

HISTORY OF THE LEOPOLD LODGE NO 1760

A full history of a lodge as old as Leopold presents all manner of difficulties as the research takes you deeper and deeper into history and facts are often contradicted. This history has been compiled from The Leopold Centenary Book, notes made by the late W.Bro. Bill Phillips and many hours spent reading through The Old Globe Minute books. It must be pointed out that without an in depth study of the Old Globe Minute Books, other media and the lack of Leopold records it is inevitable that we will omit many interesting subjects. I apologise that in the following pages we have possibly merely touched upon the more historic items. You see after the Centenary Meeting the Leopold Lodge documents were archived for safe keeping in the vault of the Masonic Hall. Unfortunately they became waterlogged and were so badly damaged that they had to be thrown away.

W.Bro T. Lister ProvGDC

The Leopold Lodge No. 1760 was founded in 1878 holding its first meeting in the Lodge Room of the Old Globe Inn 12 September 1878. The Grand Master His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales, soon to become King Edward VII, issued the warrant. This is dated 22 May A. L. 5878 A. D. 1878 signed by Skelmansdale DGM and John Hervey the Grand Secretary.

The lodge was named after Prince Leopold, the Duke of Albany, youngest son of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The Master, W.Bro Walshaw, wrote to the Prince asking for permission to use his name. A letter dated 31 May 1878, postmarked Paris, received by W.Bro Walshaw from R. H. Collins stated: "I am desired on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Leopold to acknowledge the letter informing him of your desire to name your lodge after him. The Prince begs me to say that he will gladly sanction the choice the brethren have made". This letter is displayed in the library of the Masonic Hall. The Prince was also offered, and accepted Honorary Membership of the lodge. Unfortunately the letter from Windsor Castle dated the 27th July 1878 stating that Prince Leopold would accept Honorary Membership was destroyed along with other archived material.

A number of lodges have taken the name Leopold: -

Leopold No. 1571 warranted in 1875 meet at the Blakemore Hotel, Leinster Gardens, London.

Prince Leopold No.1588 warranted 1875 meet at the Freemasons Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy in West Lancashire.

Royal Leopold No 1669 warranted 1877 meet at Mark Masons Hall, St. James Street, London SW1.

Leopold No. 1775 warranted 1878 meet at the Masonic Hall, Oswaldtwistle in East Lancashire.

Prince Leopold No. 2057 warranted 1884 met at Gympie, Queensland, Australia but has since surrendered its warrant.

Several meetings in connection with the formation of a new lodge were held in February and March of 1878. On the 12th of February a meeting of brethren interested in forming a "daughter" lodge to the Old Globe Lodge was held following the lodge of instruction, chaired by Bro. R. H. Peacock. Bro Dippie was asked to read a Circular convening the meeting and the relevant paragraphs from the book of constitution regarding the formation of a new lodge. There were twenty brethren at this meeting including a number of active officers, past masters and brethren of the Old Globe Lodge. Two or three are believed to be members of Denison Lodge and included a Bro. Webster who regularly attended the Old Globe Lodge who gave greetings from the Adams Lodge No.158, Sheerness in East Kent and Bro. Kirk from the Philanthropic Lodge No.304 Leeds.

The chairman gave his views on the formation of a new lodge, the commitment required and the approximate cost involved. After a lengthy discussion, he proposed, seconded by Bro. Middleton that: -

"When 20 masons pledge themselves and subscribe £1 a year, an application will be made to Grand Lodge for a Warrant." This proposition was carried unanimously and eleven of those present said they were willing to become members. At this point the chairman stated that the proposition would have the support of Bro. Woodall and other past masters. A letter from Bro. Rooke supporting the proposition was also read out. On the 12th March, following the lodge of instruction, a further meeting was convened chaired

by Bro. Peacock with eleven other brethren present. Following an in depth discussion Bro. Williamson proposed and Bro. Fraser seconded that at the next regular meeting of the Old Globe Lodge Bro. Peacock shall give notice of motion that: -“A petition for the formation of a New Lodge is supported by the Old Globe 200, and that Bro. Williamson would make the necessary proposal requesting the use of the lodge furniture on payment of a nominal rent”. This was amended at the meeting to read: “That the Furniture, Clothing and Jewels of the Old Globe Lodge be placed at the disposal of the Daughter Lodge for the first twelve months free of Charge”. Bro. Williamson suggested that the next meeting be held on a night other than that of the Instruction Lodge and that it should be held elsewhere than the Lodge Room.

On the evening of 22 March 1878 a meeting of 15 brethren interested in forming a new lodge was held at the Bull Hotel under the chairmanship of Bro Peacock. The chairman proposed, seconded by Bro. Roberts, that the name be The Scardeburg Lodge. This raised objections, as there was already in existence within the town a Court of Foresters with that name. An amendment was carried by 9 votes to 2 for the name to be ‘The Leopold Lodge’. Bro. G. H. Walshaw was then elected to be the first Master, Brother Gilbert Senior Warden and Bro. Verity Junior Warden. It was also agreed initiation and joining fees to be the same as for the Old Globe and to meet on the first Monday of each month.

The Consecration of the Leopold Lodge 1760 took place on the 12th September 1878. The lodge was constituted by W. Bro John Pearson Bell, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. After the consecration ceremony the first meeting of the Leopold Lodge was held and Bro. Walshaw installed as the first Master. The Installation Ceremony being carried out by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master assisted by W. Bro. J. Woodall Woodall PPSGW and other Provincial Officers. After the installation the brethren retired to the Royal Hotel for sumptuous five-course dinner.

Leopold continued to meet in the Lodge Room of the Old Globe Inn until the 5 December 1881 when they moved into the Londesborough Rooms. The Old Globe Hotel had lost its reputation and the area in which it was situated was developing into what was almost a slum area. By now the hotel had really fallen into disrepute, the lodge room by reason of its leasehold site had reverted to the owners of the Hotel and the Old Globe Lodge were merely tenants. When not in use as a Lodge Room the Masonic quarters were used by the hotel. In the licensing records they are variously described as a Concert Room, a Tap Room and a Smoke Room. A motion was passed on the 4 April 1881, in conjunction with the Old Globe and the Denison lodges, that it is desirable to take steps to provide a Masonic Hall, combining the advantages of a club. Premises were eventually found on St. Nicolas Cliff, our present Masonic Hall. The first meeting of the Leopold Lodge in the new building was on the 3rd November 1884.

5th April 1884

Lodge of sorrow held in fraternal remembrance of the Late Prince Leopold who died at Cannes (France) on 28th March 1994. Aged 31 years. R.H. Parr, M.A, gave a very moving address.

14th October 1884

A proposition by seven subscribing members of the Leopold Lodge No. 1760 that in future the Leopold Lodge should meet in the Masonic Hall and Club, St. Nicholas Cliff Scarborough. Permission was subsequently received from Provincial Grand Lodge that meeting could be conducted at the new Masonic Hall until such time that it could be duly consecrated according to ancient custom.

27th October 1884

A dispensation issued by W. Bro. John P. Bell, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, authorised Bro. Chambers the Senior Warden of the Leopold Lodge to be appointed as the paid manager of the new Masonic hall

2nd December 1884

The Masonic Hall and Club St. Nicholas Cliff was consecrated.

6th December 1884

Proposition carried that the date of the regular meetings of the Leopold Lodge should be altered from the first Monday in the month to the fourth Wednesday each month. (This scheduling continues to this day).

25th April 1894

Notice of motion “that this Lodge be called upon to subscribe its share (£5) towards the cost of installation of the Electric Light on the premises”. The assumption being that prior to the acquisition of

such an amazing technological innovation, meetings and festivities had been illuminated by gas and candlelight.

25th November 1896

There was a ballot for one joining member and three candidates. All were elected and the three candidates initiated in a triple ceremony.

23rd December 1896

Triple ceremony passing the three to the Second Degree

20th January 1897

Three Fellow crafts raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

23rd January 1901

Vote of condolence with his Majesty King Edward VII, The Most Worshipful Master of the United Lodge of England, at the death of his mother, Our Glorious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria whose death took place at Osbourne House on Tuesday, 22nd January, 1901 at 6.00pm.

Year 1903 – 1904

Balance sheet had the following item "By refreshment to visitors 8 shillings 8 pence. (If this was the full years drinks bill for our guests we could not possibly have had a visit from any of the Provincial Team!).

Year 1904 – 1905

Item: - "Refreshments to visitors 4 shillings and 4 pence. (Our visitors are getting more and more teetotal!).

1907 - 1913

The period between 1907 and 1913 appears to record mainly the regular works of the Lodge, which enjoyed good support from the Mother, and Sister Lodges. No specific mention was made of the outbreak of the First World War but a Lodge meeting of 27th January 1915 a letter was received from the Anchor Lodge with reference to the bombardment of Scarborough by a German battleship in December 1914.

The cessation of hostilities passed similarly and quite remarkably unreported, and the Leopold Lodge like many other Lodges in the country who had lost loved ones during the conflict quietly and with dignity rebuilt their communities.

24th November 1926

The Lodge donated the sum of £20 to supplement the Roentgen (X-Ray) equipment that had recently been installed at the Scarborough hospital by the Freemasons of the town. There is a commemorative plate to this effect in the lower cloakroom.

27th February 1929

The sum of £50 was allocated to the Central Charity Benevolent Fund for the purposes of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Leopold Lodge.

1930 - 1936

Buildings in and around Leading Post Street and Globe Street, Scarborough were pulled down in a slum clearance scheme. The Old Globe Inn, (by now derelict) and the old Masonic Hall located in its rear coach yard were cleared for the building of a new housing programme. Before the Inn was demolished members recovered the plate and some of the coins from under the Foundation Stone. These are displayed in the Masonic Hall library. Other relics were also recovered; the doorknocker, still in use on the lodge room door, the Inn sign also affixed above the lodge room door and the old lodge room fireplace now in the upper lodge room.

The four Scarborough Lodges agreed to the letting or sale of the two adjoining properties that the Scarborough Masonic Hall Company Ltd. owned. Proceeds being put to "*such use as may be beneficial to the interests of the Brethren*".

22nd January 1936

The Brethren stood in silent tribute to the memory of King George V who died 20th January 1936 and affirmed their loyalty to King Edward VIII.

The War Years

1939

No Lodge appears to have been held in September 1939 apparently due to the outbreak of the War.

22nd November 1939

Three Brethren excused their subscriptions during the present emergency owing to their serving in the Forces of the Crown. This was later extended to all Brethren of the Lodge to which this was later to apply.

16th September 1940

On notice paper "Any Brethren wishing to participate in the Grand Lodge scheme for surrendering Masonic Jewels to be smelted down as a Masonic gift for National needs etc. (This scheme eventually raised a sum of £10,000 for the Treasury from the Masons of England).

19th October 1942

On the Summons-Notices: - "Owing to rationing and food restrictions there will be no Installation dinner. Light refreshments will be served instead".

27th February 1946

A letter was received from Globe and Laurel Lodge No. 4567 (a Royal Marine Lodge which meets at the Masonic Hall; Deal in the Province of East Kent). During the war the Royal Marine School of Music had been based in Scarborough and a number of its members attended meetings at the various Scarborough Lodges. They wished as a mark of esteem for the kindness received from the Scarborough Lodges during this period, to nominate a member of each lodge as an honorary member of their lodge. Just for the record W.Bro. Nelson Clarke is still an honorary member of the Globe and Laurel Lodge.

September 1946

In September 1946 the Lodge was requested to make three certified copies of the effects of the war and also to list the casualties and names and types of services rendered by Brethren of the Leopold Lodge No. 1760.

The following returns were duly posted: -

Casualties.

Brother C. H. Davies who was Master of the S.S. Hazelside and lost his life when his ship was torpedoed in the North Sea in September 1939.

Brother Ernest Harrison, Second Officer on the tanker 'British Liberty' was drowned in the North Sea when his ship was sunk by enemy action in January 1940.

Worshipful Brother Harry Dell, D.C.M., (1914-18) died 16th March 1942 whilst a member of the Scarborough Special Constabulary.

Awards.

Merchant Navy – Capt. T.F. Smellie, C.B.E.,

North Atlantic Armed Forces – Warrant Officer J.L. Norris. Both Mentioned in Dispatches.

Serving Personnel.

5 members served in the Merchant navy

13 members in the Armed Forces

7 members in the Home Guard

5 members in the National Fire Service

3 members in the Wardens Service
2 members in Miscellaneous Posts

27th October 1954

Thanks were expressed to Bro. H. Sharpley and his wife for their gift of a new banner that they had made for the lodge. The original banner is the Gold one permanently hung above the Junior Warden's pedestal.

30th September 1978

A Centenary celebration of the Leopold Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons No. 1760 was held at the Grand Hotel Scarborough. Worshipful Brother Geoffrey W. Waring being the Master during the Centenary year. A letter was received from Princess Alice Mary (Prince Leopold's eldest child), then aged 95 years, who referred in appreciative terms of the high regard that her late father, the Prince had held the Craft. She offered her congratulations to the Lodge upon the occasion of its Centenary.

August 2002

The lodge room was extensively renovated and redecorated. Leopold members contributing over £1,500 to this project.

August 2003

Refectory gutted and completely refurbished. Leopold again generously contributed more than £2,500 for this work. They also paid for, as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations, an induction loop system for the lodge room.

24th September 2003

Members of the Leopold Lodge No. 1760 presented an elegant engraved cabinet clock for display in the newly refurbished refectory upon the occasion of the Lodge's 125th Anniversary.