chaplains, and our Clerical Brethren .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
10 The Breth. of G. Treasurer, and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
11 The W. Past Prov. G. Officers .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
12 The Masonic Charities .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
13 The W. Masters and P. Masters of Lodges in the Province .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
14 The Countess of Mexborough, and the Ladies .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford
15 Our next Merry Meeting .....	Dr. Dr. Kennedy.	God Save the Queen	Mr. Woodford

*Programme of toasts proposed at the Provincial  
Grand Lodge meeting held at the Victoria Hotel  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1858*

## EARLY YEARS

Since the minute books covering the period 1855 – 1878 are lost, the early years of The Holme Valley Lodge have become somewhat shrouded in mystery, however the contribution book, which had its first entry on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1855, contains the names of eighteen Brethren who are shown to have paid a joining fee of £1.1.0 each, along with the names of two honorary members, James Peace and William Smith.

In the absence of Cookson Stephenson Floyd, James Peace acted as Worshipful Master at the first meeting of the lodge held on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1855.

Despite the lack of official minutes of business transacted during this period, draft copies of these were found and transcribed in 2007 from a notebook belonging to Mary Taylor, the daughter of Charles Taylor, the Master of The Holme Valley Lodge in 1860, and its Secretary in 1862.

At the centre of the notebook were one hundred conundrums and their answers, at the rear an essay on 'The Epic Poet', but at the front were found the pencilled draft minutes of meetings held between the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1862 and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1867.

Whilst being rather sparse these minutes did however confirm the names of the early officers of the lodge. They also showed the names, and period served in office, of the Masters installed between 1862 and 1867. These dates however, did not correspond with those which have appeared on lodge summonses since eighteen ninety-seven.

Further verification of the inaccuracy of these dates can be found in the Treasurer's account book of 1859, when the audited accounts of 1858 were signed, and witnessed, on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1859 by George N. Nelson W.M., John Burton P.M., John Harpin S.W., Charles Taylor J.W., and F. Littlewood, Honorary Secretary.

These are the first set of audited accounts of The Holme Valley Lodge to be signed by a Worshipful Master, albeit one whose year in office has been printed in error for over one hundred years on the lodge summons as 1860. It had been previously thought years that John Burton was the Master during that year.

The following year a letter was sent to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. G. Fearon, regarding the criteria determining the suitability of new members who wished to join the craft.

His reply to this letter, which is dated the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1860 is one of two dated letters in possession of The Holme Valley Lodge, and is addressed to the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Charles Taylor.

Letter from Deputy Provincial Grand Master re: - Mr James Holmes:

*Charles Taylor Esq., W.M. 937*

*Dewsbury  
January 20<sup>th</sup> 1860*

*W. Sir and Brother,*

*Your first letter came duly to hand and the reason I did not answer it was a hope that opportunity might occur which would enable one to have a personal interview with you on the subject. It is a question without the pale of official interference and all I can do is to confine myself to a suggestion or two.*

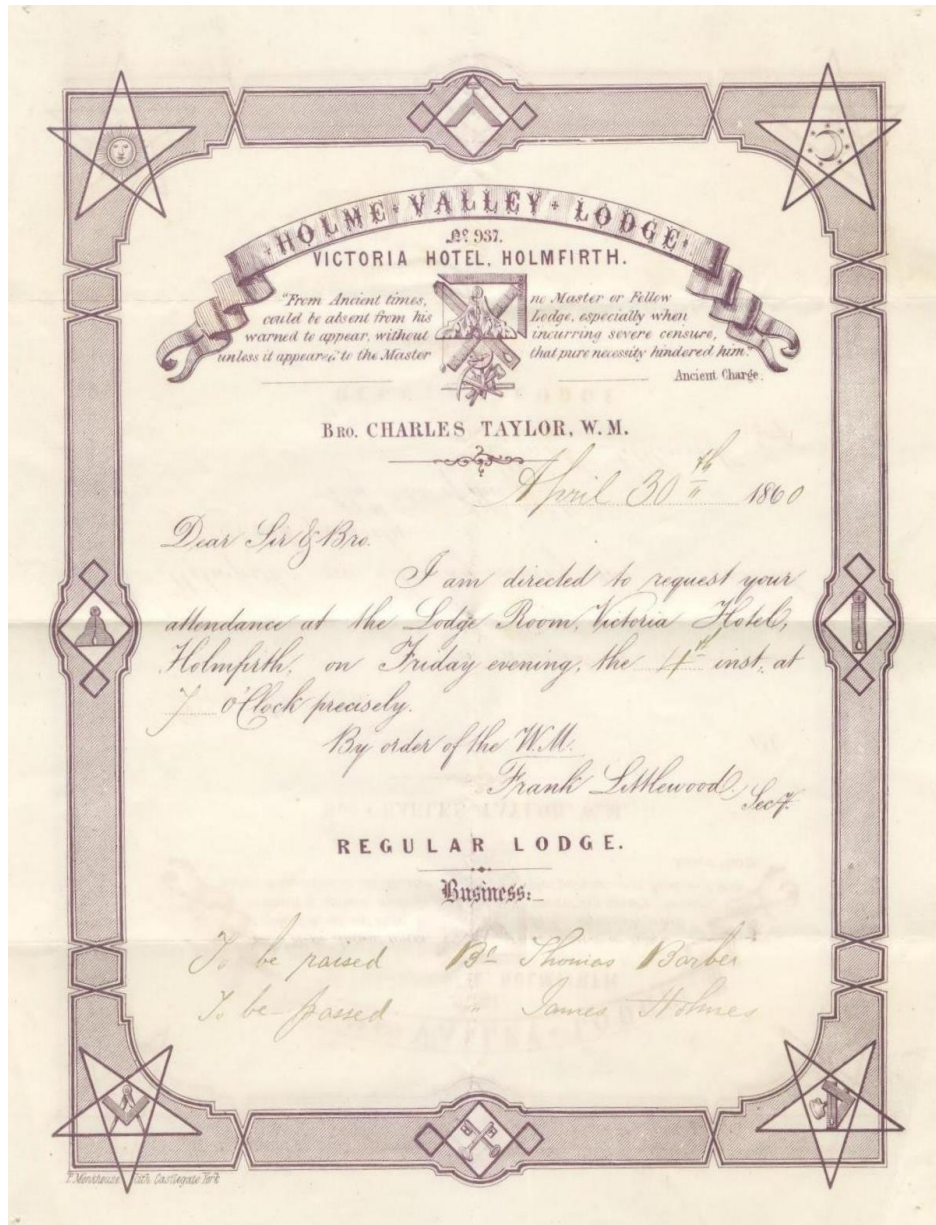
*I would first observe that it would indeed be foreign to the principles of our order if we were to take the standard of admission upon brilliance of talent or any one particular property. If a man be a 'good man and true' in reputable circumstances and of average ability to keep his own counsel and not brawl and by opposition to the sentiments of others tend to make them uncomfortable and withal of irreproachable moral character, I think him eligible for admission.*

*If a man appears to take a different view of things to what I do and has a conscientious conviction that he has used every reasonable means of arriving at a correct judgement upon matters of a general character, he has as much right to his opinion as I have to mine, and it is in my mind a great feature in our glorious craft that being essentially a social constitution by the exercise of mutual forbearance it tends to soften down our differences and rub off asperities which might otherwise impede our progress and happenings in life.*

*Again if as you assert Mr Holmes is in 'everything else a fit and proper person to be admitted' I think the mere circumstances of an unfortunate variance in times gone by with our late lamented Bro. Floyd should not operate as a barrier against his admission, nor can I see that such admission could in my fairness be construed as an 'act of injustice' to Bro. Floyd's memory.*

*On the contrary if it be the opinion of the Brethren that his entrance would cause discord, dissention or other feeling tending to disturb the harmony at present*





The oldest summons dated April 30<sup>th</sup> 1860 held by  
The Holme Valley Lodge

*existing amongst the members of The Holme Valley Lodge, over which you have the honour to preside by all means keep him out. After all this is a matter which must be left to the judgment of each individual member of our Lodge. Not doubting that you will arrive at a correct conclusion and with best wishes to yourself and all the Brethren at Holmfirth.*

*I remain*

*Yours faithfully and fraternally*

*Geo. Fearnley*

*D.P.G.M.*

James Holmes, to whom the letter referred, appears to have been at variance at some time previously with Cookson Stephenson Floyd, and it was not until after Floyd's death that he was balloted for and initiated on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1860. He was later installed Worshipful Master on St. Thomas's day, Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1866.

Held in the archives of The Holme Valley Lodge is an early summons dated the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1860 showing Bro. Charles Taylor holding the office of Worshipful Master and that the ceremonies performed on that night were the raising of Bro. Thomas Barber followed by the passing of Bro. James Holmes.

The earliest official reference to those holding office can be found in the book of the bye-laws, which was presented for the approval of the Brethren at the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1861 and signed by every member of the lodge.

Since every Brother was required to sign the book it would suggest that the lodge now had eighteen members.

Those who signed were: - John M. Woodhead, W.M., George Lawton, S.W., Henry Tinker, J.W., Charles Taylor, P.M., George N. Nelson, P.M., Edward Fozzard, Charles Dyson, P.M. 147, James Holmes, Thomas Hinchliffe, Thomas Barber, George Greenwood, George Eastwood, P.M. 174, Joseph Mellor, P.M., Charles Battye, Joseph Robert, John Burton, P.M., John Harpin, T (Treasurer) and Joseph Mellor.

The book of bye-laws was subsequently printed by Joseph Crosland of Holmfirth in 1861 and also confirms John M. Woodhead as Worshipful Master.

The bye-laws stated that the regular meeting of the lodge:

*'shall take place at the Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth, on the Friday nearest every full moon save when such day shall be Good Friday or Christmas day, in either of which cases the meeting shall be held on the Friday next ensuing.'*

The meeting was to be opened punctually at seven o'clock in the evening and was to be closed at or before half past nine. In the event of urgent business being discussed it could remain open until ten o'clock, but no later, and any business not concluded was to be postponed until the next regular lodge night, or to a lodge of emergency convened for that purpose.

The proposition fee for possible membership or admission as a joining member was to be one guinea. For initiation, registration and certificate: four guineas, and for a joining member two guineas.

Each member's contribution was to commence on the first regular lodge meeting following his admission, and was to be two shillings and sixpence per month.

This however entitled him to refreshments to the value of six pence at each regular lodge meeting.

It was forbidden to enter into any political discussion, propose, join in, or countenance any description of gaming, make use of any profound oath or use any ungentlemanly or unmasonic language.

On breach of this regulation, the offending Brother could be fined such an amount as was deemed appropriate, and should a member enter the lodge in a state of intoxication, or speak or conduct himself disorderly or disrespectfully, the matter was referred to the committee, who could admonish, suspend or exclude him from membership of the lodge.

\*

The first new member was Brother George Noble Nelson, a manufacturer of Hagg, who joined from the Lodge of Truth on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1855, when it was reported that he presented the lodge with a very costly case of Masonic working tools.

The case was made of mahogany and contained a rosewood square, level and plumb rule, a silver hammer with ebony handle, silver skirret or skerret, silver pencil case, silver compasses, chisel and twenty-four inch gauge.

On the outside of the lid of the case was a brass plate engraved, 'Presented to The Holme Valley Lodge No 937 by Brother G.N. Nelson D.C. 26<sup>th</sup> October 1855.'

All the items with the exception of the rosewood level and the silver pencil case are still in the possession of the lodge and are used regularly at the installation of the new Master in December.

It is recorded that Bro. Joseph Mellor S.W. and Bro. John Moorhouse Woodhead also presented valuable implements to the Lodge but it is not known what these were.

The first initiate was John Harpin, a stone merchant of Burnlee, who was admitted into Freemasonry on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1855, and whilst it had been thought that he was installed as Master in December 1862 and that he had served in office until December 1863, he was in fact installed in December 1861 and held the



*Set of working tools presented to the Lodge by George Noble Nelson.  
The inscription on the box lid reads  
Presented to The Holme Valley Lodge No 937 by Bro.G.N. Nelson D.C.  
26<sup>th</sup> October 1855*

office of Master until Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1862 when Henry Tinker was installed.

Eighteen fifty-six saw a sudden increase in new membership, when on the 25<sup>th</sup> January Charles Taylor, a draper; George Lawton, an attorney's clerk and Frank Littlewood a bookkeeper, were all initiated at the same meeting and were all subsequently passed to the second degree on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

To complete the evening Thomas Hinchliffe, a manufacturer, of Upperthong, was also initiated later the same night.

The following month on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, Charles Taylor, George Lawton and Frank Littlewood were all raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and to complete that evening Henry Tinker of Scholes, an auctioneer, was also initiated.

Only Charles Taylor and Henry Tinker were later installed in the chair of King Solomon, although George Lawton did serve as Treasurer for two years in 1862 and 1863.

When first founded in the summer of 1855 lodge finances were in a rather precarious state and in October of that year the money held in the Treasurer's account amounted to only £17.17.0, this being made up of subscriptions which had already paid by the Brethren, together with Brother Nelson's proposal fee of £1.0.0.

Unfortunately by the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1855 further expenses had been incurred and accounts outstanding for payment had now reached a total of £38.10.0.

In order to rectify the lack of funds, a further £43.2.0 was credited to the Treasurer's account, £30.0.0 of which was made up of loans of £10.0.0 each from Bros. Cookson Stephenson Floyd, Bentley Shaw and Joseph Mellor, and the following year Bros. J.M.Woodhead, G.N.Nelson and C.Dyson each made further loans of £10.0.0 to the lodge funds.

Furniture and fittings were required for the lodge room, and it is recorded that on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1856 Bro. Joseph Mellor made the gift of a carpet to the lodge.

This had been purchased from W.D. & J Henshall at a cost of £3.6.0.

By 1860 the lodge was fully functional and judging by the inventory of items held by them at the Victoria Hotel it had all the items necessary to carry on the business of a Masonic lodge. It is interesting to note that included in the inventory are a number of items still in use today.

## INVENTORY 1860

*An Inventory of the Furniture and other Effects of The Holme Valley Lodge of Freemasons, NO. 937 held at the Victoria Hotel Holmfirth, and in charge of the Director of Ceremonies.*

*March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860*

*Half-length portrait of the late Bro. C.S. Floyd P.M.*

*Photographic portrait of Bro. Wm. Kilner P.M. 763. P.P.G.S.W.*

*One silver snuffbox with Masonic emblem and initials of C.S.F. enclosed in oak case.*

*Warrant of constitution, framed with Masonic emblems.*

*The petition to the Grand Lodge signed by the founders of the Lodge and decorated with Masonic emblems.*

*Three chairs for the principal Officers of the Lodge.*

*Platforms for the W.M., S.W., J.W. and Past Master's chairs.*

*Pedestals for the same.*

*Desks for Secretary and Treasurer.*

*Stools for the Secretary and Treasurer.*

*Stone pillar with Masonic emblem.*

*Two Marine Cushions with Masonic emblems.*

*Three Holland covers for chairs. (Worn out)*

*Carpet for Lodge room.*

*Four painted window blinds for Lodge room. (Worn out)*

*Four Crimson Cloth inner window blinds with iron balance rods, tassels and cords. (Worn out)*

*Two Deacons rods.*

*Masonic floor cloth on roller.*

*Master Mason's floor cloth on roller enclosed in Tin case.*

*Mahogany Box.*

*Heavy mall.*

*One pair carpet slippers.*  
*Two pairs of flannel Drawers.*  
*Two Flannel jackets.*  
*Pair of globes mounted.*  
*Ballot Box with Balls.*  
*One heavy mallet.*  
*Three bay wood mallets*  
*One mahogany mallet*  
*One ebony mallet inlaid with ivory.*  
*Tin lantern for Master Masons.*  
*One cable tow.*  
*One Masonic Ladder with 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity' in gilt letters.*  
*Ten entered apprentice aprons*  
*Two Fellow-craft aprons*  
*One Master Masons apron.*  
*One sword with sheath for Inner Guard.*  
*One sword with sheath for Tyler.*  
*One boxwood twenty-four inch gauge.*  
*Mahogany Square, Level and Plumb Rule.*  
*Brass emblems representing the following: - Composite, One Square, Two Levels,*  
*One Plumb Rule, the letters E, W, N, S, B and J.*  
*One heavy iron chisel.*  
*Morocco case, containing Silver Square and Compasses.*  
*One book of constitution.*  
*One Volume of the Sacred Law, bound in Morocco, Gilt Edges and Masonic*  
*Emblems.*  
*Three candlesticks, painted marble with gilt mouldings.*  
*Pillars (painted marble) with gilt mouldings for Senior and Junior Wardens.*  
*Mahogany case containing the following: - Rosewood square, level and plumb*  
*rule. Silver hammer with ebony handle, silver skirret or skerret, silver pencil*  
*case, silver compasses and chisel.*  
*Watered silk collars with jewels of office as follows: -*  
*One W.M.*  
*One P.M.*  
*One S.W.*  
*One J.W.*  
*One Treasurer.*  
*One Secretary.*  
*Two Deacons.*  
*One D.C.*

*One I.G.*  
*Two Stewards.*  
*One Tyler.*  
*One hairbrush and comb.*  
*One bunch of keys.*





*Cookson Stephenson Floyd*

## **THE FIRST MASTER AND WARDENS**

Whilst the history of The Holme Valley Lodge between 1855 and 1878 is not very well documented, the same cannot be said about its founding members who all played important roles in the life of the village of Holmfirth

### **COOKSON STEPHENSON FLOYD**

W. Bro Cookson Stephenson Floyd of Sands, Holmfirth, belonged to a well to do local family. His parents were the Rev. Aaron Floyd of Gateshead, County Durham, a Wesleyan vicar, and Mary Ann Stephenson, the daughter of Cookson Stephenson and Mary Stephenson (nee) Waterhouse, also of Sands.

Floyd's grandfather, Cookson Stephenson, was a well-respected solicitor who had served his clerkship with Mr North of Fenay, one of only three legal practitioners in the area at that time.

He was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1811 and christened one year later on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1812 at the Wesleyan Chapel in Holmfirth, along with his sister Mary Jane Floyd, with the family name of Cookson Stephenson Floyd.

His sister was one year older than him having been born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1809 but possibly died as a child as no record can be found of her following her christening. He is also recorded as having three other sisters.

He married Mary Morehouse, the second daughter of Thomas Morehouse of Springbottom, Holmfirth, on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1832 at Almondbury and had three sons, Cookson Stephenson Floyd, Robert Aaron Floyd and John Peel Floyd. He also had five daughters, Mary Anne Floyd, Helen Lucy Floyd, Jane Emily Floyd, Charlotte Elizabeth Floyd and Hannah Sophia Floyd.

He was a solicitor by profession and received general instruction in law as a student under the tutorship of Dr Richardson of York after which he was articled to his uncles, William and Samuel Stephenson of Holmfirth. They had taken over the practice of their father Cookson Stephenson after his death in 1828.

Floyd practiced in both Holmfirth and Kirkburton, where on Fridays, he carried on business at the Grapes Inn. He had by this time formed a partnership with

Harry Booth. This partnership was dissolved in 1846 and at the time of his death he was a partner in the firm of Floyd and Learoyd of Huddersfield and Holmfirth. It had always been the intention of Floyd to qualify for gown and coif, in fact his name had already been placed on the roll of the Middle Temple with this in mind. However much to the regret of his family, his early marriage at the age of twenty-one prevented him progressing further along those lines.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1841, at the age of twenty-nine, he was initiated into Freemasonry at Harmony Lodge No.342. He was subsequently passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1841, raised on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1841 and was installed as Master of Harmony Lodge in 1845 after which he quickly rose to the rank of Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1852. He remained a member of Harmony Lodge until his death in 1859.

Floyd became the first Master of The Holme Valley Lodge in November 1855 and served in that office until December 1856.

He was a founder member of the 'Calf's Heart and Bacon Club' which was formed in the year 1859 just prior to his death, when several well-known inhabitants of the Township of Holmfirth met together with the intention of creating some sort of convivial club, where, at stated intervals, they could meet for mutual enjoyment.

It was proposed that those concerned should entertain one another every quarter at a luncheon party, the main dish to be composed of calf's heart and bacon, supported by any other tasteful addition the host could think of.

The meal was to be accompanied by the contents of a large green decanter into which had been poured two whole bottles of whisky. The decanter, which was presented to the club by W.H.Beardsell in about 1860, was originally an old green bottle onto which was engraved the club's name and the head of a calf, and was carried in a specially lined leather case to the house of the member whose turn it was to play host to the others.

It was agreed by those present that the club should be called 'The Calf's Heart and Bacon Club.'

Its members were:

	Cookson Stephenson Floyd	
W.H. Beardsell	Thomas Turner	Thomas Hinchliffe
John Harpin	Harry Booth	Edmond Barber
Abel Cuttel	Thomas Dyson	George Tinker
John Hixon	John Morehouse	John P. Floyd
J. Mellor	Jonah Wimpenny	John Burton.

Minutes were kept of the meetings and the names of those present were recorded therein, as was a short resume of the tenor of the party, some members

contributing to the general entertainment by story telling, performing conjuring tricks and singing songs.

Indeed, not surprisingly, after consuming two bottles of whisky some of these luncheon parties were recorded as being extremely convivial. However if any of its members were deemed to have behaved in an inappropriate manner they were issued with a fine, which was a bottle of champagne, to be drunk at the club's annual general meeting held at the Spencer Arms, Cawthorne. The club finally came to close in 1882 after 23 years of good fellowship and harmonious company.

In the mid 1980's the Floyd family donated the heavy green decanter and minute books to The Holme Valley Lodge, along with its original leather carrying case. Regrettably the minute books of the meetings became lost and so an important part of the club's history is now missing. The decanter and its original case however are still in the possession of the Lodge.

Floyd, who belonged to the conservative or 'blue' party, was closely involved in the administration of the revised poor law, the original law having been amended in 1837. Its main aim was the establishment of deterrent workhouses aimed at reducing the number of people claiming relief, as many workhouses were little more than prisons where the members of families were often separated, starved and generally ill-treated.

He was appointed Superintendent Registrar of the Union, and Union clerk to the Board of Guardians of five workhouses situated in Huddersfield, Almondbury, Golcar, Honley and Kirkheaton.

It was reported that during the typhus epidemic of 1848, conditions at the Huddersfield workhouse, where he had been elected Union clerk to the Board of Guardians, were the worst in the district and where 'forty children occupied a room eight yards by five yards and were crowded four, five, six and even ten in one bed and the soiled, lice ridden bed linen was not changed, or cleaned, for up to nine weeks.'

The West Riding, and particularly Huddersfield, opposed the act due to the cyclical nature of unemployment in the textile industry locally. That is to say when the mills were busy there was no shortage of work locally but when they were quiet the employees had no desire to find themselves in the workhouse but would rather depend on the limited funds available to them.

Riots and general disturbances took place at the Albion Hotel, Huddersfield, when the board attempted to appoint the Union clerk. Floyd who was present at the meeting was caught up in these riots. In a letter from him to Alfred Power, the Assistant Commissioner, he enclosed a report of the meeting where he stated:

*‘that nothing was achieved, no magistrates were present and those who were in the town made no attempt to keep the peace. Pitkethley headed the multitude, who positively looked bloodthirsty’.*

William Swaine who was chairman of the board of guardians, reported that thirty guardians were present but no business was transacted because *‘a body of memorialists forced their way in’* and refused to leave. The meeting was adjourned. Eleven guardians signed a resolution, appended to the minutes, stating that no progress would be made in implementing the new poor law or the registration legislation without protection for the participants. At a subsequent meeting a more serious disturbance took place resulting in a detachment of London constabulary being sent to protect the Guardians and quell possible future riots.

Opposition to the new poor law continued to such an extent that the landlord of the Albion Tavern and other landlords in the vicinity were persuaded to refuse the Guardians use of their premises for their meetings and so on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1838 the meeting was held at the Huddersfield Court of Request, later to become the County Court on Queens Street.

Eventually at the end of January 1838, after fourteen of the thirty Guardians present voted and sixteen abstained, Floyd was appointed clerk to the Board of Guardians, a post which required him to minute the proceedings. At a later meeting held in May 1838, which was recorded by him in great detail, a man attempted to pull the seat from under the chairman and the minute book was torn from the hands of Floyd. It was recorded that the man was taken into the custody of the Constable of Huddersfield.

Floyd, who had walked out of one of the meetings after being accused of altering the minutes, later wrote, *“My situation as clerk is anything but a bed of roses as you must be aware, for in addition to a heap of round abuse I am now charged by the opposition of gross partiality, and consequently unfit for office.”*

Later six of the Guardians were charged with “riotous conduct” and prosecuted at York for ill-treating Floyd their new clerk. They were sentenced to be bound over for the sum of one-hundred pounds each.

Following his appointment as Clerk and Superintendent Registrar to the Guardians of the Huddersfield Union, Floyd moved to Huddersfield, where he lived for some time at North Parade, until, following the death of his uncle, William Stephenson, he moved back to the family house at Sands in 1841.

By disposition he was reported as being:

*'quick, clear-sighted, rich in anecdote, of affluent imagination, ready at repartee, with a wonderful power of concentration, so as at times to annihilate an opponent by a single sentence, clear, forcible and energetic in statement and argument, possessing a fine, ringing, melodious voice, and with the rare quality of being able to identify himself, as it were, with his causes and of convincing his hearers that he felt what he said, he was an excellent advocate.'*

He was a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and in 1856 became the first President of the Holmfirth Choral Society, and it is recorded that Handel's Messiah was performed by fifty members of the Holmfirth Choral Society at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth in December 1856. This was probably either the first, or one of the first concerts performed by them, as the society was only formed the previous month on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

He was a great friend of Joe Perkin the choirmaster, who conducted the concert, and who arranged and composed the music of 'Pratty Flowers', a song sung on many occasions by the members of The Holme Valley Lodge. Joe Perkin respectfully dedicated the original song sheet to Cookson Stephenson Floyd.

In addition to holding these positions he was also solicitor to the Woollen and Worsted and the Licensed Victuallers Associations, was Clerk to the trustees of several turnpikes and for many year Vice-President of the Yorkshire Law Society. Like many householders of that period he bred hens, ducks and turkeys, and in the Poultry Chronicle of 1854 he is recorded as being commended at the Holmfirth Spring Poultry show for his best twelve hen's eggs, and received first prize for his best drake and two ducks. His son Robert won first prize of 2/6d for his best pair of fancy rabbits, 2/6d for his best pair of common rabbits and 2/- for the best turtledoves.

The great flood of 1852 caused by the bursting of the Bilberry Dam affected many families in the township of Holmfirth and the Holme Valley in general.

One family affected lived in a house in Cuttall Bottom and consisted of a small boy and a manservant to Cookson Stephenson Floyd. They were both sleeping when the water burst into the house. The man woke, took the boy and attempted to pass up the staircase. Unfortunately just as he crossed the threshold, the door closed by the force of water and separated them, leaving the boy in the lower room where he was expected to drown. The boy however was borne up by the force of water, and catching hold of the top of the joists, held them until the water had subsided. He remained in this position for nearly an hour with the water almost up to the ceiling, which saved him from drowning.

It is also recorded that the property deeds of Mr. Sandford, a wealthy mill owner who was drowned along with his family and housekeeper, were found embedded in Floyd's garden at Sands. Despite a reward of £100.00 being offered for the recovery of Mr Sandford's body it was not until fifteen days later that it was found in the mud at Thongsbridge by two men who thought they had found a pig. The battlements of a small bridge owned by Cookson Stephenson Floyd, which spanned across the river, was also carried away by the floodwater.

As a consequence of the devastation caused by the flood, several options were considered locally for a memorial to be built to commemorate its victims. The possibility of building a dispensary, a savings bank or baths and wash house were discussed, however in the event Cookson Stephenson of Lincolns Inn, the nephew of Floyd, and who was later to become his son-in-law, donated a piece of land in Station Road, on which were built several almshouses designed by William Hill of Leeds. Cookson Stephenson Floyd is recorded as being one of the trustees.

\*

Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1859 was a day of great rejoicing in the Floyd household as this was the day Floyd's eldest daughter, Mary Ann, married her first cousin once removed Cookson Stephenson, the son of William Stephenson. The event was widely covered in the local papers when it was reported that:

*'On Thursday last, Holmfirth presented an unwontonly gay and animated appearance, caused by the marriage of Cookson Stephenson Esq., of Lincolns Inn, with Miss Floyd, the eldest daughter of C.S. Floyd of Sands, Holmfirth. The marriage was solemnized by the Rev. T. James, the incumbent of Netherthong Church, in the prescence of a large and highly respectable congregation, with crowds of people assembled outside – such an attendance, in fact, as has never before assembled on any similar occasion.*

*The cheers and good feeling which emanated from the large concourse of people indicated that the newly-married couple carried with them to their home the hearty good wishes of their many friends.*

*The happy pair, after luncheon at Sands, where a large party met to greet them, started en route for Wales.*

*In celebration of the event the clerks of Floyd and Learoyd (those from Huddersfield coming up specially for the occasion) sat down the same afternoon to an excellent dinner, at Mr John Lodge's, the Elephant and Castle Inn.*

*The tenants of of the bridegroom, with many of their wives and sweethearts, altogether upwards of 50, had also an excellent dinner provided for them at Mr George Bower's, The Kings Head Inn.*

*Numerous friends of the bridegroom and of the father of the bride, likewise did honour to the occasion in various parts of the town by similar festivities, the bells*

*ringing merrily, and altogether a pleasant and happy day was spent, the usual toasts appropriate to the occasion being given, and most enthusiastically received everywhere.*

*We ought not to omit to mention that amongst the various "tea drinkings" which as usual smacked with the flavour of "fine Jamaica", and which were done full justice to by the female portion of the neighbourhood, not the least pleasing spectacle was the feasting of the inmates of the almshouses, who were treated in a becoming manner on the occasion, - Mr Stephenson having been the donor of the land whereon the almshouses were erected, and Mr Floyd being one of the acting trustees.'*

\*

Having spent a very happy day celebrating his daughters wedding Floyd was reported as feeling unwell the following day.

This was at first attributed to a severe attack of gout, a condition from which he had long suffered. However the illness progressed to an inflammation of the liver and the symptoms of typhoid and in spite of all the medical skill available at that time his health rapidly deteriorated and he died on Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1859 at about 10.30am, a mere three weeks after the wedding of his eldest daughter Mary Ann to Cookson Stephenson.

He was forty-eight years old.

Following his unfortunate and unexpected death, a funeral assembly was held in his honour the following Friday at the Victoria Hotel, Station Rd., Holmfirth, and was attended by forty-seven Masons.

Such was his status that with the permission of Abel Cuttel, the Chief Constable of the Graveship of Holme, he was accorded a public funeral, which was attended by many local and civic dignitaries.

The funeral was to depart from his home to the church at 11.00am but the train which was bringing many of the mourners from Huddersfield did not arrive at Holmfirth until 10.50am. Despite this, over three hundred people from all walks of life met at the Town Hall and walked to his home, two abreast, where they formed a procession that extending from Sands House to the wood beyond Bridge Mill.

The bells, which three weeks earlier, had rung joyfully in the valley were now rung with a muffled peal and the tears of joy turned to the tears of sorrow.

The Rev. Mr. Badger conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Fern and following the reading of a portion of the burial service the hymn, 'Come let us join our friends above,' was sung.

He was interred in the family vault adjacent to the Wesleyan Chapel where he was laid to rest with his parents and two of his own children.



The following Sunday at the Wesleyan Chapel, the Rev. Mr. Badger preached a sermon, to a large congregation, based on the text of the 12<sup>th</sup> verse of the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm, 'so teach us to number our days'. The Holmfirth Choral Society, under the direction of Joe Perkin, sang several hymns and the anthem from the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Job, 'is there not an appointed time to man on earth.'

A further concert was held at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup> September, when the choral society again sang selected works in his honour. Floyd was said to be fond of sacred music. It was reported that: 'it was attended by a respectable audience including the *elite* of all classes in the town.'

\*

The Lodge received letters of condolence from W. Bro George Fearnley D.P.G.M of Dewsbury and Bro. C.H. Taylor, Worshipful Master of Lodge of Hope No 379 Bradford, who wrote:

*Bradford September 15/59*

*My Dear Sir and Brother,*

*Your note received this morning was the first intimation I had of the death of Brother Floyd. I will take the trouble of letting as many of the Brethren of the Lodge of Hope know as possible but as the distance is so great and tomorrow being our market day, I do not expect that many can attend. I and all of the Brethren in this district who had the pleasure of meeting and knowing Bro. Floyd will deeply sympathise with you on the great loss not only to you, but masonry in general has sustained by his death.*

*We must hope that the G.A.O.T.U. has in his infinite wisdom exalted him to the Grand Lodge above, there to reign with him forever.*

*This must, and will be a source of consolation to his relatives and Brethren who hope at some future day to follow him.*

*Believe me Dear Sir and Brother*

*Fraternally yours*

*C.H. Taylor W.M.379*

A further letter was received from Henry Smith the P.G.S.D:

*Bradford September 14/59*

*Dear Sir and Brother,*

*I am exceedingly sorry it will be out of my power to attend to pay a last tribute of respect to the late lamented Bro. Floyd tomorrow in consequence of previous engagements in Bradford.*

*Brother Gath sent your letter to me, I also received notice from the W.M. of 379 Hope - I fear few from his neighbourhood will be able to come as it is market day.*

*I am Dear Sir and Brother  
Yours faithfully and fraternally*

*Henry Smith P.G.S.D.*

Prior to his death a portrait in oil was commissioned by the lodge, which now hangs in the gallery at the entrance to the Temple on the second floor of the Masonic Hall.

George Dodgson Tomlinson of Market St., Huddersfield, a local artist of some renown, having been mentioned in Gladstone's diaries with reference to a portrait of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the artist, and whilst being principally a painter he was also the president of the Huddersfield Mechanics Institution from 1859 until 1861.

The cost of the portrait was £9.7.0d, and had been paid for by subscription from the Brethren. It was presented to the lodge, on its completion, on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1860 by the Worshipful Master Bro George Taylor, on behalf of the subscribers.

W. Bro. George Fearnley was unable to attend the presentation ceremony, but replied on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1859 to Bro. Charles Taylor's invitation, as follows:

*W. Sir and Brother,*

*I have to thank you most sincerely for your very kind and polite invitation to be present at your mournfully interesting occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1860.*

*I have been present with the Brethren of the Holme Valley on several joyous meetings and now you call upon me to join you in inaugurating a lasting memorial of one whose sudden departure from amongst us was in itself most melancholy and struck every Brother with feelings of awe and sorrow which my feeble hand is incapable of describing. My health I regret to say is at present so indifferent that I much fear I shall be unable to be present with you but should I be bodily absent, you may rely that in spirit I shall be with you on that day.*

*Be pleased to convey to our esteemed Brother Dyson my high appreciation of his kindly professed hospitality which I sincerely trust at some future time I may have the happiness of availing myself of.*

*To you and all the Brethren I beg to offer my best wishes and complements of the approaching festive season and subscribe myself*

*W. Sir and Brother*

*Yours faithfully and fraternally*

*Geo. Fearnley.*

*D.P.G.M.*

*W.Y.*

This was the first of two letters, held in the archives of the lodge to be addressed to its reigning Master.

\*

Following his death, Floyd's wife Mary wrote the following letter to the lodge thanking its members for their condolences and presenting them with a snuff box which had belonged to him and which was engraved with Masonic emblems and the initials C.S.F.

The letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1859 was addressed to the Worshipful Master G.N. Nelson and read as follows:

*Sands 11<sup>th</sup> November*

*Dear Sir,*

*As Master of The Holme Valley Lodge I beg your acceptance of this snuff- box as a small remembrance of my late dear husband.*

*Believe me*

*Yours Truly*

*Mary Floyd*

The snuff-box, which was enclosed in an oak case, was placed on the table near the Master at every subsequent festive board until it was stolen along with several other lodge items of value. The oak case however, which contained the box, was left and is still in the possession of the lodge. It is thought that the snuff box can be seen in Floyd's portrait held in his left hand.

August 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Sir,

As Master of the  
Hohme Valley Lodge  
I beg your acceptance  
of this snuff box as a  
small remembrance of  
my late dear husband.  
Believe me  
Yours truly  
Mary Floyd  
G. H. Nelson Esq.

Letter from Mary Floyd  
Donating a snuff box belonging to her late husband

The Secretary of the lodge, Frank Littlewood replied to Mrs Floyd as follows:

*The Holme Valley Lodge No 937,  
Victoria Hotel,  
Holmfirth January 27/60*

*Mrs Floyd  
Dear Madam,*

*At the request and on behalf of the Brethren of the above Lodge, I beg most respectfully to return our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity in presenting to our Lodge so valuable a memorial of your late lamented husband.*

*I can assure you that it will be kept in our Lodge as a treasure of inestimable value and will be handed down to succeeding generations so long as The Holme Valley Lodge exists.*

*I am Dear Lady,  
Yours very respectfully,  
Frank Littlewood*

*Honorary Secretary*

*P.S. I have also the mournful pleasure of informing you that the admirable portrait of your late husband which now adorns our Lodge was inaugurated on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant and presented to the Lodge by the Worshipful Master on behalf of the subscribers.*

Floyd, who had been born into in a family with strong religious convictions, remained a devout Christian throughout his life and after his confirmation as Master of The Holme Valley Lodge he donated a large leather bound Bible to the lodge inscribed:

‘This Volume of The Sacred Law was presented to The Holme Valley Lodge by W. Bro. C.S. Floyd P.P.S.G.W. of West Yorkshire and the First Worshipful Master of that Lodge. 21<sup>st</sup> December 1855.’ The Bible was signed by him and is still in regular use today.



*Joseph Mellor*

## JOSEPH MELLOR

Joseph Mellor, a woollen manufacturer of Royd House, Thongsbridge was appointed to be the first Senior Warden of The Holme Valley Lodge and was the first of many Mellors to become active and influential members of the Lodge.

He was born in 1813, was married to Mary Mellor and had three sons, Edwin, George Henry and Albert and a daughter Judith.

Joseph Mellor was initiated into Freemasonry at the Huddersfield Lodge No. 365 on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1853, was passed on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1854 and raised on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1854.

In 1853 the Huddersfield Lodge met at the White Hart Inn, Huddersfield, and it is reasonable to assume that despite the railway line between Huddersfield and Holmfirth having been recently opened in 1850, travel between Holmfirth and Huddersfield on a regular basis would not be easy. It is not surprising therefore to find that Brother Joseph Mellor was one of the petitioners for the formation of a new lodge, in Holmfirth, nearer to his home.

Like his fellow officers, Floyd and Burton, he too was a member of the 'Calf's Heart and Bacon Club.'

He was clearly a very wealthy man as in the Huddersfield Examiner and Holmfirth Express it was reported that he was present in November 1855 at the inauguration of his new mill at Thongsbridge.

The family had previously owned and lived at Bridge mill, Thongsbridge, where it was recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1850 that the fourteen year old son of Elliot Brooke had met with a severe accident, resulting in the amputation of his leg, when his apron became caught in machinery at Mellor's mill, Thongsbridge.

Whilst the firm was known as Joseph Mellor and Sons, Joseph and his two brothers, Samuel and Godfrey, each had their own place of businesses.

Samuel carried on his business at lower Mytholme Bridge, Joseph at Upper Mytholme Bridge and Godfrey at Thongsbridge.

The mill, at Mytholm Bridge, belonging to both Joseph and Samuel Mellor suffered badly in the flood of 1852 when it was reported that '*the mill, was greatly damaged, machinery was injured and a cask of oil swept away.*' This may have prompted the building of the new mill.

The new mill was called the Alma mill and was no doubt named after the battle of Alma that had taken place in the Crimea the year before.

At its inauguration all his staff were treated to a supper of roast beef and plumb pudding. This was served in one of the upper rooms, the room having been decorated with evergreens and banners inscribed with appropriate mottos. The one in the centre read 'Success to the Allied Army and Prosperity to Alma Mill.'

Following the meal toasts were proposed to 'The Queen,' 'Prince Albert and the Royal Family,' 'Success to the Alma Mill' and to 'The Firm of Joseph Mellor and Sons.'

Joseph Mellor's family employed a workforce of about three hundred people, made up of families who resided over a large area.

Godfrey Mellor, the chairman, gave a summary of the progress of the firm and said that everyone had difficulties at the commencement of every business and that he could remember washing wool by hand. He also said that he never thought they would employ so many people.

It was reported that a party of glee singers were in attendance and that dancing was introduced and carried on with spirit.

For many years it was thought that Joseph Mellor had been installed Master in December 1857. This has however proved to be incorrect, as his installation took place on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> December 1856, the day after the full moon.

The following year he served as Worshipful Master at the consecration ceremony held in the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Shortly after the consecration of The Holme Valley Lodge in 1857 he self excluded himself as a member of the Huddersfield Lodge. He did however remain a member of The Holme Valley Lodge until his death in 1869. He was 56 years of age.





*John Burton*

## JOHN BURTON

John Burton, who was appointed the first Junior Warden, was also a member of Harmony Lodge No.342, having been initiated there on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1849, passed on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1850 and raised on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1850. He was born in Bramham-cum-Oglethorp, Yorkshire, on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1807 and christened there on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1807.

He was the son of Thomas Burton, an agricultural labourer, and attended school at Tadcaster and from there, began his profession as tutor at Doncaster.

He moved to Holmfirth in 1831, as assistant to the Rev. Mr. Taylor, who ran a school at the Holmfirth Church Parsonage, and afterwards taught at the National School that had recently been built on the Ribbleden Turnpike Road, (now Dunford Road) in Holmfirth, where children received instruction according to the Church of England guidelines.

The school was capable of accommodating three hundred and fifty children, but it is unlikely that this number of pupils attended, as a charge of a few pence per week was made for each child. Also many of the children would be working long hours in the local mills and a large number belonged to non-conformist families.

On Mr. Taylor's removal from the district, to take up a post in another parish, he opened a private academy at Shaley House, Huddersfield Rd., Holmfirth, called Shaley House Academy, or known locally as 'Burton's'.

Whilst it was clearly a small academy, he did nevertheless receive the support and patronage of many influential families, both locally and nationally.

Lord Masham was one of his pupils, and one he always referred to with pride.

John Burton, in the early part of his career, visited the homes of a number of private pupils as their tutor.

The following advertisement appeared in the Huddersfield Chronicle in December 1886 giving details of his academy and fees for the forthcoming year;

<b>SHALEY HOUSE, HOLMFIRTH.</b>	
<b>M</b>	<b>R. BURTON'S ACADEMY, for the</b>
<b>Education of Boarders and Day Pupils, will be RE-</b>	
<b>OPENED on Monday, January 21st, 1887.</b>	
<b>TERMS FOR BOARDERS PER ANNUM.</b>	
<b>Pupils under ten years of age</b>	<b>..... 23 Guineas.</b>
<b>Ditto above ten years of age</b>	<b>..... 25    "</b>
<b>Weekly Boarders</b>	<b>..... 20    "</b>
<b>No extra, except for stationery.</b>	

It was reported in the Huddersfield Chronicle on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1855, that the Shaley House Flower Show took place in the schoolroom of Shaley House Academy, on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual exhibition of fruit, plants, flowers and vegetables, to be held there. The exhibits were the property of its present and late pupils.

It was also reported that:

*'A select but fashionable company patronised the show and appeared highly delighted with the beautiful and excellent stock brought together. Master J.R. Mellor obtained 10 prizes.'*

Master J.R. Mellor was to become Worshipful Master of The Holme Valley Lodge in 1888.

The 1861 census shows John Burton as having only two boarding scholars, Arthur W Platt, aged 12, and George B Woodhead, aged 13. He had two servants Ellen Smith and Betty Woodhouse and his niece Fanny Foster was also living with him. He continued to teach for many years and in 1881 at the age of 73 still had one boarding scholar, Fred Sykes aged 13, of Marsden and a servant Annie Johnson of Bramham, residing with him as housekeeper.

At the rear of the school was a large garden bordering on what is now Victoria Park and which was probably used at that time as a playing field.

Later in 1896 one of the early 'Holmfirth sings' is recorded as having been held in Mr Burton's field, off Huddersfield Rd., and opposite Victoria St.

John Burton had been thought for many years to have held the office of Worshipful Master of The Holme Valley Lodge in 1859, however the report of the consecration ceremony in the Huddersfield Chronicle confirms that he was Senior Warden in 1857. He was also recorded as being the Worshipful Master at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting held at the Town Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1858. Also audited accounts signed by him on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1859 confirm him as a Past Master with George Noble Nelson recorded as Worshipful Master.

He too was to play a part in the aftermath of the Bilberry flood, as he was a serving member of the jury at the inquest into its cause and to the death of Eliza Marsden of Water Street, Hinchliffe Mill, who was one of over eighty people drowned in the flood.

He served in the office of Treasurer for a number of years until 1886 when it was proposed that Bro. J.R. Mellor should replace him.

Bro. Mellor however declined to accept the appointment and on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1886 it is recorded that:

*‘ Bro. Norris proposed and Bro. Boothroyd seconded that Bro J.R. Mellor having declined to take over the Treasurer’s books in consequence of a balance of £14.19.10d it be resolved that he be requested to take over the paid books and that the Lodge exonerate him from all responsibility with respect to the said amount. Brothers Norris J.W., Boothroyd and Brook call upon Brother Burton to see about the balance. ’*

The discrepancy of £14.19.10d appears to have been made up of two missing balances of ‘cash in hand’, one of £10.9.2d and the second, the balance of two years unpaid interest on the loan made to the Chapter of Industry 652 which totalled £4.10.8d.

In John Burton’s defence however it has to be said that the accounts were examined on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1886 and found to be correct by the auditors Brother Joseph Douglas Brown and William Ernest Wimpenny.

Bro. Mellor’s refusal to accept this appointment clearly created some friction, as W.Bro. Burton failed to pay his subscriptions between 1886 and 1889 and did not attend the lodge from the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1885 until the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1888.

In spite of this however he was made an honorary member in 1890 and on the 7<sup>th</sup> March of that year it was proposed that the sum of ten guineas be given to him from lodge funds to mark his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

His last attendance at the lodge was on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1892 and he died later that month on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at the age of eighty-five. Surprisingly the only record of his death is in the annual returns book and reads, ‘dead Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1892.’

During his life he had played a prominent part in the formation of the ‘E Company Volunteer Corps’ at Holmfirth and for many years was their paymaster sergeant and a familiar figure at their functions.

John Burton was an ardent Conservative being deeply opposed to the development of Socialism and in 1835 and 1837 was the secretary of the ‘Conservative Election Committee’. He was also secretary of the first ‘Loyal and Constitutional Society’ from its formation to its close, and secretary of the first pig and poultry show held at Holmfirth in September 1851.

In 1832 he was appointed secretary to the ‘Holmfirth Prosecution of Felons Society’, and without interruption held that office to the end of his life. He was remarkable for strenuously insisting upon the strict observance of the rules by the members of the society.

John Burton was also a founder member of ‘The Calf’s Heart and Bacon Club.’

His funeral took place at 12.00 noon at St. John’s Church, Upperthong, where he had been a staunch member for many years, the procession to the church being headed by the Wooldale Brass Band playing ‘The Dead March’, followed by a detachment of Volunteers (under Captain Lockwood and Lieutenant Mellor).

These were followed in turn by fourteen Brethren from The Holme Valley Lodge, (some acting as pall bearers and each with the customary sprig of acacia), together with four Brethren from the Lodge of Peace, representatives of the Holmfirth Prosecution Society and Holmfirth Conservative Club, old pupils, nephews and nieces and several friends of the family. He was a familiar figure and so well respected by the local towns people that shutters were put up and blinds drawn down as the cortege passed by.

Bro. The Rev. J.W. Jeffrey conducted the service and at its conclusion, a firing party under the direction of Sergeant G. Charlesworth and Corporal Earnshaw fired three volleys over the grave. The procession then reformed and departed to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

It was reported that Jesse Shore, a member of The Holme Valley Lodge, had acted as funeral director and that the coffin was plain pitch pine, polished with brass mountings and bearing a brass plate with the following inscription:

*'John Burton, born March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1807, died November 28<sup>th</sup> 1892.'*

John Burton remained a bachelor all of his life. His portrait also hangs in the corridor leading to the Temple.



*John Harpin*

### THE FIRST INITIATE.

The portrait of John Harpin has hung in the gallery leading to the Temple for many years and as such it must be assumed that as well as being the first initiate he also played an active part in early lodge history, possibly as Treasurer in 1861. He was a stone merchant who lived at Birks House, Burnlee and was recorded in 1851 as employing forty men.

He was the first candidate to be initiated into The Holme Valley Lodge.

He was born in 1821 and was the son of John and Mary Harpin (nee Butterworth), prominent members of Holmfirth society and wealthy land and mill owners.

Prior to his death his father, John Harpin (Senior) drew up a will in 1849 in which he bequeathed:

*To son John Harpin : land in Harden Clough and Harden Moss, Magnum Bonum and Mount Pleasant, the rest of the land was to be sold by the trustees (sons John and William, also friend Joshua Moorhouse) to be used for the other beneficiaries.*

*To his mother Barbara - £25.0.0 a year. Funeral expenses to be paid.*

*To the children of Minerva (his second wife) £25.0.0 a year to raise them until 21.*

*The money from the land sale was to be put into trust for the children. Children of Mary (Mary, William and Edward) and children of Minerva (Elizabeth Whitehead, James Buckley, Herbert, Eliza and Julia Minerva).*

*The children of Minerva were to only get 1/3rd of the children of Mary, as the former were well cared for by the other inheritances of Minerva's relations.*

On the death of his father the terms of the will was to leave John Harpin, the eldest son, a very wealthy man.

\*

It is interesting to note that the body of his father John Harpin (Senior) who died in 1849 aged sixty-one, and who had been one of the chief promoters of the Holme reservoir scheme, was torn from its vault and carried away by the waters of the Bilberry flood.

Harpin's mill, (now Bottom's mill), which was occupied in 1852 by Messrs Barber & Co and used as a woollen mill was flooded half way to the rafters. Five fullers who were on duty that night were caught there until the flood had subsided. No lives were lost at the mill, although James Mettrick, a young man who lived nearby, was swept into Harpin's dam after his house had collapsed, but was fortunate enough to grab hold of a plank of wood and paddle to the edge of the dam.

Regrettably the rest of his family were drowned.

The Harpin family did however own Victoria Mill, and this suffered considerable damage, as did the machinery within the mill.

Several cottages adjoining it were swept away, fortunately however, twenty people who had been huddled together in a corner of one of the cottages, and who had watched as the flood slowly displaced stone after stone of the buildings, were saved.

It was reported that the mill suffered £1500.00 of damage.

\*

John Harpin was initiated into Freemasonry on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1855, installed as Master in 1861 and became Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden ten years later in 1871.

He was a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Holmfirth bench. He was appointed to the local board (Holmfirth) of the Society of Arts in 1853, and later in 1859 to its local board of examiners. He was also a member of the 'Geographical and Polytechnic Society of West Riding Yorkshire', a trustee of the almshouses in Station Road, Chairman of the Holmfirth Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Holmfirth Chess Club, held at the Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth.

He was a Wesleyan by religion and a Liberal by persuasion, and was the Chairman of the Holmfirth Liberal Registration Society.

John Harpin was recorded in 1857 as being vice-President of the Holmfirth Mechanic's Institute.

On the Thursday prior to his death, at a meeting held at the Elephant and Castle Inn, and in the presence of members of the Holmfirth Unity, Holmbridge, Bridge Mill, Thongsbridge and Smithy-Place companies he was elected President of the Holmfirth District Fire Brigade.

He was a member of the '32<sup>nd</sup> West Riding of Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers' and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1860 it is recorded that:

*'John Harpin, gentleman, to be lieutenant of the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Riding of Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers, Holmfirth.'*



He too was a founder member of the 'Calf's Heart and Bacon Club,' and obviously a man of many interests.

Like Cookson Floyd he also bred poultry and at the Holmfirth Spring Poultry Show was commended for his twelve best duck eggs. The show was first of its kind and was held on Holmfirth Feast Monday 1854, when it was recorded in the Huddersfield Chronicle that:

*'A gala was got up in the evening under the management of George Robinson and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, the committee consenting to the use of the marquee for the purpose. The greatest order prevailed, and a happy evening was spent – the gentlemen in the neighbourhood offering their services as partners in several dances to the young buxom, blooming girls of the surrounding townships.'*

He had two brothers William and Edward, a sister Mary, two-step brothers, James Buckley and Herbert and three stepsisters Elizabeth Whitehead Harpin, Julia Minerva Harpin and Eliza Harpin.

Eliza Harpin was married on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1863 to Sir William Henry Broadbent, an eminent surgeon, who was born at Lindley in 1835, and who was appointed physician in ordinary to Edward, the then Prince of Wales in 1892, and physician extraordinary to Queen Victoria in 1896.

Her sister, Julia Minerva Harpin, married Butterworth Broadbent, the brother of Sir William in the same year. Her marriage however was to be of a short duration as Butterworth Broadbent unfortunately died on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1873 at the early age of thirty-six.

John Harpin also died at a relatively early age and under most unusual circumstances.

It was reported in the Huddersfield Examiner on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1872 that, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, he had met with an unfortunate and untimely death.

At the inquest held at Wellington Inn, Upperthong, it was stated that he had on the evening of the previous Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> May, attended a meeting of the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Riding of Yorkshire Volunteers in Holmfirth, where he held the rank of Lieutenant. He was dressed in his full uniform and accompanied by John Peel Floyd, the son of Cookson Stephenson Floyd. John Peel Floyd left him later that night in Hollowgate prior to his going home and reported that John Harpin was cheerful and in good health and spirit.

At six o'clock the following morning his servant Elizabeth Hollingworth heard him call out '*I am very bad.*' She immediately went down stairs into the kitchen and found him kneeling on the floor still wearing his sword belt, the scabbard itself was empty and she could not see the sword.

She removed the sword belt, sat him in a chair and called for Alexander Day, John Harpin's manservant.

When the servant arrived Harpin was still sitting in the chair and was taking off his boots, his hands however were quite bloody and after undressing him Elizabeth Hollingworth noticed a great deal of blood on his shirt and clothes and that he had a wound just above his right hip. She held a half-crown coin against the wound in an attempt to stop the bleeding and told Alexander Day to fetch the doctor urgently. Alexander Day was later to report that he found the sword in the hat stand on the hall and that there was blood on the hilt but on no other part, and that he had seen footprints on some of the beds (flower beds) and blood on the window sill and passage, as if his Master had been trying to get into the house through the window. It was later determined that he had in fact come in by the door.

Dr. John Trotter, a friend of John Harpin attended him immediately, after being summoned on the Sunday morning, and found a wound of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long which went forward and downward and was larger on the inside than the outside. He had not however cut any large vessels but had lost a lot of blood. Dr Trotter bound the wound and visited him several times during the day. He was also attended to on the following Tuesday by William Broadbent his brother-in-law.

John Harpin's sister was very concerned as to the possible cause of the wound and asked Dr Trotter to determine '*whether anyone had interfered with him*'.

When asked, Harpin replied, '*certainly not: nothing of the kind*' and whilst he was fully conscious at the time he did not appear to know how the wound had occurred, although he said he remembered some difficulty in getting the sword off. He had also one or two superficial wounds about the forehead.

He died from a loss of blood on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> May at about 11.30am.

He was fifty-one years old.

The deputy coroner, Mr W. Barstow, in summing up the evidence said that the case was a somewhat curious one, but he could not see how the jury could come to any other conclusion than that the death was caused by an accident.

Needless to say the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

The people who attended a grand fancy bazaar held the following day in Holmfirth in aid of the Wesleyan Chapel and school expressed:

*'much sympathy and regret for a man whose well known hearty and generous disposition where a good object was to be attained, made him the friend of all and the life of every assembly he joined.'*

He was interred at St. John's Church, Upperthong. His family had requested a private funeral, although a number of friends joined the procession and accompanied it to the grave.

On Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> May, as a token of respect, members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers, members of The Holme Valley Lodge and a number of principal inhabitants of Holmfirth attended a divine service held in his honour at St. John's Church.

At the next Holmfirth petty session, Mr S.S. Booth (solicitor) said of him,

*'He was a man to whom truth and duty were always most dear. Having made up his mind of the justice of a cause, he was never turned from it.'* and that *'His influence had penetrated to outer-circles and he was well known as an example of the utmost generosity and kindness that could be met with.'*



*Jesse Shore*  
*Held the Office of Tyler from 1862-1922*

### TYLER EXTRAORDINARY

One of the early stalwarts of The Holme Valley Lodge was Jesse Shore. He was initiated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1861, passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1862, W. Bro. Charles Taylor P.M. officiating, and raised by dispensation as a serving Brother on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1862. W. Bro. Charles Taylor also performed this ceremony. He was appointed Past Provincial Grand Tyler in 1915 although he never occupied the chair as Worshipful Master.

He was a joiner and cabinet-maker by trade who lived at Hey Gap, Holmfirth and was to serve as Tyler at both the Victoria Hotel and the Masonic Hall from 1862 until his death on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1922, a total of sixty years. During most of that time he was a serving Brother, and was paid the sum of two shillings and sixpence per week for laying out the lodge, a shilling for laying and lifting the carpets and a further three pence for moving furniture. He appears to be the only member of The Holme Valley Lodge ever to have received payment as Tyler.

Whilst records show that he was initiated, passed and raised in 1862, the byelaws of that time clearly stated that:

*‘the Tyler shall be elected in November annually and shall not be a member of the Lodge.’*

He was however granted a dispensation in 1862 to act as a serving brother in that Office. The byelaws were later altered on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1888 when they were amended to read:

*‘the Tyler shall be elected in November annually and shall be a member of the lodge.’*

However, prior to this date records show that on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1884, W. Bro. George Norris proposed:

*‘Bro. Jesse Shore, serving Brother of The Holme Valley Lodge No.652 and No.1462 (Wharnecliffe) as a joining member of the lodge.’*

Having completed twenty-one years as Tyler on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1883, he was presented with a ‘handsome timepiece’ by W. Bro. John Burton, to which the members of The Holme Valley Lodge had subscribed.

He made many pieces of early lodge furniture, some of which are still in use today.

For many years his photograph hung on the wall above the door leading into the Temple on the second floor.



*James Lancaster*

### **JAMES LANCASTER**

The name of James Lancaster is perhaps synonymous with The Holme Valley Lodge and is probably the most frequently recorded name in its minutes.

Born at Netherthong in 1852, he was the third child of Jabez Lancaster of Honley and Mary Hollingworth of Meltham who were married at Huddersfield in September 1848.

He was from a large family of twelve children, seven girls and five boys and was later to carry on the family business of cloth finishing.

He married Lydia A. Brook, daughter of John Brook of Upperthong in 1872 at Huddersfield and he too had a large family.

His first son Charles Hollingworth Lancaster was born in 1873 and was followed shortly afterwards by Mary in 1875, Alice in 1878, Brook in 1880, Amy and Edith in 1883, and Arnold in 1886.

In spite of the fact that he played a prominent role in the life of the lodge he was originally initiated into Freemasonry at the Huddersfield Lodge No 290 on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1885 and did not become a joining member of The Holme Valley Lodge until 18<sup>th</sup> January 1889.

His progression to the office of Worshipful Master was rapid as he was installed as Master on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1894. He was later raised to the rank of Past Provincial Pursuivant.

For many years he acted as Treasurer of the lodge and played a large part in the negotiations and subsequent purchase of the Druids' Hall.

He was instrumental in the decision to move the day on which the lodge met from Friday nearest the full moon to its present time on the third Thursday of each month.

A portrait of him was commissioned following his eightieth birthday in 1931 and was painted by Fred Sheard, of Manningham Lane, Bradford. This presently hangs in the corridor on the top floor leading to the entrance to the Temple.

He remained an active member of the lodge until his death on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1935 at the age of eighty-three.





*The banner of The Holme Valley Lodge*

### **THE LODGE BANNER**

Hanging in the southeast corner of the Temple is the Banner of The Holme Valley Lodge. For a number of years there has been some conjecture as to its origin and design.

In the recently transcribed draft minutes it is recorded that on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1862 Bro. Joshua Lee, of Huddersfield Lodge, attended on behalf of Bro. John Brook, a local painter, also of Huddersfield Lodge with a sketch of a banner for The Holme Valley Lodge.

Bro. G.N.Nelson moved and Bro. Joseph Mellor seconded a motion that the sketch, as produced, be painted for The Holme Valley Lodge and that the thanks of the lodge be given to Bro. Brook for it. Bro. Nelson proposed and Bro. Charles Taylor seconded that the motto 'By industry we prosper' be inscribed on it.

After forty-two years it was falling into a state of disrepair and so on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1904, Bro. Jesse Shaw was instructed to have it repaired. Unfortunately this proved impossible and a new banner was ordered from Messrs. Kennings later that month at a cost of £8.10.0d, plus a further 7/6d for a box to contain it.

By 1983 it had again fallen into a state of disrepair and at the request of the Master, W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson, it was renovated by W. Bro. John Midgley and W. Bro. Harold Battye. The Worshipful Master also thanked W. Bro. Sam Priest for supplying the backing needed to repair the banner. This is the banner presently on display within the lodge.

### 1855-1870

Since there are no official lodge minute books covering the period 1855 to 1878 accurate records of the meetings held between these dates do not exist. However, the recently transcribed draft minutes fill in many of the missing gaps. Details of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1862 are shown below and are the first known recorded minutes of The Holme Valley Lodge:

*Meeting of the Lodge held January 17<sup>th</sup> 1862*

*Bro. John Harpin W.M.*

*H.Tinker S.W.*

*Geo Hinchliffe J.W.*

*J.M.Woodhead P.M.*

*T.Barber S.D.*

*E.Fozzard as J.D.*

*Geo Lawton (Treasurer)*

*C.Taylor Secretary*

*F Littlewood as I.G.*

*Bro. Jesse Shore Bro James Holmes as Tyler*

*Bro. Jesse Shore answered the usual questions – was duly passed Bro. P.M. Taylor officiating.*

*Bro.Geo Lawton in accordance with the rules of the Lodge read over the byelaws The W.M. announced that a letter had been received from Bro. Joseph Howarth enclosing a P.Order. for his subscription and while lamenting that his duty required his close attendance at home he rejoiced to find that we were peace and harmony amongst us and also with hearty good wishes wished the W. Brethren a happy and prosperous new year.*

*Moved by Bro. Geo Lawton and seconded by Bro. Woodhead that on account of the unfortunate circumstances of Br. C. Dyson his arrears of subscription to this Lodge be paid out of the Lodge fund.*

*Moved by Bro. C.T. (C.Taylor) and seconded by Bro F. Littlewood that the members of the committee of benevolence be continue in their office for the ensuing year.*

*Proposed by Bro. Nelson and seconded Bro Burton that Mr M.H. Nelson be a candidate for Masonry.*

*Bro. E. Fozzard proposed and Bro Taylor seconded that Mr John Marsh as a proper candidate for Masonry*

*Bro.T.B. (Thomas Barber) proposed that a committee be appointed to instruct Bro. Jesse Shore to prepare a box for the proper .... (reception) of the Jewels and Furniture of the Lodge.      Seconder*

*Lodge closed before 7 o'clock.*

Between 1855 and 1861 other records are rather sparse and where they do exist are somewhat conflicting in their content. Membership of the lodge can only be ascertained from the registration and contribution books of that period. When the warrant of constitution of the lodge was issued in 1855, the registration book shows a membership of eighteen, plus a further two honorary members, William Smith, a shopkeeper, and James Peace a musician. However by the end of the year, George Noble Nelson had joined from Lodge of Truth and John Harpin had been initiated and the contribution book now showed a membership of twenty-two.

The lodge had by now purchased its jewels and regalia, and on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1855 an invoice was received from D.A. Cooper, Silversmith and Jeweller, of Huddersfield, for the following items:

<i>12 silver Lodge Jewels to make. 25/-</i>	<i>15.0.0</i>
<i>1 set silver square and compasses in case</i>	<i>4.14.6</i>
<i>2 globes with stands</i>	<i>2. 2.0</i>
<i>1 sword etc. 30/- and 25/-</i>	<i>2.15.0</i>
<i>1 maul</i>	<i>4.6</i>
<i>6 brass letters and 3 brass emblems 2/6 each</i>	<i>1. 2.6</i>
<i>1 silver jewel for D.C.</i>	<i>1. 5.0</i>
<i>1 inlaid maul for W.M.</i>	<i>12.0</i>
<i>Making brass plate for top of jewel box</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Engraving and inscribing</i>	<i>1.9</i>

<i>1 heavy maul for table with gilt rings</i>	<u>7.6</u>
	<u>£28. 5.9</u>
<i>Discount 21/2</i>	<u>14.3</u>
	£27.11.6

A stone was later required for the lodge room and was supplied by Joseph England and Abel Turner who on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1859 sent the following account to the lodge:

*To: hewing and cleansing a stone for the Lodge room*  
*5 days at 4/- per day* £1.0.0.

Membership continued to rise over the next fifteen years, and in 1856 a further five candidates were initiated, followed by another two in 1857 and five more in 1858.

Eighteen fifty-nine however proved to be a quieter year for The Holme Valley Lodge and there were no further new candidates until the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1860 when Thomas Barber, a manufacturer of Upperthong, was initiated.

Later in April and July of the same year, two further candidates James Holmes and Thomas Armitage, both manufacturers joined the lodge. James Holmes had previously been in dispute with Cookson Stephenson Floyd and it was not until after his death that he was proposed as a candidate.

Thomas Barber appears to have progressed very quickly through the various offices as he was installed as Master on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1864, a mere four years after his initiation.

Although rather brief, the draft minutes of that night record his installation and are the first record of the installation of a Master of The Holme Valley Lodge.

They read as follows:

*December 16/64*

*Lodge opened at 6.15 pm. Minutes read and confirmed.*

*Lodge opened into the second degree.*

*Bro. Barber was obligated as W.M.*

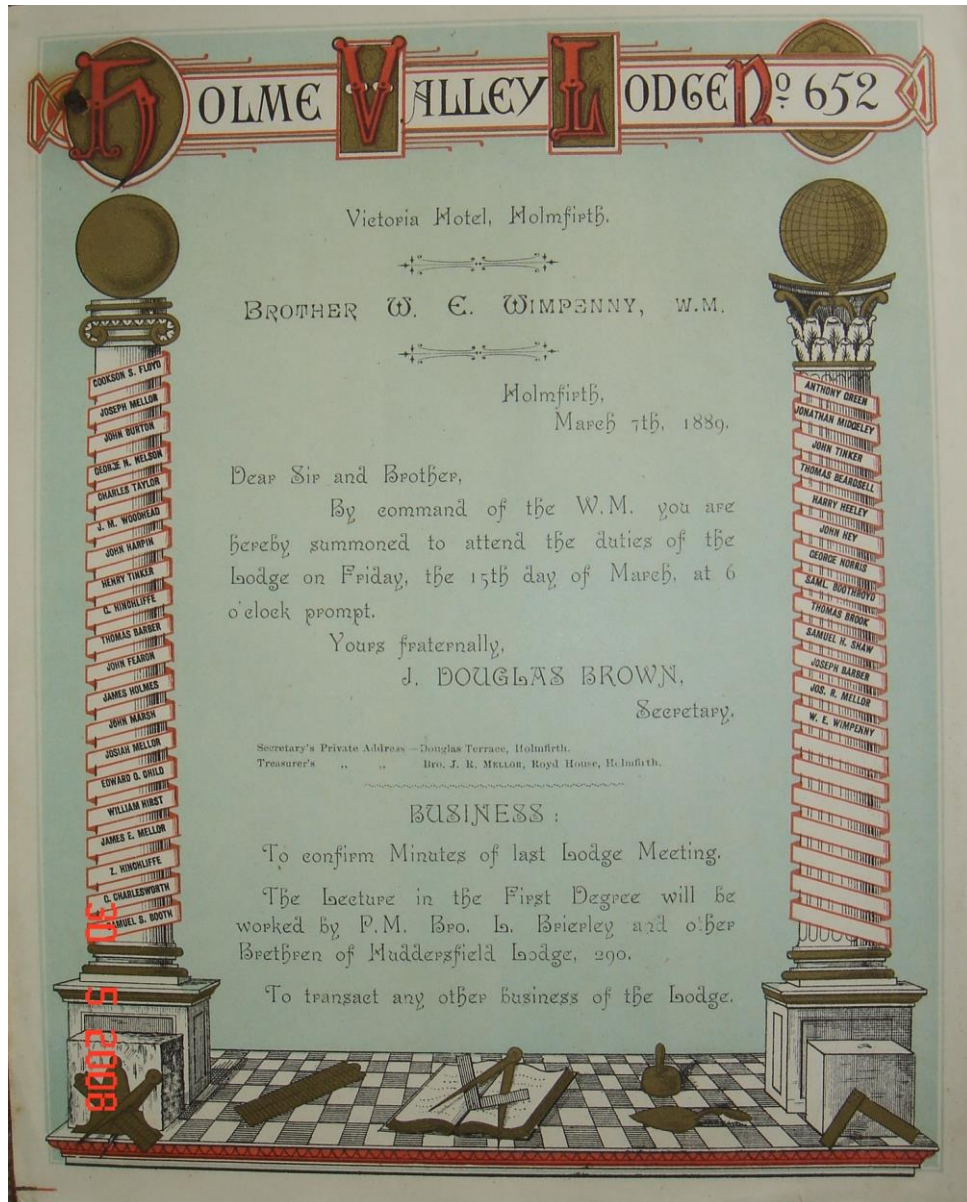
*Lodge opened into the 3rd degree when Bro. T. Barber was duly installed as W.M. of the Lodge for the ensuing year.*

<i>Geo Hichliffe</i>	<i>W.M.</i>
<i>H.Tinker</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>John Marsh</i>	<i>S.D.</i>

<i>J.M.Woodhead</i>	<i>P.M. as J.D.</i>
<i>James Holmes</i>	<i>S.W.</i>
<i>Rev J.Fearon B.A.</i>	<i>J.W.</i>
<i>Bro. T.Barber</i>	<i>I.G.</i>
<i>Dyson</i>	<i>P.M. Truth</i>
<i>Geo Greenwood</i>	
<i>J.Harpin</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>J.Burton</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>J.Mellor</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Hardy</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Littlewood</i>	
<i>Jos Lee</i>	<i>P.M. Truth</i>
<i>Woodhouse</i>	
<i>H.Tinker</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>W.Smith</i>	<i>P.M.</i>
<i>Jackson</i>	<i>P.M. Truth</i>
<i>Marshall</i>	<i>Truth</i>

Progress recruiting new members during the next six years proved to be rather difficult with an average of two new initiates per year, and it was not until 1867-1868 that records show an increase of thirteen members.

It was not unusual during that period of the lodge's history for the Master to perform several ceremonies on the same night, and as a consequence of this on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1867, Bro. Josiah Mellor was raised, Bro. William Hirst was passed and both Mr Charles Lockwood and Mr Alfred Hirst were initiated, the latter two having been balloted for earlier the same evening. The entry in the registration book for that night shows the first candidates as a Mr Charles Lockwood whilst the minute book records him as Mr James Lockwood, however later records confirm that he was indeed Charles Lockwood.



*Summons for the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1889 showing the names of the Past Masters on the columns for the first time*

### **THE MISSING MASTER**

The realisation that Cookson Stephenson Floyd was not the reigning Master in 1857 brought to light a further mystery in the annals of The Holme Valley Lodge, that of the missing Master.

Since Floyd had held the office of Master between November 1855 and December 1856, and not as previously thought in 1857, it appeared possible that the dates that some of the other early Masters were thought to have served in office may also be incorrect.

From the information available from existing records the date of the anomaly was pinpointed to 1869.

During the early part of the lodge's history it was usual for the Worshipful Master to approve the annual accounts by signing the Treasurer's account book, normally in February following his installation.

In 1867 these were signed, and approved, by the then Worshipful Master, John Marsh, and in February 1870 by the Master, Josiah Mellor.

However, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1869 the accounts for 1868 were approved and signed by John Burton, P.M. Charles Taylor, P.M. and Josiah Mellor, Secretary, and not by the Worshipful Master who was absent from the February meeting.

His absence subsequently led to his name being overlooked later in the list of Past Masters.

The Holme Valley Lodge is perhaps unique in the Province of Yorkshire West Riding in not possessing an honours board. It relies instead on its monthly summons to record the names of its Past Masters.

Prior to 1889 the summons was of a relatively simple design. It took the form of a single sheet of paper over-printed with the two columns, Boaz and Jachin and it was not until the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1889 that the names of the Past Masters were included and printed over the left hand column.

The year they served in office however was not added until 10<sup>th</sup> September 1897 and since all the Past Masters who had been installed prior to 1878 when lodge



records commenced had died, it was necessary to obtain their names from the limited records in existence.

Since the minute books covering the period between 1855 and 1878 were lost, the only sources of information available were the contribution book and the Treasurer's account book, both of which dated from 1855, along with the draft minutes of the period between January 1862 and November 1867.

These minutes documented most of the Masters serving between 1862 and 1867, but unfortunately they did not record the name of the Master Elect at the November meeting of 1867. It is however known that John Marsh was installed in December 1867 and that his Senior Warden on that occasion was Richard Tinker.

The name of Richard Tinker appears in lodge records on only seventeen occasions and his signature only once, in the declaration book, prior to his initiation.

On the basis of this he does not appear to have taken an active role in the life of the lodge but he did however serve as an officer on several occasions between 1865 and 1868.

Since he occupied the office of Senior Warden in 1868 it was reasonable to assume that he may have been installed in December of that year and occupied the Master's chair from December 1868 to December 1869.

This assumption proved to be correct, as information received from Grand Lodge confirmed that he was on record as having signed the annual returns, as Worshipful Master, in January 1869.

Little is known of Richard Tinker other than he first appears in the declaration book on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1864 as an initiate, and whilst there is no record of his initiation, the minutes of July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864 read:

*Bro. Fozzard moved and Bro. J.W. seconded Chris Tinker as a fit and proper candidate.*

Richard Tinker was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1813. His parents were Christopher and Martha Tinker. It is interesting to note that when he was proposed and also when his name was entered in the contribution book in 1864 he was recorded as Chris Tinker, this however was corrected to Richard Tinker the following year.

He was a factory manager, who at his initiation was fifty-one years old. He was employed by J. Brooke & Sons, Armitage Mills, the largest woollen mill in Yorkshire and is recorded as being resident in Armitage Bridge. On the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1868, William Brooke, organised and paid for a trip by special train to Scarborough for all his workforce and their wives, numbering between nine hundred and a thousand people. The following week on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, Richard

Tinker was named in the Huddersfield Chronicle as a signatory to the following testimonial presented to William Brooke at 'Peoples Park', Scarborough;

*Gentlemen, - Another instance of unvarying kindness, ever shown to you by your workpeople, has occurred in Mr. William Brooke having given us a trip to Scarboro'. We avail ourselves of this opportunity as a most fit and proper occasion to present you with this address. We thank you for the kind and generous manner in which you have assisted us in cases of sickness and in all our religious and social institutions. Such conduct produces in us a kind affection towards you. We cannot conclude without expressing our warmest congratulations to you for your earnest and persevering attention to business, which has resulted in your and our present success and prosperity. And we pray that, by undivided and united effort, that peace and harmony may ever continue between employers and employed, and that the success and prosperity may be continued to succeeding generations. Finally we pray that the blessing of Heaven may rest upon you and yours. We beg now to subscribe ourselves your obedient and humble servants. (Signed on behalf of the workpeople,) Jno. Bottomley, Richard Tinker, George Atha, Henry Smith, George Woodhouse, Tom Brook, James Barrand.*

Richard Tinker was first mentioned in the draft minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1865 when he held the office of Junior Deacon. He was next mentioned in December of that year at the installation of John Fearon, when he was appointed Junior Warden.

The following year at the installation of James Holmes he was promoted once again, this time to the office of Senior Warden.

His attendance at lodge meetings appears to have been rather sporadic, as between January 1865 and January 1870 he attended on only twenty-two occasions.

The last recorded reference to him was on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1867, when he occupied the chair of the Senior Warden, a position he was to hold until his own installation in December of 1868.

Following his installation he appears to have only attended the lodge on two further occasions, once in January and once in March of 1869 when his monthly contributions of 2/6d were shown as having been paid.

Richard Tinker's subscriptions were regularly in arrears. At the end of 1868 he owed 7/6d and by December of 1869 this amount had increased to 22/6d.

He paid no further subscriptions after March 1869 and by 1871 his name had disappeared totally from the contribution book and from all lodge records.

Despite his apparent lack of interest in lodge matters, his inclusion in the roll of Past Masters completes the list of those Brethren who represented The Holme Valley Lodge as a reigning Master.

## EARLY PROGRESS

Between its conception in 1855 and until March 1921 The Holme Valley Lodge met regularly, every month, on the Friday nearest the full moon at the Victoria Hotel, Station Rd., Holmfirth, where they rented rooms for the purpose of carrying out lodge business. The first indication of the costs being incurred for these rooms was recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1865, when Bro. Greenwood proposed and Bro J.M. (J.M.Moorhouse) seconded:

*‘that £3.0.0 per annum be paid for use of lodge room to commence December 1865.’*

Initially this proved to be a satisfactory arrangement for all concerned, but difficulties were to be soon experienced with the accommodation provided, and in November 1878 a resolution was passed that the members of the lodge should consider the desirability of obtaining fresh premises for the conducting of lodge business.

It was however to be a further thirty-nine years before the lodge purchased the Druid’s Hotel in 1917. This was to become the present Masonic Hall.

\*

Problems continued to arise with the accommodation provided and by 1880 the lodge room was in urgent need of redecoration. It was therefore proposed, and approved on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1880, that this work should be carried out.

James Bamforth performed the task and after cleaning and washing the walls and top (ceiling), painted the room. He also cleaned off old paint from three window casings and three gas pendants.

His account for his work was £15.18.6d, £8.0.0 of which was paid for by an excess of money left by the late Bentley Shaw.

By 1893 the Brethren considered that the rent being charged by the Victoria Hotel for the use of the lodge rooms had become rather expensive, and so on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December a deputation visited Mr James Ogden, the manager of the hotel, and offered to pay him £10.0.0 per annum for the hire of the room. The meeting

proved to be a somewhat heated affair with Mr. Ogden refusing to accept less than £15.0.0.

A letter was subsequently sent from the lodge to Mr Jagger, a director of Bentley & Shaw, pointing out that they (the members of The Holme Valley Lodge) hoped in future to be treated with at least civility, but that there seemed to be little course open to them but to accept the terms proposed by Mr Ogden. It was however stressed that the consequence of this meeting may eventually lead to the reluctant severance of the lodge's connection with the Hotel.

A letter was quickly received by the lodge from Mr Ogden dated the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1893 and read as follows:

*Dear Sirs,*

*Re- Rent etc.,*

*Since seeing you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inst. respecting above I have been over to Lockwood and seen Mr Jagger and having learnt certain things that I was unaware of previous. I do hereby agree to accept your offer of ten pounds for the current year and ten pounds per annum for each succeeding year and I along with Mrs Ogden will endeavour to cater for you and make you as comfortable as possible so as to give you every satisfaction to the members of your Lodge. Trusting this will meet with your approval.*

*Yours truly*

*James Ogden.*

The following day a further letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 1893 was received from Mr Jagger, of Lockwood Brewery:

*Dear Sir,*

*I much regret that owing to my not being able to keep my appointment with your deputation, there has been created some misunderstanding, which has given you cause to write us again.*

*I would explain, that I had arranged to see Mr Ogden here on the same day and immediately after the interview with the deputation, but a death in Mr Ogden's family prevented his coming until the following Tuesday. This, together with my absence left Mr Ogden quite unacquainted with the assurance given by us to the gentlemen, when he asked you the £15, hence his unfortunate contrary action.*

*I have gone into the matter with Mr Ogden, and have requested him to write you, accepting your offer of £10 for the current year and following years.*

*After our explanations and also our expressed wish to Mr and Mrs Ogden, I believe they will cheerfully pay every attention for the comfort and happiness of the members of your Lodge and that there will be no cause in future for complaint of any kind.*

*We appreciate your kindness in communicating with us and assure you that we could not think of allowing your Lodge to be disturbed, when we remember with what pleasure and pride our late Mr Shaw provided, what should be considered, its natural home.*

*Yours faithfully,  
N. Jagger.*

Following the receipt of this letter a figure of ten pounds per annum was proposed and accepted by the Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge.

\*

Eighteen hundred and sixty-three saw the decision by Grand Lodge to change the numbers of all the lodges in England. Their numbers were to be brought forward in regular succession by filling up those which had become vacant, either by voluntary surrender of warrants or by the erasure of lodges, and so on the 6<sup>th</sup> July of that year 'The Holme Valley Lodge No. 937' became 'The Holme Valley Lodge No. 652.'

\*

Whilst there was still an air of a mystery in the nineteenth century with regard to Masonic societies, the institution was nevertheless looked on with some degree of respect and as such it was not unusual for Masonic Brethren to parade or be seen in Masonic regalia outside of the Lodge.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1879 a dispensation was sought for the Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge to appear, in Masonic clothing and costume, at a ball to be held at the Town Hall, Holmfirth. Permission was duly granted, as was a similar request for a Chapter ball to be held in January 1880 at the same venue.

Shortly after holding this ball discussion took place, on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1881, to consider the advisability of forming a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with The Holme Valley Lodge. However the matter was deferred due to the small number of Brethren present at the meeting and it was not until the 5<sup>th</sup> May 1882 that Brother Barber gave notice of his intention:

*'that he would move that for the purpose of meeting the necessary expenses in the formation of a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with this lodge that the amount required be lent from the Lodge funds.'*

A loan of £80.0.0 was agreed on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1882, after which a resolution was passed on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1882 for the formation of a Royal Arch Chapter. The Chapter of Industry No. 652 was duly formed and was consecrated on Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1883.

\*

Since it was now twenty-five years since the consecration of The Holme Valley Lodge, Bro. John William Jeffrey and W. Bro. John Tinker suggested that the Worshipful Master should request a visit, in July, from Provincial Grand Lodge to celebrate the occasion. Regrettably Province was unable to attend on the day suggested, but agreed to visit on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1882 when sixty Brethren attended the meeting. The cost of entertaining Provincial Grand Lodge on this special occasion was £12.19.1d.

Following the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting it would appear that some discussion had taken place regarding the low number of Brethren dining at the Victoria Hotel after the regular lodge meetings, as on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1882 it was proposed, and carried, that the lodge should guarantee the landlord twelve suppers, and in the event of less than twelve partaking, that the lodge should pay the difference.

\*

Some five years were to pass before Bro. Joseph Ramsden Mellor was installed as Master on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1887. The meeting itself must have proved to be a somewhat lengthy affair as prior to the installation ceremony, the outgoing Master, Bro. Joseph Barber, raised Bro. William Sandford to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

It was a further seven years before the installation of Bro. James Lancaster took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1894. He had joined the lodge from the Huddersfield Lodge only five years previously and was already a well-respected mason.

At the festive board W. Bro. James Hopkinson P.M of Lodge 1619 P.P.G.P of Sussex gave an interesting response to the visitors toast in the form of a verse. He later sent this copy to the lodge:

*Worshipful Master and Brethren,*  
  
*Indebted entirely to my Brother Brierley,*  
*For his very kind invitation;*  
*I needed no pressure, but with greatest pleasure,*  
*Came to join you at this Installation.*

*It gives me much delight to be present tonight,  
And I feel full of joy and elation,  
To see our good Brother, more worthy none other,  
Obtain in your Lodge Installation.*

*Of your new Master proud (and I say it aloud),  
He's the right man for his situation,  
For ne'er will he let you have cause to regret  
Your choice of him for Installation.*

*'Tis, as some of you know, now a long time ago,  
Since I took the first obligation  
But where'er I have been, very rarely I've seen,  
Such good working at an Installation.*

*I am much in your debt, for the welcome I met  
When I came on a former occasion,  
With a Brother, now dead, his immortal soul fled  
To Heaven's Grand Lodge to get Installation.*

*I will take the chance now, my best thanks to avow,  
For the kindness and consideration,  
Some eighteen months ago, you were then pleased to show,  
And repeated at this Installation.*

*Though some distance from home, I am glad I have come  
To be with you upon this occasion;  
And I fervently pray, the Great Architect may  
Give his blessings to this Installation.*

*You will think it is time that I ended this rhyme,  
Which, I trust, meets with your approbation:  
A year hence may we all meet again in this hall,  
To assist at the next Installation.*

*I have the honour to be,  
Worshipful Master and Brethren,  
Yours faithfully and fraternally,*

*Jas. Hopkinson P.M. No 1619, P.P.G.P. of Sussex.*

The lodge, had since its conception met at the Victoria Hotel on the Friday evening nearest the full moon at either 6.00pm, 6.30pm or 7.00pm. However to regularise these times a motion was proposed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1893, by Bro James Lancaster and seconded by Bro. T.S. Brierley that the bye-law No. 2 of the lodge be altered to read as follows:

*‘ The regular meetings of the lodge shall be held at the Victoria Hotel on the second Friday in every calendar month, (unless such day shall be Good Friday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the Friday next ensuing) at 7 o’clock in the evening or at such other hour as the Master shall appoint.’*

The motion was put to the Brethren present but was not approved, and so the lodge continued to meet, as it always had, on the Friday nearest to the full moon. This matter was to lie dormant for a further seventeen years until 1910, when it was raised once again by W. Bro. James Lancaster, who again gave notice of his intention to suggest that the lodge meet on the third Friday of every month. However at the next meeting he withdrew that proposition, only to present it once more, four months later, when he proposed that the day be altered to the third Thursday or Friday each month. Needless to say the motion was rejected once again and so the lodge continued to meet, as before, on the Friday nearest the full moon.

\*

Social events always played a large part in Masonic life and as early as 1871 a Masonic ball is recorded as having taken place on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> January, at the Town Hall, Holmfirth. This was repeated the following year on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1872 and may have been the prelude to the present day Ladies nights. Other social events took place in the ensuing years, and in 1896, on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, Bro. T.S. Brierley proposed and Bro H. Lomax seconded, that the annual picnic should take place as usual, and it was resolved at the next meeting that this be held at Bolton Woods on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Further picnics were held at Sheffield and Chatsworth House on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1897, at Sheffield and Castleford on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1898 and at Ripon and Studley Royal on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1899.

\*

In the years following its consecration several items of furniture etc. had been donated by various members of the lodge, one of these was a valuable red oak chair for the use of the Senior Deacon and was given in 1899 by Bro. Charley Holroyd and was to be placed at the right of the Worshipful Master. This is still regularly used at the lodge.

\*



The practice of the Worshipful Master performing several ceremonies on the same night continued, and at the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1899 ballots were held for Mr Albert Tinker, Mr Herbert Brearley Sykes and Mr John Edward Heap and having proved in their favour they were all initiated.

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and closed in peace and harmony at 8.30pm.

Mr John Edward Heap of Honley, was a solicitor, who later in 1906 became part owner of the Druid's Hotel along with Daniel Stockwell, the innkeeper of The Kings Head, Upperbridge. He was to play a large part in its sale to The Holme Valley Lodge.

The following month on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, Brother Harry Holroyd was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason and Brothers Joseph Lee, Albert Tinker, Herbert B. Sykes and John E. Heap were passed to the second degree. On this occasion the lodge opened at 6.00pm and closed at 9.00pm but only after Brothers Lee, Tinker, Sykes and Heap had expressed their desires to take the next degree as soon as possible.

\*

The summer of 1899 saw the question of accommodation being debated yet again, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June it was resolved on the motion of Bro. T. S. Brierley S.W. and seconded by Bro.W. Walker:

*'that a committee consisting of the Worshipful Master and Bros T.S.Brierley S.W., J.C.Barraclough J.W. P.M. Joseph Mellor, P.M. James Lancaster, P.M. J.A.Greenwood, Tom Heeley, Joshua Barraclough and J.M.B.Shaw be formed to consider and report to the Lodge on the question of better accommodation being obtained for the lodge meetings. The W.M. and Bros P.M. J.R. Mellor and Joshua Barraclough to wait on Messrs Bentley and Shaw (the owners of the Victoria Hotel) and ascertain what they are willing to do in the matter of improved accommodation for the meetings in the present premises.'*

The committee, having met with Messrs Bentley and Shaw reported that plans for alterations and additions to the present lodge rooms had been agreed, and it was suggested that the rooms be then taken on lease for ten years at a rent of £20.0.0d per annum. The Brethren approved this proposal and the Worshipful Master duly signed the lease on behalf of the lodge.

It was also resolved at the same meeting that Bentley and Shaw be advised that the practice of its members paying the hotel keeper six pence for each glass supplied at the festive board should be discontinued, and that the lodge intended to make their own arrangements for refreshments in future. This charge was presumably for drinks supplied to the Brethren at their various meetings.

\*

Problems of such a magnitude as to result in the expulsion of one of its members rarely occurred within the lodge. However, on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1899, it was resolved that the Secretary should give notice to Bro. Henry W. Hodges, (who was recorded in the declaration book as occupation 'Gentleman'), that a complaint had been made against him that he had been guilty of embezzlement. The complaint was considered at the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December when it was decided that he be excluded from membership of The Holme Valley Lodge.

\*

The practice of parading in public in Masonic regalia continued during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and as a consequence of this twenty-nine members of The Holme Valley Lodge met on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1900 at the Church School, Holmbridge, where they formed in procession and paraded to St. David's Church, Holmbridge to attend a divine service.

A short meeting must have been held prior to this, as records show that that it was:

*'resolved on a motion of Bro. James Lancaster P.M. and seconded by Bro. Tom S. Brierley W.M. that Bro. Jesse Shore see to the portraits in the lodge room being cleaned and looked to whilst alterations are going on.'*

The alterations referred to were those being carried out to the lodge rooms at the Victoria Hotel, and consisted of the billiard room being altered to form a supper room with a door opening into it from the lodge room.

The lodge premises now consisted of a large lodge room, an adjoining ante-room and the newly converted supper room, and was to be used by the Brethren for their regular lodge meetings and refreshments on each Friday evening nearest the full moon until the hour of eleven o'clock.

The supper room could also be used each Thursday evening until eleven o'clock for instruction meetings and for special occasions such as St. John's Festival (traditionally 24<sup>th</sup> June or the summer solstice, a widely celebrated Masonic holiday) and the children's party.

The alterations having been completed, the rooms were re-opened at a ceremony held on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1900, in the presence of W. Bro. Richard Wilson D.P.G.M.

The presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master gave rise to a great deal of interest, as fifty-five Brethren are recorded as having attended the meeting, nineteen of these being visitors.

The lodge opened at 4.00pm and after the normal formalities the ceremony of raising Bro. Charles William Sheard to the sublime degree of a Master Mason took place.

Unfortunately the feeling of satisfaction that emanated from the brethren as a result of the improvements that had been made to the premises proved to be of a somewhat short duration, as by October 1900 problems were again being experienced with the accommodation provided.

It was therefore:

*‘resolved on the motion of Bro. J.C. Barraclough that a letter be sent to Messrs Bentley and Shaw respecting the deficient ventilation of lodge room and that if it is not remedied at once it will be impossible to hold the installation in it in December.’*

The problem was obviously not rectified as a dispensation was sought, and granted, for the installation of Joshua Barraclough to be held at the Drill Hall, (Druid’s Hotel) Holmfirth, on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1900.

### THE END OF AN ERA

The lodge had by now entered the twentieth century, and on the January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1901 its members were to learn of the sad death of Queen Victoria. She had reigned as 'Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India' since 1837. At the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February the Worshipful Master, Bro. Joshua Barraclough, delivered the following moving tribute to the Queen which is worthy of recording:

*'Ever since her death our minds and hearts have been filled with thoughts of what has been taken away from us, the sense of loss has spread in ever widening circles from that chamber where the last breath was drawn and where the voice of prayer commended the departed soul to the Saviour far away, to every home in the most distant corner of the land and farther still to the utmost boundaries of the empire and even, it is not too much to say, to the whole wide world.*

*By her death the nation has lost one of its greatest ornaments, a reign has come to an end, which for splendour has had no equal, a life is closed, the beauty of which is unsurpassed, there has gone from us one who for over sixty-three years has been not only the venerable sovereign but the devoted idol of her people and the personification of all they held dearest in life. From end to end of this vast empire, which has been so long gladdened with her sway her death will be a great loss, her wisdom and her gentleness filled her subjects with deep feelings of gratitude and her loss will be no more deeply felt than by the Brethren of our Masonic order.'*

On the following day a memorial service was held at the Parish Church, Holmfirth and was attended by 31 members of The Holme Valley Lodge. They first met at the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel before proceeding to the church in processional order, clothed in black dress, silk hats and black gloves.

\*

The payment of annual subscriptions had always been the cause of some concern to all the Treasurers, and it was normal, as now, for those Brethren in arrears to be

reminded of their debt at either the regular Lodge meetings or by letter. Since this did not necessarily result in payment being forthcoming it was decided on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1901 that a footnote be printed, for the first time, on the lodge summons, drawing this to the attention of those Brethren whose payments were in arrears. However the use of this reminder does not appear to have been implemented until some time later and there is no record of its success or failure.

\*

By February 1902 yet further problems were being experienced at the Victoria Hotel. This time it concerned the lighting of the rooms. It was therefore decided to write once again to Bentley and Shaw Ltd., and that a deputation of senior members of the lodge should meet the landlords to discuss the matter. There is however no record of the outcome of that meeting.

\*

Following the death of Queen Victoria, the coronations of the new King, Edward VII and Queen Alexandra were to take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1902.

However this was postponed, as the King, (who was also the Grand Master), was diagnosed with appendicitis, a condition that often proved fatal.

In consequence of his illness a lodge of emergency was called, and was to be held at the Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield at 9.30a.m on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1902, when Worshipful Masters, Officers, Past Masters and Brethren of Lodges numbers 149, 275, 290, 521, 652, 1514, 1645, 1783, 2035 and 2261 met, under the banner of the Lodge of Harmony No. 257:

*‘to record their loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of his most Gracious Majesty their profound sorrow in the affliction which has befallen him, they pray that the G.A.O.T.U may speedily restore him to health and preserve him in peace and happiness through a long and prosperous reign.’*

The lodge closed at 10.00a.m after which the Brethren, at the invitation of Bro. Rev. Canon H. Lowther Clarke, walked in procession to the Parish Church to attend a special service to pray for the safe return to health of the King.

Following his recovery and subsequent coronation on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, a further special service was held at the Parish Church, Holmfirth on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> August and was attended by twenty-two Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge. They first met at the Drill Hall and afterwards formed in procession and walked to the church.

## CHARITY

Charity has always played an important part of Masonic life and for the members of The Holme Valley Lodge this was no exception, for as early as 1858 a donation of £1.1.0 was made by them to the orphan's school.

By January of 1861 the bye-laws of the Committee of Benevolence had been drafted and read over, after which it was moved by Bro. Joseph Mellor and seconded by Bro John Harpin:

*'that the same be approved and adopted and fair copied for confirmation at the next regular meeting of the lodge.*

Bro. Charles Taylor then moved and Bro. Henry Tinker seconded that it was desirable that a code of resolutions should be passed to organize a committee for benevolent purposes in connection with the lodge.

Since the draft minutes are dated January 1861 it is reasonable to assume that they were put before the meeting held on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> February, along with the byelaws of the lodge, in order that they both be approved at the same time.

The byelaws proposed that the committee should consist of the Worshipful Master and six subscribing Brethren, three of whom should be Past Masters who were to be elected annually at the regular lodge meeting in January.

Its general purpose was:

*'the distributing of such funds as may from time to time be granted by this lodge for benevolent purposes on application of such committee.'*

The committee was to consist of Bro. J.M. Woodhead W.M., J. Mellor P.M., George Noble Nelson P.M., John Burton P.M., George Lawton S.W., Henry Tinker J.W. and John Harpin Treasurer.

It was decided that five pounds be granted to the Committee of Benevolence from the lodge funds, and for them to be at liberty to apply from time to time for such further sums as may be deemed requisite.

The aim of the committee was to assist subscribing Brethren who were unable to follow their usual employment and who were not more than six months in arrears with their subscription. This was subject to the possible recipient of a grant applying in writing to the Worshipful Master for assistance from the fund.

The allowance made was dependent upon the individual merits of each application but in no case was it to exceed ten shillings per week and could not be granted for more than one month without further application to the committee.

Whilst the Treasurer regularly recorded the allowances paid to the applicants, at no time were their names disclosed to any person other than a committee member. A Relieving Officer was also to be appointed to deal with any casual application for help from members of other lodges, but in this instance the maximum grant was not to exceed five shillings without the approval of the Worshipful Master and one other member of the committee.

Prior to their approval, a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 1861, was received from W. Bro. George Eastwood and would suggest that he had offered his resignation to the lodge on a matter of principal relating to the distribution of charity.

His letter read:

*Worshipful Sir and Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge*

*19<sup>th</sup> January 1861*

*Having received a most gratifying answer to my letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. last and after giving matters due consideration it appears to me to be the unanimous wish of the Brethren of the lodge that I should not withdraw but continue as a member heretofore and as I am informed that the Byelaws and resolutions of the lodge are in the course of preparation and which as you state it is to be hoped will be made satisfactory to us all it will then be the means of my complying with your request which has arisen for want of consideration (to allow the term) a dereliction of duty on the part of the Brethren of the lodge. I certainly should not have made a claim upon the Lodge had I known the state of the funds but in making my claim I am borne out by another Brother that our late and lamented Bro. Floyd made the assertion more than once that the resolutions of The Holme Valley Lodge should be upon the principal that 12/- per week should be allowed to a Bro. when claimed in case of sickness and being unable to follow in usual employment.*

*I remain W.S. and Brs. to the cable end of my tow*

*Yours Fraternally*

*Geo Eastwood*

It would appear that W. Bro. Eastwood was at that time the Relieving Officer of the lodge as in the draft minutes of the lodge meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1865 it is recorded:

*'moved by Bro. James Holmes and seconded by Fozzard that the thanks of the Lodge be given to Bro. Geo Eastwood for his services as relieving officer during the past 8 years and the Lodge desires to express their regret that circumstances should make it desirable for him to resign.'*

Following his resignation Bro. Charles Taylor was appointed to that office.

The Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge subscribed regularly to two Masonic charities, the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys and the Royal Masonic Institute for Girls. The earliest recorded donations are in 1859 when £5.5.0 was given to the Boy's Institution, and in 1860 when a further £5.5.0 was donated to the Girl's School, although amounts of £10.0.0 were made regularly for many years.

The civil war was now taking place in America, and as a result of the blockade of the Confederacy by the Union forces in 1861 the supply of cotton to the Lancashire mills was drying up, resulting in the closure of many mills in 1862. By this time one third of the families involved in the cotton trade had been laid off and were in receipt of relief but despite there hardship, at a meeting held at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester in December 1862, they resolved to support the Union in its fight to abolish slavery.

The Holme Valley Lodge was quick to give its support to these workers and a donation of £10.0.0 was sent to the Lancashire cotton distress fund.

W. Bro. Bentley Shaw had for a long period of time taken a great interest in the affairs of the Royal Masonic Schools and following his death in 1878, the Bentley Shaw memorial fund raised a further £16.10.0, which was donated to the Royal Masonic School for Girls.

Applications requesting that the sons and daughters of distressed Brethren of the lodge be educated were made to both these institutions on several occasions. One of these was in 1897 for Edwin Mellor. He was a young man who proved to be a good scholar, as on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1903 a letter was received from the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys extending his period of education.

A letter of congratulations was sent to him from the lodge and a reply was subsequently received from Edwin thanking its members for their support and hoping that in future he may be a credit to his school.

Further applications were made in 1898 in respect of Arthur Woodhead and for Jane Mellor, and in 1908 when the Brethren proposed that the Lodge would use its best endeavours to obtain a place at the Masonic School for Girls for Constance Marjory Brierley aged seven, a relative of W.Bro. T. Brierley and that



they would, if necessary and if the application was successful, ‘equip her with clothing as befit her station.’

Some fifty years later, following the death of Bro. Thomas Woodhead, his son was also proposed and accepted as a candidate for the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys as was Timothy Heeley, the son of W. Bro. Tom Heeley, in 1950.

The second Boer war had broken out in 1889 and was proving to be a somewhat difficult and protracted affair in which 22,000 British soldiers died, 7,792 being casualties of the war and the rest deaths through disease contracted at the fighting front.

However on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1900, amidst great joy and jubilation it was announced that Mafeking, which had been under siege for 217 days, had been relieved.

The Holme Valley Lodge was again quick to respond to this good news as on the 16<sup>th</sup> June a donation of £22.2.0 was sent to the South African War Fund.

Grants continued to be made from the funds of the lodge for Charity, and during the period 1880 until 1911 the following grants were made:

		£.	s.	d.
1880	Lodge of Ireland (Dr. W.S. Robinson)	1.	1.	0
1881	Aged F.M.s and widows	31.	10.	0
1884	Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	15.	15.	0
1887	Jubilee Presentation and Imperial Institute	34.	13.	0
1888	Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	10.	10.	0
1891	New Presentation fund	10.	10.	0
1893	Aged F.M.s and widows	21.	0.	0
1894	Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	10.	10.	0
1897	Aged F.M.s and widows	10.	10.	0
	Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	10.	10.	0
	Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	10.	10.	0
	West Yorkshire Charity fund	10.	10.	0
1898	Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	10.	10.	0
1901	Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	21.	0.	0
1903	Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	21.	0.	0
1908	West Yorkshire Charity	10.	10.	0
1911	West Yorkshire Charity	10.	10.	0
		<u>£250.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>0</u>

In addition to the above, grants were made to individuals amounting to £150.00 during the same period.

### CELEBRITIES AND INTO THE NEW CENTURY

The Holme Valley Lodge can count several Holmfirth celebrities amongst its members; perhaps one of the most well known was Harry Bamforth, a local photographer and one of the Bamforth family. The family were famous for their postcards.

His father was James Bamforth, a pioneer of cinematography who was producing short comic films in Holmfirth as early as 1899, before the advent of Hollywood.

Harry, his son, was initiated into the lodge on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1903 and later migrated from Holmfirth to America with his family in 1906 to start the New York branch of Bamforth's postcards at his office at 35 West Street, New York.

A letter of commendation was sent to him from the lodge to his home at 249, West 178<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, to enable him to visit the lodges there. His son Jack who accompanied him to America enlisted in the United States Marines in April 1917 at the age of seventeen and was unfortunately killed in France on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1918. The family learned of his death on his nineteenth birthday.

\*

The question of accommodation and its costs had become a long ongoing saga, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 1905 it was proposed, and accepted, that the sum of £100.0.0 be taken from lodge funds to form the nucleus of a lodge building fund, and that in future each Brother should pay the Treasurer three shillings per month as a contribution to this fund.

A further two years were to pass before complaints were received from the Brethren that the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel was cold. This was brought to the attention of the manager.

Since the accommodation was continuing to prove inadequate a dispensation was again sought, and granted, for the installations of Bros. R.T. Hardy and T. Hinchliffe to be held at the Drill Hall, Holmfirth on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1905 and Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1906 respectively.

The vexing question of alternative lodge premises was again raised in February 1908 when it was decided that a committee be called together at an early date to discuss the matter, although there is no record of what was resolved.

The following year the installation day fell on Christmas Eve, Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> December, and in view of this a further dispensation was sought and granted, for it to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December when Bro. J.W.B. Shaw was installed as Master.

\*

The reign of King Edward VII came to an end on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1910 after a period of less than eight years. Following his death a number of the Brethren met at the lodge rooms at the Victoria Hotel, on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> May and afterwards attended a service, held in his memory at Holy Trinity Church, Holmfirth.

They then returned to the lodge rooms where a collection was made towards the relief fund of the Whitehaven colliery. A disaster had occurred there on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May at the Wellington Pit, Whitehaven following an explosion and fire that had killed 136 miners. This raised £22.0 and this was subsequently sent to the Mayor of Whitehaven.

\*

The lodge meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1912 proved to be a somewhat special occasion, and was attended by W.Bro. H.A.Wilson. P.G.J.W. together with thirty-five other Brethren, and was to celebrate the attainment by Bro. Jesse Shore of fifty years service as Tyler of The Holme Valley Lodge.

Bro. Jesse Shore who was initiated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1861, passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1862 and raised on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1862 was first mentioned as Tyler at the meeting held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1862.

He was to continue in that office until his death in 1922 and is the only member of The Holme Valley Lodge to serve in the same office for that length of time.

The Lodge was opened at 6.45p.m and after the opening hymn, scripture and the minutes of the previous lodge meeting had been read and confirmed, Bro. Shore was admitted. (It must be remembered that he was Tyler and was therefore at the door without the lodge)

The Worshipful Master called upon W.Bro. Wilson P.G.J.W. to present him with a purse of gold containing £31.10.0d together with a photograph of Bro. Shore, dressed in his full Masonic regalia and framed in oak.

W. Bro. Wilson, who was acting for the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, first congratulated him upon having been permitted to gain such a unique distinction as that of having served upwards of fifty years in the office of Tyler.

He then explained that he (W. Bro. Wilson) was as it were, deputy to the deputy and he was afraid that was somewhat like asking the Brethren to accept four pence for nine pence.

Although the W. Deputy Provincial Grand Master had quite unavoidably, and to his regret, not found it possible to be present in person, he sent his very best wishes for Bro. Shore's prosperity and an autographed cabinet photograph of

himself, which he asked Bro. Shore to accept as an appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. Shore to Freemasonry in general.

W. Bro. Wilson then made the presentation to Bro. Shore who accepted the several gifts, and in doing so mentioned that this was the second occasion on which he had passed through the ordeal in that room, as at the end of his twenty-one years service as Tyler a similar presentation had been made to him by the Brethren.

He thanked the Brethren for their gifts and he expressed a desire that his photograph should be kept under the custody of the Worshipful Master and Brethren, probably to be hung in the lodge room as a lasting record of himself to future generations of Masons.

The Worshipful Master accepted the gift on behalf of the lodge.

It can be reasonably assumed that his photograph was displayed, as he requested, in the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel and certainly after moving to the new premises at the Masonic Hall, Holmfirth in 1921 it hung for many years above the door outside the entrance to the Temple.

He received one further honour in 1915 when he was promoted to P.P.G.Tyler.

This reflected the high regard held for him by Provincial Grand Lodge, as he had never served as Master of a lodge.

His full Provincial Grand Lodge regalia was provided and paid for by The Holme Valley Lodge and presented to him on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1915 when, with deep emotion, he expressed his thanks to the Brethren for their kindness.

A letter had previously been received from Wharnecliffe Lodge No 1462 in which they offered to pay part of the cost of his regalia since Bro Shore was also a member of their lodge and had also acted as their Tyler.

It was however felt by the Brethren that the honour conferred upon him was also a reflection of the high esteem held by Province for The Holme Valley Lodge No. 652 and that it would therefore be unfair to allow any other lodge to join them in providing his regalia.

\*

The vexing question concerning the night on which the lodge meeting should be held had been debated for many years, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1913 the matter was raised once more. This time however following a long discussion it was proposed to alter the meetings to a fixed night in each month.

The motion was proposed the following month and was approved by the Brethren, seven in favour, three against, that the lodge should meet on the third Thursday of every month.

The first meeting held on this day was Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1913 and it has been held on that day ever since.

\*

The deteriorating condition of the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel continued to give rise for concern, rain water was penetrating the ceiling and part of the cornice was decaying, and so on September 1913 the Brethren wrote once more to Bentley and Shaw Ltd., who agreed, following a meeting, to pay half the cost of the decoration, subject to the rent being increased to £25.0.0, an addition of £5.0.0 per annum, along with a new lease for ten years. This was agreed and the re-decoration of the room commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1914, some ten months later.

## **THE OUTBREAK OF WAR**

The following month there occurred one of the most momentous events in the history of the British nation, when following the assassination in June of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife the Duchess of Hohenburg at Sarajevo, and Germany's subsequent invasion of Belgium on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany.

A circular was received from Bro. Vernon Taylor regarding a proposed national church service for Freemasons, to be held at St Paul's Cathedral, but no action was taken in this matter and it must be assumed that none of the Brethren of the lodge attended the service.

On a more parochial note however, it was decided that a new seat in which certain lodge furniture could be stored was required and Bro. Jesse Shore was authorised to make the same.

At the commencement of the war, The Prince of Wales had set up a National Relief Fund, and it was agreed unanimously to donate a sum of ten guineas to the cause.

In November of the same year two guineas was given to Princess Mary's Sailors and Soldiers Christmas Fund and a further five pounds to the local Belgian relief fund.

It had been widely predicted that the war would be over by Christmas of 1914. However this was not the case, and in view of the national crisis a proposition was approved in March of the following year that W. Bro. F. Lawton should be appointed to represent the lodge with respect to the Huddersfield Infirmary Masonic Relief Fund for sick and wounded soldiers.

Lodge finances continued to be kept under review in these difficult times by the Treasurer, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1915 it was proposed, and carried, that £300.0.0 of lodge funds be invested in Corporation stock in the names of W. Bro. James Lancaster, Bros. F. Batley and F.C. Hampshire. This was subsequently invested in war loans and the amount was later increased, in May of 1917 to £350.0.0.

October brought a request for help from W. Bro. Spratt, one of the visiting Brethren from the Lodge of Truth, who was the acting Honorary Secretary for the

Huddersfield and District Masonic Fund for Sick and Wounded Soldiers. He made a special appeal to the Brethren with a view to soliciting their aid in what was felt to be a worthy cause, pointing out its urgency, as wounded soldiers were now frequently reaching Huddersfield.

Dr Marshall, he said, who was in charge of the new Military Hospital, was earnestly pleading for support in order to obtain things for our wounded heroes which were outside the province of military routine and that the funds were now being transferred from the Huddersfield Infirmary to the new Military Hospital at Royd Hall.

The war continued with little or no effect on the number of candidates initiated into, or joining The Holme Valley Lodge. Seven new candidates were initiated and one new member joined between its commencement in August 1914 and its cessation in November 1918 and there is no record of any lodge member having either joined His Majesty's forces or being killed in the conflict.

\*

The installation of Bro Charles Hollingworth Lancaster, the son of W. Bro James Lancaster, occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1916 and proved to be a very memorable occasion. W. Bro. Sir William P. Raynor D.P.G.M. West Yorkshire, along with twenty-eight Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge and thirty-two visitors from other lodges attended the ceremony.

Following the installation, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Sir William Raynor then addressed the Brethren.

Bro Jesse Shore was once again invested in the office of Tyler, after which the Deputy Provincial Grand Master congratulated him in a most hearty manner and expressed the wish to bestow upon him the Tyler's Collar Jewel in appreciation of his faithful services during the fifty-three years he had served as Tyler of the lodge, a token which he hoped Bro. Shore would accept.

The following year, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, during the regular lodge meeting a very unique and interesting presentation took place, when it is recorded that:

*'Our Worshipful Master expressed regrets from W.Bro. Sir William Raynor being unable to be with us to present to our Bro. Tyler Jesse Shore with a very beautiful Masonic Jewel to commemorate his attaining fifty-six years of faithful and valuable service as Tyler of our lodge. Our Worshipful Master expressed the wish of both himself and the Brethren that Bro. Jesse Shore would be spared to be with us to discharge the duties of the craft.'*

\*

The Holme Valley Masonic Lodge had met at the Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth since its inception in 1855, but on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1917, following almost thirty

years of deliberation, the W.M. Bro. C.H. Lancaster announced to the Brethren present:

*‘that we have been successful in purchasing the Druids’ Hotel and other buildings in connection with the same’,*

‘which gave the Brethren great satisfaction’, although it was to be a further four years before the first regular meeting took place there.

Whilst the Druid’s Hotel, or the Masonic Hall as it has now become known, was not occupied by The Holme Valley Lodge until 1921, the outbuildings were already being used by Fred Brook, a car and wagonette proprietor and 1918 saw the advent of electricity being supplied to the building when it was recorded that:

*‘permission was granted to affix a bracket to the Masonic building for the conveyance of electricity.’*

Later in 1925 the Post Office was granted permission to erect a pole at the rear of the building subject to an annual payment of one shilling.

November of 1918 brought to an end the First World War, but prior to this in August of that year Jesse Shore was honoured once more.

Having now reached his eightieth birthday it was decided by the lodge members that they would present him with a token in commemoration of that anniversary, and that this should take the form of a pipe and pouch and a notecase containing £19.0.0 in notes. He had by this time served in the office of Tyler for fifty-six years.

\*

In December 1918 the Master Elect, Bro. Frank Cyril Hampshire became ill giving rise to a situation where the current Master of The Holme Valley Lodge, W. Bro. B.M. Hinchliffe, was to serve for two consecutive years. This is the only occasion on record when this has occurred.

The Brethren attempted to postpone the installation ceremony until the following month on 16<sup>th</sup> January, but a letter received from Provincial Grand Lodge pointed out that if the ceremony were to take place on that date the W.M. Elect would not qualify as a Past Master of either Grand or Provincial Grand Lodge at the end of 1919, as he would not have served as Master for the requisite period of twelve months. Also it would be necessary for the bye-laws of the Lodge to be altered to hold the election for Master in December and the Installation in January in all future years. In the event, this course of action proved unnecessary as Bro. Hampshire died on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, six days before the date of his installation.

\*



Since funds were constantly required for the alteration and maintenance of the building, rooms were let to various organisations in the Holme Valley to help raise the necessary income.

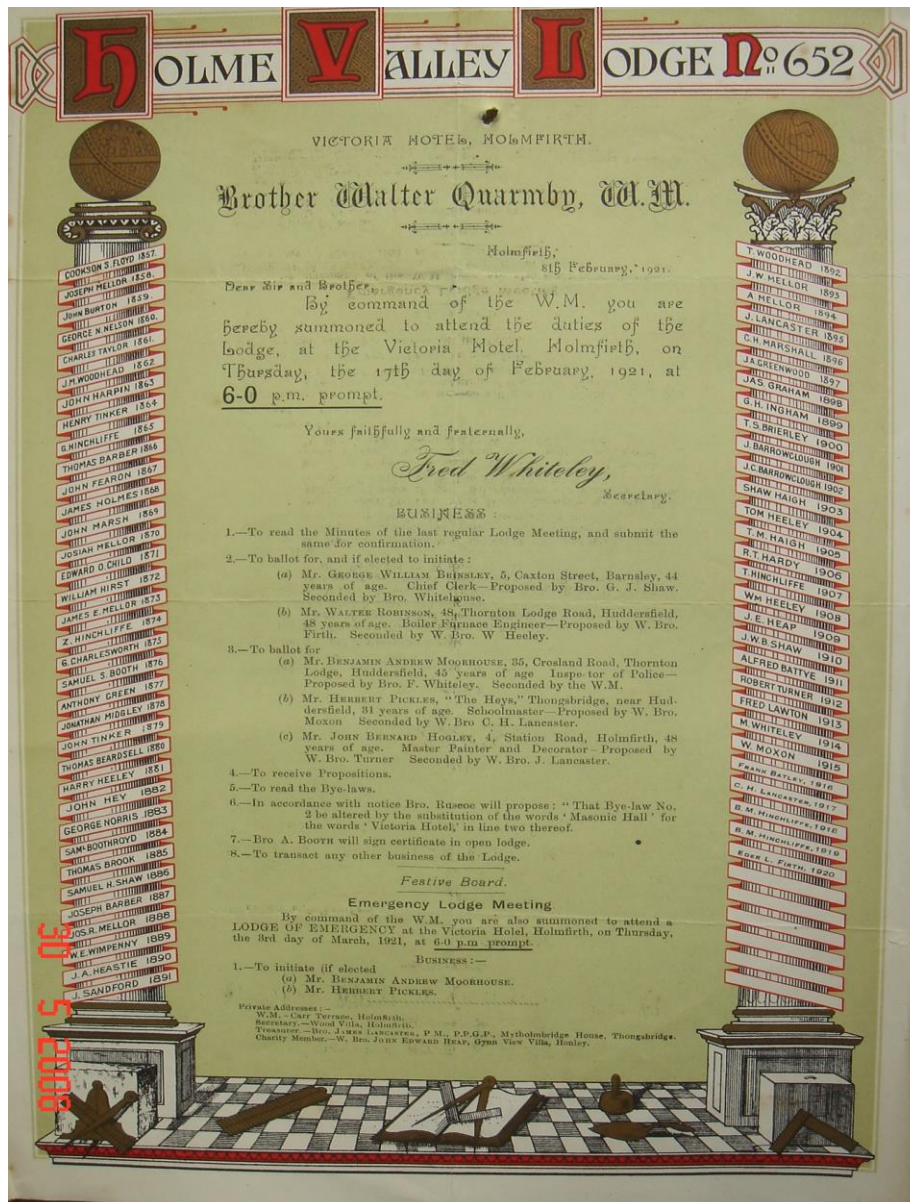
The following year in January of 1919 it was proposed that the Holmfirth Homing Society, a pigeon fanciers and racing club, be given free use of the Druids' Hall. Later, between 1923 and 1940, they were let to the Holmfirth Tennis Club, a Dancing Class, Holmfirth Ladies Hockey, Holme Valley Theatre, Post Office Staff, Holme Valley Beagles, the Rotary Club and for the Hunt Ball, all of which helped sustain the finances of the lodge.

It had by now become necessary for provision to be made for the banking of monies being collected for the purchase of the new premises.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1918 it was resolved on the motion of W Bro. C.H. Lancaster and seconded by W. Bro. William Heeley:

*'that a banking account for The Holme Valley Lodge of Freemasons be opened with the London Joint City and Midland Bank Ltd., at their Holmfirth branch in the name of James Lancaster, the Treasurer of the lodge, and that the said bank be requested to make advances to James Lancaster on the said account from time to time, and that the deeds of the premises in Station Road, Holmfirth belonging to the lodge be deposited with the said bank to secure all moneys now due or hereafter to become due or from time to time accruing from the said James Lancaster to the bank on such account, and that the memorandum of deposit of such deeds with the bank be signed by the trustees of the before mentioned property.'*

It was as a result of this action that the method for financing the purchase of the property in Station Road was set in motion.



*Last summons for the meeting  
held on the 17th February 1921 at the Victoria Hotel*

### THE PURCHASE OF THE DRUIDS' HOTEL

For some years there has been a certain amount of conjecture regarding the method used by The Holme Valley Lodge to purchase the Masonic Hall. The following draft of a note referring to this matter was found on a piece of Midland Bank paper and may help to shed some light on this question.

(Draft of note found in safe)

#### **James Lancaster    Special Account**

*In 1917 The Holme Valley Lodge of Freemasons purchased new premises at a cost of £700.00 and have since spent some £3000.00 in alterations etc. They asked for an overdraft for the purpose of paying for the purchase but a Masonic Lodge has no power to borrow and the only way was to lend the money was to individuals.*

*So James Lancaster who was the Treasurer opened a loan account with us. This was guaranteed by Jt and S (joint and severally?) guarantee for £800.00, signed by C.H. Lancaster, John Davis, Fred Whiteley, F.C. Hampshire and E.L. Firth and the deeds of the property mortgaged to us.*

*In 1919 F.C. Hampshire died and we asked C.H. Lancaster who was the Treasurer to acquaint his co guarantors stated that a new guarantee should be signed.*

*In August 1920 we wrote (to) Mr C.H. Lancaster to that effect and he said he would bring it before the next lodge.*

*They did nothing.*

*In May 1921 we spoke to James Lancaster when the lodge wanted us to increase the limit from £1300.00 to £1800.00.*

*Told him that the guarantee for £800.00 had become void, as the guarantors had done nothing.*

*The guarantee had originally been signed to protect him and that now would be the proper time to have a new guarantee signed.*

*He said he did not wish to trouble the members as he thought the value of the building should cover the amount of overdraft, which should gradually decrease.*

*(Entry in margin Dr. £413.9.4)*

There is no record available of the date James Lancaster opened the special account for monies deposited for the purchase of the building, as early bank records for this account are missing. It can however be reasonably assumed that it was opened on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1915 as the Treasurer's bank book for that period contains an entry of a transfer of £300.0.0 made to Lancaster, and a further amount of £11.0.0 on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1918 payable to Stockwell (John Henry Stockwell) who was co-owner of the Druids' Hotel.

Bank records relating to this account are available from December 12<sup>th</sup> 1917, when it was shown that £700.00 was paid to Heeley solicitors for the purchase of the Druid's Hotel.

Despite £1000.00 having been transferred from the general account into the Building Special Account between 1921 and 1923 entries in the Treasurer's accounts for 1926 record a balance owed to the bank of £1103.7.1d and in 1927 of £1075.12.1d.

\*

Following the purchase of the building in 1917 its refurbishment had continued at a very slow pace, and it was therefore decided in April 1919 to authorise Bros. Firth and Quarmby to:

*'interview J.W.B. Shaw with regard to the work at the Druid's Hall and take what steps they think fit in the interest of the Lodge.'*

Having met with W.Bro. J.W.B. Shaw they reported that he was now awaiting the painters Messrs Lawton and Hogley, and it was suggested that they be also interviewed with a view to urging the work forward.

This was done, and in November Bro. Firth delivered a short report to the Brethren regarding the work carried out by the building committee, along with the costs being incurred in connection with the new lodge premises. He was in turn thanked for his generous gift of spouts for the new building.

A scheme suggested by W. Bro. William Heeley was outlined the following month to raise further funds for the new Building, and whilst there is no record of what was proposed, various amounts of between £10.0.0 and £21.0.0 were

regularly donated by the members of the Lodge to the new Building Special Account.

Whilst work progressed on the renovation of the new Masonic Hall problems were continuing to occurring at the Victoria Hotel and it was proposed that Bro. Hardy:

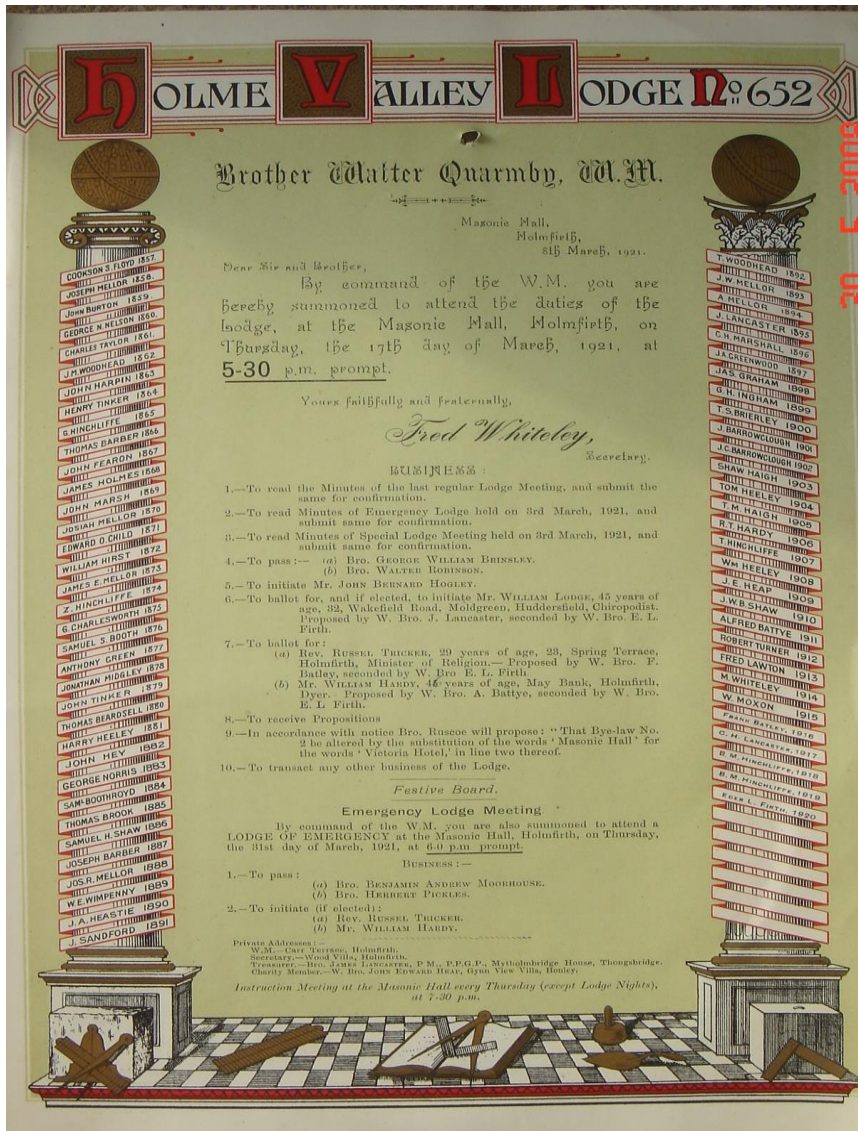
*‘draw the attention of the gas boy to the lights in the Lodge room.’*

\*

The time for vacating the rooms at the Victoria Hotel was rapidly approaching and an emergency meeting was called, to be held there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1921, when it was agreed unanimously:

*‘that on and from the fourth day of March 1921, the lodge be removed from the Victoria Hotel to the new lodge premises to be named the Masonic Hall, situate in Station Road, Holmfirth.’*

Its last function, as a lodge room was to witness the initiations of both Mr Andrew Moorhouse and Mr Herbert Pickles, when after eighty-six years, its use as a Masonic meeting place came to an end.



*First summons for the meeting  
held on the 17th March 1921 at the new Masonic Hall*

## **NEW BEGINNINGS**

Business at the new premises commenced at a brisk pace. The Worshipful Master, Walter Quarmby opened the lodge on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1921 at 5.30 prompt, and after the usual formalities he proceeded to pass Bro. G.W. Brinsley and Bro. W. Robinson after which he initiated John Bernard Hogley.

Ballots were then taken for William Lodge, Russell Tricker and William Hardy, and having proved in favour of the candidates, William Lodge was also initiated. The lodge closed in peace and harmony at 9.10pm.

The move to new premises had generated a great deal of interest and resulted in an additional five emergency meetings being necessary in 1921 to deal with the number of ongoing ceremonies.

During the Master-ship of Walter Quarmby, thirteen initiations, eleven passings and fifteen raisings were performed, making a total of thirty-nine ceremonies. He was later to install Bro G.J. Shaw on December 15<sup>th</sup> when one hundred and thirty brethren attended the ceremony. It is recorded that 20 bottles of champagne, 12 bottles of whisky, 24 sodas, 200 cigars and cigarettes were purchased for the occasion.

\*

It was in June of 1921, following the move to the new premises that a carpet, seven yards by five yards, with a design in Masonic emblems was purchased from J. Shaw and Sons at a cost of £84.10.0 and this can still be seen on floor of the lodge room today.

At the same time the lantern used at the Victoria Hotel during the raising ceremony, and which was to continue to be used at the Masonic Hall, was converted from gas to electric at a cost of £1.7.3½. This had originally been purchased in 1858 at a cost of 2/-d.

\*

Financing the purchase of the new premises continued to play a dominant part in the business of the Lodge and on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1921 it was resolved to transfer another £200.0.0 to the special account opened earlier by W. Bro. James Lancaster. A further £800.0.0 was transferred to this account by the end of 1923.

It was also decided to insure the building for £3750.0.0, the fittings for £1000.0.0, the washhouse for £50.0.0 and the garage for £200.0.0. The building had originally cost £700.00 when purchased four years earlier in 1917.

\*

Bro. Jesse Shore continued to serve the lodge as it's Tyler, as he had done for some sixty years, and at a meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1922 it was felt that some consideration should be given to making a regular weekly grant to him. It was therefore decided that a sum of £5.0.0 should be made forthwith.

Regrettably he died two months later on 12<sup>th</sup> of May at the age of eighty-four, when touching references were made by the Worshipful Master to the loss sustained by the lodge.

His Provincial regalia, which had been provided by the lodge, was returned by his family the following January, after which it was placed on display in a glass case in the lodge.

His death was to leave the office of Tyler empty for the first time in over sixty years. However, at the November meeting, Bro. John Beech offered to accept the vacant office, should it be the wish of the Brethren that he did so. His proposal was accepted with much gratitude.

\*

The hire of the lodge rooms continued to provide a small but regular form of income, and in order to regularise the charges made, the committee met in February of that year to decide the terms to be applied for the letting of the hall.

It was agreed that these were to be as follows:

*Resolved – That the hall be not let for any purpose where a charge is made for admission.*

*Resolved – That the hall be let to any Brother of the lodge for a private party upon application.*

*Resolved – That it be also let to any member of the Order for a private party.*

*Resolved – That the following scale of charges for use of the hall be adopted, viz:*

-

	<i>Use of Hall exclusive of top floor</i>	<i>Use of Hall including top floor</i>	<i>Extras</i>
<i>Members of the Lodge</i>	<i>£1.10.0</i>	<i>£2.10.0</i>	<i>Inclusive charge except as stated at foot</i>



<i>Other members</i>	<i>£1.15.0</i>	<i>£2.15.0</i>	<i>Piano 10/-,</i>
<i>Crockery, Cutlery etc.</i>			<i>2p per head</i>
<i>Other users</i>	<i>£2.0.0</i>	<i>£3.0.0</i>	<i>Piano 15/-,</i>
<i>crockery,</i>			

*Extras in all cases – Caretaker – to be paid by arrangement 5/- per hour for use of rooms after 12 0'clock (midnight)*

*General conditions of Letting: – If used for dancing, slippers to be worn.*

*Piano and organ not to be moved from top floor.*

*All damage and losses to be made good by person hiring the room.*

#### *Royal Arch Chapter*

*Resolved, - That the Chapter of Industry be charged a rent of £5.0.0. per annum as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1921*

*Rent of old rooms – A letter was read from Mssrs. Bentley and Shaw Ltd agreeing to cancel the lease of the rooms at the Victoria Hotel on payment of a years rent for 1921.*

*Resolved - That the offer be accepted.*

By 1923 the lodge was in need of additional furniture and with this in mind W. Bro. R. Turner collected £24.10.0, which was donated by the Brethren to be use for the purchase of extra chairs.

\*

Dissension rarely occurred within the lodge, but this happened on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1924 when at the meeting held that evening, Mr Willie Firth, a thirty-one years old Iron-founder of Thongsbridge, was proposed for membership of The Holme Valley Lodge by his father W. Bro. Eder L. Firth. His proposal was seconded by W. Bro Frank Batley. Unfortunately the ballot did not prove in his favour, and following the rejection of his son W. Bro. Eder Firth did not attend any further lodge meetings before his death on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1925.

\*

Prior to 1925 there is no reference in any of the minute books to the existence of a Lodge Management Committee, however this was to change as on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February a notice was printed on the summons informing the Brethren that the Worshipful Master would propose:

*'that a lodge management committee be appointed and that such committee consist of three Past Masters, three senior Brethren and the W.M., Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary for the time being.'*

W. Bro C.H. Lancaster seconded this proposition, which gave rise to the formation of the first Lodge Management Committee.

The formation of this committee had an immediate effect on the manner in which the minutes of lodge meetings were recorded. It was no longer necessary for matters to be debate in open lodge as they had been during the previous seventy years, as these now became the province of the newly formed committee and as such were discussed by them prior to being presented to the Brethren for their approval.

\*

The following year some confusion had occurred during the balloting of a new candidate and as a consequence of this, on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1926, W. Bro. T. Mellor Haigh proposed:

*'that for the purpose of balloting, white and black balls be used in future, and that the necessary balls be provided before the next ballot took place.'*

W. Bro. Frank Batley seconded the proposal, and it was duly carried.

\*

It was later in the same year that R.W. Bro. The Viscount Lascelles K.G. D.S.O. S.G.W. the Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, expressed a wish to meet the Brethren from the various lodges in the district. Following an invitation from the Huddersfield and District Installed Masters Association several members of The Holme Valley Lodge attended a reception arranged at the Huddersfield Town Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1926 for him to do so and this was followed by a United Provincial Grand Lodge meeting.

\*

Records would suggest that prior to 1927 the Worshipful Master and his Wardens did not wear gauntlets at the regular monthly meetings of the lodge.

This was however rectified on the 20<sup>th</sup> January of that year when W. Bro. James Lancaster presented a set to the Master and his Wardens, after which W. Bro R.T. Hardy stated:

*'that they would add dignity to the lodge and its Officers.'*

\*

W. Bro. James Lancaster, who had played a very great part in the workings and management of the lodge and in the introduction of new and potential candidates into Freemasonry, announced on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1927, his intention to propose his

youngest son Arnold Lancaster, a cloth finisher, as a fit and proper person to become a Mason.

He did so the following month and also proposed:

*‘that a Bible be presented to Bro. R.R. Hargreaves on the gift of a daughter and he would like the same to be extended to any other Brother in the future.’*

The practice of multiple ceremonies continued to be the norm and following the raising of Bro. Charles Farmer on the 16<sup>th</sup> June a ballot was taken for Mr. Arnold Lancaster, which proved in his favour. He was then announced and initiated into Freemasonry by his father W. Bro. James Lancaster.

Unfortunately there was insufficient time for the Ancient Charge to be delivered, and this was therefore deferred until the next meeting when it was delivered prior to his being passed to the second degree.

\*

Holmfirth was honoured in May of 1927 by a visit from Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary, accompanied by Viscount Lascelles, the Provincial Grand Master. She had come to lay the foundation stone of the children’s ward at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, which was in the process of being built, and it is recorded:

*‘Decoration of Masonic Hall on visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles.*

*W. Bro. Hardy proposed and Bro. J.N. West seconded that the Masonic Hall be decorated under the direction of W.Bro J.W.B. Shaw at a cost not exceeding £10.0.0.’*

This amount was presumably to cover the cost of bunting and flags etc. to be used to decorate the exterior of the Masonic Hall

Following the laying of the foundation stone the Holme Valley Choir sang a selection of songs, one of these, sung at the request of Her Royal Highness, was Pratty Flowers.

\*

The move from the Victoria Hotel to the Druid’s Hotel had proved a somewhat expensive exercise and had already cost the Brethren well over £2000.00 in repairs to the building. The Worshipful Master, Bro. Colonel R.R. Mellor announced on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1928:

*‘that about £1100.0.0 was still required to pay off the actual debt on the building fund.’*

There was in fact £1225.12.1d outstanding.

W.Bro. Frank Batley agreed, at the request of the board of Past Masters, to undertake to receive donations from the Brethren towards the building fund.

In consequence of his efforts, donations were received from the Royal Arch Chapter and seventy of the Brethren of the lodge totalling £996.10.0d, the largest of these coming from W. Bro. James Lancaster who gave £100.0.0d.

\*

The Lodge continued to present Bibles to the children of the Brethren and on 15<sup>th</sup> November a further two were presented to Bro. G.E. Field for his children Mary Elizabeth and Norman David.

\*

It had always been the practice of the lodge to invite the Provincial Grand Master, who was at that time The Viscount Lascelles K.C. G.S.W., to attend the installation ceremony in December, and this year was no exception.

A letter was sent from the lodge inviting him to the installation of Bro. J.N. West but his reply to the Secretary expressed his regret that he was unable to attend.

\*

It was usual for the Charity Committee of the Province of West Yorkshire to hold its annually meetings at different lodges within the Province, and in September of 1930 it was the turn of The Holme Valley Lodge to provide the venue. Luncheon was to be served at 1.00pm when about twenty Brethren were expected to partake. It was decided that this should consist of soup, fish, chicken and joint, vegetables, sweets, cheese, biscuits, celery and coffee, and that volunteer stewards should be sought to serve the meal, 'even though in higher office.'

After the meal one hundred and sixty Brethren met for the meeting, which was held in the lodge room at 3.00p.m. This was followed by tea, and ham and meat sandwiches, served in the dining room prior to the departure of the guests. The Earl of Harewood had again been invited but regretted once again that he was unable to be present.

It was felt that due to the large number of Masons expected to attend that parking might be a problem, and it was therefore suggested that the secretary should write to the Holmfirth Urban District Council asking if they would kindly agree to Crown Bottom being used as a parking ground for the use of those members who would be arriving in their own cars.

Bro. Captain Barber also undertook to write to police Superintendent G. Wood, requesting the presence of two constables for the supervision of the parking.

In the event parking permission was granted and Superintendent Wood authorised the presence of three police officers.

Whilst a full luncheon was served on this occasion prior to the meeting, it had been felt for a long number of years, that it was unnecessary to provide a full

festive board after every monthly lodge meeting and it was therefore not unusual for only light refreshment to be served.

The Management committee continued to meet regularly, and at the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1930 it was pointed out that a Past Master's jewel had been presented to the Worshipful Master on his vacating the chair, and it was suggested that in future all Past Masters of the lodge should be presented with a similar jewel, the cost of which should be borne by the lodge.

This proposition was put before the Brethren at the November meeting, but agreement to implement the proposal was deferred until payment for the lodge premises had been completed.

It is however recorded that a Past Master's jewel was presented to W. Bro. James Lancaster by W. Bro. H. Frobisher, Provincial Grand Secretary at the festive board held after the installation of Bro. G.D. Wilson. This was accompanied by an appropriate speech, which was suitably responded to by W. Bro. Lancaster.

The following February, further jewels were presented to W. Bros Thomas M Haigh and W. Bro. R.T. Hardy by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Richard Gill, and these were the gift of W. Bro. James Lancaster.

The practice of presenting jewels to the older Past Masters continued for some time until it can be presumed that they were all in possession of a Past Master's jewel.

\*

W Bro. James Lancaster had now reached the age of eighty and as a token of esteem a celebration dinner to mark the event took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1931. This took the form of an old English Night dinner and was held at the lodge rooms and was attended by fifty-two Brethren.

W. Bro. Broadbent proposed the toast to the health of W. Bro Lancaster and dwelt on his long connection with the Lodge and his great services to Freemasonry in general, both in the lodge and the district.

Several other Brethren spoke of the high esteem in which he was held, after which W. Bro. W. Heeley presented him with a walking stick as a memento of the occasion, and suggested that his portrait should be painted and hung in the lodge room.

Mr. Fred Stead, of Manningham Lane, Bradford, was later commissioned to paint the portrait at a cost to the lodge £98.0.0. He later renovated another of the oil paintings belonging to the lodge for which he charged £3.5.0d although it is not known which one.

Following the meal at the festive board, the Brethren, on his rising to respond to his toast, received him with musical honours, (there is no record as to what these honours were), after which he regaled the brethren with some interesting reminiscences of his early years in the lodge, which he said he had joined in 1889,

having been originally a member of the Huddersfield Lodge. He also stated that he believed he was the oldest Brother the lodge had ever had. In this however he was mistaken, as Bro. Jesse Shore had been eighty-four years old at his death and John Burton eighty-five.

Following the completion of the oil painting of W. Bro. Lancaster, it was formally unveiled, with all due solemnity at the lodge meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1932 by the Provincial Grand Master, Right W. Bro. The Earl of Harwood K.G. P.G.W. who made appropriate references to the wonderful work of W. Bro. Lancaster, performed by him during his career in Freemasonry.

\*

Since ritual played a major part in the lodge's activities it was felt by some of its senior members that additional practice nights would be of benefit to the junior Brethren and increase their proficiency. As a result of this an insert was attached to the summons relating to the March meeting of 1932 stating:

*'In addition to the usual Thursday night practice, we shall on Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 1932 at 8 pm commence a class for junior Brethren, when instruction will be given in the lectures. This class will be under the direction of W. Bro. West and the W.M.'*

The following month, on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, Provincial Grand Lodge held its meeting in Leeds. W. Bro. Alfred Battye attended, but regrettably died suddenly during the proceedings. He had been a member of The Holme Valley Lodge since 1897 and was its Master in 1911.

\*

Visitors are often surprised to discover that The Holme Valley Lodge does not possess an honours board, but relies instead on the photographs of its Past Masters displayed on its walls and on the columns printed on its summons to record their names.

This anomaly was however brought to the attention of the Lodge Management Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1932, when Rev. Bro. J.P. Makeham proposed and Bro. A. Lancaster seconded:

*'that a board be erected, recording name, year and Provincial and Grand honours of all Past Masters of the lodge. That this board be erected in the passage leading to the lodge room, and that the when and how it shall be erected, be left to the Past Master and the standing lodge management committee.'*

No doubt the Past Masters and committee members discussed the proposal and deferred their decision to some later date as no action was taken. The

consequence of their indecision was to leave The Holme Valley Lodge without a visible record of the names and ranks achieved by its Past Masters.

The following year the Chapter of Industry also applied for permission to place a board on the same corridor. Permission was duly granted on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1933 and one was subsequently erected. Messrs. E. Holroyd & Sons of Honley supplied the board and Mr Stephen Hogley of Holmfirth painted the gilt lettering. It was unveiled at the fiftieth jubilee ceremony of the Chapter of Industry by the Grand Superintendent Richard Gill J.P. P.G. Soj. and was dedicated by Canon W. Bracewell Prov.G.J.

\*

The period following the end of the First World War, between 1920 and 1938 was one of high unemployment and poverty and in consequence of this the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. The Earl of Harewood K.G. P.G.W. felt that the Masonic order should assist in the good work being done to help the unemployed. He announced that he would submit a resolution to Provincial Grand Lodge on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1934 that the sum of £1520.00 be allocated to the Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairmen of Urban and Rural District Councils, leaving the responsibility of its effectual distribution in their hands. The sum of £1520.00 represented a contribution of £10.00 per lodge, to which he felt many lodges would willingly contribute. This donation he said would relieve the pressure on Provincial funds.

As a consequence of this request W. Bro. J.A. Charlesworth I.P.M. gave notice:

*‘that in due course it was his intention to propose that the sum of £10.0.0 be granted from the funds of our lodge.’*

\*

Whilst the office of Almoner is currently held by a member of The Holme Valley Lodge this was not always the case, as previously it was usual for a Brother from another lodge in the district hold this position. Bro. W. J. Hutchinson of Unity Lodge No. 3930 held the office in 1933. He was at that time the Chief Constable of Huddersfield. He wrote to the Worshipful Master in October of that year informing him that owing to his impending removal to Brighton he would be unable in the future to carry out his duties, but at the same time informing the Brethren that his Chief Inspector, Bro. John Wells of Concord Lodge No. 4126, had kindly offered to carry on the duties of Almoner for the ensuing twelve months, after which the position could be reviewed. He also stated that his association with the lodge had been very pleasant.

A reply was sent to Bro. Hutchinson, thanking him for his services, and agreeing that Bro. Wells should act, both on his, and the lodge’s behalf.

Bro. Wells was subsequently appointed to serve again in both 1935 and 1936 and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1935 the lodge received the following letter from him from the Chief Constables Office, Huddersfield:

*Dear Bro. Makeham,*

*Many thanks for your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. Please convey to your Worshipful Master my sincere and fraternal greetings together with the assurance that my services as Almoner are at his disposal for 1935*

*Reciprocating your good wishes for the New Year.*

*I am,*

*Yours sincerely and fraternally*

*J. Wells*

\*

Past Master's jewels continued to be presented to those Past Masters who were not already in possession of one, and following the installation of Bro. Harold Barber further jewels were presented to W. Bro. F. Batley and to Bro A. Lancaster by W. Bro. R.T. Hardy on behalf of W. Bro. C.H. Lancaster who was not present at the installation.

W. Bro. James Lancaster also presented a jewel to the Immediate Past Master W. Bro. Brinsley.

A Past Master's collar was then presented to W. Bro. J.A. Charlesworth by W. Bro. Brinsley. This is the first record of what was to become the normal practice at a Holme Valley Lodge installation, that of the outgoing Master presenting, as a personal gift, a Past Master's collar to the outgoing Immediate Past Master.

\*

January 1934 saw the resignation of W. Bro. C. H. Lancaster, the son of James Lancaster. He had been a member of the lodge since 1907 and had been instrumental in the purchase of the Druid's Hotel during his Master-ship in 1917. His resignation was accepted with regret by all present. He had been ill for some time and died twelve months later on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1934, two and a half months before his father James, who passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1935.

James Lancaster had been a stalwart of The Holme Valley Lodge since he joined from the Huddersfield Lodge in 1888, and following his death Bro. Hinchliffe Brook, The Worshipful Master, referring to the loss sustained by the Lodge said:

*'that Masonry in general and this lodge in particular had lost one who was not only interested in Masonry, but one who also tried to live up to it and to carry out it's principles on his relations with his fellow men and it was at his instigation that practice classes has started.'*



W. Bro. R.T. Hardy who spoke on behalf of the Past Masters referred to his capacity for friendship and that said that he felt that every member would feel they had lost a valued friend.

\*

It had been considered for some time by several of the Brethren, that items of historical interest, such as the jewels, books and documents of the lodge should be made available to those members who found them of interest, and so on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1935 it was proposed by W. Bro. Col. R.R. Mellor and seconded by W. Bro. G.W. Brinsley:

*'that a museum be instituted to contain jewels, books, documents and any other article of interest.'*

The proposal was approved, but regrettably no further action was taken, and it was not until 2008, some seventy-three years later that the matter was referred to once again, on this occasion by the Secretary, W. Bro. Brian Martyn who proposed that W. Bro. Peter Berry should organise a lodge library.

\*

Whilst charity in general had always played a predominant part in the life of the members of the lodge both W. Bro. Barber and Col. R.R. Mellor considered that there should be a charitable fund on which the lodge could draw immediately, should money be required urgently, rather than pursuing the more prolonged method of applying to Provincial or Grand Lodge.

The intention was to raise the sum of £25.00. This was to be raised from a collection made at every regular lodge meeting. When this figure had been reached the collections would cease, and when the fund dropped below £25.00 they would re-commence. The proposition was put to the Brethren and the motion carried.

During the previous eighty years several gifts had been made to the lodge by its members and on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1936, a further gift was made of a brass alms plate, and was presented by W. Bro. R.R. Mellor on behalf of Bro. G.W. England. This plate is still in regular use on Lodge nights.

Also on the same night two jewels, worn by the late Jesse Shore, who had served as Tyler of the lodge for over sixty years, were presented as a gift from Councillor H. Shore. He had written previously to the lodge asking that they be accepted.

Finally Bro. Arnold Lancaster presented the Masonic Regalia and jewels of his late father, James Lancaster. The gifts were received with thanks, on behalf of the lodge by the Worshipful Master Norman Tyas Lawton who promised they would be kept in a fitting place.

They were subsequently framed in oak cabinets and placed on display. However they were taken down some years later and deposited in the lodge attic.

W. Bro. Peter Berry suggested in 1995 that since James Lancaster had held the office of Master one hundred years previously in 1895 they should be put on display again during his year as Master of the Lodge.

Unfortunately it was the opinion of the Past Masters that they were 'just old aprons etc.' and so they continued to remain in the attic.

Two months later in April 1936 a photograph was presented the lodge by W. Bro William Heeley of his father Harry Heeley who had held the office of Master in 1881. It is the oldest photograph of one of its Past Masters held by the lodge. It was received with thanks by the Worshipful Master and subsequently took its place alongside the other photographs of the Past Masters of the lodge.

\*

Benevolence and charity was always foremost in the minds of the Brethren of the lodge whenever disaster struck, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1936 it was decided, at the request of the Provincial Grand Secretary, to make a donation of £1.1.0d towards the rebuilding of the Masonic Temple in Quetta. An earthquake had destroyed the Temple the previous year on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1935. Over 20,000 people had been killed in the region when the event occurred.

\*

Several members of The Holme Valley Lodge provided their services to various organisations in the Holme Valley district. W. Bro. Hinchliffe Brook in addition to being a member of The Holme Valley Lodge, had for many years been a member of the special constabulary, and after the meeting, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1936, he was congratulated by the Worshipful Master on his having been awarded a Long Service medal in recognition of his services as a special constable.

Following this commendation W. Bro. R.R. Mellor donated a mirror to the lodge.

\*

The following year was to witness the ceremony of initiation of Mr Edward Brooke Heap, who was one of the youngest candidates for membership of The Holme Valley Lodge.

He was solicitor's articled clerk, aged twenty-one years and was proposed by his grandfather W. Bro. John Edward Heap. His father, Bro. Norman Heap, seconded the proposition.

Edward Brooke Heap lived at Shaley House, Holmfirth, which had been the home and boarding academy of John Burton, the first Junior Warden of the Lodge from 1837 until his death in 1892.

He held the office of Director of Ceremonies for many years and remained a bachelor all his life.

His last involvement as a lodge member was in April 1986 when he proposed a colleague, John Stewart Beddard as a candidate for Freemasonry.

During the ceremony of initiation held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, and whilst delivering the Ancient Charge, he had a massive heart attack and despite all efforts to revive him he died in the Temple.

Masonry had played a large part in his life and it was felt at the time that he had died amongst friends. The meeting was immediately adjourned but the lodge was not closed according to ancient custom.

Bro. Allen M. France who was the Worshipful Master, along with W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson (acting S.W.), W. Bro. Norman Reast (acting J.W.) and six other Brethren made a special journey to the lodge the following Monday and closed it formally at 7.35pm.

\*

For a long number of years certain sections of the church's hierarchy have regarded freemasonry with a degree of suspicion and in some cases downright hostility.

However this was not commonly the case and The Holme Valley Lodge has been fortunate in being able to boast several clerics amongst its members. The earliest of these was Rev. John Fearon of Holmbridge in 1861 and he was followed in turn by James Theodore Wilkinson, Nicholas McClelland Hennessy, Rev. John William Jeffrey, John Crofts, Russell Tricker, John Partridge Makeham and Arthur Thomas Dangerfield.

Perhaps the most important of these was Rev. John Partridge Makeham.

He was a joining member, aged 32 years, a clerk in holy orders, whose mother lodge was Builders of Silent Cities, No. 12. Saint. Omer, France. He joined the lodge on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1925 and became Master in 1938.

On Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1938 the members of The Holme Valley Lodge and their families were invited to be present at his induction as Vicar of St. John's Church Upperthong. This was of special significance to members of The Holme Valley Lodge as he was also their Worshipful Master. He was later to become the Provincial Grand Chaplain in 1944 and was inducted, some five years later, on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1949 to the living of Saint Paul's, Huddersfield. The Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge were cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

\*

From the earliest period of the lodge's history annuities had been granted to worthy recipients in times of their hardship.

This fact was brought to the attention of the Brethren when, in April 1949, it was proposed that a sum of fifty guineas be given to charity as a mark of appreciation to the charity committee for the generous annuities given to dependants of the lodge.

W. Bro. Col. R.R. Mellor had reported earlier that Mrs Sarah Ann James, widow of the late Bro. Samuel James had been granted an annuity of £26.0.0 and he expressed his gratitude to the members of the lodge for the help they had given him in this matter.

## THE WAR YEARS

By 1939 the nation was becoming increasingly concerned by the aggressive behaviour of the German Chancellor Hitler, and following Germany's attack on Poland on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1939, war was declared.

The September monthly summons was received by the Brethren with the news that:

*'By command of the Worshipful Master, I am instructed to notify you that, in accordance with instructions from Provincial Grand Lodge, all lodge meetings are suspended until further notice.*

*I remain,*

*Yours faithfully and fraternally,*

*Young Wagstaff,*

*Secretary.'*

The suspension was of short duration, for although no meeting was held in September things were back to normal in October, when the Worshipful Master made a presentation of a barometer on behalf of the Past Masters and Brethren to Bro. Shaw Haigh to commemorate his fifty years in Freemasonry.

In view of the pending blackout further suggestions were received from Province regarding the timing of installations. It was felt that lodges should consider opening early in the afternoon and that after the proceedings the festive boards should consist of afternoon tea or something similar and an early departure be encouraged.

Their suggestion was implemented and installation ceremonies performed during the war years commenced at various times early in the afternoon.

The Provincial Grand Master also informed all lodges, that in view of the travelling difficulties facing his representatives, he had decided that during the duration of the war such official visits should be suspended.

It was decided that as several of the lodge members were serving with His Majesty's forces the dress worn at the regular monthly meetings should be modified.

Prior to the outbreak of the war the dress code for lodge nights had been; Officers- evening dress, Brethren – dark morning dress, all Brethren - white gloves.

However on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1939 this was to change to dark morning dress or uniform, all Brethren – white gloves.

\*

Despite the wartime shortages the Brethren continued to donate gifts to the lodge and on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1940 Bro. George Wordsworth England, a builder, presented the Brethren with an ashlar to be used 'in the service of the lodge' and Bro. Arnold Lancaster presented a picture depicting 'Old Holmfirth in the Flood Period'. This was subsequently hung in the Secretaries office.

Bro. England also presented a chair for the use of the Junior Deacon some six months later.

It was felt by some of the Past Masters that a small token or gift should be made to any Brother of the lodge on joining His Majesty's forces, and it was approved that this should be paid for out of lodge funds but that the cost should not exceed £2.2.0d. Letters of thanks were received the following month from Bros. W. Naylor, E.B. Heap and E. Field, who were all serving in His Majesty's Forces, for the gifts sent to them.

\*

Bro. John Wells, the lodge Almoner, was promoted to Chief Constable of Huddersfield in 1940 and reference was made to this on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, after which a letter of congratulations was sent to him. He was to serve as Almoner until his death in December of that year after which W. Bro T. Smailes P.P.A.G.D.C. of Brooke Lodge was elected to that office.

\*

The battle of Britain had now commenced in earnest with the attack on London by the German bombers. This led to some concern being felt for the well being of the children of Freemasons during the period of hostilities.

In view of this, and although they had no scheme for sending children overseas, other than that to be used in conjunction with the Government scheme, Grand Lodge made arrangements with the Home Government and the Authorities overseas for them to be received into the homes of Freemasons in other countries.

The Worshipful Master expressed the pleasure of both himself and the Brethren in the knowledge that the children of W. Bro. Tom Heeley had arrived safely in Canada.

It was also hoped by Grand Lodge that during the present conflict some arrangements might be made, wherever possible, to enable Brethren to meet together, even though attendances may be limited. A letter was received from the Provincial Grand Master stating:

*‘relative to present day difficulties in Masonic circles and appealing to the Brethren to do all possible to continue the good working of the lodges in the Province, having also regard for those lodges who by reason of war exigencies were finding it difficult, if not impossible to carry on.’*

\*

November 1940 saw the confirmation of W. Bro. James Lancaster’s youngest son Arnold as Master Elect, and following his election he immediately proposed a further two members of his family, Mr Charles Ronald Lancaster, aged 33 and Mr Lionel Eric Lancaster aged 31, both cloth finishers, as candidates for Freemasonry. Five months later he proposed Mr Frank Lancaster another member of the family.

\*

During the period of wartime activity between 1938 and 1945, the lodge rooms were used by members of a number of local organizations associated with the war effort.

At the November meeting the Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from the Group Commander of the Upper Agbrigg Group of the Home Guards, thanking the Worshipful Master and Brethren for the use of lodge premises on the occasion of the Home Guard’s supper.

W. Bro. Charlesworth also conveyed the thanks of the A.R.P. report centre and the Observer Corps for their use of the premises.

Several other societies connected with the war effort continued to use the lodge premises for their various functions. One of these was The Holme Valley Red Cross and Comforts Fund who later expressed their thanks for the use of the Masonic Hall in connection with their efforts in aid of King George’s Sailors War Fund.

\*

Following the installation of Bro. Arnold Lancaster, it was proposed by W. Bro. Herbert Hirst that a Christmas party be arranged for the evacuees in the district. This clearly took place as a letter of thanks was received from Mrs T. Smailes of the Women’s Voluntary Service for Civil Defence who wrote:

*‘Dear Mr Lancaster,*

*We wish to thank you and all who helped with the party for the evacuees last Friday for the most enjoyable time we had. Every one thoroughly enjoyed it and it made Christmas much more of a reality than it would have been except for the generosity of the Freemasons.*

They also received letters of thanks from the Holme Valley Comforts Fund thanking the Worshipful Master and Brethren for the party, and in February from the National Savings Movement on behalf of the Holmfirth War Weapons Committee for the use of the room.

\*

The practice of presenting a small gift to those Brethren serving in His Majesty’s Forces continued, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1941 letters were read from W. Bro. Tom Heeley and Bro. A. G. Brinsley acknowledging the watches they had received on joining His Majesty’s Forces.

The Management Committee considered that the caretaker of the lodge premises deserved a bonus for services rendered in those difficult times and so it was approved that she received an annual war bonus of thirteen pounds. In a letter received from the Chapter of Industry they stated that they would contribute two pounds annually towards this amount.

\*

The death took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1942 of W. Bro. John Edward Heap. He had joined the Lodge on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1899 and had been part owner of the ‘Druid’s Hotel’ along with John Henry Stockwell and had been instrumental in its sale to The Holme Valley Lodge in 1917. He was also the grandfather of Edward Brooke Heap, one of the youngest initiates of The Holme Valley Lodge.

\*

Following the death of Cookson Stephenson Floyd, almost a hundred years earlier in 1859, his widow Mary had presented to the lodge a snuff-box used by him and engraved with his initials.

On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1942 a further donation was made by the Floyd family, this time from Mr Charles and Miss Helen Floyd and took the form of the Masonic regalia and jewels worn by their ancestor W. Bro. Cookson Stephenson Floyd. Needless to say most of these items have also been mislaid and no record can be found of their whereabouts.

\*

The war saw the deaths of many Masons, perhaps non-more eminent than the Grand Master himself, M.W. Bro. Air Commodore H.R.H. The Duke of Kent.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1942 whilst flying to Iceland in a Sunderland Flying Boat he was killed at Eagle’s Rock, near Dunbeath, Caithness, when his aircraft crashed



killing all but one members of the crew. Andrew Jack was the only one of eleven members of the crew to survive and there still remains an air of mystery as to how the crash could have happened.

The Duke of Kent was laid in state at Dun Robin Castle until his body was transported to London for burial.

Following his death Bro. George W. England presented to the lodge, a framed photograph of the late Grand Master and this is still in the lodge's possession.

Fortunately there is no record of the lodge having lost any of its members whilst serving on active duty.

\*

The practice of allowing the lodge rooms to be used by various non-Masonic bodies continued, and in February 1943 a letter of thanks was received from the Holmfirth Urban District Council for their use for the evacuees treat and also one from the Rotary Club.

Whilst the war placed severe restrictions on the activities of the general public, family celebrations still took place, and on October 1943 W. Bro. Shaw Haigh and W. Bro Col. R.R. Mellor C.B.E. T.D. J.P. P.P.P.G.D were both congratulated on celebrating their golden weddings.

At the November meeting the following month, Bro. Major Carl E.R. Mellor, the son of Colonel R.R. Mellor, was also congratulated, on receiving the Territorial decoration.

The advent of the war in no way stemmed the number of new members joining The Holme Valley Lodge, in fact during the period between September 1939 and July 1945 twenty-four candidates were proposed and initiated.

Such was the demand of candidates wishing to join the lodge that at the Past Master's meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1945 W. Bro. Brook proposed that the Junior Brethren be informed:

*'that owing to the long list of intending candidates no new names can possibly receive consideration for a long time.'*

The first serving member of the armed forces to be initiated into the lodge was Corporal John Howarth, aged 36 years. He was a fruit and fish merchant of Victoria Street, Holmfirth whose initiation ceremony took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1944.

After his initiation it was proposed and carried:

*'that as and from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1944 the subscription for members serving full time in His Majesty's Forces should be 2/6d per month.'*

It was to be another sixty-two years before Sergeant Jason Hunter, another serving member of Her Majesty's forces was initiated, in 2006, into The Holme Valley Lodge by his father W. Bro. Ronald Hunter. He had served both in Germany and Afghanistan.

\*

Whilst the Holme Valley suffered very little as a result of the war, disaster struck Holmfirth in 1944. The village which had been the subject of floods in 1738, 1777 and 1821, caused principally by severe storms and flash flooding and in 1852 by the bursting of the Bilberry reservoir, suffered once again on Whit Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1944, when further flash flooding, following a severe thunderstorm caused the death of three people in the Holme Valley. The event was not widely reported due to wartime reporting restrictions and was overshadowed by the invasion of Normandy the following week. This led to some confusion as to its cause, but it was later confirmed that the Bilberry reservoir was in no way to blame.

There was however extensive damage to properties in the valley: 17 mills, 61 shops and 109 homes were flooded.

One of the shops affected was a gents outfitters belonging to Walter Quarmby who had been the Master of The Holme Valley Lodge when it moved to its new premises in 1921. After the flood, several of the shopkeepers expressed their thanks for the help they received in cleaning their premises, and the following advert appeared in the local paper:

WALTER QUARMBY,  
GENT'S OUTFITTER  
wishes to thank the members of the W.V.S. (Pog Ing Section)  
and Wardens for cleaning at the shop.  
VICTORIA STREET, HOLMFIRTH

German prisoners of war, housed in the area, assisted with the rescue of local residents and property.

A young man Geoffrey Riley, who was aged 14 at the time was awarded the George Cross in recognition of his attempts to save the life of an elderly woman caught in the flood. Tragically, the woman, and Geoffrey's father, who also tried to save her from drowning, both lost their lives in the flood.

The members of The Holme Valley Lodge were once again quick to respond to the disaster and on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1944 W. Bro. H. Brook proposed and W. Bro. F. Lockwood seconded that a donation of one hundred guineas, a relatively large amount of money at that time, be made to the Holmfirth Flood Relief Fund. This proposal was carried unanimously.

William Heeley, who had been a member of The Holme Valley Lodge since 1897, had now reached the age of eighty and a presentation was made to him on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1945 on behalf of the Lodge to commemorate the occasion. He had lived through the Boer war, and two world wars and was to live a further eighteen months until his death on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1946.

The war in Europe was now nearing its end, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945 Germany surrendered to the allies, giving rise to a feeling of great joy and jubilation amongst the British people. The war with Japan however continued for a further four months until the 6<sup>th</sup> August, when following the dropping of the atom bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing a total of almost 400,000 people, the Japanese Empire capitulated.

Prisoners of war were now being released and were returning home, and at the May meeting the Worshipful Master, Bro. Walter Green, congratulated W. Bro. N.T. Lawton on the safe return of his son from a prisoner of war camp in Germany.

Bro Charlesworth later congratulated the Worshipful Master on his being in the chair in Victory Year and particularly on occupying it on Victory in Japan plus one day, (the Japanese had surrendered the previous day) and he felt sure all the Brethren would concur that they met that evening with feelings of heartfelt thankfulness to the G.A.U. for the restoration of world peace.

A celebration victory dance was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1945 and the balance raised of £9.16.1d was donated to the Royal Masonic Hospital.

\*

This was a time of great austerity and whilst most of Britain was subject to strict food rationing, both during and after the war, these restrictions did not seem to have applied to the members of The Holme Valley Lodge.

After the war, food was in short supply, and the weekly rations available to each member of the general public was:

Bacon and Ham	4oz
Meat	To the value of 1s.2d. Sausages were not rationed but difficult to get. Offal (Liver, kidney and tripe) was originally unrationed but sometimes formed part of the meat ration.
Cheese	2oz
Margarine	4oz
Butter	2oz
Sugar	8oz
Milk	3 pints
Jam	1lb (every two months)

Tea	2oz
Eggs	1 per week
Sweets	12oz (every four weeks)

However following the installation of Bro. Carl Edward Ramsden Mellor in 1947, the menu at the festive board consisted of :-

Minestrone soup.  
-----  
Roast Goose and Boiled Gammon  
Sage and Onion Stuffing  
Chipolata Sausages,  
Roast Potatoes                  Creamed Potatoes  
Braised Celery                  Buttered Peas  
-----  
Fruit Salad and Ice Cream  
or  
Biscuits and Cheese  
Celery  
-----  
Coffee.

This fine fare could perhaps be attributed to the number of butchers, bakers, grocers and farmers who were members of the lodge.

## POST WAR YEARS

The period following the end of the war was one of continued shortages. Men were arriving back in England from the various fighting fronts expecting life to return to normal. Many thousands of women who had done the work of their male counterparts during the war now found themselves out of work. The Holme Valley Lodge however continued to prosper and despite the austerity attracted four new members the following year.

Later that year, on the 19th December 1946, the installation took place of Bro. John Lawton Oliphant. However whilst the festivities were taking place the Brethren were unaware that their new Master would never preside at another festive board and that his would be the shortest reign of any Master of The Holme Valley Lodge.

It lasted a mere twenty-two days, as he died suddenly on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1947.

Before proceeding with the business at the January meeting, W. Bro. Frank Berry I.P.M. acting as Worshipful Master is recorded as paying a tribute to W. Bro. Oliphant as follows:

*‘He spoke of the awful calamity, which had befallen us in the sudden and untimely death of our Worshipful Master Bro. John L. Oliphant, a Master we all respected and admired and a Brother who was our real friend.*

*He was a young man (only 38) a man of ability and true Masonic character. By his early death a valuable Masonic career had been cut short, and the only consolation we had, was that he was spared long enough for us to do him the honour of electing and installing him as Master of Holme Valley Lodge.*

*In the time of sorrow we were all mindful of the sufferings of his family, of the terrible loss to his wife and child.*

*At the request of the Past Masters, and as all the Brethren would wish, our Immediate Past Master had written to Mrs Oliphant, in the name of all the Brethren extending to her our sympathy’.*

*‘The Chaplain, W. Bro. Rev. John Partridge Makeham, by reading from the scriptures and by prayer, commended the soul of our departed Master to the*

*Almighty Ruler of the Universe, after which the Brethren stood in silence as a last token of respect.'*

During the ensuing twelve months the Brethren were requested to attend the duties of the lodge by command of the Senior Warden Bro. C. R. Mellor and the summonses bore the In Memoriam of Bro. J. L. Oliphant for the whole year.

\*

Prior to 1947 the photographs of the Past Masters of The Holme Valley Lodge had hung, along with the portraits of its founders, in the main lodge room on the top floor of the Masonic Hall. However in June of that year it was decided to remove their photographs from that room and hang them in the upstairs corridor along with the regalia of W. Bro. J. Lancaster.

It was however decided to leave the portraits of the first Master, the two Wardens and that of W. Bro. J. Lancaster hanging in the Lodge room.

These were moved later in 1956 to their present position in the corridor outside.

\*

The death of His Most Gracious Majesty King George VI from lung cancer occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952, and provoked a great deal of sorrow from a nation which felt he had been a source of inspiration to them during the darkest period of the war, particularly after the bombing of Buckingham Palace.

The Master, Bro. K.K Platt, made reference to his death in open lodge when he said:

*'By the death of the King, Freemasonry has suffered a staggering blow, for by continuing after ascending the Throne, to identify himself closely with it's welfare, he was looked on naturally as head of the Order.*

*By conducting in person the installation of three Grand Masters, the late Duke of Kent, the late Earl of Harewood and the late Duke of Devonshire, he made Masonic history.*

*Only his illness last November prevented him from installing the Earl of Scarborough.*

*He was initiated in 1919, into the Navy Lodge No.2612. Three years later he became Master of his lodge.*

*After his accession in 1937 he accepted the rank of Past Grand Master.'*

\*

Benevolence was again to come to the fore in September of 1952 when following a meeting of the charity committee at Barnsley it was decided to make a grant of £130.00 to Bro. Herbert Hinchliffe who had fallen on hard times.

\*

Whilst the lodge centenary celebration was still some time away, confusion was occurring with regard to the actual date on which it could be held. This however was clarified at the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1953 when the Secretary read an excerpt from the address given by the Provincial Grand Master at the annual meeting held at the Town Hall, Huddersfield, on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1953 when he said:

*‘Holme Valley Lodge No. 652 Holmfirth.*

*An unusual state of affairs exists here. It appears from our records that it received it’s warrant in 1855 – but it was not consecrated until July 1857 with the result that their centenary cannot be celebrated until 1957.*

*Rule 252 Book of Constitution, requires that the lodge shall prove uninterrupted existence of 100 years from the date of its consecration. This would not happen nowadays, for a lodge is consecrated before it starts working, but it is not without interest that a century ago a lodge could commence work immediately on receiving the warrant, and be consecrated at a later date.’*

Following this reading W. Bro. Fred Lockwood intimated that the affairs of the centenary celebrations were in the hands of a committee and would be dealt with in due course.

\*

Essential alterations and renovations to the building and its contents continued to be necessary and these were carried out during the summer of 1956, no doubt the forthcoming centenary celebrations played a part in their approval. The Temple was redecorated, at a cost of £282.00 (plus extra for gold leaf), and at the suggestion of Bro. Frank Platt fifteen lights were fitted in the ceiling.

The alterations had however put a great burden upon the finances of the lodge and in view of this the Treasurer appealed to the Brethren to assist by all means possible, as the financial situation of the lodge had reached a critical state.

The Brethren were quick to respond to his request. Bro. Ralph. N. Berry donated a high organ stool for use with the harmonium, W. Bro R.M. Sandford and his sons made a gift of curtain material, which was dyed by Bro. J. Quarmby and made up by the ladies of the lodge members, and Brother H. Mitchell gave help and advice in connection with the new heating system.

Some time later, in 1958, Bro. R.N. Berry presented a new lectern to the lodge, made and carved by himself:

*‘in the hope that it would be the forerunner of other gifts’.*

This proved to be the case, as in December of that year an anonymous gift of a new centre floor covering was made, the donor was later announced to be Bro. W.S. Shaw.

Three years later in July 1961, Bro R. N. Berry and W. Bro. F.R. Booth presented a solid oak refectory table for use in the Past Masters room and in 1962 they gave a new desk for the use of the Secretary and a footstool to be used in the lodge.

Bro. Ralph Berry, had by now donated many items of furniture and wished to give a valuable antique cabinet that he had renovated to the lodge, which he suggested could be placed in the corridor leading to the Temple.

The Past Masters however declined to accept his offer and this led to his resignation soon afterwards.

Having spent a considerable amount of money on alterations and the decoration of the premises the Brethren were anxious that the rooms be kept in as good a state of repair as possible. With that in mind it was resolved in November 1958 that Bro. Eric Wood should be paid £5.0.0 per year to keep the lodge room decorations in good condition.



### **CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

Following the Provincial Grand Master's advice and after much discussion it was agreed that the celebration of the lodge's centenary should be held in July 1957. However prior to this in June of that year, it was decided that the Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. Henry Clifford Smith J.P. P.G.D., the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. John Tait M.B.E. P.G.D., the Assistant Grand Masters W. Bro. Percy Henshaw P.G.D., W. Bro. John H. Bromley P.G.D., W. Bro. H.B. Dawson O.B.E. M.C. P.G.D. and the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro. Charles Frobisher P.G.D. should all be made honorary members of The Holme Valley Lodge.

In order that the date of the celebration should fall as near as possible to the date of the lodge's consecration, which was the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1857, a dispensation was sought for the ceremony to be held a week earlier than normal on the second Thursday of the month.

This was duly granted, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> July the centenary was celebrated and the warrant presented to W. Bro W. Stockwell by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Henry Clifford Smith J.P. who then presented centenary medals to the Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge.

The Master W. Bro. Stockwell later thanked certain Brethren for their gifts of the curtains and table covers for the supper room and also the two Brethren who gave the dessert and a birthday cake for the centenary banquet.

Prior to this, in January of that year, it had been resolved that £700.00 be transferred, as a loan, from the general account to the Centenary Fund Account to enable the Treasurer meet current liabilities and have the lodge room decorated prior to the celebrations. Despite lack of funds the loan was repaid in March of the following year.

## **SERVICE TO THE LODGE**

The Holme Valley Lodge had always been fortunate in counting amongst its ranks certain members who contributed in no small measure to its success and popularity.

One of these was Mr Geoffrey Richardson whose name first appeared on the summons as the third item of business at the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1959 and which read:

*‘To initiate Mr Geoffrey Richardson, aged 42 years, Works Manager, Messrs. Copley, Marshall & Co., Ltd., Wildspur Mills, New Mill. Proposed by Bro. H.T. Atkinson, Seconded by W. Bor. O. Frost, I.P.M. Elected 20<sup>th</sup> November 1958.’*

He was to play a leading role for over fifty years in the future affairs of the lodge.

## **GEOFFREY RICHARDSON**

Few people have exerted as much influence on the character of The Holme Valley Lodge as W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson.

He was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1916 and spent his childhood at number 4, New Mill Square. He was educated as a child, till the age of thirteen, at New Mill National School after which he attended Holmfirth Secondary School until he started work at sixteen as an office boy at Copley, Marshall and Co. Ltd.

He was later to rise to the position of Assistant Manager in 1952 and to Managing Director in 1960, a position he held until his retirement in 1980.

From the early age of nine, music and the church played a major role in his life. He had by this time become a chorister at New Mill Parish Church and was also receiving piano lessons from Mary Brook. Unfortunately he was making very little progress and so piano lessons were discontinued until he reached the age of twelve, when they recommenced under the tuition of James W. Buckley. Under his new tutor he made such progress, that two years later, at the age of fourteen, he was also receiving organ lessons.

These continued for a further two years and at the age of sixteen he transferred to Edred Booth F.R.C.O. L.R.A.M. for both piano and organ lessons and made such progress that two years later in 1934 he was invited to become accompanist to the Orpheus Male Voice Choir. He was also deputy organist at Brunswick Street Methodist Church at this time.

His career in music continued to flourish and over the next five years he gave organ recitals at various local churches and was appointed deputy accompanist to the Holme Valley Male Voice Choir, and organist at Gledholt Methodist Church, Huddersfield.

War was fast approaching, but prior to its commencement he travelled to London in January 1939, where he passed the A.R.C.O. examination at the Royal College of Organists.

The advent of the war did not diminish his love of music and although he joined the army on the 25<sup>th</sup> September of that year he continued to give recitals at churches and Cathedrals in Cromer, Glasgow, Sudbury, Ypres and Truro and even found time to play the Compton organ at the Royal Cinema in Plymouth.

He remained in the army until December 1945, having served in the Western desert with the Eighth Army (200 Field Ambulance) and took part in the landings at Pachino-Sicily, Port di St. Venere-Italy, and Arromanche-Normandy, three of the major offensives of the second world war and returned to England on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1945, via France, Belgium, Holland and Elst near Arnhem.

His marriage to Mabel took place on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1940 at New Mill Parish Church during five days leave and his honeymoon of four days was spent at Blackpool. They had one son, Peter, who for many years owned the Yorkshire Belle pleasure boat, operating from Bridlington harbour.

He celebrated his Golden wedding in 1990, his Diamond wedding in 2000 and received cards from the Queen five years later in 2005. He remained married to Mabel for sixty-seven years until her death in 2007.

Geoffrey Richardson was a man of numerous interests, many centring round his love of music. He was the President of the Huddersfield Organist's Association, Conductor of the Holmfirth Sing, Chairman of the Holmfirth Musical Festival, President of the Holmfirth Choral Society and Chairman of the Holmfirth Probus Club. He was awarded the Rotary International Community and Vocational Services Certificate in recognition of his special service within the community.

He was initiated into Freemasonry on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1959, having been proposed as a candidate by Bro. H.T. Atkinson and seconded by W. Bro O. Frost the previous November.

He quickly made his mark on The Holme Valley Lodge as a musician and at the installation in the December following his initiation he was elected to the office of

Musical Director, a position he held until 2005. He was also its organist from 1974 until 2005 when he retired from the office due to ill health.

It was often said that his music enhanced the ceremonies and that the timing of the music played during the perambulations of its officers was perfect.

Prior to becoming Master in 1973, harmony had been provided by members from various Masonic lodges, women at this time were not permitted to entertain.

However, following his installation and at the insistence of W. Bro. Richardson this was soon to change, since he had wide connections within the world of music and was able to provide far more varied forms of entertainment, both male and female.

His music and the variety of artists he introduced contributed to the popularity of The Holme Valley Lodge as a venue for visiting Brethren.

Further recognition of his work in the Province came in 1983, when he was appointed Provincial Grand Organist and later in 2006 when he was presented with the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to the Craft in recognition of his forty-eight years service to the lodge, District and Province.

This was one of only three to have been issued.

Following the death of Mabel, his wife for sixty-seven years, W. Bro. Richardson who had by this time reached the age of ninety-two, was having great difficulty in walking, decided to apply for residence at Connaught Court in York and moved there on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. He was thus much nearer to his son Peter at Bridlington.

As a farewell gift it was proposed by W. Bro. Neville Golden that a collection should be made, amongst the Brethren of the lodge, to purchase an electric scooter for his use in his new home.

The collection raised £1000.00 and a scooter was duly purchased and presented to him in gratitude for his services to the lodge, both as a musician and the producer of the lodge summons for twenty-four years, and also for the many years he was an active member on the social committee.

It was said on his leaving, that his music had added dignity to the ceremonies and pleasure at the festive board and that the lodge would never have another Brother who had served it so well over such a long number of years.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Colin Dent presented him with his fifty-year certificate at a ceremony held on the 19th January 2009 at Connaught Court, York in the presence of about twenty lodge members and almost all the residents of Connaught Court.

### **FURTHER PROGRESS**

The upper and lower cottages attached to the lodge had for many years been let as living accommodation, but by 1960 were now empty. It was decided therefore that a suitable tenant should be found, if possible, for the top cottage at an annual rent of about £50.00 and that the bottom cottage be converted into a Past Master's room and toilet at a cost of approximately £250.00

By 1965 it was felt that the lodge would be improved by the addition of new furnishings and so in March of that year W. Bro. A.G.Brinsley proposed and W. Bro. S.P.Owens seconded that the lodge should purchase new furniture for the Temple. This was duly approved and chairs and pedestals were ordered from Robert Thompson, (the mouse man) of Kilvington for the Worshipful Master and his Wardens at a cost of £450.00 and were supplied by them later that year.

In 1965 Brooke Lodge, who were currently meeting at Honley, requested that they be accommodated at the Masonic Hall, Holmfirth, as their own premises were due for demolition in about three years time. The lodge management committee gave the matter some thought, but in January of 1966 decided against the proposal.

In the event Brooke Lodge joined Beaumont Lodge in occupying their premises at Kirkburton.

Prior to 1967 the three original tracing boards used by the lodge at the Victoria Hotel were painted on canvas. These had become somewhat dirty and worn and so in November of that year, the Junior Warden, Bro. Ronald E. Batley presented new tracing boards to the lodge and these are still in use today

\*.

Nineteen seventy-one saw the completion of the new Masonic home at Connaught Court, Fulford in York and on the 12<sup>th</sup> June W. Bro. Marsh announced that Mrs Hirst and W. Bro H.H. Hirst, who had been a member of the lodge since 1925, would shortly be taking up residence there.

They were the first family associated with the lodge to take advantage of this new facility and following the death of W. Bro. Hirst and later that of his wife in 1982 they willed the sum of £18,304.06 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution

which it was agreed should be credited to the list of the Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire, West Riding.

\*

From its foundation in 1855, and even after its consecration in 1857, the lodge had been unable to boast the presence of a Grand Lodge Officer as one of its members.

This however changed on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1972 when the Worshipful Master, Bro. Gerald L. Pollitt offered his congratulations to W. Bro. C.E.R. Mellor T.D. P.P.S.G.W. on having been invited to receive honours from Grand Lodge and asked that the Secretary place on record in the minutes:

*‘that this lodge views with great pride and pleasure the honour which will be bestowed on W. Bro. C.E.R. Mellor namely – Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies – the first Grand Lodge officer in the 117 years since the consecration of The Holme Valley Lodge No. 652.’*

W. Bro. C.E.R. Mellor thanked the Master for his congratulations and intimated that he was deeply grateful for the honour that was about to be bestowed upon him and upon The Holme Valley Lodge. He was congratulated once more in March 1978 by the then Master, W. Bro. Jack Swallow on attaining fifty years membership of The Holme Valley Lodge. He remained an active member until his death on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1980, the day after celebrating his seventy-eighth birthday.

### **DIFFICULT TIMES**

The finances of the lodge had for several years given rise to some concern and this was brought to the attention of the Brethren in 1973 when the Treasurer W. Bro. F.R. Booth announced that increases in fees and subscription were necessary and gave notice of his intention to propose this on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

It is recorded that following his proposition, W.Bro. Hinchliffe Brook, who although he supported the increase in fees, then addressed the Brethren and read a long prepared statement condemning the lodge and in particular its social activities. No record was made of his statement, however W. Bro. E.B. Heap replied dissociating himself from some of the remarks made by W. Bro. Brook.

The Master, W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson, in closing the discussion said that as regards the finances of the lodge the Brethren were now fully aware of the tasks ahead.

The lack of finances was principally due to the increasing number of repairs that were becoming necessary to the general structure of the building and its fittings.

The cost of printing the circulars with their highly ornate design was giving cause for concern and it was suggested that it might prove a less expensive option to adopt a plain circular instead of the one that was presently being used. In the event it was decided to retain it in its original form and this design has been retained to the present day.

However all was not bad news, as the Master reported that he had received an anonymous offer from certain Brethren to defray the cost of carpeting the supper room, an offer that was received and accepted with gratitude.

Storage space had by now become a problem and with this in mind it was decided to open a doorway from the lodge room into the empty upper cottage to facilitate the storage of furniture.

By 1974 finances had reached dire straits and it was therefore resolved to ask the members for gifts of any amount, or loans of £20.00 or multiples thereof to be repaid when funds were available, to help towards the building fund.

Money was in such short supply that W. Bro. Batley suggested that the Treasurer should decide which accounts to pay first, depending upon the funds available.

The exterior of the building, which was now almost one hundred and fifty years old, was badly affected by damp and this was not helped by a burst water pipe in the caretaker's house.

Further concern was expressed by the Lodge Management Committee when it was reported to them that at midnight on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> April the lodge door was found to be wide open with all the lights left on in the building. Fortunately there was no sign of forced entry and no damage or theft had occurred, but it was emphasised that carelessness and dangerous acts of this nature by keyholders could not be tolerated and that it was the duty of all Brethren to ensure that light were turned off and doors locked when vacating the building.

The membership of the lodge continued to increase and by 1979 had reached almost one hundred, many of them young men keen to practice their ritual. This gave rise to the performance of a mock initiation ceremony presented by the junior Brethren. This was followed by a festive board, and was held on Thursday, July the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was organized and led by W. Bro. Jack Schofield, who was a fine ritualist, and who acted as Preceptor for many years. Bro. Michael Haigh was the first of the junior brethren to act as Master on one of these nights. The next year the office of was taken by Bro Edward Bowman and the following year by Bro. Derek Beaumont. These were to be the first of many similar ceremonies to be performed in subsequent years.



### **THE LIMBO CLUB**

By the mid to late seventies the membership of the lodge had risen to almost a hundred. This increase in membership resulted in the time taken from a member's initiation to his installation increasing to almost twenty years. This was even after taking into account the many Brethren who either resigned or did not wish to progress in office.

The first duty of a newly initiated Brother was to act as Steward at the festive board and this was a period of bonding when many close friendships were formed.

Such were the numbers of visitors and members attending the lodge ceremonies and dining at the festive board that it was impossible for the Stewards to take their meal with the more senior Brethren.

It was therefore normal practice for them to serve the meal in the supper room and whilst the formality of the speeches was taking place to dine in the room below, which was situated to the right of the entrance of the lodge and had been the tap room of the Druid's Hotel. This now forms part of the office of number 28, Station Road.

Following the meal it was usual to entertain each other with stories, jokes and a general banter.

It was not unusual for the chief purveyor to arrange, at his expense, further entertainment at one of the local public houses at the end of his period of office.

As the office of Steward usually lasted for several years and was then followed by a further two years as bar Purveyor, it was quite normal for another ten years to elapse before a junior Brother could be offered a position as an officer of the lodge.

Since several of the junior Brethren felt that this left them in a state of limbo they decided to form what they called the 'Limbo Club.'

The club was formed at the suggestion of Bro. Edward Bowman who felt that it might encourage the junior brethren to attend more regularly whilst waiting to be offered a position in the lodge.

Its early membership consisted of Bros. Edward Bowman, Michael Howarth, Michael Hellawell, Barry Vincent, Derek Beaumont, Stanley Dodson, Robert Clay, Neville Golden and several others, who during the festive board sat at the bottom of the table to the left of the Senior Warden.

Their main purpose in life was to enjoy themselves, but they also created an atmosphere of goodwill during the festive board due to their exuberant nature.

Following the toasts they would often hold up a card with a number from one to ten written on it signifying their approval or disapproval of the speech, but if they became too boisterous, a single look from W. Bro. Edward Heap the D.C. was usual sufficient to quieten them down.

To prove that they were indeed members of this illustrious club they each wore a round metal jewel attached to a red ribbon, which they pinned to their lapels with a safety pin, and on which was inscribed **LIMBO CLUB**.

The club remained in existence for a number of years until the membership of the lodge reduced and progression to the office of Master became quicker.

## LONG ASSOCIATIONS

Since its formation in 1855, several family names have appeared regularly amongst the list of members of The Holme Valley Lodge. Two of the names that appear frequently are the Green's and the Mellor's.

The Green family name first appeared in lodge records in May 1933, when W. Bro James Newton West proposed Walter Green, a motor engineer and haulage contractor, who had a garage and premises in Holmfirth and Hinchliffe Mill, as a candidate for freemasonry.

He was balloted, approved and initiated on the same night, the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1933, was subsequently passed the following month on the 20<sup>th</sup> July and raised on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Prior to opening his garages, Walter Green had served in the First World War, where he was attached, as an engineer, to the newly formed Royal Flying Corps.

Having occupied various positions in the lodge, he was installed as Master on December 21<sup>st</sup> 1944, and was to serve in that office in 1945 at the cessation of the Second World War, both in Europe and Japan.

Some sixteen years later, on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1960, he proposed his son Alfred, as a candidate for freemasonry. W. Bro. Frank Berry seconded the proposition.

Alfred was balloted on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and the ballot having proved in his favour was initiated on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1960. He was subsequently passed on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1961 and raised on the 18<sup>th</sup> May of that year.

Alfred Green who was a farmer, of Holmside, Holme, bred and showed prize highland cattle.

He was installed, as Master of the lodge, on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1975 by W. Bro. G.A. Keen.

He had four sons, Michael, John, Mark and James, two of whom were to follow their father and grandfather before them as members of The Holme Valley Lodge. The first to be initiated was John Alistair Green, his second eldest son, a chartered surveyor aged thirty-one, who was balloted on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1990, having been proposed earlier by his father Alfred.

His father, who deputised as Worshipful Master during the ceremony, initiated him on the 16th August. He also explained the signs and the secrets of an apprentice freemason.

John was passed on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and raised on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1991.

He was installed as Master in December 2003 and later served in the office of Charity Steward.

Later, on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1991, Alfred proposed his third son, Richard Mark Green, a solicitor, as a candidate for membership of The Holme Valley Lodge and initiated him on the 19<sup>th</sup> March the following year.

He was subsequently passed on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and raised on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1992.

Mark Green was installed as Master in December 2004.

Whilst two other candidates had been initiated between John and Mark Green, circumstances were to prevail which prevent either of them progressing to the office of Master.

This gave rise to the unusual situation of two brothers occupying the chair of Senior Warden and Master respectively in the same year, and of an outgoing Master installing his own brother into the chair of King Solomon.

This appears to have been the only occasion in the lodge's history when this has happened and provided the source for a number of amusing speeches and anecdotes at the various festive boards.

\*

The Mellor's however have the longest family association with The Holme Valley Lodge.

The name of Mellor has appeared in lodge records since its conception in 1855. Joseph, its first Senior Warden, Josiah and James Edward Mellor appear as the first three Mellors, but it is not known if they were related. They are however all recorded as being manufacturers of Thongsbridge.

The Ramsden Mellor family connection with the lodge however commenced in 1879 with Joseph Ramsden Mellor, and was to span a period of over one hundred years.

Prior to the birth of Joseph the name of Ramsden was not incorporated as part of the family name, and it was only after the marriage of Benjamin Mellor to Mary Ramsden that it was included.

Benjamin and Mary had two children, a daughter Maria and a son Joseph who was born in 1843, and it was Joseph who was to become the first of several generations of Ramsden Mellors.

Benjamin Mellor, Joseph Ramsden Mellor's father, was a local mill owner who had a business at Upper Mill, or as it was then known Prickleden Mills.

Unfortunately circumstances were to prevail which forced him to move, and as a consequence of this he built Albert Mills in Crown Bottom, Holmfirth, where the family continued their textile business until its closure in the early 1980's.

Benjamin Mellor was recorded as being 'kind and courteous to all who knew him'.

His son Joseph was a master cloth finisher, who was born in Wooldale and was educated at Burton's Academy, Shaley House, by John Burton, the first Junior Warden of The Holme Valley Lodge.

He later married Caroline Haynes of Silkstone in 1865. They had one son, Robert Ramsden Mellor and a daughter who died in infancy.

Following his marriage to Caroline Haynes he moved to Royds House, Holmfirth. Joseph Ramsden Mellor played a very active role in the history of The Holme Valley Lodge and was its longest serving Treasurer, occupying that position for some twenty-seven years. He was a Justice of the Peace, and in 1895 was a trustee of land that was to be used for the building of the Holmfirth District Technical Institute.

He was initiated on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1879 and became Master of the lodge in 1888.

His son, Robert Ramsden Mellor, was born in 1870 and was later to carry on the family business at Albert Mills as a master cloth finisher. He was initiated on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1920 and was installed as Master in 1928.

Robert Ramsden Mellor was a prominent member of the volunteer corps where he rose to the rank of Colonel.

He married Rosetta Blanche Sykes of Quarmby in 1893 and had three children, Kathleen Sykes Mellor, Violet Sykes Mellor and Carl Edward Ramsden Mellor. Their son Carl Edward Ramsden Mellor, who continued to run the family business, also played a large part in the affairs of The Holme Valley Lodge, both as its charity steward, and later in 1928 as its Master.

He married Mildred Mallinson, known by her family as Molly, and had two children Barbara Joyce and Gordon Ramsden Mellor.

Carl Mellor had the distinction of being the first member of The Holme Valley Lodge to be promoted to the rank of a Grand Lodge Officer and like his father before him was involved with the volunteer corps, where he held the rank of Major.

He was a member of the lodge for fifty-two years and received his fifty-year certificate two years before his death in 1980.

Gordon Ramsden Mellor, his son, who was also a master cloth finisher, followed his father in the management of Albert Mill.

He was initiated in 1978 and like his predecessors was a very active member of the lodge until his early death in 1987 at the age of fifty-one. He was thus

prevented from carrying on the long family tradition of progressing to the Master's chair.

His death, regrettably, brought to an end the family's long association with The Holme Valley Lodge.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

Whilst it is a widely accepted that charity has always played an important role in Masonic life, so has service to the community in general.

From the earliest period of its history certain members of The Holme Valley Lodge have been reported as having taken a major role in the welfare of the district.

It's founders, Cookson Stephenson Floyd, Joseph Mellor and John Burton were religious men of good character, high morals and firm convictions whose names appeared on numerous occasions in nineteenth century in the local newspapers as representing the district at many of the functions, charities and good causes held in the Holme Valley.

The desire to serve the community continued into the twentieth century with men like James Lancaster, Robert Ramsden Mellor and his son Carl Edward Ramsden Mellor and beyond this into the twenty-first century in the person of Edgar Dickinson M.B.E.

#### **EDGAR DICKINSON M.B.E.**

W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson was born at Shepley on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1923. He was the youngest son of Edgar and Louie Dickinson and lived at Abbey Dairy farm where his parents were local milk producers.

At the age of three he commenced his education at Shepley Council School and later became a scholar at Honley Grammar School.

On leaving school he was employed as an engineering apprentice by Hopkinsons Engineers, Birkby, and worked there for a number of years until the end of the war when he started his own business as an agricultural contractor.

He was by this time living at Almondbury with his parents who had now retired from farming.

In 1946 his great uncle Jonas Hincliffe, who owned and lived Longley farm, died and left the cottage, cowsheds and a few fields to Edgar and his elder brother Joseph.

It was about this time that he met his future wife Renee at a dance held at the Town Hall, Huddersfield, and after courting her for two years they decided, in September 1948, to marry and move into the cottage at Longley Farm. He was still working as an agricultural contractor and at that time owned six cows and a horse.

Joseph, his elder brother, had by now been demobbed from the armed forces where he had served in the navy during the war, and was finding it difficult to find employment.

It was decided therefore that he and his brother Edgar should carry on the family business and buy several more cows and begin to produce cream and dairy products.

From these early beginnings was to develop what was to become the internationally known company J & E. Dickinson, Cream, Yoghurt and Cottage Cheese Manufacturers.

Renee and Edgar were married for fifty-three years and had three children, Michael, Judith and Claire.

Following Renee's death in February 2002, Edgar retired from the business. He was then seventy-five years old.

However far from ceasing work he purchased Bower's Mill at Barkisland which he developed into industrial units. He also formed two companies, E. Dickinson, Plastics Ltd.; plastic injection moulders, producing extruded plastics, and Edgar Dickinson, Properties.

His Masonic career commenced on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1966 following his initiation by W. Bro. Ernest Jessop, who was acting for then Master W. Bro. John Midgley and was later to serve as Master of The Holme Valley Lodge on two occasions, in 1983 and in 2008. He rose to the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Edgar Dickinson was also a member of the Chapter of Industry No 652 and was exalted on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1967. He subsequently rose to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah and became its First Principal in October 1986.

Five years later, on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1971, he joined Rose Croix and took the thirty-first degree in 1980.

The welfare of the community always played a large part in his life and he took an active role in local affairs. He served on the Holmfirth Council for six years, was president of the Holmfirth Round Table for two years and was president of the Hade Edge Brass Band for over twenty years.

Whilst he himself was not a musician he had nevertheless taken an interest in brass bands since his early childhood and it was a great source of pride to him that during the period he was president of the band its membership increased from only ten members in 1999, to over one hundred and fifty by 2009, many of these



being children from the Holme Valley and beyond who were subsequently to feature in a series of television programmes about the band.

As a great supporter of Masonic charities he organised a number of concerts featuring the band which were held at Bower's Mill and raised large amounts of money for various Provincial Charities.

In recognition of his charitable work throughout the Province he was presented with the 'Certificate of Service to Craft Masonry' on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004 by the then Provincial Grand Master, J. Trevor Broadley and was later further honoured by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005 when he was invested as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, (M.B.E.)

## SCROLL NIGHT

The meeting held on the third Thursday in November was always regarded as the charity night and was the night when the charity representative of the lodge addressed the Brethren and outlined the various charities being promoted in the Province at that time. It was generally considered to be an in-house meeting and as such was not usually very well supported by visitors.

In consequence of this the harmony provided at the festive board took on a rather different form, as it was on this night that the Brethren were usually entertained by the Stewards of the lodge.

This generally took the form of parodies of songs written by Gilbert and Sullivan and were sung by the Stewards, accompanied by W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson on piano.

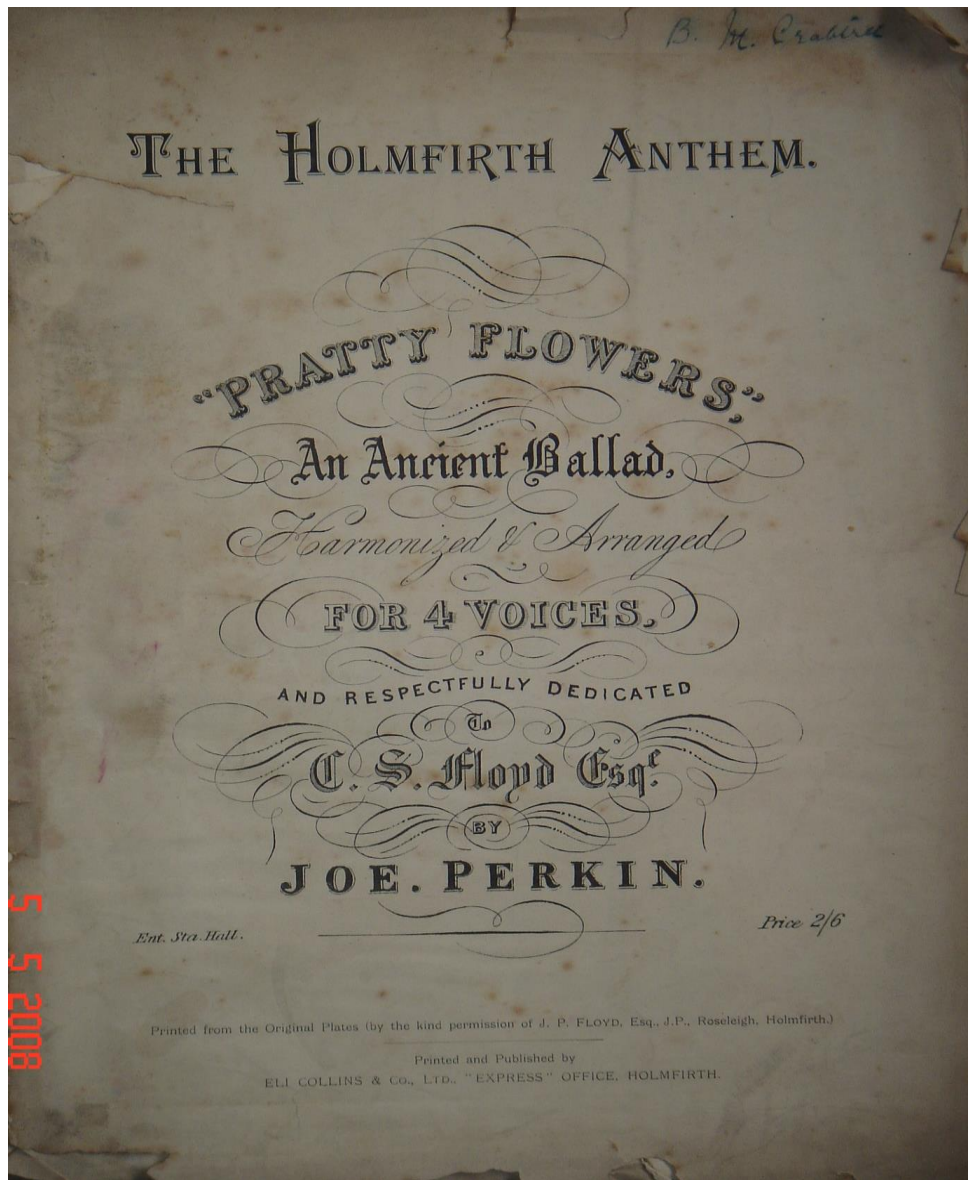
W. Bro. Harold Battye, who was well known for his fine sense of humour and for his fondness for 'Fulstone Broth', a concoction of whisky and peppermint, which he drank on most lodge nights, often wrote the lyrics. The hippopotamus song was also a great favourite on scroll night.

The redoubtable W. Bro Sydney James often gave renderings of poetry, his most popular ones being Wordsworth's, 'Daffodils' and Kipling's, 'My Mother Lodge Back Home'.

Brother Stanley Dodson regaled the Brethren with his humour and tales of 'the Aylesbury duck' and his visit to the Grosvenor Hotel and Bro. Cecil Bradbury recalled the adventures of his old friend Charlie Hardcastle.

W. Bro. Edward Bowman, who had a fine baritone voice, sang and was often joined in a duet by W. Bro. Antony Ward, who was an excellent tenor. W. Bro Richardson in turn ably accompanied them both at the piano.

The Stewards usually rounded off the evening with any other light-hearted entertainment that they could think of, and the festive board normally finished with a resounding rendering of 'Pratty Flowers' sung by W. Bro. Bowman and accompanied by the Brethren.



*Front of the music sheet  
dedicating Pratty Flowers  
to Cookson Stephenson Floyd*

### PRATTY FLOWERS

Abroad for pleasure as I was a-walking,  
It was one summer summer's evening clear,  
'Twas there I beheld a most beautiful damsel,  
Lamenting for her shepherd dear, Lamenting for her shepherd dear.

The fairest evening that e'er I beheld thee  
Evermore with the lad I adore,  
Wilt thou go fight yon French and Spaniards,  
Wilt thou leave me thus my dear? Wilt thou leave me thus my dear?

No more to yon green banks will I take thee  
With pleasure for to rest thyself and view the lambs,  
But I will take thee to yon green pastures  
Where those pratty flowers grow. Where those pratty, pratty flowers grow.

\*

Those words have played a part in the history of The Holme Valley Lodge for over one hundred and fifty years, having been sung on many occasions by the Brethren at the festive board. The first record of this was on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1858 at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting held at the Victoria Hotel when it was sung following the toast to 'The Provincial Grand Treasurer and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers.'

The origin of the words to the song are thought to have been an adaptation of a folk song found on late eighteenth century broadsheets entitled 'The Maiden's complaint for the loss of her Shepherd' and were set to music by Joe Perkin at the request of Cookson Stephenson Floyd in about 1850. Floyd was a very good friend of Joe Perkin who dedicated the arrangement to him.

Perkin, who had been tenor soloist at Carlisle Cathedral, did not receive any money from the publication of this song and was subsequently to die in poverty at the age of fifty-nine. Eliza Perkin, the wife of Joe Perkin, appeared in the census of 1892 as a resident of one of the Almshouses built for the poor following the flood of 1852.

The original sheet music is entitled:

*'THE HOLMFIRTH ANTHEM, PRATTY FLOWERS, AN ANCIENT BALLAD, harmonized and arranged for four voices and is respectfully dedicated to his friend C. S. Floyd Esq. by Joe Perkin'.*

Ammon Wrigley of Saddleworth, the poet, and author of 'Those were the days', tells an interesting story as to how it became known as the Holmfirth Anthem. Ammon recalls the following meeting at an inn on the moors when a fellow traveller from 'over t'other side' said:

*'Do yo' know wat it wor coalled th' Holmfirth Anthem for?' 'I suppose it was because the song had it's origin in the village' Ammon said 'Nah, aw'll tell yo' this tale just as mi nont Mary told it i' yar haase a score o'toimes. Shoo comes fro' Holmfirth an' shoo said ther wor beawn to bi a grand concert i' Holmfirth at wor getten op bi a greight musicianer i' Huddersfild. Soa he put pappers i'th' shop windows 'at said at cloise o'th concert ivverboddy wod sing th' National Anthem. Soa one neet Daff o'th Bak Rooad an Joss o'th' Pig Hoills an Billy Bluenoase wor drinking at Fat Doddys an Daff said 'It's getten abaat toime wi knew summat abaat this Nashunum Anthem, soa wi can bi larnin' chorus'. 'Yus that's reight' Billy said, 'but wat soart of a song is this Nashunum Anthem'? Nan o'Slap's is I yar haase' Daff said, 'shooll know summat. Goa tell her shoo's wanted Joss'. When Nan came into the taproom Daff said, 'What's this Nashunum Anthem wi're ole beawn to sing?' 'Yo'greight bullyeds' Nan said, 'Aw'm sure ther nivver wor sich silly fools ivver born of a woman. Aw wodn't ha believed ther wor sich ignoramusers i' Holmfirth. It's 'Pratty Flowers' tha's wat it is'. 'Well nah mi nont Mary said it wor a grand concert an' when Chairmon said 'Yo'll o' stand up an sing National Anthem' well up jumped Billy Bluenoase and Joss o'th' Pig Hoills and brasted off wi' Pratty Flowers. The ole fooak, women and childer an' ivverboddy, started singin' it. Th' Chairman kept shaati' an wavin' 'is arms for'em to stop, but thi' thowt he wor conductin, an thi sang till thi guiders o' ther necks stuck att loike whipstocks. By gum, Chairman wor sum nattle abbaat it.'*

Prior to 1850 few people knew the words of the national anthem, as it was not written until the reign of Queen Victoria. It is therefore likely that the residents of Holmfirth would try to learn the words and tune to demonstrate their patriotism. Ammon Wrigley also went on to say that every living thing in Holmfirth that has a voice or shouts, sings the Holmfirth Anthem. Dogs bark it, cats mew it, ducks quack it, cocks crow it and hens cackle it when the've laid an egg. He did not however say what the members of The Holme Valley Lodge did when they sang it.

## **THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Following the consecration of The Holme Valley Lodge in 1855 social events have always played some part in the life of its members.

As early as 1871 balls are recorded as being held, once or twice a year, at the Town Hall, Holmfirth, and from 1896 picnics were taking place days at Bolton woods, Chatsworth House, Studley Royal and other venues.

These were organised by various senior members of the lodge, and it was not until 1925, after the move to the present lodge premises, that it was decided to form an entertainment committee.

The committee, which was formed on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1925, consisted of Bros. John Arthur Charlesworth, Herbert Pickles, Fred Lockwood, Benjamin Andrew Moorhouse and Herbert Smith and was principally responsible for providing the harmony on the occasion of every lodge meeting at the festive board.

It was normal practice during this period for the entertainment on these evenings to be performed by either a member of The Holme Valley Lodge, or a visitor from another lodge.

It has to be remembered that women were not permitted to enter the lodge or take part in the organization of any function at that time.

Those ladies attending dances which were often held at the Masonic Hall could only gain access to the top floor by the spiral staircase with its entrance at the side of the building, and which led directly into the room adjacent to the Temple, and as late as 1980 it was not unusual for the wives of members to be seen outside the building, in the car park opposite the lodge, waiting to collect their husbands on Thursday evenings.

By 1972 it had become the regular practice for the wife of the incoming Master to invite the wives of his officers to her home for tea and biscuits on installation day and other lodge nights.

This practice ultimately gave rise to the formation of the present social committee as it was felt by these ladies that if they were allowed to help organise certain social functions they could also assist the lodge by raising money.

The lodge was at that time experiencing some financial problems. The three principal instigators for the formation of a social committee were W. Bro. Gerald Pollitt, Bro. Edgar Dickinson and Bro. George Griffiths. The proposal to form a committee, which it was suggested would consist of certain members of the lodge and their wives, was put to the Past Masters and was met with a great deal of opposition. Hinchliffe Brook and Harry Dawson in particular, felt that women should play no part in Masonic life. So entrenched was their opposition to the proposal that during Worshipful Brother Geoffrey Richardson's Mastership, Hinchliffe Brook addressed the Brethren in open lodge and strongly condemned the holding, of what had been the first Sunday lunch to be held at the Masonic Hall to which the ladies had been invited. He also condemned the fact that the money raised by this function was to be kept in a separate bank account held by the social committee and was not to be transferred immediately to the general lodge funds. W. Bro. Richardson was supported by W. Bro Carl Mellor, who had attended the luncheon and who said he had thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. W. Bro. Richardson then replied in no uncertain terms, that he felt that the invitation of the ladies had in no way affected the general running or ceremonies of the lodge and that the funds raised could only be of benefit to its members. This proved to be the case, as since its conception, the social committee has been responsible for raising large amounts of money, the bulk of which has been used for the improvement of the lodge premises and purchasing items for the benefit of its members. The first chairman was W. Bro. Gerald Pollitt, who along with his wife Mildred, worked tirelessly for the well being of the lodge. W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson served as Treasurer for a number of years and was ably assisted by his wife Mabel. It was decided that the Senior Warden should hold the position of chairman, and that he should remain on the committee during his year as Master of the lodge. This system is still in operation today. Functions were held several times a year and were varied in their style and content. Some consisted of simple whist nights, some were Sunday lunches, whilst others were less formal and included Beaujolais nouveau evenings, V.E. day celebrations, Bavarian nights, spooky doo's, Burn's nights and many others and gave the Brethren and their ladies the opportunity to either dress formally or let their hair down and put on fancy dress. Despite the early opposition to its formation, credit must be given to the members of the social committee, both male and female, for the tremendous amount of work they have undertaken, and the amount of money they have raised in support

of the lodge, for without them many of the extras that are now taken for granted would not exist.



## **PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

Nineteen eighty-one heralded the arrival of a Provincial Grand Master as a member of The Holme Valley Lodge. This occurred when R.W. Bro. Charles Connal Wilson, Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire was balloted for in February as a joining member. He remained a member of the lodge until his death on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December 1993 aged seventy-two years.

The installation of Bro George Griffiths took place in December 1981. He had been prevented from attaining the Master's chair the previous year due to ill health. He was a very popular figure within the lodge and an entertaining speaker.

After his installation the junior brethren came from the supper room below, where they had been dining, to toast his health. Round their necks they draped toilet seats and various other plumbing implements. Needless to say George Griffiths was a master plumber.

At the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1982 he informed the Brethren, that due to the diligence and researches of Bros. Derek Beaumont and Gordon R. Mellor, the lodge was now the proud keeper of a large, green cut glass decanter which had belonged to the members of Calf's Heart and Bacon Club.

The club, he said, had used this decanter at dinners held by them in the Holmfirth area during the 1840-1850 periods and that some of its members, including one Cookson Stephenson Floyd were founder members of The Holme Valley Lodge when it was formed in 1855. The decanter and the minute books of the club were, for some time, placed on display in the lodge premises.

Nineteen eighty-four brought with it further financial problems when dry rot was discovered in the lodge room. Estimates were sought to remedy this but as these proved to be in the region of £1800.00 it was felt that substantial savings could be made by employing local labour, to be supervised by the Clerk of Works Bro. George Hardy. This action was taken and resulted in the saving of almost £1000.00, as the final bill was £880.90.

It was also decided that as some invoices allowed for settlement by instalment, payment of these should be left to the discretion of the Treasurer to pay when funds became available.

The central heating boiler was the next major item to give cause for concern. It had become corroded and could not be repaired. Consideration was given to converting from oil to gas and the fitting of a new boiler but this would cost in the region of a further £1500.00. In the event it was replaced at a cost over £2000.00, although a cheque for £500.00 was received from the Social Committee to help toward this amount.

The Treasurer W. Bro. Jack Swallow having estimated the financial position of the lodge to the end of the year, reported that if all subscriptions came in promptly, together with the projected bar profits, there would be sufficient money to cover the basic running of the lodge but made no provision for maintenance and repairs.

It had been suggested earlier that certain members would find it easier to pay their annual subscription by instalments but it was decided that due to the precarious state of lodge finances this was not an option that could be considered.

The following month it was brought to the notice of the Lodge Management Committee that the whole building was in need of rewiring and that the roof required insulating. The estimated costs of this was £2000.00 and £200.00 respectively and whilst it was felt that this was urgently needed, it was decided to discuss the financing of these schemes at a later date. By this time there was approximately £300.00 left in the building fund.

In October of 1985 the Treasurer once again gave a detailed forecast of the projected receipts and payments for the final quarter of the year. He stated that although the lodge had started the year with a deficit of £791.00 together with outstanding accounts for payment of £2126.00 he hoped to end the year with a very small surplus.

He added however that since the Building fund now contained only £300.00, should some unforeseen and expensive repairs arise there was inadequate reserve of funds to cover such a contingency.

\*

During the mid nineteen eighties problems were arising for the Masonic movement in general due in part to adverse comments appearing in the press, the media and from local and central government, particularly with regard to its alleged secrecy.

Much discussion took place at Grand Lodge regarding the best method of resolving the matter and it was decided in 1986 that 'all references to physical penalties be omitted from the obligations taken by Candidates in the three degrees, and by the Master Elect at his Installation, but retained elsewhere in the

respective ceremonies.’ The Holme Valley Lodge, after much debate and with a certain amount of regret, implemented these changes. This was to alter the nature of the various ceremonies forever.

\*

By 1991 the cost of maintaining the Masonic Hall was again giving rise for concern.

Certain of its members favoured the idea of selling the building and moving to smaller cheaper premises. However following much discussion it was decided to make further large-scale alterations to the building and incorporate two offices on the ground floor with the intention of their being let to provide much needed regular income.

This action was to prove most fortuitous as the finances of the lodge were immediately put on a much firmer footing and the lodge has continued to prosper to the present day.

Since the finances of the lodge were now more secure it was decided to proceed with several projects that had been deferred for lack of funds.

The first was the replacement of all the windows in the building. It had been initially proposed that these be painted, but in view of the cost it was decided, if possible, to replace them with U.P.V.C. windows.

Permission was sought and granted in 1997 by Kirklees council, and the organization for their replacement was put in the hands of Bro. Ian Birks who had previously obtained a favourable estimate for their installation.

\*

A new millennium was rapidly approaching and with it the prospect of two major milestones in the lodge’s history, first the celebration of the new millennium and secondly the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of the lodge. The first obstacle to be overcome was that of cost, and at the suggestion of W. Bro. John Griffiths a celebration account was opened in 1997 and several social functions were organized to raise money for these events.

The millennium arrived and was celebrated in fine style by many of the Brethren their ladies and friends at a new-year dinner and ball held at the Masonic Hall and entertainment was provided prior to welcoming in the new-year at midnight.

\*

By now the entrance to the lodge, the staircase and supper room, which had been painted several years previously was in need of redecoration, and it was felt, particularly in view of the pending one-hundred and fiftieth celebration, that this should be carried out.

The wallpaper was beginning to hang off the wall and it was no longer possible to just repaint these areas. The plaster on the beams was by now beginning to crack and it was felt therefore that a major redecoration project should be undertaken.

Several options were considered, but finally at the suggestion of W. Bro. Peter Berry, it was decided that as the building was of a mid-victorian period, the décor should reflect that era. Estimates were obtained and the work commenced under the supervision of W. Bro. Berry and Bro. Ronnie Hunter, both members undertaking much of the work themselves at no cost to the lodge.

## **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP**

The date of the approaching one-hundred and fiftieth year celebration was discussed at length and whilst the lodge had originally been consecrated on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1857 it was felt that nothing was to be gained by applying for a dispensation for it to be held on the actual date of consecration, but that the event should be celebrated on the nearest lodge night, that being the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Plans had to be formulated for the programme and the general form that the occasion would take.

At a meeting of the Lodge Management Committee it was decided that this should be put in the hands of W. Bro. Peter Berry, who was to provide the content and format of the programme and arranged a small token as a remembrance of the occasion.

It was agreed that the gift should take the form of a boxed, engraved whisky tumbler and miniature bottle of whisky and was to be given to every guest at the festive board along with a copy of the one hundred and fiftieth celebration programme.

W. Bro Brian Martyn arranged the printing of the programmes, invitations, table plans and the general smooth running of the celebration.

The proceedings commenced under the direction of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Ian D. Birks at 6.30pm in the presence of The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W. Bro. Jack Pigott, P.G.Swd B., the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Maurice Bendig J.P. P.S.G.D., R.W. Bro. J. Trevor Broadley, J.P. Past P.G.M., W. Bro. John Burnham, P.S.G.D., Past Asst. P.G.M., W. Bro. Derek L. Telford, P.J.D.G., W. Bro. Gordon Wilkinson, P.J.G.D., W. Bro. John H. Bradley, P.A.G.D.C., W. Bro. John B. Gledhill, P.G.Std.B., W. Bro J.T. Sawdon, Prov. D.G.D.C., nine Masters of Lodges, thirty two visitors, W. Bro. John D McRiner, P.P.S.G.W., Lodge Liason Officer, W. Bro. Rodney Smith, P.P.G.Swd .B. representing the H.D.I.M.A. and thirty-seven members of The Holme Valley Lodge.

The most senior member of the lodge, W. Bro Geoffrey Richardson P.P.J.G.W., welcomed all present, after which the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro. Jack Pigott suitably responded.

The minutes of the lodge held one hundred years ago were read and were followed by a short history of The Holme Valley Lodge given by W. Bro. Peter Berry P.P.G.Reg. The lodge closed in peace and harmony at 8.15 pm.

Following the formal toasts at the festive board, W. Bro Neil H. Beaumont, P.P.G.Reg. proposed the following toast to Province, when he said:

*W. Brn. and Brn, having been initiated in October 1962, that makes me the second longest serving member of this excellent and delightful lodge, it is but fitting, and my privilege, on this auspicious occasion, to propose the toast to Provincial Grand Lodge, coupled with the Very Worshipful Brother Jack Pigott, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of West Yorkshire.*

*His predecessors in this illustrious organisation allowed and encouraged W. Bro. Cookson Stephenson Floyd - Master, Bro. Joseph Mellor - S.W. and Bro. John Burton - J.W and their colleagues one hundred and fifty years ago, to found The Holme Valley Lodge No. 652. They did this with the assistance of local lodges - Peace, Harmony, Huddersfield, Truth and Candour whose successors are represented here this evening.*

*They were obviously men of enthusiasm and optimism and they would be very proud to see the lodge as it is today. They started something, of which my experience is less than a third of that time, but it leaves me with wonderful memories of the happenings here and the personalities which Freemasonry has a great ability to develop as they go through the various stages of increased participation.*

*In my case being proposed by my uncle Norman Marsh, and seconded by Hinchliffe Brook, preceded by Jack Swallow and followed by Geoffrey Birks through most of my Masonic career. Peter Berry, Treasurer, interior designer and now archivist, I did a good job when I raised him in 1979, - Edward Heap, Director of Ceremonies for at least thirty years, - Carl Mellor and Jack Schofield our Grand Lodge Officers, lovely people and great characters.*

*Geoffrey Richardson, Ted Bowman and Tony Ward for their music, Edgar Dickinson, preceptor for years. The Greens, they're a party of influence; three generations of service. Michael Hellawell and Brian Martyn for their inspiring secretary-ships, Michael again for long service as Clerk of Works along with Reg Senior and Ronnie Hunter.*

*The Masters, all stamping their individuality during their year in office.*

*My Godson W. Bro. Ian Birks today following in his father's footsteps.*

*David Birch, Chaplain and his very sincere successors.*

*George Griffiths, Harold Battye and Ces Bradbury for their wit in their toasts and responses.*

*The Past Masters, the Purveyors, the social committee members and their wives, and dozens more, all contributing their part in the lodge transition and development. Province is a further extension of this development, for the prime movers in masonry to continue to guide our institution through changing situations: - we are so pleased to welcome them today.*

*In the early days perhaps things were more straightforward, there were not so many distractions, the pace of life was slower, and yet getting to the lodge was not so easy, hours of work were longer and electricity was not there to lighten their path.*

*But the lodge flourished and hundreds of Brethren and their wives have taken pleasure and entertainment over those one hundred and fifty years.*

*So what of the future? There are more distractions such as television and the internet, the pace of life is faster and work tends to be more demanding, but we have light, and vehicles to get us to the lodge, and mankind still needs brotherhood and fellowship.*

*With the Province of West Riding to the fore, led by the Brothers we see here today in the form of the Very Worshipful Brother Jack Pigott and his colleagues and backed up by the strength of our various lodges, we salute them and give a great vote of confidence for the future of freemasonry.*

*W. Brn, and Brn. I invite you to rise and drink right heartily to:*

*Provincial Grand Lodge coupled with the names of:*

*The Very Worshipful Bro. Jack Pigott*

*W. Bro Maurice Bendig*

*W. Bro. J.Michael Green*

*W. Bro. James K.Batty*

*W. Bro. Stewart G. Carley*

*W. Bro. Anthony B. Brailsford*

*and the rest of the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge present and past.*

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master in responding to the toast referred to the lodge's motto 'By industry we prosper,' and recalled that the lodge had indeed prospered from the endeavours of the founders and their successors 'all good men and true Freemasons and then, as now, involved at the heart of the community.'

He spoke of the early history of the lodge and its first Master, W. Bro. Cookson Stephenson Floyd, and referred to the tradition of music in the Holme Valley which he said continued today, thanks to the tremendous work of W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson who was heavily involved with the community. He concluded by saying, ‘Brethren, you have visible proof of your forefathers’ legacy of 150 years of Freemasonry in Holmfirth, a legacy of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. We should use these great ideals, the principles and tenets of our wonderful Order, to take this lodge forward another 150 years. They might not know it, but in this uncertain world, men need Freemasonry, just as they did in 1857.’

\*

The evening would not have been complete without the harmony provided at the festive board, which for many years had been regarded as the finest in the Province.

The entertainment that night proved to be no exception and was provided by Jane Hobson, accompanied by Lorraine Pearson on the piano.

The Brethren then joined W. Bro. Tony Ward, accompanied by W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson on the piano, in resounding rendition of Pratty Flowers, a song dedicated to its first Master, Cookson Stephenson Floyd, and sung on many occasions at The Holme Valley Lodge since its conception in 1855.

Finally, by command of the Worshipful Master Bro. Ian Birks, the Tyler Bro. John Roebuck, rose to propose the last Masonic Toast, ‘To all poor and distressed Masons throughout the universe, speedy relief,’ after which one hundred and fifty years of comradeship, fellowship, benevolence and goodwill came to a close.



## **BUSINESS AS USUAL**

The one hundred and fifty year celebrations having now taken place it was time to return to business as usual. As several projects had been proposed prior to the celebrations and as the lodge was now in a stable financial position it was felt that these should be reviewed once again.

Two items were placed at the top of the agenda. The first, the restoration of the paintings of the founders which were hanging on the walls in the upper passage leading to the Temple, and the second the decoration of the same passage, to include the lowering of the ceiling and the updating of the upstairs bar.

At the Lodge Management Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007

W. Bro Ian Birks reported that he had contacted Sarah Shaw, a local artist, with a view to her restoring the portrait of Cookson Stephenson Floyd, and it was estimated that the work would cost in the region of £1000.00 to £1200.00.

Before proceeding it was agreed that W. Bro. E.J. Sandland should obtain further quotes and that W. Bro. Tim Coy would contact Tennant's Auctioneers to obtain a list of alternative qualified restorers and enquire if they were aware of the quality of Sarah Shaw's work. Further discussion took place and it was decided, on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008, to authorise her to proceed with the restoration.

The following month W. Bro. Hunter presented plans and a quotation of £2614.00 for decorating, and the lowering the ceiling in the upstairs passage. This was duly approved and work commenced. By early August the alterations were complete and on the 7<sup>TH</sup> August W. Bro. Hunter reported to the committee that he had completed the project and that he was now ready to proceed with updating the upstairs bar which it was agreed would have a combined use as both a bar and a changing room.

\*

It had been considered for some time that the books and records of the lodge should be made more easily accessible to those Brethren who wished to study them, it was therefore suggested that W. Bro. Berry be appointed lodge librarian and that he should suggest a site for their location. The site chosen was the

*The face of W. Bro. Cookson Stephenson Floyd, before and after restoration. The portrait was painted in 1859 just prior to his death on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1859. He was forty-eight years of age.*



secretary's office adjoining the supper room and the books and records were subsequently transferred there.

\*

W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson had been a staunch supporter of the lodge for fifty years since his initiation on, the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1959, and this was celebrated by the presentation to him, on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Connaught Court, of a Jubilee Certificate by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Colin Dent. It was reported that the ceremony took place in the presence of about twenty lodge members and was attended by all the residents of Connaught Court. He was later made an honorary member of the lodge in January 2013.

\*

The portrait of Cookson Stephenson Floyd had by now been in the hands of Sarah Shaw for some considerable time and it was agreed that she should be approached with a view to its being returned to the lodge, preferably before the December installation. It was subsequently returned by her, fully restored, in November 2009. However many of the Brethren felt that the restoration had been too severe and that it was no longer a likeness of the first Master. In consequence of this, the decision to restore the portraits of the other first officers of the lodge was deferred to a later date.

\*

It was towards the end of 2006, that the then Junior Warden, Bro. John Michael Coupland gave notice to the Brethren that due to his present business commitments he would be unable to progress to the office of Senior Warden. Fortunately W. Bro. Edward Sandland agreed to fill that office and it was also proposed that W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson should occupy the chair of Master the following year and on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007 he was duly installed as Master for a second time.

A letter of congratulation was sent to him from W. Bro. Geoffrey Richardson, who apologised to the Brethren for missing the installation for the first time in forty-eight years. He wrote;

*"I shall be thinking of you and may I send my best wishes and congratulations to my very dear and brave friend W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson. I know he will receive lots of help and keep the Lodge on a steady course."*

A second letter was received by W. Bro. John Griffiths, from W. Bros. Evan Griffiths, (W. Bro. Griffith's brother), Fred Lagosh and Edward Hadigian of the Sequin-Level Lodge, Newington, Connecticut, U.S.A., they had previously been guests of the lodge in September 2005, and had become firm friends of Edgar Dickinson.

The letter read as follows;

*Dear W. Bro John,*

*Worshipful Brother Evan Griffiths, Bro. Fred Lagosh, and I want to send our warmest regards to all the Brothers of Holmfirth Lodge.*

*We regret we cannot be at the upcoming installation of Worshipful Brother Edgar Dickinson, MBE. We want to convey to him and the Brothers how honoured we are to be part of your Lodge and our special association as Brothers across the pond.*

*We want to extend our congratulations to W. Bro. Dickinson, and wish him a most productive and rewarding year in the East.*

*W. Bro. Dickinson has been honoured in many ways during his long Masonic career. However, he has been gracious and has constantly given to others over his long and productive life. **“What life has given W. Bro. Dickinson, he has given back ten – fold.”***

*His continued effort to help others is a quality that most try to achieve but are not as successful.*

*If however there was a reward that we could bestow upon this very special Mason it is an award that should be entitled **“SERVICE ABOVE SELF.”***

*Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every-one on this special event when Masons select a special Brother Mason to lead from that Station in the East.*

*Fraternally yours,*

*Fred, Evan and Ed.*

\*

Whilst the lodge was experiencing an upsurge in membership it was also losing a number of Brethren due to their death. At the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 it was reported that Brother Anthony Percival Swallow had died suddenly on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, aged 66. This was followed by death of W. Bro. Sam Priest on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009, aged 89, Bro. Peter Glover on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009, aged 69, and W. Bro. Brian Hodgson on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 aged 82.

\*

Despite these losses the business of the lodge carried on much as usual. However unfortunately following the election of W. Bro. Nicholas Rowland as Treasurer on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 he found, that due to certain unexpected personal commitments, he would be unable to occupy that office. A dispensation was rapidly sought and at the installation held the following month W. Bro. Peter Berry was once again elected Treasurer. He had previously held that position for

ten years and was to remain in that office a further four years until December 2013, when following his retirement the position was taken by W. Bro. Edward Sandland.

\*

After his work organising the 150 year celebration it became apparent to W. Bro. Berry that much of the history of the lodge was in danger of being lost. He therefore decided that this was in need of recording and with this in mind on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010, and after almost two years research, he presented to the Lodge Management Committee a hard bound copy of the history of the first one hundred and fifty years of the Lodge. He was duly thanked for his hard work and it was agreed that he should obtain a quote for fifty copies which would then be made available for purchase by the lodge members. This number proved to be insufficient as the book sold well and copies quickly became unavailable. It had been his wish that a copy be presented to each Brother upon his initiation but it was decided by the committee that the cost (£577.50) for the additional copies required was unacceptable. However the income from the sale of the original fifty copies exceeded the cost of their printing and a small profit was made which was added to the general lodge funds.

\*

The following month the lodge was honoured by a surprise visit from the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Kendall Clayton who had come to pay tribute to W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson, and in recognition of his charity work within the Province to promote him to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. At the same meeting a copy of the lodge history was presented to the Provincial Grand Master by W. Bro. Peter Berry to be placed in the Provincial Grand Lodge library at Bradford. A copy had been previously sent and accepted by Grand Lodge in London.

Once again W. Bro Dickinson proved to be a very popular Master, and his ceremonies were well attended. Regrettably he died the following year on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the age of 87. His friend W. Bro. Ces Bradbury paid tribute to him at the August meeting of the lodge.

\*

The safety and security of the building and particularly its contents had been of concern for some time and the installation of a sophisticated alarm entry system was discussed. This however was deferred until Bro. James Deane, a security engineer, could give a more detailed explanation of a suitable system. The system he recommended was subsequently authorised and the installation carried out by him. Bro. Deane very generously carried out its installation at very little cost to the lodge. Whilst the security of the building and its contents had been discussed recently, it came as something of a surprise when in July 2010 a large number of

flag stones were stolen from the rear of the building. Fortunately this was covered by insurance and Bro. Ashley Craven was able to arrange for the loss to be rectified.

\*

In January of 2012, the Treasurer announced that he had received a Past Master's jewel previously belonging to W. Bro. Jack Atkinson, who had been Master of the lodge in 1955. Whilst W. Bro. Atkinson had not served in that office in the officially recognised centenary year of 1957 he had nevertheless been installed as Master in 1955, one hundred years after the lodge had held its first meeting, and in view of this it was felt that the jewel should become a permanent attachment to the Past Master's collar. This proposal however was never implemented.

\*

The lodge had now been in existence for one hundred and sixty years and during that period few of its Brethren had remained members for over fifty years.

One of those who had however was W. Bro. Neil Beaumont who was initiated on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1962. He had been proposed by his uncle W. Bro. Norman Marsh and seconded by W. Bro. Hinchliffe Brook.

W. Bro. Beaumont was an active member and had attended the lodge regularly over that period of time. He was also well respected by his fellow members, and had taken part in many of the lodge's ceremonies. On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, fifty years to the day he addressed the Brethren, giving them a summary of his fifty years in Free Masonry. He was then presented with a fifty year jubilee certificate by W. Bro. Maurice Bendig, who said that he wished him well but that W. Bro. Beaumont's address to the Brethren had not left him very much more to say. W. Bro. Beaumont thanked him most sincerely for the presentation.

\*

In mid-November 2012 The Holme Valley Lodge suffered a great loss in the form of the death of W. Bro. Michael Hellowell. He had been an active member of the lodge since his initiation on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1973 and was a founder member of the limbo club.

He was an architect by profession, and served on several of the lodge's committees. He had played an active part in all the alterations carried out within and without of the building. At meetings and at the festive board his presence was always felt and he was sadly missed by his friends and Brethren of the lodge.

\*

The installation took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 of Bro. John Michael Coupland as Master of The Holme Valley Lodge and Bro. Nicholas Bunn was duly appointed and installed as his Senior Warden. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen misunderstanding Bro. Bunn decided to resign, one month later, in January of the following year. This presented the lodge with a major problem.

However this was quickly rectified as W. Bro. Allen France who had previously occupied the chair as Master in 1986, was prepared to accept the office and to progress to the Master's chair the following year. He was therefore installed as Senior Warden on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013, but prior to his installation in that office, the secretary reported the death of a former Past Master of the lodge, W. Bro. James Broadbent. He too had played an active part in many of the alterations to the building particularly those made in 1989 when he acted as chairman on the committee overseeing the work carried out at that time. It is interesting to note that W. Bro. Allen France had previously served in the office of Junior Warden during the year W. Bro. Broadbent occupied the Master's chair.

\*

Charity has always played a major part of Masonic life and in 2012 following an application by the then Charity Steward W.Bro. John Green, for a grant to be made from the Provincial Grand Master's fund for new instruments for the Hepworth Brass Band a major award of £20,000.00 was approved and a cheque presented to them at the Royal Armouries, Leeds. W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson had been President and sponsor of the band for many years.

Following this success W. Bro. Kenneth Manning, the current charity steward, announced to those members of the lodge management committee present at the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013, that following an application made by him to the Provincial Grand Master's fund, another major grant of £18,000.00 had been awarded to "Hade Edge Football Club" to be used towards the cost of rebuilding of the changing room and general facilities. He made a further application the following year when yet another major grant of £25,000.00 was secured, this time for the "Skate4Isaac" fund as a contribution towards the building of a skate park at Sands, Holmfirth. This was to commemorate the memory of Isaac Atkinson who had died tragically at the age of fourteen.

\*

The death of W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson had been felt deeply by the Brethren and in March of 2012, the Treasurer reported to the Management Committee that a legacy of £10,000.00 had been left by him to the lodge. Several propositions were considered as to its use. These included the building of a patio outside the lodge adjacent to the lower bar, a new portrait of the Queen, a new third degree tracing board, an outside lift, a new organ/digital keyboard for the Temple and the refurbishment of the Temple, to include air conditioning. In the event it was agreed at the annual general meeting held in November 2012 that the legacy should be used towards the cost of refurbishing the Temple, including air conditioning if costs permitted, as this was a project of which it was felt he would have approved.

Following this meeting, W. Bro. Berry reported that he had received a quote of £5000.00 for plastering the Temple, but this did not include any work required to the ceiling and was subject to there being no unforeseen problems. After some discussion it was agreed that W. Bro. Ronnie Hunter take control of the project and report back to the committee. Unfortunately as a consequence of his moving from Holmfirth to Flamborough he felt that he would be unable to fulfil this obligation and it was therefore proposed that W. Bro. Berry be asked undertake the work. Prior to this the members had intimated that there were several things they wished to see incorporated in the refurbishment. These included replastering the ceiling, new lighting, columns to be erected behind the three principal officer's chairs and new coving to be fitted around the ceiling. It was agreed however that the overall budget should not exceed £20,000.00. The work commenced on Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and was completed in early December when the Worshipful Master, Bro. John Michael Coupland thanked W. Bro. Berry for all his hard work in overseeing the project. In the event the total cost of renovating the Temple was £22,775.05. The social committee agreed to purchase the curtains thus enabling the project to fall almost within the set budget. During the Mastership of W. Bro. Coupland and in his capacity as lodge historian another major project was undertaken by him, that of supervising the fitting of a display cabinet in the supper room to house many of the interesting and previously unseen artifacts of the lodge.

\*

The installation of W. Bro. Allen France took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in the newly re-furbished Temple. He had previously been installed as Master in December 1985 and had overseen a lodge which was in a dire financial state and a building which required many unaffordable repairs. During his second term of office as Master however the finances of the lodge were secure and many of the projects that would have been impossible in 1985 were now achievable.

During his year as Master of the lodge his past expertise was evident and the year was enjoyed both by himself and the Brethren, his previous term of office had been somewhat overshadowed by the death on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1985 of his Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Edward Heap, who suffered a heart attack and died whilst delivering the Ancient Charge during the initiation of his colleague John Beddard.

\*

Two thousand and fourteen proved to be a satisfying year, beginning in December 2013 with the installation of W. Bro. Allen Melville France, a Past Master of some experience, and ended in December 2014 with the installation of a new Master, Bro. David John Neve, a Brother who it was felt would continue to maintain the high standards expected of The Holme Valley Lodge and take it forward into 2015 with the same degree of success as his predecessors.



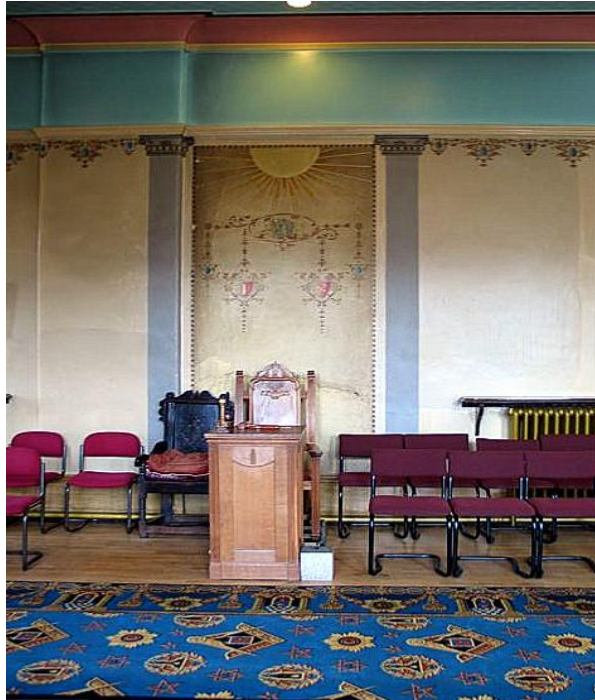
### **THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE**

The Druids Hall, when purchased in nineteen hundred and seventeen, was in a dreadful state of repair. In fact such was its condition that it was four years before the building was fit to be used for regular Masonic meetings.

The room on the second floor was to be the Masonic Temple and it would appear from its construction that when first built as part of the Druid's Hall it consisted of one large room and that the addition of a wall to form a corridor leading from the second flight of stairs to the Temple was added at a later date. Whilst plans of the building to substantiate this theory are missing, the structure of the wall behind the Junior Warden's chair is lathe and plaster on a wooden frame through which the original coving ran into what is now the corridor outside the Temple. Since the coving did not extend above the Junior Warden's chair this would give further credence to this possibility.

\*

Repairs to the building in the years following its purchase appear to have been minimal and this, together with a general lack of funds, contributed to the general wear and tear in the room. However in 1957, as the centenary celebrations were approaching, the condition of the building became of some concern. It was decided therefore that a sum of £700.00 be transferred, as a loan, from the lodge general account to the Centenary Fund to enable the Treasurer to meet the costs likely to be incurred in renovating and decorating the Temple prior to the celebrations. The cost of redecorating was £282.0.0 (plus extra for gold leaf) and at the suggestion of Bro. Frank Platt fifteen lights were fitted in the ceiling. This amount, plus the additional cost of the general renovations of the building, put a great deal of strain on the finances of the lodge, which were now in a critical state. Such was the financial position that the then Treasurer, Herbert H. Hirst, appealed to the Brethren to assist by all means possible, and in view of the amount having been spent it was suggested, in November 1958, that in future Bro. Eric Wood, a master painter, should be paid £5.0.0 per year to maintain the lodge room decorations in good order.



*The Holme Valley Lodge  
Temple  
Prior to Alterations*



During the subsequent fifty years little attention appears to have been paid to either the condition or decoration within the Temple. However in the period between 1980 and 1990 the room was partially re-decorated by Bro. John Schofield, the son of W. Bro. Jack Schofield, and in the early part of the twenty first century it was decorated once again by Bro. Ronnie Hunter, both members retaining the ornate wall features first used in 1957.

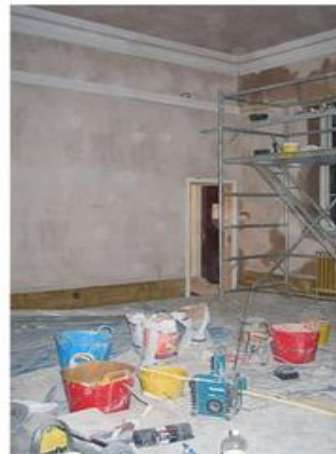
Regrettably despite time and money having been spent repainting the room, by 2011 the general condition of the walls was again giving rise to some concern. The plaster which had been applied in 1917 was now beginning to crack and had become loose in places and was in danger of falling off the wall. The decoration within the room had become dirty and the curtains were in urgent need of replacement, giving an overall impression of decline and decay.

During the early part of the twenty-first century there had been much discussion as to the possibility of re-furbishing the Temple but regrettably little progress had been made. It was only following the death, on the 24 July 2011, of W. Bro. Edgar Dickinson one of the lodge's most respected Past Masters that the matter was once again raised and the prospect of the work commencing became a reality. On his death, Edgar Dickinson, who had been for many years one of the lodge's main benefactors, left a legacy of £10,000 to be used as the members felt fit.

Much discussion took place and several suggestions were put forward with respect to its most appropriate use.

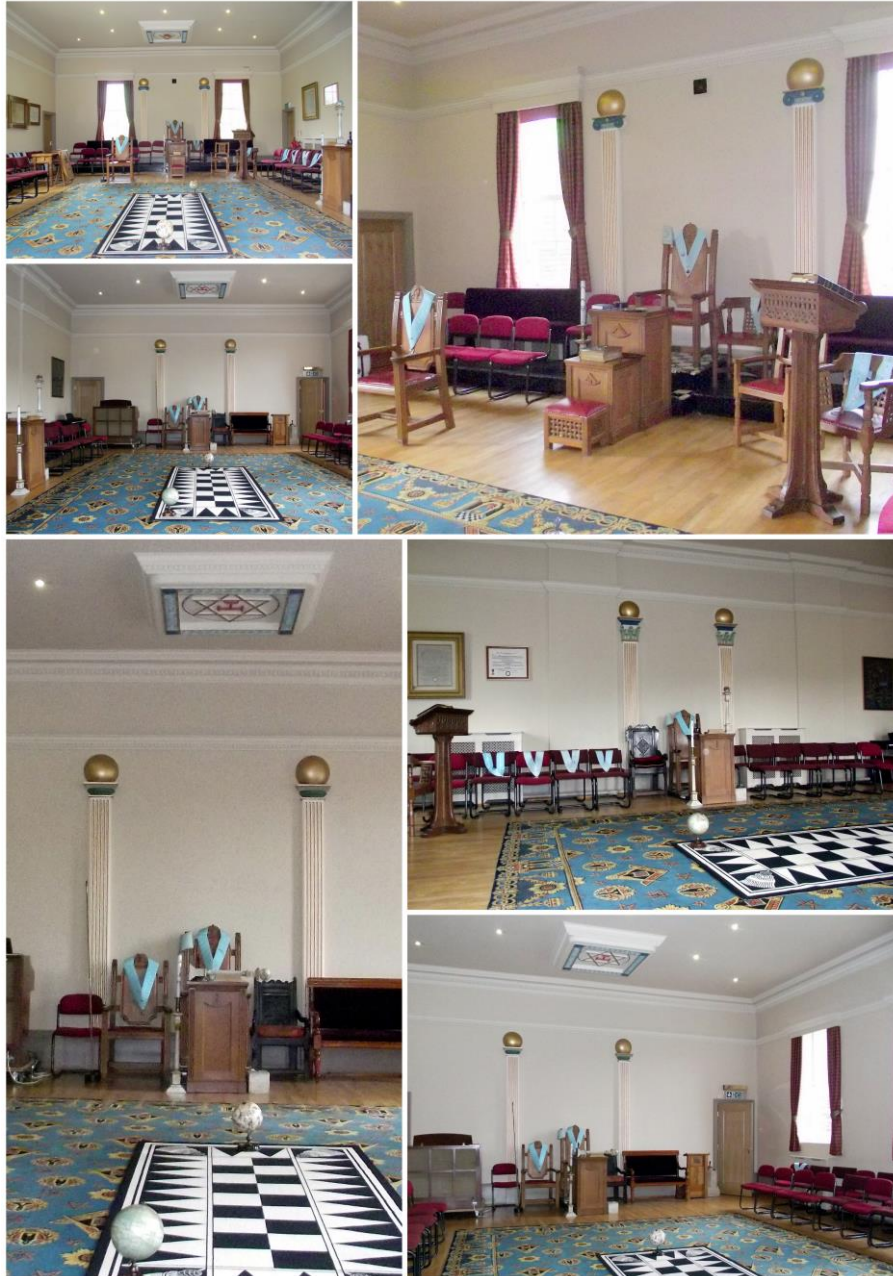
It was finally decided that the legacy should be used to augment money already held in the lodge general fund to completely refurbish the Temple, as it was felt that this was a project which would have met with his approval. A budget of £20,000.00 was agreed and the project was placed in the hands of the Clerk of Works, W. Bro. Ronnie Hunter, who proceeded to obtain estimates for the prospective work. Several proposals were presented by him to the Lodge Management Committee, but before the final plans and estimates could be submitted W. Bro. Hunter advised the committee that as he had recently moved from Holmfirth to Flamborough he was now prevented from having regular meetings with the builders. He therefore reluctantly informed them that he would be unable to continue to oversee the work. After further discussion it was decided to ask W. Bro. Peter Berry, who had played a large part in organising the alterations to the supper room, to undertake the supervision of the project.

It was requested by him, that the Brethren submit proposals to the committee in respect of any alterations they would like incorporating in the final design of the room and as a consequence of this it was suggested that coving, incorporating up-lighting, be fitted at the level of the picture rail and that plaster columns be placed behind the Master's and Warden's chairs, all further alteration however to be left in his hands.

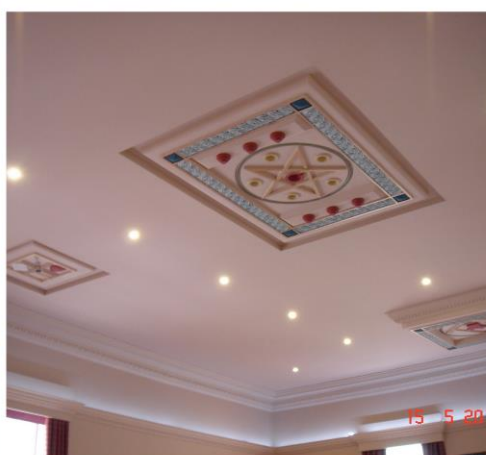


*Work in Progress*





*The New Temple*



*New Temple Ceiling, Display Cabinet and Banner*

Brent Baylis of Plasterline, an expert in ornamental plastering, was contacted and an estimate for the full refurbishment of the Temple obtained. He had previously carried out the alterations in the supper room in 2006, and it was felt that his work was of a particularly high standard. This was presented to the Lodge Management Committee and was duly approved.

\*

The work began on Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and it was hoped that it would be completed by the 17<sup>th</sup> November, the date of the next lodge meeting. However problems quickly arose. The plaster, when removed from the walls, was found to be of varying thickness, in some places it was as little as one inch whilst in others it was between four and five inches thick and the walls were neither straight nor were they perpendicular. These complications however were successfully dealt with by the contractors, but having resolved these initial problems the next difficulty proved to be the ceiling. It had been decided to overboard this in order to reduce the amount of dust generated, had the ceiling been completely removed. This however proved to be more difficult than had originally been expected as the joists supporting the ceiling did not conform to their expected layout and it became impossible to accurately locate and attach the lathes supporting the new ceiling without piercing through the ceiling, adjacent to each individual joist from above. Having dealt with this and the other problems the work was now running behind time and it became necessary for the contractors to work late into the evening to keep the project on schedule. As the alterations were taking place in October the evenings were very dark, and since the Temple was in the process of being re-wired it became necessary to use temporary lighting, all of which made conditions difficult for the contractors. Finally the four doors leading into and out of the Temple had clearly been fitted at different periods in the lodge's history as they were all of a different shape and size. It became necessary therefore for each individual door frame to be either increased or decreased in size before the final plastering could take place and new doors of a matching size fitted.

Despite the many problems encountered the alterations were completed almost on time and the room was ready for decorating and the final touches adding.

The refurbishment had, by its very nature, made it necessary for both the Royal Arch Chapter Installation and the November Scroll night to be held in the supper room on the floor below. This was quite unique in the history of both the Lodge and the Chapter, but was nevertheless enjoyed by all present.

Finally on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, after a year when so much had been achieved, W. Bro. John Michael Coupland, with a great deal of pride, placed W. Bro. Allen Melville France in the chair of King Solomon in a Temple which could now be said to be one of the finest in the district.



*The Druids' Hall*



## **THE DRUIDS' HALL**

On or about the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1804, James Harrop, a drysalter of Holmfirth, made a will which after various bequests left the bulk of his estate to his four sisters, Mary, the wife of James Hinchliff, Anne, the wife of William Hammerton, Sarah, the wife of Thomas Dransfield and Jane, the wife of John Kaye Wordsworth surgeon and apothecary and their heirs.

\*

It was agreed that the estate, which was reasonably large was to be divided equally between his four sisters. Part of the estate which was to be Jane Wordsworth's legacy was a leasehold parcel of land or ground of about 1000 square yards and certain closes called Haigh Croft and Plumpton and was situated near Holmfirth bounded eastwardly by the Highway, westwardly by the Greenfield and Shepley Lane Head Turnpike Road, northerly by gardens belonging to Richard Boothroyd and southerly by other parts of the closes called Haigh Croft and Plumpton. This was to be the future site of the Druids' Hall.

\*

Following the death of her husband, Jane Wordsworth continued to hold the leasehold until she eventually sold the land to Jonathan Thorpe and Joseph Crawshaw. This was later owned jointly by Jonathan Thorpe and his wife Mary.

\*

On the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1846 at Holmfirth Great Court Baron, Jonathan Thorpe surrendered the lease to Joseph Heeley, Job Dearnley, Jonathan Hinchliff and 18 members of The Ancient Order of the Druids, Lodge 150 for the sum of £190.00. The ground rent, which was paid to the Lord of the Manor was at that time 2d per annum.

\*

The land was sold (as was recorded at the time) 'With the view and intent that there should be erected thereon a hall or meeting room and other buildings for a certain Lodge or Society of persons established at Holmfirth and called The Ancient Order of the Druids, Lodge 150'.

\*

There appears to be some mystery regarding the source of the money required to erect such a palatial building. Records suggest that certain members donated various amounts of money towards its cost, which was said to be in the region of £1800.00 to £2000.00, a vast amount in those days. However these donations were obviously insufficient, because on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1851 when the Hall was near completion a further £450.00 was borrowed from Louisa Hinchliff, a spinster, of Lane Cottage, Upperthong. Louisa Hinchliff, who was thirty-two years old and obviously a woman of some substance lived with her widowed father Joseph, a retired merchant and their general servant Mary Ann Creswick and why the money should have been borrowed from her and not her father also remains something of a mystery. This loan, plus the interest, which now amounted to £459.11.3p was finally repaid to her on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1873 and the lease reverted back to the trustees of the Ancient Order of the Druids, Lodge 150.

\*

The Ancient Order of the Druids was one of several Friendly Societies which were common in the nineteenth century and in the year 1851, five hundred and ninety Druids were recorded in the Holmfirth / Wooldale area. Most of them worked in the textile industry and were principally from the low management class commonly known as foremen, who banded together to form a protective society. One of its main aims was the care and welfare of their own Brethren in distress and also to support their widows and children. In this sense its aims were very similar to those of our own Masonic movement. Their rules however were quite strict, in fact The Prince Albert Lodge of Ancient Druids in Thurstonland stipulated that no member would receive benefits for ‘hurts or sickness’ occasioned by ‘drinking, fighting or attending dog fighting, cockfighting, bull-baiting or mankind fighting with each other, wrestling the venereal disease or attending any demoralising game or place unless in the capacity of a Peace officer, or by carrying or firing a gun except it be in the military service, self defence or the protection of property’.

\*

Management of the Druid’s Hall was vested in a permanent committee of nine members of the Lodge 150 appointed by a 2/3rds majority at a specially convened meeting. However their rules stated that should any other Druid’s lodge established in the Holmfirth area and using the Druids’ Hall subscribe at least £60.00 they had the right to appoint one of their own members onto the committee. Other lodges did in fact use the hall, one being The Ancient Order of Druidesses No. 4. However some changes occurred in 1850 as The Briton’s Pride Lodge No. 150 was now being referred to as Lodge No. 346.

It was reported in the Huddersfield Chronicle, that The Briton's Pride Lodge No. 346, who occupied the Druid's Hall, and who had almost 400 members, held their annual day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 1855, when, *'a most sumptuous repast was satisfactorily served up by Mr A. Hartley, the landlord.'*

Following the meal, a glee party and several of the members of the Druids provided entertainment.

Other organisations made use of the Druids' Hall, one of these being the Secular and Republican movement which was reported in the 'Reasoner' to have held a meeting there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1857 when following lectures given by George Jacob Holyoake, who was a vigorous campaigner, atheist, self-proclaimed agitator and champion of the working class, a collection was made for funds to support his 'mission' to the West Riding.

Holyoake published an article in the Reasoner relating to this visit when he wrote;

*"If Dewsbury was drizzled, Holmfirth was drenched. Much has been said about the great flood at Holmfirth, and if washed away a better Holmfirth could be built."*

*The Druids' Hall where the lectures were held, is however a pleasant place, and the number of persons present showed that no amount of drenching would wash the spirit out of the Holmfirth people.*

*A young man, a Wesleyan, who always shut his eyes when he opened his mouth, who looked asleep, but was uncomfortably awake, made many somnolent comments.*

*I am sorry a daguerreotype of the Druids' Hall during the debates cannot accompany this report."*

Further lectures of a similar nature were held at the Druids' Hall in January 1861, when the speakers on this occasion were George Jacob Holyoake, his brother Austen Holyoake, Joseph Barker and Charles Bradlaugh, generally known as 'Ironoclast', a pseudonym used by him to protect his employer, he was at this time employed as a solicitors clerk.

\*

By August 1895 all the original trustees had died, with the exception of Joseph Hinchliff and at a meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1895 it was unanimously resolved to appoint further trustees to replace those deceased, this was confirmed on the 14<sup>th</sup> December of the same year.

\*

At the turn of the century the Druid's movement along with those of other Friendly Societies was falling into decline and so at a meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup>

February 1906 at which over seventy members were present, it was proposed and accepted that the Druids' Hall and buildings should be sold by public auction.

\*

The auction of the property, took place on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1906 and was advertised as a fully-licensed public house known as the Druids' Hotel, together with brew-house, two dwelling houses, stable, carriage house, outbuildings, yards and vacant ground and was sold in equal shares to John Edward Heap of Honley, solicitor and Daniel Stockwell, innkeeper of Upperbridge, Holmfirth, for the sum of £1150.00, the land at this time continued to be leased from the Lord of the Manor.

\*

Daniel Stockwell was the innkeeper at the King's Head, known locally as The White Door, an inn that dated from 1706 and stood opposite the toll bar house at Upper Bridge in Holmfirth. Regrettably, following an accident to the building, it fell into disrepair and was derelict for some time before being demolished in 1969.

\*

John Edward Heap, his partner, was a solicitor and a member of The Holme Valley Lodge who after being initiated on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1899, passed on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and raised on the 28<sup>th</sup> April of the same year subsequently became Master in 1909. He was instrumental in the negotiations for the purchase of the Druid's Hotel by The Holme Valley Lodge.

\*

The Druids' Hotel as it was known in 1906 contained: on the ground floor - an entrance passage, commercial room, snug, tap room, filling bar, kitchen, arched ale cellar and wine and keeping cellars. On the first floor - a music room, storeroom and three bedrooms. On the second floor - a lofty well lighted hall with permanent platform, two anti-rooms, lavatory, independent stone staircase with entrance from the main road and communicating with the hotel and also an additional entrance from the back road. There were also two dwelling houses, a brew-house, a four-stalled stable with hay-loft, out buildings, yards and some vacant ground, however by this time the area covered by the hotel complex had been reduced in size to about 850 square yards or thereabouts.

Daniel Stockwell, who became the innkeeper died on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1908 and just prior to his death the hotel, stabling, and yard, were leased to William Whittaker & Co Ltd. Brewers of Bradford. The lease, which was for twenty-one years at an annual rent of £52.00, was signed on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1907, however there appears to be no record of this being revoked and there is no mention of the lease when the Druids' Hotel was next sold. At the time of the sale one of the cottages or dwelling houses, was occupied by Tom Barden, the son-in-law of James Bray,

who was the innkeeper in 1901, the second dwelling house being occupied by Mrs G.H.Mitchell. However the large room on the second floor of the hotel which had formally been used by the Holmfirth Independent Labour Party as the Socialist's Hall was now unoccupied as was a third cottage, which had been added later with the address of No. 2. Back Lane.

Under the terms of his will which was drawn up in 1890, Daniel Stockwell made his son Joseph Stockwell, who was a butcher and John Edward Heap, trustees and executors and stated that on his death his assets should be sold and the money invested to provide an income for his wife during her lifetime. Unfortunately she died before her husband on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1904 and as a result of this the proceeds of his estate were shared equally between his five children, Joseph Stockwell, John Henry Stockwell, Alexander Stockwell, James Arthur Stockwell and Martha Hannah Stockwell.

\*

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1910 probate was granted and the two executors Joseph Stockwell and John Edward Heap applied at the Wakefield Court Baron to be admitted tenants to the property of Daniel Stockwell.

\*

Early the following year on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 1911, another of Daniel's sons, John Henry Stockwell of Ribblesden, Holmfirth, also a butcher, along with John Edward Heap purchased the Druids' Hotel, cottages etc., for the sum of £600.00. They owned it for almost seven years, when the Druid's Hotel changed ownership once again.

\*

The Holme Valley Lodge 652 which met regularly at the Victoria Hotel, Station Rd., had for some considerable time experienced difficulties with the accommodation provided there and had to resort to obtaining dispensations for the lodge's installations to be held first in 1896 at the town hall Holmfirth (in consequence of the small size of the lodge room) and later at the Old Drill Hall in the Druids' Hotel in 1897/8/9/1900 and also in February, March and April of the same year whilst alterations and additions were being made to the lodge room at the Victoria Hotel. The lodge room, which was rented at an annual fee of £10.00 was also being let to other parties with the result that furniture belonging to the lodge was becoming damaged and on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 1913 W. Bro C.H.Lancaster wrote to the hotel complaining of this. The members of the lodge had by this time been looking for suitable premises to purchase for thirty-five years.

\*

A further four years passed before negotiations commenced in 1917 with John Edward Heap and John Henry Stockwell for the purchase of the Druids' Hotel,

but eventually on the 15<sup>th</sup> November of that year W. Bro. C. H. Lancaster announced that Robert Turner, builder, John William Battye Shaw, cabinet maker, William Heeley, solicitor and others acting as trustees had been successful in purchasing the Druids' Hotel complex at a cost of £700.00.

\*

At a meeting of the lodge committee held at the Victoria Hotel on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1917 it was proposed by W. Bro. A. Battye and seconded by W. Bro. F. Lawton that a committee of five be appointed, with the power to add to that number, to deal with the lodge's purchase of the Druids' Hotel. The appointed committee consisted of W. Bro. J. N. W. Shaw, W. Bro. Robert Turner, W. Bro. William Heeley, W. Bro. C. H. Lancaster, Bro. F. Whiteley and Bro. John Davis. It was also proposed that W. Bro. Robert Turner and W. Bro. J. W. B. Shaw inspect the premises and purchase whatever they considered necessary for the future use and benefit of the lodge. The deeds were subsequently signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1917.

\*

It must be assumed that the building, which was now sixty years old, was in a state of disrepair or required substantial modifications to meet the needs of its new owners as it was four years before the Holme Valley Lodge members used the building. The building committee met again on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1919 when it was resolved to accept a bid of fifteen shillings for old wood, £13.0.0 for old lead and brass and a further £3.14.0 for old iron. The spouts had been examined and found to be in a very dilapidated condition and it was therefore decided to replace these at a cost of £14.10.0. At the same meeting it was also decided to let one room to Mr Jesse Shore of Hey Gap, Holmfirth. Mr Shore who was a joiner and cabinetmaker had served as Tyler at the Victoria Hotel since the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1861 and continued in that post until his death on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1922. During that time he was paid the sum of two shillings and six pence per week for laying out the lodge, a shilling for laying and lifting the carpets and a further 3d for moving furniture. Progress in renovating the building was rather slow and at a special meeting held at the Druid's Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1920 it was resolved to 'push on with the alterations as quickly as possible'. A further special meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1920 when it was passed that Mr Tolson's tender for electric lighting and Mr Bailey's tender for warming apparatus be accepted. By January of 1921 the work was well underway and at a meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January it was proposed and accepted that the seats now be upholstered. Payments made for repairs carried out to renovate the Druids' Hotel were in excess of £2000.00, a tremendous amount of money when it is considered that the hotel, cottages and stable complex were purchased for only £700.00 four years earlier and would suggest that a considerable amount of work and labour were necessary before the

building could be considered habitable. In consequence of this The Holme Valley Lodge did not move from the Victoria Hotel to its new premises until 17<sup>th</sup> March 1921 when the Master W. Bro. Walter Quarmby performed a double passing ceremony, the candidates being Brothers W. Robinson and G. W. Brinsley. A ballot followed this for three new members, William Lodge, Russell Tricker and William Hardy and having proved in favour of the three candidates, William Lodge was then initiated by W.Bro. R.T.Hardy, there were thirty-three members and six visitors present. The tenancy agreement with the Victoria Hotel continued until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1922 when it was finally agreed it should be terminated, this however was subject to the lodge paying the full annual rent of £25.0.0 to December 1921.

Up until 1932 the land on which the Holme Valley Masonic Hall now stood was leased from the Earl of Yarborough, however on the 18<sup>th</sup> March of that year, pursuant to the properties act 1922, Robert Turner, John William Battye Shaw and the other trustees purchased the freehold on behalf of The Holme Valley Lodge for the sum of £33.13.10p.

\*

Adjacent to the Masonic Hall was the stable and carriage house, which was rented in 1890 by Fred Brook who operated from there as a carriage and waggonette proprietor. It was later rented to Rapha Thomas Hardy a coal and lime agent and later still in May of 1932 it was leased to His Majesty's Post Master General as a garage for the storage of their vehicles at an annual rent of £20.00 but by the end of their lease in 1960 this had increased to £40.00 per annum. The stable and carriage house continued to be let as a garage and in February of 1968 it was agreed to let the building to Mr F Turner at a rent of £52.00 per annum plus rates. However he appears to have been outbid the following month by Mr J Littlewood who agreed to pay £60.00 per year plus rates and the garage was subsequently rented to him. By 1985 the income being generated from this was still very low and it was therefore decided to have the garage valued with a view to selling it. The valuation with vacant possession was estimated to be £1500.00 or for rental purposes £2.50 per week. The Brethren felt that this valuation was too low and it was therefore decided to terminate the tenancy and to re-advertise it to let, but with a three year rent review. The garage became empty in July of the following year and was still unoccupied in November. It was therefore decided to make application to the council for a change of use to a retail outlet, but the permission required for this was refused.

\*

By 1987 the upkeep of the building was again proving expensive and it was therefore proposed that the garage should be advertised to let once again, but this time at a more realistic commercial rent. The Brethren accepted the proposal and

on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1987 it was let, at a rent of £1040.00 per annum to Mr N Roberts who was the tenant until 1992 when it was demolished to make way for a small car park.

\*

General refurbishments continued to take place within the building and in about 1950 a new floor was laid in the temple, which was felt by all to be a significant improvement.

\*

Despite income being generated by the letting of the stable and carriage house it was considered necessary by the Brethren, at a lodge management committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1989, that a committee should be formed to examine the possibility of developing the building in such a way as to generate further regular income.

\*

The committee consisted of W. Bro. James T. Broadbent (chairman), W. Bro. Neil H. Beaumont, Bro. Michael Hellawell, Bro. Barry Vincent and Bro. George Hardy, who unfortunately died that year and whose place was taken by Bro. Reginald S. Senior.

\*

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March of the same year, at a special lodge management committee meeting proposals were discussed and the committee duly authorised Bro. Michael Hellawell, an architect, to prepare plans to modify the building. By November these plans had been formulated and were submitted again to the lodge management committee for their approval, which was granted.

\*

The scheme was duly submitted to Kirklees Metropolitan Council by Bro. Hellawell and was approved by them on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1990. The aim was to convert the ground floor into two offices which could be let at a realistic commercial rent and provide that valuable additional income which was becoming increasingly necessary for the upkeep of the lodge. It was also proposed to remove the wall on the first floor between the supper room and what was the upper part of one of the original cottages to form a new bar area, Past Master's room and toilet. Now that the plans had been approved the full scheme was put before the Lodge management committee with some indication of cost. It was decided however before proceeding to put the whole scheme before a full meeting of all the Brethren of The Holme Valley Lodge on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1990 to seek their approval.

\*

A resolution was passed at this meeting to proceed with the alterations, but to delay their start for four weeks, this was to give time for any Brother to put



forward alternative ideas. Since no changes to the plans were suggested, work commenced with much enthusiasm and help, both financially and manually and proved to be one of the wisest decisions made by the members of The Holme Valley Lodge as it provided that extra income required to give the lodge its much needed long term financial stability.

\*

It is interesting to note that during the alterations of 1991, whilst removing flag stones in what had been the living room of one of the cottages and which is now the boiler room and cellar, a very large flag of about seven feet square and six inches thick was found immediately in front of the fire place, with its near edge forming part of the fireplace hearth. When struck it gave a very distinct hollow sound. It was decided to lift this but before doing so it was noticed that there was a small hole at the edge of the stone of about one inch in diameter. One of the Brethren pushed a small piece of masonry through the hole and was amazed to hear a small splash some several seconds later. It was decided therefore before taking any further action to make a rough plumb line which was lowered through the hole, when to the surprise of everyone present a well which was thirty three feet deep, seven feet wide and contained water to a depth of eighteen feet was discovered. After much deliberation it was decided that the best course of action was to have the well expertly capped, and it remains so to the present day. More recently in 2002 new windows were fitted throughout the whole building at a cost of over £18,000.00 and in 2006, further alterations took place under the guidance of the Master, W. Bro. Ronald Hunter when the entrance hall, staircase, supper room and bar areas were refurbished.

\*

Much of the refurbishment could not have been carried out without the invaluable work and support given by the members of the social committee and their ladies, who by their effort and hard work over the years organizing fund raising functions have provided that extra financial help which has enabled the Lodge to put into place some of the luxuries now enjoyed.

\*

When first erected the interior design of the Druid's Hall was somewhat different to its present form, as was the exterior. The hotel itself occupied the central part of the building on two floors, its entrance being through the middle door. On entering the building the best room was to the left and the tap or common room was to the right, both of which are now part of the lettable offices. On the first floor were three bedrooms, a music room and a storeroom. The brew house, stable and carriage house were on the lower side of the building and were removed in 1993 to make way for the present car park. The landlord's house was on the left of the building with its entrance from the flagged area in front of the

hotel and in 1881 it was occupied by Michael Redfearn, licensed victualler, his wife Emma, two sons James and William, a daughter Susanna, a lodger Richard Bottomley and a general servant Elizabeth Fargon. The bedrooms on the first floor were removed when alterations were carried out in 1991 and now form part of the bar and Past Master's room. The second cottage was to the right of the building with its door also from the flagged area in front of the hotel, its bedrooms on the first floor extended to the large beam in the present supper room. A third cottage was added later at the rear, on the top floor in the south east corner of the building with the entrance from Back Lane. The Druids' Hall was reached by a stone spiral staircase added to the left of the building and was used by all those societies and people wishing to enter the Hall, which was on the second floor. The separate entrance solved the dilemma facing the members of the Wesleyan Church and the Temperance movement who would not wish to pass through a beer-house to reach their meeting place. The staircase, which was partially removed during the alterations of 1991, passed through what is now the ladies toilet situated on the first floor and came out in the room to the right of the Master's chair on the second. Remains of this can still be seen in the small cellar to the left of the building.

\*

W. Bro. James T. Broadbent recalls his mother-in-law Mary Elizabeth Goldthorpe, of Broth Row, Magnum and her friend Mrs Lena Hirst, of Mount Farm, Greave, telling him of the many dances they had attended there and of climbing the stone staircase to reach the main hall on the second floor. The cloakroom she recalled was a small room on the top floor and the toilets, which were of the midden type, were in the yard at the rear, where their remains can still be seen to this day.

\*

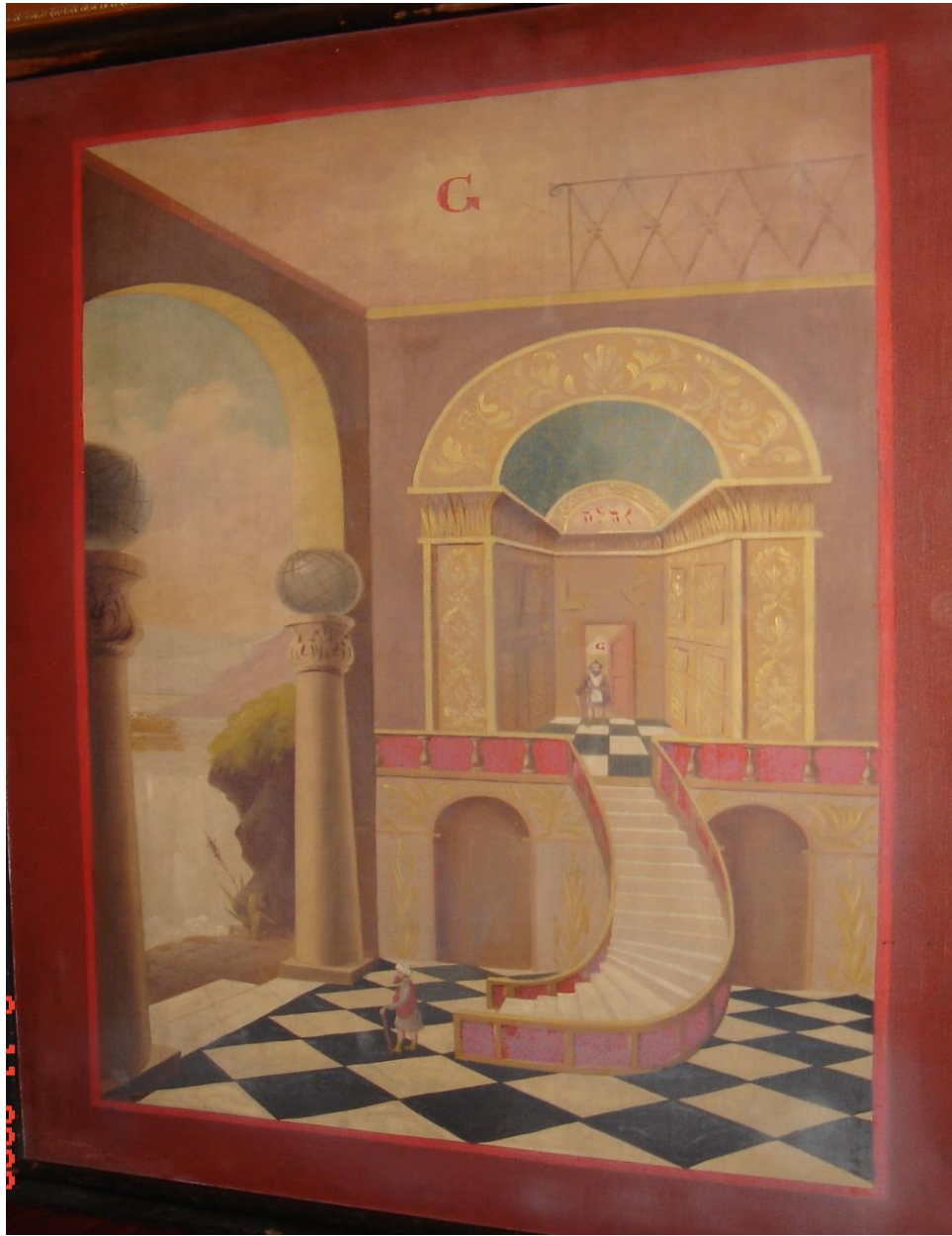
The Druids' Hall, standing on an elevated incline in Station Rd., can only be described as a fine, substantial, Regency fronted building and must be the most accommodating building in the Holme Valley, having played its part in much of Holmfirth's history. Being first built by and for the Ancient Order of the Druids, it was used by the United Methodists following their breakaway from the Holmfirth Wesleyans in 1849 and was hired by them on Sundays for a number of years until 1860, when their own chapel, which stood on the site of the Holmfirth market in Woodhead Rd., was completed. The Holmfirth Rifle Volunteers or the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Yorkshire, which was formed in 1860, held their drill sessions at the Druid's Hall until 1892, when the Drill Hall, now part of the Civic Hall, was opened. It has served as a meeting place for the Holmfirth Independent Labour Party, and was the venue for numerous social functions, dances and various forms of entertainment and more recently the site of the Holmfirth art festival.

\*

The Druids' Hall, now known as the Masonic Hall, has been the home of The Holme Valley Lodge No. 652 since 1921 and has been used regularly for their ceremonies and social functions. It still retains that air of mystery which has surrounded it since it was first erected almost one hundred and sixty years ago by The Ancient Order of the Druids, Lodge No.150 and it is to be hoped that it will continue to accommodate its members for many years to come.



*Tracing board used at the Victoria Hotel*



*Tracing board used at the Victoria Hotel*





*Tracing board used at the Victoria Hotel*

### **TRANSCRIPTS OF LODGE MEETINGS HELD 1861-1867**

The early minute books of The Holme Valley Lodge became lost many years ago, however draft minutes of meetings held between the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1862 and 15<sup>th</sup> November 1867 were discovered in a notebook belonging to the daughter of Charles Taylor and were subsequently transcribed in 2007 and are recorded below. Certain entries were difficult to decipher and where only initials were recorded some assumptions have had to be made regarding the names and ranks of several officers and members of the lodge. These have however been shown enclosed in brackets and do not appear on the original records.

#### **LODGE MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 1861**

Bye Laws were approved.

For the Government of The Holme Valley Lodge No 937 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons held at the Victoria Hotel Holmfirth.

As unanimously approved of by the Brethren in open Lodge the Eighth Day of February 1861. Confirmed in open Lodge on the Twenty Second of the same month and subsequently sanctioned by the Right Worshipful George Fearnley Esq. M.D. Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire.

Acting under the patent and authority of The Right Honourable The Earl of Zetland Most Worshipful Grand Master of England etc etc etc

(Bye Laws signed by members of The Holme Valley Lodge)

We the undersigned being members of The Holme Valley Lodge No 937 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, duly constituted under the Grand Lodge of England, have here unto subscribed our names, in token of our acceptance of the

foregoing Bye-Laws which we each individually and collectively pledge ourselves to abide by support and maintain, as in duty bound, the same having received official sanction.

John M. Woodhead	W.M.
George Lawton	S.W.
Henry Tinker	J.W.
Charles Taylor	P.M.
George N Nelson	P.M.
Edward Fozzard	
Charles Dyson	P.M. 174
James Holmes	
Thomas Hinchliffe	
Thomas Barber	
George Greenwood	
Geo Eastwood	P.M. 174
Joseph Mellor	P.M.
Charles Battye	
Joseph Roberts	
John Burton	P.M.
John Harpin	T. ( <i>Treasurer?</i> )
Joseph Mellor	

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### LODGE MINUTES 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1862

Meeting of the Lodge held January 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Bro. John Harpin	W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.W.
J.M.Woodhead	P.M.
T.Barber	S.D.
E.Fozzard	as J.D.
Geo Lawton	( <i>Treasurer</i> )
C.Taylor	Secretary
F Littlewood	as I.G.
Bro. Jesse Shore	<u>Bro James Holmes as Tyler</u>



Bro. Jesse Shore answered the usual questions – was duly passed Bro. P.M. (Past Master?) Taylor officiating.

Bro. Geo Lawton in accordance with the rules of the Lodge read over the bye-laws The W.M. announced that a letter had been received from Bro. Joseph Howarth enclosing a P.O.... for his subscription and while lamenting that his duty required his close attendance at home he rejoiced to find that we were (*was*) peace and harmony amongst us and also with hearty good wishes wished the W. Brethren a happy and prosperous new year.

Moved by Bro. Geo Lawton and seconded by Bro. Woodhead that on account of the unfortunate circumstances of Br. C. Dyson his arrears of subscription to this Lodge be paid out of the Lodge fund.

Moved by Bro. C.T. (*C.Taylor?*) and seconded by Bro F. Littlewood that the members of the committee of benevolence be continue in their office for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Bro. Nelson and seconded Bro Burton that Mr M.H. Nelson be a candidate for Masonry.

Bro. E. Fozzard proposed and Bro Taylor seconded that Mr John Marsh as a proper candidate for Masonry

Bro.T.B. (*Thomas Barber?*) proposed that a committee be appointed to instruct Bro. Jesse Shore to prepare a box for the proper .... (*reception?*) of the Jewels and Furniture of the Lodge.      Seconder

Lodge closed before 7 o'clock.

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### LODGE MEETING    APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

Lodge meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 1862 at six o'clock.

J. Harpin	W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.
J.M. Woodhead	J.W.
Bro. Geo Lawton	Treasurer as S.D.
G.Greenwood	J.D.
James Holmes	as Tyler
J.Mellor	P.M.
John Marsh and Jesse Shore.	

Lodge opened into the First degree when the minutes of the Lodge read and confirmed.

The W.M. read a summons from the Provincial Grand Secretary requiring the attendance of the W.M., P.Ms. and Wardens at a Provincial Grand Lodge to be held in Huddersfield on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Bro. Jesse Shore and Bro. John Marsh answered and when the Lodge opened into the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree when Bro. Jesse Shore and Bro. John Marsh were raised to the sublime degree of a M.M.

Bro. C.T. (*Charles Taylor*) officiating.

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### LODGE MEETING    MAY 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

Lodge opened in the first degree minutes read and confirmed.

Lodge opened second

Bro. Nelson answered test questions but owing to the unfortunate indisposition of Bro Taylor the ceremony was postponed.

Bro. Joshua Lee (*of Huddersfield Lodge, initiated 14.6.1848*) attended on behalf of Bro. Brook (*probably John Brook, painter, also of Huddersfield Lodge 365 initiated 3.10.1849*) with the sketch of a banner for the H.V.L.

Bro. Nelson moved and Bro. Joseph Mellor seconded a motion that the sketch as produced be painted for the H.V.L. and that the thanks of this Lodge be given to Bro. Brook for it.

Bro. Nelson proposed and C.T. (*Charles Taylor*) seconded that the motto ‘ By Industry We Prosper’ be inscribed on it.

Proposed by C.T. (*Charles Taylor*) and seconded by Bro. Woodhead that Bro.J.L. (*Joshua Lee*) be thanked for his kindness.

John Harpin	W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.
J.M.Woodhead	P.M. as S.W.
G.N.Nelson	P.M.
Geo Lawton	Treasurer
C.T. ( <i>Charles Taylor</i> )	Secretary
T.Barber	S.D.
Geo Greenwood	J.D.
James Holmes	I.G.
J.Mellor	P.M. and
Bro (H) Nelson	
Vis (visiting)	Bro. Joshua Lee (from) 365
Jesse Shore.	

### LODGE MEETING JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

June 14<sup>th</sup> Met at 7 pm

J.M. Woodhouse	P.M. as W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.D.
J.Mellor	P.M.
C.Taylor	P.M. Treasurer
J.Burton	S.D.
Geo Greenwood	J.W.
James Holmes	I.G.
G.N. Nelson	P.M.
E. Fozzard	
M.H. Nelson	
John Marsh	
Jesse Shore	as Tyler

Lodge opened into the 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Minutes read and confirmed – Opened into the second degree

Bro. Nelson having retired the Lodge opened into the third degree when Bro. C Taylor raised Bro. Nelson to the sublime degree of M.M.

Lodge closed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> degrees when the following Brethren were appointed a committee for carrying out the arrangement for the Provincial Grand Lodge to be held in July.

John Harpin  
H. Tinker  
Geo Hinchliffe  
J. Mellor P.M.  
T. Barber  
Geo Lawton  
John Marsh

Lodge closed at ½ past 8 -

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### LODGE MEETING JULY 11<sup>th</sup> 1862

July 11<sup>th</sup> 7 o clock

J. Harpin	W.M.
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J.M. Woodhead	P.M. as S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.W.
G.N.Nelson	P.M.
Geo Lawton	Treasurer
C. Taylor	Secretary
Joseph Roberts	as S.D.
Charles Battye	I.G.
Geo Greenwood	as Tyler

*(No further minutes recorded)*

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### **LODGE MEETING AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup> 1862**

August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

Bro. John Harpin	W.M.
H. Tinker	S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.W.
Geo N. Nelson	P.M.
C. Taylor	P.M. Secretary
Bro J. Burton	P.M. as S.D.
Bro. E. Fozzard	as J.D.
J. Marsh	as I.G.
And Bro. Geo Greenwood	
Brother Jesse Marsh	as Tyler

Lodge opened into the first degree when minutes read and confirmed. Then opened to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees and afterwards closed to the 1<sup>st</sup> degree  
 Moved by Bro. Nelson and seconded by Bro Fozzard that the secretary of The Holme Valley Lodge communicate with the Provincial Grand Secretary to ascertain what steps if any have been taken by the Provincial Grand Lodge with respect to the proposed alterations in (*F H ...*)

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### **LODGE MEETING SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 1862**

Bro. G.N. Nelson	W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.

Geo Hinchliffe	J.D.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. Treasurer
C.Taylor	Secretary
E.Fozzard	as S.D.
Geo Greenwood	J.D
James Holmes	I.G.
And Fearon, M.H. Nelson, Marsh and Jesse Shore as Tyler	

Lodge opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees in Masonry, afterwards closed to the first.

Closed in peace and harmony by 8.15

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### **LODGE MEETING OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup> 1862**

October 10<sup>th</sup> 7 o clock

Bro. J. Harpin	W.M.
H.Tinker	S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.W.
J. Burton	P.M.
T. Barber	S.D.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. as J.D.
G. Lawton	Treasurer
C. Taylor	P.M. Secretary
James Holmes	D.C. as I.G.
and Jesse Shore	as Tyler
Minutes read and confirmed	
J. Harpin, H. Tinker, Geo Hinchliffe, T. Barber, and Bro G Lawton	

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### **LODGE MEETING NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> 1862**

7 pm.

Bro. J.Harpin	W.M.
H. Tinker	S.W.
Geo Hinchliffe	J.W.
G.N. Nelson	P.M. as S.D.

Geo Greenwood	J.D.
Bro. J.M. Woodhead	P.M.
Bro. John Burton	P.M.
Bro. E. Fozzard	as I.G.
Geo Lawton	Treasurer
C.T. ( <i>Charles Taylor</i> )	Secretary
J. Fearon, M.H. Nelson, John Marsh, and Jesse Shore as Tyler	

Minutes read and confirmed and signed  
 Lodge opened to the second and third degrees and closed to the first.  
 Election of the W.M. for the ensuing year when Bro Henry Tinker was elected  
 W.M. for the ensuing year.  
 Bro. E. Fozzard was elected Treasurer –  
 Lodge closed in peace and harmony by 8 o'clock

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### LODGE MEETING NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

November 27<sup>th</sup>

Lodge opened 7.30pm

H. Tinker	W.M.
Geo Hinchliffe	S.W.
T. Barber	J.W.
J. Harpin	P.M.
E. Fozzard	Treasurer
C.Taylor	Secretary
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. (as S.D.)
Rev.J. Fearon	J.D.
James Holmes	S.D. (as I.G.)
Bro Burton	P.M.
Mellor	P.M.
Visiting Bro. Dore	763
John Marsh	I.G.
Bro Jesse Shore	as Tyler

Minutes read and confirmed, opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> closed to second.  
 Bro. Dore gave the illustrations of the second tracing board. (Election)

Lodge closed to the first degree, election of W.M. – Bro Geo Hinchliffe elected, Bro. Fozzard, Treasurer. Bro. Harpin proposed (and Bro) the W.M. that the thanks of the Lodge be given to Bro Dore for his services, Bro. J.W. (J.M.Woodhead) called the attention of the Lodge to the arrears of contribution – Closed at 20 minutes past 8 o'clock

Instructions on Friday Fortnight –  
Next meeting Xmas day for adjournment –

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Adjourned Lodge 1<sup>st</sup> January 1864

Henry Tinker	W.M.
Geo Hinchliffe	S.W.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. as J.W.
Bros	

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#### **LODGE MEETING JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864**

January 22<sup>nd</sup> / 64      7.30.pm

George Hinchliffe	W.M.
Holmes	S.W.
Fearon	J.W.
Burton	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Woodhead	P.M.
Marsh	as I.G.
Jesse Shore	Tyler

Lodge opened into the first degree. Minutes read and confirmed - opened into the second and third and closed to first.

Instruction meetings to be advised. Summonses to be ordered

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## **LODGE MEETING FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup> 1864**

February 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Geo Hinchliffe	W.M.
James Holmes	S.W.
John Fearon	J.W.
Henry Tinker	P.M.
C. Taylor	Secretary
E.Fozzard	Treasurer
J. Burton	P.M. (as S.D.)
M.H. Nelson	J.D.
T. Barber	I.G.
Bro. Woodhead	
John Marsh	S.D.
(Burton)	P.M.)

Lodge opened first degree minutes read and confirmed  
The test questions asked. Lodge opened in the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree  
Test questions asked

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## **LODGE MEETING APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864**

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm

Bro. Geo Hinchliffe	W.M.
James Holmes	S.W.
Bro.Rev. J. Fearon	J.W.
Bro.E. Fozzard	Treasurer
C. Taylor	Secretary
Henry Tinker	P.M.
Bro. Burton	P.M. as S.D.
Bro.J.M. Woodhouse	P.M.
Bro.T. Barber	I.G.
Bro. Jesse Shore	as Tyler

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### **LODGE MEETING JUNE 17<sup>th</sup> 1864**

June 17<sup>th</sup> 1864     7.30pm

Bro. George Hinchliffe	W.M.
James Holmes	S.W.
Rev. John Fearon	J.W.
Henry Tinker	P.M.
John Marsh	S.D.
M.H.Nelson	J.D.
C. Taylor	Secretary
J.M. Woodhouse	P.M.
T. Barber	I.G.
Jesse Shore	Tyler

Bro. Barber protested against the system of issuing summonses –  
Secretary to write the G.S. (Grand Secretary) .....

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### **LODGE MEETING JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864**

July 22<sup>nd</sup> /64                      7.30pm

Geo Hinchliffe	W.M.
James Holmes	S.W.
Rev. J. Fearon	J.D.
C. Taylor	Secretary
Fozzard	Treasurer
John Marsh	I.G.
Jesse Shore	Tyler

Opened 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes read and confirmed  
Opened 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees  
Bro. Fozzard moved and Bro. J.W. (seconded) Chris Tinker as a fit and proper  
candidate. Bro. Nelsons death alluded to

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### **LODGE MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1864**

G.Hinchliffe	W.M.
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Holmes	S.W.
Fearon	J.W.
Burton	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
John Marsh	S.D.
Barber	I.G.
J.M.Woodhead	
Geo Greenwood	
F.Turton	(Visitor)
Wood	Glossop
Fletcher	Bury
Johnson	Huddersfield

Bro.T. Barber	W.M. Elect
Bro. Fozzard	Treasurer Elect

Opened to the second degree

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### **LODGE MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1864**

December 16/64

Lodge opened at 6.15 pm. Minutes read and confirmed.

Lodge opened into the second degree.

Bro. Barber was obligated as W.M.

Lodge opened into the 3rd degree when Bro. T. Barber was duly installed as W.M. of the Lodge for the ensuing year.

Geo Hichliffe	W.M.
H.Tinker	P.M.
John Marsh	S.D.
J.M.Woodhead	P.M. as J.D.
James Holmes	S.W.
Rev J.Fearon B.A.	J.W.
Bro. T.Barber	I.G.
Dyson	P.M. Truth
Geo Greenwood	

J.Harpin	P.M.	
J.Burton	P.M.	
J.Mellor	P.M.	
Hardy	P.M.	
Littlewood		
Jos Lee	P.M.	Truth
Woodhouse		
H.Tinker	P.M.	
Taylor	Secretary	
W.Smith	P.M.	
Jackson	P.M.	Truth
Marshall		Truth

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### **LODGE MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1865**

Lodge Meeting 13 January 1865

½ past 7

Read and confirmed

Lodge opened 1-2-3 and afterwards closed to the first when Bro C. Taylor proposed and Bro. Woodhead seconded that the sum of £10.0.0 be granted from the funds of the Lodge to the Royal Benevolence for distressed Brethren and widows

T.Barber	W.M.
Fearon	S.W.
Marsh	J.W.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M.
Tinker	I.G.
James Holmes	I.G. ?

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### **LODGE MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 1865**

10<sup>th</sup> February 1865

T. Barber	W.M.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. as S.W.
John Marsh	J.W.

H.Tinker	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
G. Greenwood	S.D.
Holmes	I.G.

Lodge accounts read and proved  
 Opened into the second and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees.  
 Test questions  
 Closed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.

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### **LODGE MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1865**

March 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm

T. Barber	W.M.
Geo Hinchliff	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Woodhead	P.M. as J.D.
Fearon	S.W.
Fozzard	
Taylor	Secretary
H.Tinker	J.D.
Marsh	J.W.
Greenwood	S.D.

Opened into the 1<sup>st</sup> degree  
 Minutes read and confirmed  
 Lodge opened into the second degree and afterwards to the third  
 Test questions  
 Closed to the second  
 Closed 8.15 pm

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### **LODGE MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 1865**

T. Barber	W.M.
James Holmes	as S.W.
John Marsh	J.W.

Geo Hinchliff	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Burton	S.D.
R. Tinker	J.D.
Greenwood	I.G.
Shore	Tyler

Lodge opened into the 1<sup>st</sup> degree

Minutes read and confirmed - 2 and 3 degrees -

Moved by Bro. James Holmes and seconded by Fozzard that the thanks of the Lodge be given to Bro. Geo Eastwood for his services as relieving officer during the past 8 years and the Lodge desire to express their regret that circumstances should make it desirable for him to resign.

Moved by Bro. Greenwood and seconded by Bro. Fozzard that Bro C. Taylor be appointed relieving officer for The Holme Valley Lodge in place of Bro. Geo Eastwood. Resigned.

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#### LODGE MINUTES 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 1865

May 12<sup>th</sup> 65 7.30 pm

T.Barber	W.M.
Fearon	S.W.
J.M.Woodhead	P.M. as J.W.
Harpin	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
Greenwood	S.D.
Holmes	IG.
Tinker	P.M.

Opened into the first degree

Minutes read and confirmed

Opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and third degrees –

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#### LODGE MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1865

Barber	W.M.
--------	------

Fearon	S.W.
J. Marsh	J.W.
H.Tinker	P.M.
E. Fozzard	Treasurer
C. Taylor	Treasurer ( <i>should this read Secretary?</i> )
Burton	P.M.
Greenwood	S.D.
Woodhead	I.G.
Harpin	P.M.

Lodge opened into the first degree when the minutes of last Lodge were read and confirmed

The Lodge then opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees

Test questions 3<sup>rd</sup> degree

Closed to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Test questions

Closed to 1<sup>st</sup> degree

Bro. Eastwood's note to be entered in the minutes

Closed ¼ past 8

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### LODGE MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 1865

July 7<sup>th</sup> 7 pm

T.Barber	W.M.
Fearon	S.W.
J. Marsh	J.W.
Harpin	P.M.
Woodhead	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
Greenwood	S.D.
Tinker	J.D.
Holmes	I.G.

Minutes read and confirmed

Adjourned

Resumed opened to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees

Test questions in each degree

Notice of motion by Bro. Woodhead  
Closed in peace and harmony

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**LODGE MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1865**

August 4<sup>th</sup> 1865

T. Barber	W.M.
J. Holmes	as S.W.
John Marsh	J.W.
Geo Greenwood	S.D.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Woodhead	P.M. I.G.
Woodhead	P.M. as I.G.

Bro. Woodhead moved and Bro. Fozzard seconded that the sum of ten shillings be allowed for the W.M. for the time being to attend each Provincial Grand Lodge. Carried that ten shillings be allowed for the expenses in attending Provincial Grand Lodges

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**LODGE MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1865**

September 8<sup>th</sup> 1865      5.30pm

J.M. Woodhead	P.M. as W.M.
Geo Greenwood	S.W.
John Marsh	J.W.
Edward Fozzard	Inner G.
Jesse Shore	Tyler

The minutes of the Lodge were read and confirmed  
Moved that the Lodge be adjourned to Friday next the 16<sup>th</sup> 7.0 o'clock

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### **LODGE MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1865**

September 15/65

7.30 pm

J.M. Woodhead	W.M.
Geo Greenwood	S.W.
John Marsh	J.W.
C. Taylor	Secretary
Jesse Shore	I.G.

J.M. Woodhead	W.M.
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### **LODGE MEETING NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> 1865**

November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1865

Opened at 7.15 pm

T. Barber	W.M.
Rev. J. Fearon	S.W.
J.M Woodhead	
Henry Tinker	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Greenwood	S.D.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
James Holmes	I.G.
Tinker	J.D.
Jesse Shore	as Tyler

Opened to first degree. Minutes read and confirmed

Afterwards opened to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees –

Adjourned from labour to refreshment

Resumed – closed to the 1<sup>st</sup> degree

Fearon as W.M.

Fozzard Treasurer



Shore

Tyler

Moved by Bro. Taylor, Seconded by Bro Fozzard that the sum of ten pounds be placed in the hands of the W.M. for the assistance of Bro Nelson

Carried unanimously

Usual questions and closed at 8.15 pm

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**LODGE MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 1865**

Barber	W.M.
Fearon	S.W.
Woodhead	P.M. as J.W.
Tinker	P.M.
Harpin	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
Tinker	J.D.
Holmes	IG.
Mellor	P.M.
Greenwood	S.D.
W. Smith	P.M. 290
J. Brook	P.M. 290
Haigh	P.M. 290
R. Abbey	No 290
Shore	Tyler

Opened in first degree read and confirmed -

2<sup>nd</sup> degree adjourned

Resumed When Bro Fearon was duly installed W.M.

Officers

J.M. Woodhead	S.W.
R. Tinker	J.W.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Burton	S.D. P.M.
Holme	

### LODGE MEETING 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1865

December 29.65      7 o'clock

Fearon	W.M.
Woodhead	J.W.
Tinker	P.M.
Fozzard	Tresurer
Taylor	Secretary
Marsh	S.D.
Greenwood	J.D.
Holmes	IG.

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#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit committee

The W.M. – P.M. and S.W. be at committee to audit the Secretary and Treasure's accounts

Proposed by Bro. Greenwood and seconded by Bro. J.M (*J.M. Moorhouse ?*)  
that £3.0.0. annum be paid for the use of the Lodge room to commence December 1865

Carried unanimously

Proposed by the S.W.

And seconded by Bro. H.T. (*Henry Tinker ?*)

That the Freemason's Magazine be discontinued.

Carried unanimously

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### LODGE MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 1866

February 2/66

J. Fearon	W.M.
Woodhead	S.W.
Burton	
Barber	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary

Greenwood	I.G.
Tinker	J.W.

Minutes read and confirmed  
Opened 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – Test questions asked  
Bro. Burton proposed Mr Geo Hesketh of Dunford Bridge as a fit and proper person to be made a Mason.

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### LODGE MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 1866

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1866

Open at 7.pm.

Fearon	W.M.
Woodhead	S.W.
Barber	P.M.
Burton	P.M. S.D.
Harpin	P.M. as J.D.
Taylor	Secretary
Fozzard	Treasurer
Marsh	
Tinker	J.W.
Taylor	Meltham
Redfearn	Meltham
Kenworthy	Huddersfield
and Taylor	

Minutes read and confirmed  
Mr Geo Hesketh balloted for and elected  
Initiated by Bro. Barber – the W.M. giving the charge  
Lodge closed in peace and harmony by ½ past 8

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### LODGE MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1866

April 27<sup>th</sup> 66 7-pm

J. Fearon	P.M. ( <i>should be W.M.</i> )
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J.M. Woodhead	P.M. S.W.
Bro. Geo Hinchliff	P.M. as J.W.
T. Barber	P.M.
John Harpin	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Greenwood	I.G.
Shore	Tyler

Lodge opened into the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and third degrees

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### **LODGE MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 1866**

June 1/66

Bro. George Taylor of the Huddersfield Lodge proposed as a joining member by  
Bro. J. Brook seconded by Bro. Holmes.

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### **LODGE MEETING 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1866**

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1866

Bro. Fearon	W.M.
R. Tinker	S.W.
G. Hinchliffe	J.W.
J. Holmes	I.G.
G. Greenwood	J.D.
Hesketh	
Henry Tinker	S.D.
Shore	Tyler

Lodge opened into the ....

Subs received	
Bro Fearon	5.0
R. Tinker	7.6
G. Hinchliff	5.0

J. Holmes	2.6	G. Greenwood	2.6d
Hesketh	10.0		
Henry Tinker	2.6		
Bower's fee	<u>1. 0.0</u>		
	2.16.0		
March	<u>2.6</u>		
	2.18.6		

The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed –  
 Bro.Geo Taylor was balloted for and duly elected unanimously  
 Bro. James Holmes proposed and Henry Tinker seconded Jonas Bower as a  
 candidate for admission to Masonry and paid 1.0.0.

Paid Bro Taylor 2.18.6

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### LODGE MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> JULY 1866

July 27<sup>th</sup> 1866

Fearon	W.M.
Woodhead	S.W.
Greenwood	J.W.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Marsh	S.D.
Holmes	I.G.
Hesketh	
Harpin	P.M.

Lodge opened into the first degree  
 Minutes read and confirmed  
 Mr Jonas Bower balloted for and duly elected  
 Lodge opened into the second degree

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### LODGE MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1866

August 24<sup>th</sup> 1866

Fearon	W.M.
Hinchliff	S.W.
Marsh	J.W.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Tinker	I.G.

Lodge opened into the first degree  
 Minutes read and confirmed  
 Lodge opened into the second degree

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### **LODGE MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 1866**

Fearon	W.M.
Greenwood	S.W.
Tinker	J.W.
Hinchliff	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	Secretary
Marsh	as S.D.
Holmes	I.G.

Lodge opened 1<sup>st</sup> degree. Minutes read and confirmed  
 Barber P.M. as J.D. Hesketh  
 Opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree  
 Opened into the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree  
 Closed to the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Test questions  
 Closed to the first

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### **LODGE MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 1866**

November 23 / 66

T. Barber	as W.M.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M. S.W.
George Hinchliff	P.M. S.W. ( <i>should this be J.W.</i> )
Fozzard	Treasurer

Taylor	Secretary
James Holmes	I.G.
Bro. John Harpin	

Minutes were read and confirmed  
 Lodge opened into the second and third degrees  
 Test questions asked

Election of W.M.	Bro. James Holmes
Tyler	Bro. Jesse Shore

Lodge closed by 8 o'clock

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### LODGE MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 1866

December 21<sup>st</sup> St. Thomas Day

Bro J. Fearon	W.M.
Woodhead	S.W.
R. Tinker	J.W.
Burton	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
Holmes	I.G.
T Barber	
Geo Hinchliff	
Hesketh	

Minutes read and confirmed

Opened into the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree

Visitors	
Higgins	P.M. 521
Dyson	P.M. P.P.G.D.C. 521
Hardy	P.M. 521
J.Burgess	W.M. 521
Jackson	P.M.
Williamson	Sec
Haigh	I.G.

Thompson	
Child	
Iredale	
Crowther	
Hirst	290
Haigh	290
Greenwood	
Harpin	
Farrar	290
Waite	290
Marshall	521
Haigh	Peace

Mr Charles Lockwood proposed by F. Littlewood  
 Mr Alfred Hirst ----- James Holmes

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### **LODGE MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1867**

January 18 / 67

Lodge met at 7

James Holmes	W.M.
T. Barber	S.W.
Burton	J.W.
Harpin	P.M.
Fozzard	Treasurer
Taylor	
Marsh	S.D.
Greenwood	I.G.
F. Littlewood	

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### **LODGE MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 1867**

February 15 / 67

James Holmes	W.M.
Tinker	S.W.



Burton	J.W.
Fearon	P.M.
Taylor	Secretary
Marsh	S.D.
Barker	P.M.
Hinchliff	P.M.
Woodhead	P.M. I.G.

Opened and closed

Minutes read and confirmed

Bro. Hesketh	J.D.
Bro. Rueben Senior	149
Bro. Edward Child	521 Visitors
Fozzard	Treasurer

Mr Josiah Mellor manufacturer Thongsbridge proposed by Bro. J.M. Woodhead.

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### **LODGE MEETING 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 1867**

March 22 / 67

Holmes	W.M.
Marsh	S.W.
Hinchliffe	J.W.
Taylor	I.G. Secretary
Fozzard	Tyler

Bro. James Holmes proposed William Hirst of Birdsedge, Manufacturer.

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### **LODGE MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 1867**

Adjourned Lodge March 23 / 67

James Holmes	W.M.
Tinker	S.W.
Burton	J.W.
Fozzard	Treasurer

Taylor	Secretary
Fearon	P.M.
Mellor	P.M.
Hinchliff	P.M.
Barber	P.M.
Marsh	S.D.
	I.G.

Lodge opened to the first degree afterwards to the second and third  
And afterwards closed to the first when Mr Josiah Mellor was duly initiated into  
Masonry by Bro. J.M. Woodhead

Bro. Josiah Mellor wishes to take the next.

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### **LODGE MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1867**

April 19<sup>th</sup> 1867

3 o'clock

J. Holmes	W.M.
Tinker	S.W.
Burton	JW
Hinchliff	P.M.
Marsh	S.D.
Hesketh	J.D.
Taylor	
Josiah Mellor	
Littlewood	
Hinchliffe	P.M.
Tinker	P.M.
Greenwood	I.G.

Mr William Hirst was balloted for and duly elected

Visitors

Bro. J.H. Abbey      W.M. Peace 290 (*Should be Huddersfield*)

Bains	W.M. Peace
R. Abbey	290
Jos Lee	290
J.H. Wilson	
N. Schofield	290
Nicholson	521
Child	521
Haigh	149
Allen	149
Redfearn	149
Wood	149

That the sum of ten guineas be granted by the Lodge be granted to the Royal Masonic Girls School. Proposed by Bro. T. Barker and seconded by Bro. Woodhead.

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### LODGE MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 1867

May 17 / 67

James Holmes	W.M.
R. Tinker	S.W.
Barber	J.W.
Hinchliff	P.M.
Burton	P.M.
Marsh	S.D.
Mellor	
Greenwood	I.G.
Fozzard	Treasurer

2 Mr Hirst balloted for admission

1 Mr Lockwood balloted for admission

Bro. Josiah Mellor	Raised	C.T.	(Charles Taylor ?)
Bro. William Hirst	Passed	C.T.	(Charles Taylor ?)
Mr James Lockwood	Initiated	J.M.W.	(J.M. Woodhead ?)
Mr Alfred Hirst	Initiated	J.M.W.	(J.M. Woodhead ?)

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### **LODGE MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1867**

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1867 at 6 o'clock

James Holmes	W.M.
J.M. Woodhead	P.M as S.W.
J. Burton	JW.
C. Taylor	
Fozzard	
Marsh	
Barber	
Hirst	
A.Hirst	
C. Lockwood	
Greenwood	
Fearon	

Minutes read and confirmed

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### **LODGE MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 1867**

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1867 at 6 o'clock

James Holmes	W.M.
John Burton	J.W.
T. Barber	S.W.
Josiah Mellor	
Charles Littlewood	
Alfred Hirst	
Edward Hirst	
Fearon	P.M.
Fozzard	
Taylor	
Woodhead	

Visitors

William Smith  
Edward Child

John Marsh  
Greenwood  
Hinchliff                      P.M.

Minutes read and confirmed  
Opened to the second degree, test questions  
Opened to the third degree

Bros. Lockwood and Hirst raised by Bros P.M.s. Smith and Taylor

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### **LODGE MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1867**

August 16<sup>th</sup> 1867

James Holmes	W.M.
T. Barber	S.W.
Geo Greenwood	J.W.
Geo Hinchliff	P.M.
C. Taylor	Secretary
Josiah Mellor	I.G.

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### **LODGE MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> October 1867**

October 10 / 1867

James Holmes	W.M.
Fearon	P.M.
Harpin	P.M.
Marsh	S.D.
Barber	J.W.
Hinchliff	S.W.
Greenwood	I.G.
G. Hirst	
C. Taylor	

The W.M. proposed Edward Child of the Lodge of Truth No.    as a joining member of The Holme Valley Lodge.  
Proposition fee paid    21/-

### LODGE MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1867

James Holmes	W.M.
Fearon	P.M.
R. Tinker	S.W.
Burton	J.W.
Jon Marsh	S.D.
Jos. Mellor	J.D.
T. Barber	P.M.
Hinchliff	P.M.
Woodhead	P.M.
William Hirst	
Alfred Hirst	
Geo Greenwood	I.G.
Tinker	P.M.

#### Visitors

R. Senior	Lodge of Peace
Heaton	Harmony
Smith	P.M.
Kenworthy	P.M.
Rhodes	
Dayson	
Farrar	
Taylor	
Harland	

The Lodge opened into the first degree when the Brethren elected a W.M. for the next year

Bro. Burton	elected Treasurer
Jesse Shore	Tyler

Bro. Child balloted for as a joining member

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### Members of The Holme Valley Lodge from October 24th 1855

Name	Profession	Residence	Initiated
C.S.Floyd	Solicitor	Sands	Founder
Bentley Shaw	Brewer	Lockwood	Founder
James Peace	Musician	Huddersfield	Honorary member
William Kilner	Drysalter	Huddersfield	Founder
William Smith	Shopkeeper	Huddersfield	Honorary member
Fred R. Jones Jnr.	Solicitor	Lane Ends, Woodhead	Founder
Joseph Batley Jnr.	Solicitor	Huddersfield	Founder
Edward Fozzard	Dyer	New Mill	Founder
George Eastwood	County Court Clerk	Sycamore	Founder
William Henry Aston	Cloth Finisher	Zetland Mill, Huddersfield	Founder
Charles Dyson	High Bailiff	Berry Brow	Founder
Thomas Dyson	Manufacturer	Moorfield House	Founder
John Burton	Schoolmaster	Holmfirth	Founder
James Taylor	County Court Clerk	Huddersfield	Founder
William Dransfield	Solicitor	Huddersfield	Founder
Joseph Mellor	Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	Founder
John Moorhouse	Engineer/Waste dealer	Holmfirth	Founder
Woodhead			
George Noble Nelson	Manufacturer	Hagg	Joining member
John Harpin	Stone Merchant	Birks House	21.12.1855
Charles Taylor	Draper	Holmfirth	25.01.1856
George Lawton	Attorney's Clerk	Holmfirth	25.01.1856
Frank Littlewood	Book Keeper	New Mill	25.01.1856
Thomas Hinchliffe	Manufacturer	Upperthong	21.03.1856
Henry Tinker	Auctioneer	Scholes	18.04.1856
George Belk Garnett	Dentist	Huddersfield	Not known
Thomas Iveson	Attorney's Clerk	Holmfirth	Joining member
Charles Battye	Fulling Miller	Bottoms Mill	07.08.1857
George Hinchliffe	Manufacturer	Upper Mill	01.01.1858
James King	Surgeon	New Mill	26.03.1858
Joseph Howarth	Inspector of Police	Holmfirth	27.08.1858
Geo. Greenwood	Cloth Finisher	Thongsbridge	17.12.1858
John Pickering	Excise Officer	Holmfirth	17.12.1858
Thomas Barber	Manufacturer	Upperthong	10.02.1860

James Holmes	Manufacturer	Laches	06.04.1860
Thomas Armitage	Manufacturer	Cumberworth	06.07.1860
Joseph Roberts	Dyer	Holmfirth	26.01.1861
Rev. John Fearon	Clerk in Holy Orders	Holmbridge	18.10.1861
Jesse Shore	Joiner/Cabinet maker	Holmfirth	20.12.1861
Matthew Henry Nelson	Manufacturer	Holme	14.02.1862
John Marsh	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	14.02.1862
Richard Tinker	Factory Manager	Armitage Bridge	16.09.1864
George Hesketh	Licensed Victualler	Dunford Bridge	02.02.1866
Josiah Mellor	Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	23.03.1867
William Hirst	Manufacturer	Birdsedge	19.04.1867
Charles Lockwood	Manufacturer	Fulstone	17.05.1867
Alfred Hirst	Manufacturer	Banks Villa, New Mill	17.05.1857
Edward O. Child	Inn Keeper	Huddersfield	Joining member
James Edward Mellor	Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	13.12.1867
Jonas Bower	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	10.01.1868
William Hobson	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	10.01.1868
Zaccheus Hinchliffe	Manufacturer	Denby Dale	06.03.1868
Zaccheus Crowther	Merchant	Holmfirth	Joining member
Walter Lodge	Merchant	Thongsbridge	10.04.1868
Rueben Senior	Brewer	Shepley	Joining member
William Armitage	Manufacturer	Shepley	Joining member
Henry Horton Peace	Manufacturer	Denby Dale	26.02.1869
Jonathan Morehouse	Merchant	New Mill	28.05.1869
Lockwood			
Eli Moorhouse	Manufacturer	New Mill	28.05.1869
Ambrose Moorhouse	Manufacturer	New Mill	25.06.1869
George Charlesworth	Manufacturer	Hinchliffe Mill	25.07.1869
Anthony Green	Commission Agent	Holme	18.02.1870
Jonathan Midgley	Dyer	Holmbridge	18.02.1870
Joe Byrom	Licensed Victualler	Penistone	09.09.1870
Joe Butterworth	Manufacturer	Hinchliffe Mill	09.12.1870
Samuel Stephenson	Solicitor	Holmfirth	04.01.1871
Booth			
James Wood	Workhouse Master	Deanhouse	Joining member
Joseph Whitaker	Woollen Merchant	Huddersfield	03.02.1871
John Tinker	Woollen Manufacturer	Holmbridge	27.10.1871



Green Roberts	Manufacturer	Hinchliffe Mill	26.01.1872
Thomas Turner	Manufacturer	Somerfield	26.01.1872
George Eastwood	County Court Clerk	Holmfirth	Honorary member
Thomas Beardsall	Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	10.12.1876
William Robert Booth	Wine Merchant	London	11.02.1876
John Haigh	Colliery Owner	Honley	06.10.1876
Harry Heeley	Solicitors Clerk	Holmfirth	06.04.1877
Tom Barber	Commercial Traveller	Huddersfield	Rejoined 19.10.1877
George Norris	Chemist's Traveller	Holmfirth	Joining member
Joshua Thistle Barber	Manufacturer	Huddersfield	23.11.1877
Joseph Manners Fenton	Carpet Manufacturer	Dewsbury	23.11.1877
John Archibald Heastie	Gov. of Union House	Crosland Moor	15.02.1878
John Hey	Manufacturer	Honley	Joining member
Samuel Boothroyd	Mill Manager	Holmfirth	04.04.1879
Alfred Peace	Dentist	Holmfirth	06.06.1879
Joseph Ramsden Mellor	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	06.06.1879
Joseph Douglas Brown	Schoolmaster	Holmfirth	06.06.1879
Thomas Brook	Grocer & Corn Miller	Holmfirth	06.06.1879
Joseph Barber	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	26.09.1879
Samuel Herbert Shaw	Manufacturer	Brockholes	26.09.1879
George Henry	Bankers Clerk	Holmfirth	26.12.1879
Netherwood			
John Lindley	Grocer	Scholes	02.04.1880
James Theodore	Clerk in Holy Orders	Holmbridge	08.07.1881
Wilkinson			
Arthur Tinker	Manufacturer	Holmbridge	09.09.1881
William Ernest Wimpenny	Share Broker	Holmfirth	09.09.1881
Nicholas McClelland	Congregational Minister	Holmfirth	04.11.1881
Hennessy			
George Henry Ingham	School Master	Holmbridge	03.02.1882
Rev. John William Jeffrey	Clerk in Holy Orders	Holmfirth	03.02.1882
George Gardiner	Mungo Merchant	Holme	Joining member
Alfred Peaker Mellor	Fine Drawer	Holmfirth	30.03.1883
Jonathan Sandford	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	14.12.1883
Thomas Brownson	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	11.01.1884
Jesse Shore	Joiner	Holmfirth	Joining member

			(was serving member)
Thomas Woodhead	Corn Miller	Netherthong	06.06.1884
Franklin Shaw Whittell	Schoolmaster	Netherthong	11.07.1884
Benjamin Haigh	Cloth Finisher	Holme	Joining member
Joseph Albert Greenwood	Manufacturer	Holmbridge	24.07.1885
James William Mellor	Mungo Merchant	New Mill	28.08.1885
Albert Mellor	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	22.01.1886
John Crofts	Congregational Minister	Nottingham	16.04.1886
George Henry Sykes	Solicitor	Holmfirth	11.02.1887
William Sandford	Teacher of Music	Holmfirth	28.10.1887
Tom Heeley	Law Student	Fern Bank	27.01.1888
Charles Henry Marshall	Solicitor	Prickleden House	25.05.1888
William Moorhouse	Manufacturer	New Mill	19.10.1888
James Lancaster	Cloth Finisher	Thongsbridge	Joining member
James Graham	Master	Crosland Moor Workhouse	11.10.1889
Shaw Haigh	Wine & Spirit Merchant	Uppperbridge	08.11.1889
John Crow	Super. of Police	Police office, Holmfirth	Joining member
Joshua Barrowclough	Architect	Holmfirth	24.10.1890
William Sykes	Book Keeper	Washpit	20.02.1891
Willie Ernest Lockwood	Solicitor	Bottoms, Holmfirth	03.04.1891
Arthur Wilkinson Brook	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	03.04.1891
Frank Greenwood	Manufacturer	Holmbridge	18.09.1891
Charley Holroyd	Joiner & Builder	Honley	11.03.1892
Harry Lomax	Solicitor's Clerk	Holmfirth	07.10.1892
Joshua Cuttall	Inspector of Rivers	Cross Roads	03.03.1893
Barrowclough			
Tom Stott Brierley	Dyer	Brockholes	03.03.1893
Edwin Ashton Sutcliffe	Draper	Rochholme, Holmfirth	28.04.1893
Richard Bower	Designer	Scholes	29.01.1894
Joseph Edward Fisher	Chemist	Holmfirth	20.07.1894
James Beardsell	Draper	Holmfirth	11.01.1895
Rapha Thomas Hardy	Coal Merchant	Holmfirth	11.01.1895
Thomas Mellor Haigh	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	11.01.1895
Tom Sykes	Coal Merchant	Holmfirth	Joining member
Fenton Lodge	Commercial Traveller	Moldgreen	05.07.1895

John William Brierley	Dyer	Denby Dale	06.09.1895
Thomas Hinchliffe	Postmaster	Holmfirth	03.01.1896
Willie Walker	Schoolmaster	Thongsbridge	03.01.1896
Thomas Wilson	Inn Keeper	Wagon & Horses Holmfirth	24.07.1896
Frank Roebuck	Commercial Traveller	Dalton	18.09.1896
William Heeley	Solicitor	Holmfirth	13.08.1897
Alfred Battye	Cashier	Holmfirth	13.08.1897
Tom Lawton	Designer	Hipperholme	13.08.1897
Joseph Tyas	Gentleman	Holmfirth	10.09.1897
Henry Walter Hodges	Gentleman	Paris, Holmfirth	11.03.1898
Harry Holroyd	Joiner & Builder	Honley	25.11.1898
Joseph Thomas Lee	Railway Inspector	Lockwood	25.11.1898
Albert Tinker	Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	27.01.1899
John Edward Heap	Solicitor	Honley	27.01.1899
Herbert Brierley Sykes	Auctioneer & Valuer	Holmfirth	27.01.1899
John William Battye Shaw	Joiner & Cabinet Maker	Holmfirth	26.05.1899
Herbert Newbould	Inspector of weights & measurers	Huddersfield	23.06.1899
Jonas Wagstaff	Stone Merchant	Dunford Bridge	20.10.1899
William Riley	Vocalist	Marsh	Honorary joining member
Charles William Sheard	Cashier	Brockholes	17.02.1900
Thomas Tate	Station Master	Holmfirth	08.03.1901
Hubert Russell	Gas Manager	Holmfirth	08.03.1901
Frank Naylor	Sanitary Tube Manufacturer	Denby Dale	30.08.1901
Samuel Varley Heap	Schoolmaster	Earby Colne	30.08.1901
Fred Lawton	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	24.01.1902
Robert Turner	Contractor	Holmfirth	25.04.1902
Henry Brook Swallow	Ironmonger	Holmfirth	25.04.1902
John Crossley Cockcroft	Manufacturer	Brockholes	Honorary joining member
Arthur Edward Buckley	Gas Manager	Holmfirth	13.03.1903
Harry Bamforth	Photographer	Prickleden	13.03.1903
Charles Henry Brownhill	Manufacturer	Denby Dale	10.07.1903
Matthew Whiteley	Coal Merchant	Holmfirth	10.07.1903
Frederick Arthur Roebuck	Manufacturer	Holmfirth	01.01.1904
Walter Quamby	Hosier	Holmfirth	01.01.1904
Harry Marsden	Gas Manager	Honley	06.04.1906

Joe Barrow	Inn Keeper	Holmfirth	06.04.1906
Willie Moxon	Station Master	Holmfirth	11.05.1906
Frank Battye	Glue & Size Manufacturer	New Mill	03.08.1906
Samuel James	Stores Superintendent	Sheffield	30.11.1906
Charles Hollingworth	Cloth Finisher	Thongsbridge	25.01.1907
Lancaster			
Benjamin Moody	Collier Commercial	Barnsley	23.08.1907
Hinchliffe	Manager		
Richard Wadsworth	Commercial Traveller	Barnsley	23.08.1907
Summers			
Frank Cyril Hampshire	Solicitor	Holmfirth	29.03.1908
Garfield Johnson Shaw	Clerk	Penistone	29.03.1908
Joseph Noble	Station Master	Honley	12.06.1908
Eder Firth	Ironmonger	Holmfirth	09.10.1908
Charles Ashwin White	Solicitor	Barnsley	24.03.1910
John Beech	Railway Employee	Holmfirth	24.03.1910
Joseph Hall	Commercial Traveller	Honley	24.03.1910
Albert Robinson	Mungo Manufacturer	Honley	24.03.1910
William Marsden	Manufacturer	Honley	14.07.1911
Tom Battye	Draper	Holmfirth	20.11.1913
Wilson Ellis Goldthorpe	Mill Furnisher	Thongsbridge	19.03.1914
Fred Whiteley	Manufacturer	Holmbridge	17.09.1914
Charles Henry Whiteley	Manufacturer	Hinchliffe Mill	17.09.1914
Turner Mettrick	Pork Butcher	Underbank	21.10.1915
Abraham Percy Ruscoe	Clerk	Holmfirth	18.01.1917
James Newton West	Bank Manager	Holmfirth	19.04.1917
John Davis	Dyer	Holmfirth	19.04.1917
Richard Henry Moseley	Designer & Traveller	Holmfirth	19.04.1917
Arthur Alan Hopkinson	Yarn Manager	Holmfirth	Joining member
Percy Birkhead	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	21.03.1918
George Dewhurst Wilson	Postmaster	Holmfirth	21.03.1918
Herbert Hinchliffe	Mungo Merchant	Jackson Bridge	16.01.1919
Percival Richard	Coal Exporter & Shipper	Hull	15.01.1920
Crossland			
Thomas Tom Whitehouse	Detective Inspector	Barnsley	19.02.1920
Walter Prosser	Ship Broker	Hull	Joining member
Robert Ramsden Mellor	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	18.03.1920
Wright Dearnley	Woollen Manufacturer	New Mill	17.06.1920
William Johnstone	Commercial Traveller	Bradford	17.06.1920
McLintock			

John Arthur Charlesworth	Commercial Traveller	Holmfirth	16.09.1920
Albert Booth	Insurance Superintendent	Holmfirth	16.09.1920
John Hinchliffe	Quarry Owner	Dunford	21.10.1920
George William Brinsley	Chief Clerk (Railways)	Barnsley	17.02.1921
Walter Robinson	Boiler Furnace Engineer	Huddersfield	17.02.1921
Benjamin Andrew	Police Inspector	Thornton Lodge	03.03.1921
Moorhouse			
Herbert Pickles	Schoolmaster	Thongsbridge	03.03.1921
John Bernard Hogley	Master Painter & Decorator	Holmfirth	17.03.1921
William Lodge	Chiropodist & Hairdresser	Moldgreen	17.03.1921
Russell Tricker	Minister of Religion	Holmfirth	31.03.1921
William Hardy	Dyer	Holmfirth	31.03.1921
Arthur Edward	Traveller	Holmfirth	16.06.1921
Greenwood			
Wilfred Wagstaff	Mill Manager	Paris, Holmfirth	16.06.1921
Mitchell Lindley	Stone Merchant & Quarry Owner	Hade Edge	06.10.1921
Wilson Helm	Grocer	Hade Edge	06.10.1921
Harold Shaw	Cabinet Maker	Holmfirth	20.10.1921
Samuel White	Master of Institution	Poor Law Institution Penistone	16.02.1922
Hinchliffe Brook	Coal Merchant	Holmfirth	16.02.1922
Solomon Roberts	Railway Passenger Inspector	Mirfield	16.02.1922
Caleb Featherstone	Permanent Way Inspector	Wigan	20.04.1922
Harold Barber	Woollen Manufacturer	Holmbridge	Joining member
Herbert Smith	Bank Manager	Holmfirth	17.08.1922
Thomas Henry Newsam	Company Secretary & Manager	Barnsley	17.08.1922
Tom Bainbridge	Master Plumber	Holmfirth	15.02.1923
Fred Lockwood	Railway Clerk	Thongsbridge	15.02.1923
Joe Kenyon	Plumber & Glazier	Holmfirth	21.06.1923
Norman Tyas Lawton	Cloth Manufacturer	Holmfirth	20.09.1923
Thomas Bradshaw Plant	Agent	Barnsley	18.10.1923
Herbert Mettrick	Butcher	Holmfirth	19.06.1924
James Hadwen	Master Tailor	Barnsley	03.07.1924
Frederick Hadwen	Master Tailor	Barnsley	03.07.1924
Ernest Legott Stockall	Secretary	Holmfirth	Joining member
Richard Reginald	Commercial Traveller	Manchester	17.07.1924

Hargraves			
William Naylor	Sanitary Pipe Manufacturer	Denby Dale	17.07.1924
James Edward Batley	Size Manufacturer	Thongsbridge	19.02.1925
George Ernest Field	Draper	Holmfirth	19.03.1925
Tom Heeley	Solicitor	Holmfirth	16.04.1925
Frank Whiteley	Cloth Manufacturer	Holmbridge	16.04.1925
Major Herbert Marsh	Civil Engineer	Holmbridge	Joining member
Sims Meares			
Harry Roberts	Schoolmaster	Holmbridge	30.04.1925
Harold Hanson Hudson	Designer	Wooldale	18.06.1925
Frederick Turner	Grocer	Pontefract	18.06.1925
Rev. John Partridge	Clerk in Holy Orders	Thongsbridge	Joining member
Makeham			
Herbert Horsfall Hirst	Schoolmaster	Thongsbridge	17.09.1925
Claude Harry Grey	Estate Agent	Barnsley	15.10.1925
Robert Cyril Hargraves	Iron-founders & Blacking Manufacturer	Manchester	18.03.1926
George Frederick Hatt	Police Constable	Holmfirth	21.10.1926
Charles Farmer	Civil Engineer	Holmbridge	21.01.1927
Arnold Lancaster	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	16.06.1927
Young Wagstaff	Contractor	Holmfirth	21.07.1927
William Brown Waite	Licensee	Barnsley	18.08.1927
George Turner	Meat Purveyor	Almondbury	17.11.1927
Carl Edward Ramsden	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	15.03.1928
Mellor			
Joshua Cuttall Beardsell	Grocer	Holmfirth	18.04.1928
Charles Eric Naylor	Sanitary Pipe Manufacturer	Denby Dale	18.04.1928
Joe Quarmby	Dyer	Carrfield	17.05.1928
Sam Sandford	Cloth Manufacturer	Holmfirth	19.07.1928
Robert Morton Sandford	Cloth Manufacturer	Holmfirth	19.07.1928
Harold Vincent Mitchell	Bank Clerk	Holmfirth	15.11.1928
Henry Lloyd Mitchell	Electrical Engineer	Holmfirth	15.11.1928
John Joseph Armistead	Electrical Salesman	Withernsea	17.10.1929
Fred Mettrick	Railway Clerk	Holmfirth	20.02.1930
Robert Wilfred Birch	Baker & Confectioner	Thongsbridge	17.07.1930
Robert Bousted	Agricultural Traveller	Barnsley	18.09.1930
William Turner Haigh	Pharmacist & Optician	Netherton	16.10.1930
George Kilvington	Dental Surgeon	Birkby	17.09.1931
Reginald Coldwell	Architect	Newsome	17.09.1931
Wilson Haigh	Garage Proprietor	Holmfirth	15.10.1931

Robert Hampshire Haigh	Builders Contractor	Holmfirth	15.10.1931
Joseph Richardson	Contractor	Barnsley	19.11.1931
Hubert Brooke Quarmby	Painter & Decorator	Rotcher	Joining member
George Wordsworth	Building Contactor	Holmfirth	17.11.1932
Stephen Hogley	Painter & Decorator	New Mill	19.01.1933
Walter Green	Motor Engineer & Haulage Contractor	Hinchliffe Mill	15.06.1933
John Henry Salt	Postmaster	Holmfirth	16.11.1933
Frank Berry	Bank Cashier	Thongsbridge	19.07.1934
Albert George Brinsley	Accountant's Clerk	Barnsley	17.01.1935
John Lawton Oliphant	Cost Accountant	Holmfirth	16.05.1935
William Rusling	Manager	Barnsley	19.09.1935
John Thomas Mitchell	Fish Merchant	Barnsley	16.01.1936
Charles Hawke	Master Butcher	Barnsley	21.05.1936
George Hamlet Willis	Managing Director	Penistone	16.07.1936
Charles Watson Roberts	Gentleman	Holmbridge	17.09.1936
Robert Cooper	Police Inspector	Holmfirth	15.10.1936
Donald Alfred Chadwick	Company Representative	Wakefield	15.10.1936
Samuel Stratford	Commercial Traveller	Barnsley	Joining member
Norman Heap	Solicitor	Holmfirth	Joining member
Edward Brook Heap	Solicitors Articled Clerk	Holmfirth	18.02.1937
Charles Bates	Architect	-----	20.05.1937
Kenneth Kenworthy Platt	Mill Manager	Sycamore	18.06.1937
Leonard Baddley	Coach Proprietor	Huddersfield	21.10.1937
Jack Atkinson	Master Butcher	Holmbridge	18.11.1937
Samuel Price Owens	Schoolmaster	Holmfirth	17.02.1938
Will Stockwell	Master Butcher	Holmbridge	21.07.1938
Oswald Frost	Shoolmaster	Barnsley	15.09.1938
George Harry Tuelove	Master Butcher	Staincroft	15.06.1939
Arthur Muir	Engineer	Leeds	19.10.1939
Llewlyn Herbert Roberts	Woollen Manufacturer	Holmfirth	15.02.1940
John Frederick Russell	Dental Surgeon	Honley	18.04.1940
Charles Ronald Lancaster	Cloth Finisher	Netherthong	16.01.1941
Lionel Eric Lancaster	Cloth Finisher	Thongsbridge	20.02.1941
Norman Marsh	Cloth Manufacturer	Holmfirth	17.04.1941
Frank Lancaster	Mechanical Engineer	Thongsbridge	17.07.1941
Frank Raymond Booth	Assistant Manager Woollen Mill	Thongsbridge	18.09.1941
Frank Platt	Electrical Engineer	Holmfirth	19.02.1942

William Sykes Shaw	Auctioneer & Valuer	Holmfirth	19.03.1942
Percy Ackroyd	Master Dyer	Thongsbridge	16.07.1942
Leslie England	Knitted Cloth Manufacturer	New Mill	20.08.1942
Henry William Gill	Garage Proprietor	Shepley	21.01.1943
Walter Greenwood	Master Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	18.02.1943
Frank Mellor	Wine & Spirit Merchant	Holmfirth	15.04.1943
Charles Ramsden	Master Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	15.07.1943
Mellor Haigh			
Bertie Bradshaw	Works Manager	Holmbridge	16.09.1943
Harold Thomas Atkinson	Master Butcher	New Mill	20.01.1944
Arthur Thomas	Clerk in Holy Orders	Holmfirth	18.05.1944
Dangerfield			
John Howarth	Greengrocer	Holmfirth	18.05.1944
Fred Charlesworth	Railway Engineer	Thongsbridge	17.08.1944
Haigh Sykes	Pork Butcher	Meltham	19.10.1944
Frederick Birds Tipping	Schoolmaster	Holmbridge	15.02.1945
Arthur Bleasby	Headmaster	Holmfirth	19.07.1945
David Robert Birch	Baker & Confectioner	Holmfirth	17.01.1946
Ronald Battye	Company Director	Holmfirth	21.02.1946
Arnold Beaumont	Mill Manager	New Mill	18.07.1946
Ernest Jessop	Worsted Cloth Designer	Thongsbridge	19.09.1946
Herert Wilkinson	Cloth Finisher	Thongsbridge	16.01.1947
John Barber	Manufacturer	Holmbridge	17.04.1947
Willie Williams	Yarn Spinner	Holmfirth	17.07.1947
Clive Birkhead	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	16.10.1947
Maxwell Birkhead	Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	16.10.1947
Harry Dawson	Master Baker	Holmfirth	15.01.1948
John Turner	Solicitor	Holmfirth	17.06.1948
Frank Shore	Master Joiner	Holmfirth	19.08.1948
William Dudley Brown	Architect	Holmfirth	16.09.1948
Arthur James Coates	Weaving Departmental Manager	Holmfirth	21.04.1949
Philip Alwyn Hawke	Master Butcher	Barnsley	15.09.1949
Arthur Wordsworth Clough	Surveyor	Penistone	19.01.1950
Eric Edon Wood	Master Painter	Fartown	20.04.1950
Ronald Emmanuel Batley	Insurance Inspector	New Mill	21.09.1950
Eric Skelton	Schoolmaster	Honley	18.01.1951
Harry Beaumont	Departmental Manager	Brockholes	21.06.1951
Jack Schofield	Bakery Manager	Holmfirth	17.01.1952
Arthur Victor Booth	Wholesale Tobacconist	Holmfirth	19.06.1952



Charles Henry Thorp	Architect	Huddersfield	16.10.1952
Charles Stephen Collins	Manager	Holmfirth	18.06.1953
Harold Clinton Browne	Grocer	Holmfirth	17.09.1953
Frank Cyril Booth	Cloth Byer	Ipswich	18.02.1954
Oliver Hirst	Master Joiner	Holmfirth	18.03.1954
Walter Schofield	Baker	New Mill	16.09.1954
Clifford Castle	Company Director	Holmfirth	20.01.1955
Alfred Lyall Smith	Medical Practioner	Scholes	17.02.1955
Anderson			
John Lawton Sandford	Worsted Manufacturer	Holmfirth	16.06.1955
Geoffrey Mitchell	Worsted Manufacturer	New Mill	16.06.1955
Sandford			
Leonard Williamson	Police Sergeant	Holmfirth	19.01.1956
James Gordon Davies	Director	Honley	16.02.1956
James Lawrence Mitchell	Schoolmaster	Holmfirth	11.06.1956
Geoffrey Herbert Mewies	Company Director	Holmfirth	17.01.1957
James Wilson Senior	Cloth Designer	New Mill	21.02.1957
Basil Stephen Moore	Company Director	Penistone	16.01.1958
Walter Gerald Lowndes	Local Manager	Netherthong	15.05.1958
Pollitt			
Robert Wagstaff	Joint Managing Director	Holmfirth	19.06.1958
Geoffrey Richardson	Works Manager	New Mill	15.01.1959
John Stephen Burgess	Master Plumber	Holmfirth	17.09.1959
Robert Kenworthy Platt	Electrical Engineer	Holmfirth	18.02.1960
Sydney James	Civil Servant	Wooldale	16.06.1960
Alfred Green	Farmer	Holmbridge	21.07.1960
Harold Hobson	Dyer	New Mill	19.01.1961
Harold Battye	Commission Weaver	New Mill	18.01.1962
Jack Marsh Swallow	Technical Representative	Brockholes	20.09.1962
Neil Howard Beaumont	Chartered Textile	Holmfirth	18.10.1962
Jack France	Water Engineer	Holmbridge	17.01.1963
Thomas Geoffrey Birks	Joiner & Funeral Director	Holmfirth	16.01.1964
Peter Hirst	Master Joiner	Holmfirth	16.04.1964
George Edward Griffiths	Master Plumber	Holmfirth	21.07.1965
Sam Priest	Development Manager	Almondbury	15.04.1965
	& Director		
Edward Rattigan	Swimming Instructor	Sheffield	16.09.1965
Edgar Dickinson	Farmer - Dairyman	Holmfirth	17.03.1966
Alfred Roberts	Schoolmaster	Holmbridge	21.04.1966
James Thomas Broadbent	Director	Holmfirth	18.05.1967
Peter Nigel Dawson	Bank Clerk	Thongsbridge	21.03.1968
Allen Melville France	Designer	Holmbridge	18.07.1968

Anthony Asquith	Sales Representative	Holmfirth	19.09.1968
David Lawrence Swallow	Haulage Contractor	Honley	16.01.1969
Brian Hodgson	Bank Accountant	Holmfirth	15.05.1969
Royston Henry Morris	Engineer	Meltham	15.01.1970
John Michael Schofield	Assistant Dyer	Thongsbridge	21.05.1970
Paul Clinton Browne	Solicitor	Holmfirth	21.01.1971
Michael Turner Haigh	Pharmacist	Shepley	15.04.1971
Peter Sefton Glover	Chief Design Engineer	Shepley	19.08.1971
Edward Bowman	Hardware Dealer	Netherton	17.02.1972
Gordon Wagstaff	Company Secretary	Meltham	16.03.1972
John Michael Howarth	Schoolteacher	Holmfirth	15.06.1972
Barry Vincent	Senior Lecturer	Wooldale	Joining member
Derek Beaumont	Works Manager	Holmfirth	18.01.1973
Robert Clay	Architect	Thongsbridge	19.04.1973
Michael Hellawell	Architect	Thongsbridge	19.07.1973
Antony Ian Ward	Chartered Civil Engineer	Cumberworth	17.01.1974
George Hardy	Maintenance Manager	Holmfirth	18.04.1974
Lawrence Cliff	Police Constable	Dalton	20.06.1974
William Drake	Company Director	Honley	20.06.1974
Philip Breckon	Supplies Planning Officer	Meltham	16.01.1975
Robert Neville Golden	Garage Proprietor	New Mill	20.02.1975
Cecil Bradbury	Police Sergeant	Rastrick	18.09.1975
Nicholas Roy Spencer	Motor Engineer	Brighouse	19.02.1976
Rowland			
Robert Anthony Baron	Area Sales Representative	Scholes	20.05.1976
Philip Leigh Andrews	Textile Merchant	Upperthong	21.10.1976
Derek Marshall	Service Manager	Honley	17.03.1977
Stanley Dodson	Fruiterer	Farnley Tyas	19.05.1977
Derek Jenour Mitchell	Senior Instructor	Linthwaite	21.07.1977
Douglas Ian Hanson	Master Butcher	Meltham	20.10.1977
Charles Henry Carter	Police Inspector	Dalton	19.01.1978
Gordon Ramsden Mellor	Master Cloth Finisher	Holmfirth	18.05.1978
John Battye	Quality Control Engineer	Thurstonland	17.08.1978
Peter Berry	Optician	New Mill	21.09.1978
James Michael Howard	Farmer	Holme	19.04.1979
Leonard William Cussons	Retired	Upper Denby	Joining member
Peter Fearnley Stead	Export Service Manager	Linthwaite	19.07.1979
Charles Boyce Bradbury	Senior Work Study Engineer	Honley	16.08.1979
Donald Porter	Engineer	Crosland Moor	17.01.1980

Malcolm Douglas Haigh	Area Manager, Yorkshire Water Board	Skelmanthorpe	17.04.1980
Geoffrey William Kitson	Police Constable	Mirfield	15.05.1980
Roy Bolton	Accountant	Wooldale	21.08.1980
Clive Martin Schofield	Company Accountant	Wooldale	18.09.1980
John Carlton Midgley	Deputy Head Teacher	Holmfirth	15.01.1981
Norman Reast	Technical Engineer	Honley	15.01.1981
Charles Connal Wilson	Company Director	Shepley	Joining member
David Hardacre	Sales Manager	Holmfirth	19.03.1981
Peter Frost	Company Director	Skelmanthorpe	21.05.1981
Milton Garfield Shaw	Company Director	Barnsley	Joining member
Reginald Brian Senior	Field Sales Engineer	Honley	21.01.1982
Eric Cliffe	Sales Engineer	Scholes	Joining member
James Herbert Littlewood	Company Director	Golcar	Joining member
Trevor Beaumont	College Vice Principal	Lindley	Joining member
Graham Wells	Senior Instructor Service & Product	Woodhouse Hill	20.01.1983
Brian Frederck Martyn	Chartered Accountant	New Mill	17.02.1983
John Michael Hirst	Company Director	Edgerton	16.06.1983
Ashley Norman Jackson	Artist	Holmfirth	Joining member
David Edward Dickens	Retired Warrant Officer	Shepley	19.04.1984
David Arthur Rawson	Company Director	Marsh	19.07.1984
Albert Chapman	Head of Department	Mirfield	Joining member
Duncan Fraser Davidson	Production Director	Thongsbridge	20.09.1984
John Timothy Coy	Group Secretary	Holmfirth	18.10.1984
Brian Senior	Insurance Broker	Holmfirth	19.09.1985
John Stuart Beddard	Solicitor	Kirkburton	19.06.1986
Martin Harold Battye	Motor Engineer	Holmfirth	19.05.1988
Richard Arthur Fox	Wholesale Fruiterer	Honley	16.06.1988
John Lloyd Griffiths	Financial Director	Holmfirth	Joining member
Robert Edward Arthur Newton	Chartered Surveyor	Honley	20.10.1988
Terence Battye	Garage Manager	Holmfirth	18.05.1989
Dr. Graeme Eales	General Practitioner	Honley	20.07.1989

Edward John Sandland	Awning Manager	Sheffield	17.05.1990
John Alistair Green	Chartered Surveyor	Dewsbury	16.08.1990
Desmond Woodhead	Motor Vehicle Dismantler	Upperthong	20.09.1990
David Andrew Moorhouse	Licensed Victualler	Huddersfield	19.09.1991
Richard Mark Green	Solicitor	Honley	19.03.1992
Norman Campbell Law	Computer Analyst/ Programmer	Thongsbridge	18.06.1992
Ronald Hunter	Progress Technician	Upperthong	16.07.1992
David Christopher Ballinger	Licensed Victualler	Holmfirth	Joining member
Robert William Wright	Ticket & Travel Agent	Holmfirth	15.04.1993
Ian Duncan Birks	Master Joiner & Cabinet Maker	Holmfirth	17.06.1993
Robert Kerr	-----	New Mill	Joining member
John Michael Coupland	Nation Accounts Manager	Skelmanthorpe	16.06.1994
Brian Colwill	Farmer	Holmfirth	18.08.1994
Anthony Percival Swallow	Store Keeper	Hepworth	15.09.1994
Peter Richard Elam	Retired Bank Official	New Mill	19.01.1995
Raymond John Smith	Engineering Technician	Upperthong	16.02.1995
Brian Clayton	Market Trader	Emley	17.08.1995
Barrie Conyer Jones	Fire Prevention Manager	Sheffield	Joining member
Dennis Garlick	Coach Painter	Holmfirth	21.03.1996
Godfrey Hall	Sales Manager	Skelmanthorpe	16.05.1996
Philip Anthony Hankins	Retail Store Manager	Almondbury	15.08.1996
John Gregory Cropper	Textile Printer	Upperthong	21.11.1996
John Radley	Post Master	Denby Dale	17.06.1997
Russell Christopher Balmforth	Vehicle Dismantler	Holmfirth	16.04.1998
Antony Robert Britton	Computer Graphic Designer	Meltham	18.06.1998
Robert Cartman	Process Controller	New Mill	16.06.1998
John Raymond Hardcastle	Company Director	Batley	20.05.1999
Kenneth Edward Manning	Fixed Asset Manager	Thongsbridge	21.10.1999
John Leslie Roebuck	Motor Mechanic	Holmfirth	17.02.2000
Steven Ronald Walker	Assistant Manager	Thongsbridge	21.09.2000
Andrew Mark Hodson	Underwriter	Wakefield	19.10.2000
Nicholas Bunn	Freight Forwarder	New Mill	15.08.2002
Mark Stephen Walker	Timber Merchant	Meltham	16.01.2003
Roger Bedford	Retired Publican	Holmfirth	21.08.2003
John Metcalf	Electrical Engineer	Scholes	17.06.2004

Christopher Smith	Student	Upperthong	15.09.2005
David John Neve	Senior Lecturer (Huddersfield University)	Holmfirth	15.06.2006
Paul Henry Adrian McEnhill	Contracts Manager	Skelmanthorpe	17.08.2006
Alan Aldred	Personnel Manager Retired	Hepworth	Joining member
David John Compston	Retail Manager	Netherthong	Joining member
Jason Hunter	Army Sergeant	Holmfirth	30.07.2006
Brian Moss	Engineer	Penistone	15.02.2007
Christopher Ian Townsend	Technical Support (Huddersfield University)	New Mill	Joining member
John Alexandra Cawder-Calder	Property Developer	Honley	20.09.2007
James Alexander Deane	Electrical Engineer	Thongsbridge	17.04.2008
Lee Anthony Puttick	Community Support Worker	Netherthong	19.06.2008
Bro. Gareth John Howgill	Chemical Engineer	Upper Cumberworth	Joining member
Matthew Guest	Brands Promoter	Holmfirth	20.11.2008
Richard Gordon Thompson	Landscape Gardener	New Mill	15.01.2009
Ashley Guy Craven	Food Consultant	Hepworth	19.02.2009
Stephen Bryan Sandford	Global Service Manager	Denby Dale	15.10.2009
Ben Arthur McColl	Restaurant Manager	Holmfirth	19.11.2009
Peter John Vincent	Higher Executive Officer	Thongsbridge	18.03.2010
Michael Dowling	Retired Business Consultant	Hepworth	Joining member
Christian L Bray	Sales Executive	Honley	15.07.2010
Brian Haigh	Scrap Metal Dealer	Wortley Sheffield	19.08.2010
Graham Norris Basnett	Computer technician	Scholes	21.10.2010
Andrew Porter	Packaging Consultant	Holmfirth	18.08.2011
Andrew B. Lowe	Instrument Manufacturer Manager	Holmfirth	Joining member
Michael Rath	Instrument Manufacturer	Holmfirth	19.01.2012
John Bernard Dixon	Carpet Retailer	Jackson Bridge	16.02.2012
Adam Jon Halstead	Newsagent	Netherthong	16.08.2012
W.Bro. Terence Kelly	Retired Sales and Marketing Manager	Netherthong	Joining member
Martin Leslie Wright	Chartered Certified Accountant	Farnley Tyas	15.08.2013
Bro. Paul O'Neil	Retired Dental Surgeon	Glossop	Joining member
De Loughery			
Paul Jonathan Roebuck-Rouse	Cover Supervisor	Netherthong	17.07.2014
Glen Thompson Evans	Web Designer	Netherthong	21.08.2014

## PAST MASTERS, 1855 – 2015

1855/6	Cookson S. Floyd	1907	T.Hinchliffe	1957	Will Stockwell
1857	Joseph Mellor	1908	Wm. Heeley	1958	Oswald Frost
1858	John Burton	1909	J. E. Heap	1959	Norman Marsh
1859	George N. Nelson	1910	J. W. B. Shaw	1960	Frank R. Booth
1860	Charles Taylor	1911	Alfred Battye	1961	Frank Mellor
1861	J. M. Woodhead	1912	Robert Turner	1962	H. T. Atkinson
1862	John Harpin	1913	Fred Lawton	1963	John Howarth
1863	Henry Tinker	1914	M. Whiteley	1964	David R. Birch
1864	G. Hinchliffe	1915	W. Moxon	1965	Ernest Jessop
1865	Thomas Barber	1916	Frank Batley	1966	J. Midgeley
1866	John Fearon	1917	C. H. Lancaster	1967	H. Wilkinson
1867	James Holmes	1918	B. M. Hinchliffe	1968	H. Dawson
1868	John Marsh	1919	B. M. Hinchliffe	1969	R. E. Batley
1869	Richard Tinker	1920	Eder L. Firth	1970	Jack Schofield
1870	Josiah Mellor	1921	W. Quarmby	1971	H. C. Browne
1871	Edward O. Child	1922	G. J. Shaw	1972	W. G. Pollitt
1872	William Hirst	1923	John Beech	1973	G. Richardson
1873	James E. Mellor	1924	F. Whiteley	1974	S. James
1874	Z. Hinchliffe	1925	A. P. Ruscoe	1975	G. A. Keen
1875	G. Charlesworth	1926	J. E. Broadbent	1976	A. Green
1876	Samuel S. Booth	1927	Turner Mettrick	1977	H. Battye
1877	Anthony Green	1928	R. R. Mellor	1978	J. M. Swallow
1878	Jonathan Midgley	1929	J. N. West	1979	N. H. Beaumont
1879	John Tinker	1930	John Davis	1980	T. G. Birks
1880	Thomas Beardsell	1931	G. D. Wilson	1981	S. Priest
1881	Harry Healey	1932	J. A. Charlesworth	1982	G. E. Griffiths
1882	John Hey	1933	G. W. Brinsley	1983	E. Dickinson
1883	George Norris	1934	Harold Barber	1984	J. T. Broadbent
1884	Samuel Boothroyd	1935	Hinchliffe Brook	1985	P. N. Dawson
1885	Thomas Brook	1936	N. T. Lawton	1986	A. M. France
1886	Samuel H. Shaw	1937	Tom Heeley	1987	B. Hodgson
1887	Joseph Barber	1938	Rev. J. P. Makeham	1988	M. T. Haigh
1888	Jos. R. Mellor	1939	Harry Roberts	1989	E. Bowman
1889	W. E. Wimpenny	1940	H. H. Hirst	1990	D. Beaumont
1890	J. A. Heastie	1941	Arnold Lancaster	1991	M. Hellawell
1891	J. Sandford	1942	Young Wagstaff	1992	R. N. Golden
1892	T. Woodhead	1943	Fred Lockwood	1993	C. Bradbury
1893	J. W. Mellor	1944	R. M. Sandford	1994	N. R. S. Rowland
1894	A. Mellor	1945	Walter Green	1995	P. Berry
1895	J. Lancaster	1946	Frank Berry	1996	J. M. Howard
1896	C. H. Marshall	1947	J. L. Oliphant	1997	G. Wells
1897	J. A. Greenwood	1948	C. E. R. Mellor	1998	B. F. Martyn
1898	Jas. Graham	1949	P. B. Robertson	1999	J. T. Coy
1899	G. H. Ingham	1950	C. W. Roberts	2000	A. I. Ward
1900	T. S. Brierley	1951	George W. England	2001	J. L. Griffiths
1901	J. Barrowclough	1952	K. K. Platt	2002	E. J. Sandland
1902	J. C. Barrowclough	1953	A. G. Brinsley	2003	J. M. Hirst
1903	Shaw Haigh	1954	Edward B. Heap	2004	J. A. Green
1904	Tom Heeley	1955	Jack Atkinson	2005	R. M. Green
1905	T. M. Haigh	1956	S. P. Owens	2006	R. Hunter
1906	R. T. Hardy			2007	I.D.Birks

2008	Edgar Dickinson
2009	Brian Colwill
2010	Raymond John Smith
2011	Kenneth Edward Manning
2012	Brian Moss
2013	John Michael Coupland
2014	Allen Melville France
2015	David John Neve

# SECRETARIES and TREASURERS of THE HOLME VALLEY LODGE

1855 - 2015

SECRETARY	TREASURER
1855 Not known	Not known
1856 George Eastwood	Not known
1857 George Eastwood	Not known
1858 Frank Littlewood	Not known
1859 Frank Littlewood	Not known
1860 Frank Littlewood	Not known
1861 Frank Littlewood	John Harpin
1862 Charles Taylor	George Lawton
1863 Charles Taylor	George Lawton
1864 Charles Taylor	Edward Fozzard
1865 Charles Taylor	Edward Fozzard
1866 Charles Taylor	Edward Fozzard
1867 Charles Taylor	Edward Fozzard
1868 Charles Taylor	John Burton
1869 Josiah Mellor	John Burton
1870 William Hobson	John Burton
1871 William Hobson	John Burton
1872 Samuel Stephenson Booth	John Burton
1873 Samuel Stephenson Booth	John Burton
1874 John Butterworth	John Burton
1875 John Butterworth	John Burton
1876 George Charlesworth	John Burton
1877 George Charlesworth	John Burton
1878 John Haigh	John Burton
1879 Harry Heeley	John Burton
1880 John Hey	John Burton
1881 Samuel Boothroyd	John Burton
1882 Samuel Boothroyd	John Burton
1883 Samuel H. Shaw	John Burton
1884 Joseph Barber	John Burton
1885 Joseph Barber	John Burton



1886	William E. Wimpenny	Joseph R. Mellor
1887	John A. Heastie	Joseph R. Mellor
1888	Joseph D. Brown	Joseph R. Mellor
1889	Joseph D. Brown	Joseph R. Mellor
1890	Franklin S. Whittell	Joseph R. Mellor
1891	Franklin S. Whittell	Joseph R. Mellor
1892	James Lancaster	Joseph R. Mellor
1893	William Sykes	Joseph R. Mellor
1894	William Sykes	Joseph R. Mellor
1895	George H. Ingham	Joseph R. Mellor
1896	George H. Ingham	Joseph R. Mellor
1897	Tom S. Brierley	Joseph R. Mellor
1898	Harry Lomax	Joseph R. Mellor
1899	Harry Lomax	Joseph R. Mellor
1900	Tom Heeley	Joseph R. Mellor
1901	Thomas Haigh	Joseph R. Mellor
1902	Rapha T. Hardy	Joseph R. Mellor
1903	Willie Walker	Joseph R. Mellor
1904	Thomas Hinchliffe	Joseph R. Mellor
1905	William Heeley	Joseph R. Mellor
1906	Alfred Battye	Joseph R. Mellor
1907	John E. Heap	Joseph R. Mellor
1908	Herbert Newbould	Joseph R. Mellor
1909	Robert Turner	Joseph R. Mellor
1910	Fred Lawton	Joseph R. Mellor
1911	Matthew Whiteley	Joseph R. Mellor
1912	Harry Marsden	Joseph R. Mellor
1913	Willie Moxon	Joseph R. Mellor
1914	Charles H. Lancaster	James Lancaster
1915	Benjamin M. Hinchliffe	James Lancaster
1916	Frank C. Hampshire	James Lancaster
1917	Eder Firth	James Lancaster
1918	Walter Quarmby	James Lancaster
1919	Garfield J. Shaw	James Lancaster
1920	John Beech	James Lancaster
1921	Fred Whiteley	James Lancaster
1922	Abraham P. Ruscoe	Charles H. Lancaster
1923	Turner Mettrick	Charles H. Lancaster

1924	James Ernest Broadbent	Charles H. Lancaster
1925	Col. Robert R. Mellor	Charles H. Lancaster
1926	James N. West	Charles H. Lancaster
1927	John Davis	Charles H. Lancaster
1928	George D. Wilson	Charles H. Lancaster
1929	John A. Charlesworth	Charles H. Lancaster
1930	George W. Brinsley	Charles H. Lancaster
1931	Benjamin A. Moorhouse	Charles H. Lancaster
1932	Harold Barber	Charles H. Lancaster
1933	Herbert Smith	James E. Broadbent
1934	Tom Heeley	James E. Broadbent
1935	Rev. John P. Makeham	James E. Broadbent
1936	Harry Roberts	James N. West
1937	Herbert H. Hirst	James N. West
1938	Arnold Lancaster	James N. West
1939	Young Wagstaff	James N. West
1940	Fred Lockwood	James N. West
1941	Maj. Carl E.R. Mellor	James N. West
1942	Robert M. Sandford	James N. West
1943	George W. England	James N. West
1944	Frank Berry	James N. West
1945	P.B. Robertson	James N. West
1946	Charles W. Roberts	Herbert H. Hirst
1947	Charles Bates	Herbert H. Hirst
1948	Kenneth K. Platt	Herbert H. Hirst
1949	Albert G. Brinsley	Herbert H. Hirst
1950	Edward B. Heap	Herbert H. Hirst
1951	Jack Atkinson	Herbert H. Hirst
1952	Samuel P. Owens	Herbert H. Hirst
1953	Will Stockwell	Herbert H. Hirst
1954	Oswald Frost	Herbert H. Hirst
1955	Norman Marsh	Herbert H. Hirst
1956	Frank R. Booth	Herbert H. Hirst
1957	Frank Mellor	Herbert H. Hirst
1958	Harold T. Atkinson	Herbert H. Hirst
1959	John Howarth	Herbert H. Hirst
1960	David R. Birch	Herbert H. Hirst
1961	Arnold Beaumont	Herbert H. Hirst

1962	John Midgley	Herbert H. Hirst
1963	Ernest Jessop	Herbert H. Hirst
1964	Harry Dawson	Frank R. Booth
1965	Ronald E. Batley	Frank R. Booth
1966	Harry Beaumont	Frank R. Booth
1967	Jack Schofield	Frank R. Booth
1968	Harold C. Browne	Frank R. Booth
1969	James W. Senior	Frank R. Booth
1970	Geoffrey Richardson	Frank R. Booth
1971	Sydney James	Frank R. Booth
1972	Alfred Green	Frank R. Booth
1973	Harold Hobson	Frank R. Booth
1974	Harold Battye	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1974	Jack M. Swallow	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1976	Neil H. Beaumont	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1977	Thomas G. Birks	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1978	George E. Griffiths	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1979	Edward Rattigan	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1980	Edgar Dickinson	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1981	Peter N. Dawson	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1982	Allen M. France	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1983	Brian Hodgson	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1984	Royston H. Morris	Walter G.L. Pollitt
1985	Michael T. Haigh	Jack M. Swallow
1986	Gordon Wagstaff	Jack M. Swallow
1987	John M. Howarth	Jack M. Swallow
1988	Derek Beaumont	Jack M. Swallow
1989	George Hardy/Robert N. Golden	Jack M. Swallow
1990	Nicholas R.S. Rowland	Jack M. Swallow
1991	Peter Berry	Jack M. Swallow
1992	James M. Howard	Jack M. Swallow
1993	Graham Wells	Jack M. Swallow
1994	Brian F. Martyn	Jack M. Swallow
1995	John Timothy Coy	Jack M. Swallow
1996	Michael Hellowell	Michael T. Haigh
1997	Michael Hellowell	Peter Berry
1998	Michael Hellowell	Peter Berry

1999	Michael Hellawell	Peter Berry
2000	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2001	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2002	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2003	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2004	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2005	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2006	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2007	Brian F. Martyn	Nicholas R.S. Rowland
2008	Brian F. Martyn	Nicholas R.S. Rowland
2009	Brian F. Martyn	Nicholas R.S. Rowland
2010	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2011	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2012	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2013	Brian F. Martyn	Peter Berry
2014	Brian F. Martyn	Edward John Sandland
2015	Brian F. Martyn	Edward John Sandland

