

The Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters 12TI



With the approach of the 200 years anniversary of the working of the Mark degree in Hull by the Minerva Craft and Mark Lodges it was decided that a short sketch of the history should be prepared and the following pages are the result of my researches, although at the actual celebration held on the 17th September 1983 a somewhat curtailed paper was read.

C . G. Hopley, P.M., P.P.G.J.W.

The interesting occasion of the present meeting has been deemed a suitable opportunity for the consideration of our past history, and a number of the brethren have done me the honour to request that I would prepare a sketch, which of necessity must be a brief one, of the history of our masonic career during the past two hundred years.

The records of such a period of masonic work abound in both pleasing and, at times, painful episodes and the faithful chronicler is bound to both these aspects.

The introduction to early by-laws of our Mark Lodge begins with the following sentence:-
“The Minerva Lodge of Freemasons held in the Masonic Hall, Dagger Lane, Hull, which was founded A.D. 1782, has, by immemorial custom, from time to time during its existence, conferred the Mark degree upon its members”,

The early minutes of the Minerva Craft Lodge, in which the Mark records are reported, are conspicuous by their brevity, and according to Grand Mark Lodge statutes there is only one other Mark Lodge under the English Constitution whose records are older than our own. The art of minute writing being either unknown to the brethren and certainly not practised, the barest possible details were recorded. It is therefore not surprising that little can be gleaned from these records of the working of the Mark degree. The Craft Lodge attracted many candidates from various parts of the country as well as merchants and mariners from foreign countries and members of the militia stationed in the town. Some of these also took advantage of our Mark degree for we find candidates from Grimsby, Lincoln, Wakefield, Norfolk, Dorset and as far away as Bremen, Hamburg, Lubeck, Stettin, Holland and even the United States of America.

It was not uncommon in those early days for candidates to be admitted as a matter of convenience and in bulk, as some of the following instances will show.

On the 20th November, 1805 nineteen candidates were advanced to the Mark degree. On the 2nd March, 1814 a master mariner from Gothenburg was the candidate. The Craft Lodge was opened in the second degree - which was our practice in those days - and our friend from Gothenburg was proposed, balloted for, initiated, passed to the second

degree, raised to the third degree and the minutes then immediately when on to say that a Mark Masons Lodge was held and the only Past Master present officiated as Worshipful Master and eight candidates took the degree including the master mariner from Gothenburg. The Lodge was then closed without reverting back to the Craft degree and it is recorded that the Worshipful Master gave a masterly performance of the Mark degree.

This is perhaps not surprising when we consider that the only officers present for the Craft ceremony consisted of Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Secretary and two Tylers. There were also ten craft members present. No information is given as to the form of the ceremony such as secrets, working tools, traditional history or charge as now practised, and it will be noted there were no Overseers.

This thoroughly bad practice of advancing candidates en bloc is to be found throughout the early days and since higher authority did not appear to take us to task in the Craft it is not perhaps surprising that in the Mark we followed the same procedure where there was certainly no higher authority at that time to raise objections.

The year 1861 was a very significant year for Minerva Mark and also for two young men both aged 21 years, Michael Charles Peck, Jnr. and Walter Reynolds who were to play a significant and important parts in all five degrees attached to Minerva. A great deal could be written of the masonic careers of both these distinguished Brethren. Bro. Peck was initiated into our Craft in February 1859 and Bro. Reynolds in 1860. Both were advanced into the Mark on 20th May, 1861. In the same year Bro. Peck was appointed Secretary of both our Craft and Mark and held the former office for 26 years. In 1866 he was appointed Secretary to our Provincial Craft Grand Lodge and held that office for 40 years. Such were his qualities that he held equivalent office of Secretary in our Chapter, Knights Templar and Rose Croix. His minute books are models of penmanship and expression, and to pay adequate tribute to his long and valuable service to Minerva would require all the eulogy I could employ.

Bro. Reynolds was appointed Secretary of our Mark degree in 1864 and held the office for 25 years and it was said of him he excelled in everything except handwriting, for his minutes, unlike those of Bro. Peck, are difficult to decipher, but in all aspects of masonry it has been said that his memory was of wonderful tenacity and his command of ritual extraordinary (Bro. Peck's words). He held high and active offices throughout the various Masonic degrees with which he was associated and his services were in demand throughout our Province and beyond later years. In 30 years he never missed a Mark meeting.

There were, without doubt, many other distinguished brethren who have in the past and continue now to refer outstanding service to this ancient Lodge but time does not permit that I should at this stage refer to many of the brethren who are worthy of our approbation.

The year 1861 of which I am speaking was also of outstanding importance to this Lodge for it was in the latter part of that year a desire was expressed by several members of the Minerva Lodge who had been advanced to the degree to be placed under proper authority so that their meetings and their brethren might be legally recognised by other Mark Lodges. The Secretary (Bro. Peck) was therefore requested to treat with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, and after some correspondence a meeting of the brethren of the Minerva Lodge who were Mark Masters was held on 9th January, 1862 when the Secretary read a statement explanatory of the

nature and object of the proposed union. At this meeting the articles of agreement with Grand Mark Lodge and a new code of by-laws was adopted.

The petition for the warrant of confirmation being signed by Bros. Thos. Walton, C. Copeland, R. A. Marillier, Thos. Sissons Jnr., E. Lucas, J. L. Jacobs, S. Moseley, J. Thompson, M. C. Peck and J. F. Holden. On the warrant being granted Bros. Sissons, Peck, Walton and Reynolds attended as a deputation from the Lodge to the Britannia Lodge of Mark Masons at Sheffield on 14th March 1862 for the purpose of instruction when Bro. Peck, at his own request, was there again advanced and legally obligated as a member under the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters. On their return to Hull a meeting was held on 28th March when Bro. Peck, being now legally advanced, administered the obligation to the brethren of the Minerva Mark Lodge and the ceremonies were rehearsed. The Lodge was finally declared legally constituted under the Grand Lodge on 14th April 1862 when the warrant was formally delivered to Bro. Thos. Sissons Jnr. the Worshipful Master, by Bro. Peck the Secretary, who had conducted all the arrangements with Grand Lodge in the achievement of our legal status. I would remind you that at this time Bro. Peck was then only 24 years old and had been initiated into the Craft only three years earlier.

The meetings were held regularly and a large number of brethren were advanced to this honourable degree which, as historically connecting the Master Masons degree with the Royal Arch, was received with great favour in Hull and for some years enjoyed the distinction of being a bond of union for the brethren of the three Craft lodges in Hull. The number allocated to us by Grand Mark Lodge was 12 and has never changed. The advancement fee was fixed at 15/-, joining fee 5/- and the annual subscription 4/- of which 2/- was paid annually to Grand Mark Lodge. Overseers were later added to the list of officers and for some years the overseers obligated the candidates.

On 7th November, 1864 it was suggested that the degree should be shortened, in order to create greater interest but after some discussion it was decided that it be continued unaltered.

In the 1860's the membership was 48 - their ages ranging from 59 to 23 though the bulk of the members were young men. The attendances were very small being from 12 to 19 including the officers.

The first member of the Lodge to be invested as a Grand Lodge Officer was Bro. Bethel Jacobs who was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies the same year and as we still preserve among our relics his Grand Lodge regalia.

He was followed a year later by Bro. Thomas Walton, appointed Grand Junior Warden.

On the 5th February, 1866 following the installation of the Worshipful Master there was advanced Bro. John Woodall, aged 30, a banker from Scarborough. He did not attend our meetings again and it would appear his main object was the establishment of the Star of the East Mark Lodge No. 95 of Scarborough which was warranted the same year on the 19th June. Eventually Bro. Woodall became the first Provincial Grand Master of North and East Yorkshire of which I will have more to say later.

Also following the installation one of the brethren asked if the Lodge could be held earlier in the day as there were four brethren from the Pelham Pillar Craft lodge of Grimsby who were desirous of taking the Mark degree and would like to return home the same evening

whereupon the Worshipful Master fixed Monday the 12th at 4:00 p.m. which demonstrated the way in which the Lodge seemed ever ready to accommodate candidates.

At this stage of our history our membership had reached one hundred, of which 35 had been advanced in the previous twelve months and this was achieved on the basis of four regular meeting per annum.

On the 1st April, 1867 there is an interesting item in the minutes following the advancement of five candidates which reads "*the Secretary giving an explanation of the mystic cypher peculiar to this degree*" and this, I assume, refers to the old masonic alphabet. We used to have a board over the entrance to the temple with three groups of characters which translated read REHTO RBEMO CLEW. This board disappeared many years ago, but a new one is to take its place bearing the same inscription.

The Minerva brethren have always displayed a spirit of independence and the maintenance of ancient customs which was early manifested in their decision to build this temple and this spirit in many respects still prevails. In 1867 this attitude was evident when a proposal from Grand Mark Lodge to form a benevolent fund was unanimously rejected, clause 5 of the proposal being "that the festival after the meeting of Grand Lodge in December shall be a charity festival" and clause 7 "that ladies be admitted to dine at the same table with the brethren" - they even went further than a simple rejection adding this resolution - also with unanimity "that this Lodge very much regrets that any brother should have sent down any such ridiculous proposition". Apparently Grand Lodge did not hold this independent attitude against us for on the 16th April the following year a movable Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales was held in this temple at which the Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. W. W. Beach, M.P. attended with his officers.

This was the first movable Grand Mark Lodge held in the country and I think such a unique and important masonic occasion at the time is worthy of a more detailed description. In the winter half-yearly communication of Grand Mark Lodge held 3rd December, 1867 there appears the following:

- "From representation made in various quarters, the Board has every reason to believe that the resolution adopted at the last half-yearly Communication providing for movable meetings of Grand Lodge, has afforded very considerable satisfaction. Invitations to Grand Lodge for its reception on the occasion of its first meeting in the country, have been forwarded by the Minerva Lodge No. 12 Hull, and by the Lechmere Lodge No. 59 Worcester, with assurances of a cordial and fraternal welcome. These invitations have received the best consideration at the hands of the Board, who have decided on recommending that the first movable Grand Lodge to be held in Hull, the invitation from that town having been first received, and it being the centre of a district in which are situated several Lodges, comprising a large number of Mark Master Masons; and the second meeting to be held in the city of Worcester.

The meeting of this first movable Grand Lodge was accordingly held on the 16th April, 1868 and the following is an extract from our own minutes:-

W. W. Beach
Bethel Jacobs P. G. O.
J. W. Woodall
W. F. Booth

Grand Master
as Senior Grand Warden
as Junior Grand Warden
as Grand Master Overseer

C. Copeland	as Grand Senior Overseer
R. A. Marillier	as Grand Junior Overseer
Fred Binkes	Grand Secretary
G. Hardy	as Grand Senior Deacon
J. G. Armitage	as Grand Junior Deacon
R. J. Chaffer	as Grand Pursuivant
Thos. Sanderson	as Grand Tyler

On entering, Grand Lodge was received with the customary honours, the Most Worshipful Grand Master then appointed the Worshipful Master his deputy for the occasion after which Grand Lodge was opened in ample form when the minutes of the meeting of Grand Lodge in December last were read by the Grand Secretary for the information of the brethren. The Most Worshipful Grand Master then temporarily resigned his chair to the Worshipful Master when the rest of the officers of the Minerva Lodge having resumed their chairs Bro. John Hadfield who had been accepted on a previous occasion was admitted and advanced to the honourable degree by the Worshipful Master. Bro. Peck P. M. Giving the charge in the centre and Bro. Hardy the explanation of the working tools and concluding Charge. Grand Lodge was then resumed when the Most Worshipful Grand Master invited discussions on the Minutes of Grand Lodge or any other subject connected with the degree. No discussion ensuing the Grand Secretary announced that he had received letters of apology from several distinguishing brethren for their non attendance.

The Worshipful Master then proposed a vote of thanks to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Lodge for their visit. He considered that it was a high honour for this Lodge to receive the first visit of Grand Lodge and hoped that at some future time Grand Lodge would again visit it, which was carried with acclamation. The Most Worshipful Grand Master in responding thanked the brethren for the very cordial reception they had given him and said that he considered it was right for Grand Lodge to visit from time to time the various Provinces in which there was no Provincial Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form and the procession was then formed and Grand Lodge retired. Hearty good wishes having been expressed the Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

In the evening a banquet was held at the George Hotel, and the cost for the whole day, including the dinner, amounted to £13.10/6 or about five shillings per head.

The minutes of this movable Grand Lodge were confirmed at the Summer half-yearly Communication of Grand Lodge on 2nd June, 1868 in which in the report of the General Board it states "the first movable Grand Lodge was held at Hull under the auspices of the Minerva Lodge No. 12 on Thursday 16th April last at which the Most Worshipful Grand Master presided. The proceedings gave unqualified satisfaction to all who participated therein, and the result must be regarded in every way successful.

Following hard on the heels of this important, and from Minerva point of view, most satisfying event, I am sorely tempted to omit the following events, but it is a matter of historic fact that on the 5th February, 1872 we were asked to subscribe to a testimonial to the Grand Master who was retiring.

Once again it was resolved unanimously "that the members of this Lodge prefer devoting their surplus funds to masonic charities rather than subscribing to testimonials therefore do not vote a donation to the testimonial."

A year later, to coin a phrase, Grand Lodge (or Minerva) again put their foot in it when it was suggested that the charge for certificates be raised from eight shillings and sixpence to ten shillings and sixpence. Of course Minerva turned it down unanimously, but even went further because on 2nd February, 1874 the secretary reported to the Lodge that out of 124 Lodges on the roll of Grand Lodge up to June 1871. 44 Lodges had paid no dues up to 1873, 28 had paid only once, 20 had paid for certificates only and 24 had paid nothing at all. The secretary had called the attention of the Grand Secretary to the matter and had received a reply which we could not call satisfactory. It would appear from later information available that some of our brethren had the feeling that these obstinate attitudes by our brethren may have explained why we had to wait so long for further Grand honours and there was perhaps a feeling that we had a right to be considered of some consequence since in 1877 our membership was 180 strong and we were, in correspondence with the Grand Secretary, acknowledged to be the largest Lodge on the roll of the Grand Lodge.

1874 was to prove another landmark in Minerva's history when the old chapel became available from its trustees, and eventually after some negotiation the freehold of the chapel and the temple was purchased for £1500.

The Necessary alterations to the chapel were put in hand during which the floor of the chapel had to be removed when a vault was discovered containing a coffin lying with the head to the north, being 9 feet 10 inches from the the temple wall and 10 feet from the north wall.

The inscription on the coffin could not be deciphered. The brickwork of the vault was removed and the whole filled up with earth on the 20th June, 1875 in the presence of W. Reynolds, M. C. Peck and J. H. Emes representing the Lodge and Mr. F. W. Hagen the architect.

The first floor of the chapel was converted into a dining room with kitchen and other ancillary offices but no use was made by the Lodge of the ground floor. The dining room was used for the first time on 27th October, 1875.

1875 also saw the emergence of the second Mark Lodge in Hull for on the 1st February a petition was received from the Humber Craft members who were members of our Mark to form their own Lodge and this was readily granted with the result that they were warranted on 6th February, 1875 as No. 182.

With the alterations to the premises the entrance from Prince Street was bricked up and the new and only entrance to the building was from Dagger Lane and the new entrance to the temple through the present one.

On the 1st March, 1877 the Worshipful Master of the York Lodge wrote to Minerva suggesting that the York brethren considered the time had arrived when a Provincial Grand Mark Lodge for North and East Yorkshire should be formed and had in fact formed a committee to take the preliminary steps and invited Minerva to send a representative to a meeting to be held at the Queens Hotel, York on the 19th March at which the matter would be fully discussed. On the 8th March Minerva called a meeting of Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, Overseers and secretaries of the Minerva and Humber Mark Lodges to determine the action to be taken and after some discussion the

Worshipful Master of Minerva acting as chairman proposed "That this meeting representing the two principal Mark Lodges in North and East Yorkshire numbering together some 270 members considers that the time has not yet arrived for the formation of a Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, and regards the same as an unnecessary addition to the expense of the brethren which might unfavourably affect the charities of the order", and it must be remembered that these two Hull Lodges carried considerable weight as Minerva was the largest and Humber third numerically on the roll of Grand Lodge.

A copy of the Hull resolution was sent to all members of the four Mark Lodges who were eligible to vote at the York meeting and on the 15th March York wrote to say that as a result of the Hull resolution they had resolved to postpone sine die the York meeting of the 19th and whilst feeling that the establishment of a Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was desirable they preferred not to disturb the present happy relations existing between the Lodges. And so matters remained for the next three years until on 1st November, 1880 Minerva received another letter from York suggesting it was considered advisable for the Lodges of North and East Yorkshire to join West Yorkshire, but again Minerva objected on the grounds that as there were only four Lodges in the area it would be premature to form a Provincial Grand Lodge of our own and to join West Yorkshire would take the brethren too great a distance from their Lodges to secure an adequate muster.

A further year passed until on 28th July, 1881 a circular was received from York with copies of a resolution passed on the 19th July with reference to the establishment of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge and asking Minerva to send a delegate to a meeting to be held at York on the 3rd August to assist in preparing a memorial to Grand Mark Lodge on the subject. To this Minerva resolved that they had seen no reason in the limited time since their last exhaustive discussion of this subject to reopen the question and still felt it inappropriate for the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge. However, York went ahead with their plans without the two Hull Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodge was formed.

A further two years passed until on 5th February, 1883 the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies paid a visit to Minerva - the first visit from the Province - and he took the opportunity to say officially that the Provincial Grand Master was very desirous that all the Lodges of the Province should unite, but his words fell on deaf ears for no action was taken by Hull. In December of this year saw the emergence of the third Mark Lodge in Hull, the De la Pole No. 327.

A further six years passed until in 1889 a notice appeared on our summons to consider the desirability or otherwise of a union under Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. The motion was moved that it be not entertained which was lost six votes to seven. A division was then demanded with 15 voting against 14 so the status quo was preserved - just, and so it remained for a further three years when on the 4th January, 1892 a letter was received from the Grand Secretary suggesting a union with the Provincial Grand Lodge which was considered and it was decided to leave the matter open until the election of the incoming Master. This took place one month later but nothing was done about Provincial Grand Lodge and so matters remained for a further eleven years when on 4th March, 1903 the I. P. M. moved that it is desirable that this Lodge becomes affiliated with the Province of North and East Yorkshire and despite some opposition the resolution was finally carried and so, after holding out from 1877 until 1903 - a matter of 26 years - Minerva finally agreed to join the Province and we must never forget that in the attitude she adopted she was staunchly supported throughout by the brethren of the Humber Mark lodge and later by De la Pole, and whilst we may wonder at the stubbornness of the Hull brethren we

have to remember that in the early days the old Lodges may have had a point about the difficulty of travel and secondly they were very jealous of their individuality.

In the history of the Humber Mark Lodge written by V. W. Bro. Fred Collier to mark their centenary in 1975 the fact that they were of one mind with Minerva is made abundantly clear and in fact Humber went so far in 1890 as to have a proposition made that when they did consider joining any Provincial Grand Mark Lodge it should be for the Borough and County of Kingston upon Hull.

The union of the Hull Lodges with the Province was obviously a matter of gratification to those who had worked for its achievement and to mark the occasion a visit of Grand Mark Lodge and Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was made to Hull on 27th October, 1903 when a movable Grand Lodge was held in St Georges Hall to commemorate the affiliation of Minerva, Humber and De la Pole Lodges with the Province and for the purpose of re-installation of R. W. Bro. Lord Bolton as our Provincial Grand Master.

Apparently all was now forgiven, for the following year, 1904, Col. Henry Fawcett Pudsey of Minerva Lodge was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Lodge now entered on a more tranquil period and I must now press on to 1958 when a problem arose with our building, for it had been known for some years that the north wall behind the Senior Wardens chair was the unfortunate possessor of an outward bulge, and as the result of heavy bombing in the immediate vicinity it was found further movement had occurred. Experts were called in and after discussion a way was found to build a new wall without encroaching on the pavement in Prince Street. When the foundations were grubbed up an important discovery was made in the form of an old foundation stone with a commemorative plaque and coins embedded in it. The plaque was carefully preserved and cleaned and on it were the names of the Master, Wardens and committee at the time of building the temple in 1802. Unfortunately chemical action had disintegrated one corner of the plaque but sufficient remains to make it a precious relic of the past, and is now contained in a showcase on the wall of the anteroom at the head of the stairs. There is a newspaper behind the plaque with a photograph and description of the incident of the discovery for posterity.

From the foundation stone rough and perfect ashlar were fashioned which now repose suitable on the pedestals in front of the Wardens.

In 1962 we celebrated our centenary under Grand Mark Lodge and were the first in the Province to achieve that distinction. This coincided with our being host to the Provincial meeting at Scarborough.

On the 15th February, 1967 another problem of the utmost significance faced us when the Secretary of our Craft Lodge reported that the Town Planning Authority had prepared plans which included the demolition of our premises and on the 15th May, 1968 it was further reported that a Compulsory Purchase Order had been served on us. I cannot go into all that followed but with that veneration which its members have always held for this Lodge they fought the matter through public enquiry and beyond until under date 6th December, 1973 we were advised by the Department of the Environment in London what we had been listed as a building of Special Architectural and Historic Interest Class 2 star.

There then began the plans for the future which resulted in the necessary reconstruction and improvement which was carried out during the twelve months from March 1977 bringing the whole of the property into the use of the Lodge, but at tremendous cost.

In the midst of the serious affairs of the building, in 1967 there was a happier turn of events when another honour of distinction came to our Mark Lodge with the installation of W. Bro. John Own Place as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was advanced into our Mark Lodge in 1949, Worshipful Master in 1959, and the reason he took ten years to achieve the chair was not due to any lack of enthusiasm or capability on his part, but to the fact that it is an unwritten law that to be Worshipful Master of Minerva Lodge of Mark Masters you must have been Worshipful Master of a Craft Lodge, and this still applies. A year later, 1968, he was installed into the high office of Provincial Grand Master, and such is our appreciation of him that his portrait was commissioned by W. Bro. J. E. Eltherington, the I. P. M. and presented by him on behalf of the Lodge on 5th January, 1973, and the portrait now greets us as we ascend the first part of the staircase. Under the portrait are the Patents of Appointments Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master which he presented to us on loan on the 3rd November, 1982 until such time as he no longer holds office when they will become the property of the Lodge as recored in the Minutes.

In olden days it was the practice for us to issue our own certificates to the candidates in the Craft, Chapter, Mark and Knight Templar degree. Recently on a visit to St. Cuthberts Mark Lodge at Howden our Provincial Grand Master was able to obtain a copy of such a certificate for our Mark degree through a visitor from Grimsby and we now have specimens of all these four degrees among our archives.

I would not like to terminate this paper without a reference to some of the interesting marks chosen by our ancient brethren of which some of the following are worthy of mention:-

A surgeon	A fish, a mortar and pestle.
A merchant	Axe, Spade, Sword and trowel, 2 cable links, Heart, Pile of Barrels in form of triangle, end view. Boars head. Eagle on nest.
Customs officer	Anchor.
Music professor, Pianist	Harp.
Chief Constable	Crown with letters V. R.
Druggist	Heart pierced by arrow.
Clerk in orders	Crossed keys.
Gunsmith	Revolver, rifle.
Solicitor	Head of mountain goat or deer.
Mariner	Weather vane.

Ship chandler	A sailing ship - four masted.
Surgical instrument maker	Truss.
Journalist from Goole	"Goole" in Pitman shorthand.
Merchants clerk	Pair of handcuffs.
Victualler	A human eye.
Hairdresser, Chemist	A beehive with a lot of bees buzzing round it.
Bro. Codd	Two fishes.

Some members have simply entered words such as "sword", "plumb", "level", "half moon" and "anchor foul". Many marks are geometric, pictorial, several linear monograms and some would appear to incorporate the old cypher. Many designs defy description and many are extremely artistic.

It would appear that exclusively straight lines as now required were adopted in our records in 1899. The earliest date of which we have a mark recorded is 25th April, 1800. The two banners of the Lodge were anonymously presented, the first on the 3rd October, 1934 when the Worshipful Master (W. C. Wiles) announced that he had received a letter from a brother who desired the acceptance of a banner by the Lodge. The banner was brought in to the Lodge by the Tyler, Bro. Bassett and the Worshipful Master proposed that the anonymous donor be thanked for his beautiful gift and informed that it would be used on every Lodge night. We are able to identify the banner by the description given in the Minutes that it is painted on silk with a representation of a keystone, Minerva in a chariot and gold lettering.

The second banner was presented at the Installation of Thomas Platt on the 4th November, 1936 and again we are able to identify it by its description of Minerva standing.

Finally brethren, to end on a happy and memorable note, under date 22nd February, 1982 we were authorised by Grand Mark Lodge to add "Time Immemorial" after our number 12, and I cannot think of a prouder or happier way in which to bring this paper to a conclusion, and that amount the successes and controversies I have been able to illustrate a small part of our past.