

## **The History of the Old Globe Chapter 200.**

*(With extracts from the researches of E. Comp. Bill Philips).*

It is unfortunate that no actual records of the early days of Old Globe Royal Arch Chapter exist today, other than references in the Old Globe Lodge minute books and treasurers accounts. These indicate that in 1796 at least thirteen members of the lodge were Royal Arch Masons. In the early days of Royal Arch Masonry the qualification for admission to the chapter was that the candidate had to be a past master. This was because he had to give the "Master's" word during the ceremony of "Passing the Veils", a prelude to the exaltation, which is not now included in Chapter working. As such a qualification naturally restricted the number of candidates to the chapter the ceremony of "Passing the Chair" was apparently introduced into craft masonry. This allowed a brother, below the rank of installed master, desirous of joining the chapter to obtain the word of an installed master to enable him to "Pass the Veils". Very little is known locally of the details of this ceremony but from the minutes it would appear that it was some shortened form of the installation ceremony in which the brother was installed in the chair and immediately resigned from it, having during the ceremony been given the word he desired. To quote from the minute book: - At an adjourned lodge on Friday 5 March 1819 Bro's Hebden and Hammond wished to join the Holy Royal Arch. The WM rose to propose Bro. Hebden as a proper person to fill the chair and begged to vacate the same in his favour. After the usual ceremonies he resigned the chair to the WM. The WM then rose to propose Bro. Hammond in a similar manner. The last record of such a ceremony in Old Globe Lodge was 3 August 1825.

Although the union of the two Grand Lodge's was in 1813 it was not until 1817 that the two Grand Chapters united to form the present Supreme Grand Chapter. Possibly on the formation of Supreme Grand Chapter, Chapters were expected to apply for a new warrant. It may be that if the Old Globe Chapter had done this recognition of its continued existence from its early days to the present time would have been assured. However, although they made returns to Grand Chapter and acknowledged Provincial Grand Chapter, there is no evidence that a Chapter Warrant was applied for until the time of the present Charter of Constitution, dated 1859, under which the chapter is still worked. No doubt they considered the craft lodge warrant of the "Antients" authorized the working of the Royal Arch ceremony as it had prior to the amalgamation.

On the 20 July 1853 W.Bro. Bean, the last MEZ of the earlier days of the chapter, proposed that "the Royal Arch should be resuscitated", to take the place of and to supersede the chapter which has become inoperative from lapse of time and dissolution of its members. This proposal was seconded and formally adopted by the lodge. At that time there were only two companions of the former Old Globe Chapter active in masonry and as the petition required nine signatures, it was necessary to delay the proceedings.

Eventually a petition was submitted to Supreme Grand Chapter on 15 December 1858 to form a new chapter to be named the Old Globe Chapter. *"In consequence of this desire we pray for a new Charter of Constitution to be numbered 337 to be held with and attached to the Old Globe Lodge No. 236 to meet as a regular chapter on the first Wednesday of every month"*. The Charter of Constitution, to be held with and attached to the warrant of the Lodge No. 236 called the Old Globe Lodge was granted on 2 February 1859.

On the 22 March 1859 Excellent Companion George Marwood the Grand Superintendent of Yorkshire North and East Ridings consecrated the new Chapter in the Lodge Room of the Old Globe Hotel. He was the only provincial officer present and formed his "Consecration Team" from the founders present. After the consecration ceremony, the details of which are not recorded in full in the minutes, Excellent Companion Bean was invested as MEZ. Following the investment of the officers there was a ceremony of exaltation at which nine brethren were admitted into the chapter. Amongst those was W.Bro. John Woodall Woodall, John Chapman landlord of the Old Globe Hotel and William Milner who apparently was admitted as a serving member as the janitor. In addition to the Grand Superintendent, Founders and Exaltees there were four visitors to the ceremony, a total attendance of 24. After a five hour meeting the companions dined together at the Talbot Hotel in Queen Street

then owned by Companion Spong, who had been exalted during the ceremony. Thus ended the first meeting of the present Old Globe Chapter. A period of five years was to elapse before the chapter met again on 6 July 1864. During this period the companions met but not in sufficient numbers to open the chapter. Never the less it is recorded that they spent these evenings in social intercourse.

Although the Chapter must have adopted "By Laws" soon after Consecration there is no record of the form these took. At the November meeting in 1876 the existing "By Laws" were commented on at great length by the first principle who also read to the Chapter those of the Kingston Chapter No. 1010 Hull referring to these as a model of brevity and conciseness. It was agreed at that meeting that the Chapter adopts these "By Laws" subject to the obvious alterations such as fees and dates of the meetings.

In 1877 Chapter, as well as Old Globe and Leopold Lodges, were expressing dissatisfaction with the environment and accommodation at the Old Globe Hotel. Premises were sought elsewhere and in 1881 the three Masonic bodies moved to the Londesborough Rooms, Westborough where they were joined by the Star in the East Mark Lodge and Knight Templars. The Old Globe Chapter met at the Londesborough Rooms from November 1881 until November 1884 when the whole of the local Masonic bodies moved to the present Masonic Hall on St. Nicholas Cliff.

In 1888 the Chapter applied for a Centenary Warrant but Supreme Grand Chapter would not accept a date earlier than the 1791 Warrant from the "Antients". In a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 1889 Grand Scribe "E" acknowledges the existence of the former chapter but that after 1824 the Chapter must have died out as no returns appear to have been made. He goes on to say that in 1859 a Charter for an entirely new Chapter was granted therefore the date of the foundation of the present Old Globe Chapter is 1859. In 1909 Scribe E, whilst preparing an historical sketch of the Chapter to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, received a letter from the Grand Scribe E saying, " From about 1799 to 1824 the Royal Arch was worked in a Chapter attached to the Old Globe Lodge. We have no record of its existence after that year nor of its erasure by Grand Chapter".

Although in 1895 the returns to Grand Chapter indicated that the Chapter had 38 members it was very seldom that more than ten or twelve, visitors included, attended the meetings. A similar situation was being experienced in Denison Chapter. In March 1896 the newly installed "MEZ" unofficially reported that the Denison Chapter were considering an amalgamation of the two Chapters. The matter was fully discussed between the two Chapters and the Provincial Grand Scribe "E" and after consultation it was agreed that the two Chapters should be amalgamated under the title of "The Old Globe and Denison Chapter". A petition to this effect was forwarded to Grand Chapter.

This was returned by Grand Chapter who said that all that needed to be done was for Denison Chapter to surrender their warrant and for its members to become joining members of Old Globe Chapter. The change of name could be achieved by an alteration of the By Laws. A resolution was passed at the November meeting amending the By Laws to give the Chapter the new title of "The Old Globe and Denison Chapter", and all members on the books of the Denison Lodge were then proposed as joining members of the Old Globe Chapter. At an emergency meeting held on 3 February 1897 it was announced, after consulting Provincial Grand Chapter, that as the Companions of Denison Chapter would lose their Charity votes and be junior to the Old Globe Companions they had decided to abandon the proposal for amalgamation. At the regular meeting in March the Old Globe Chapter rescinded the Minute in respect of the change of title.

At these early meetings only Installed and Past Principles were allowed to be present at the opening ceremony of the Chapter. The remainder of the Companions were admitted after the Chapter was declared open. In May 1902 Grand Chapter passed a resolution allowing all Royal Arch Masons to be present at the opening of private Chapters.

On the formation of the St. Nicholas Lodge No. 2586 in 1902, the Old Globe Chapter changed their meeting night from the first Wednesday in the month to the second Friday to enable the new craft lodge to follow the pattern of the existing three lodges and meet on a Wednesday evening.

Up to 10 January 1930 the companions elected the officers. After election the Principle Sojourner would select and appoint two companions as Assistant Sojourners and prior to 1866 these assistants were known as the Senior and Junior Sojourners. At this meeting a resolution was passed empowering the "Z" elect to select his own officers with the exception of the Treasurer and Janitor. 1930 also saw the end of the practice of an Installing Officer, or Officers, installing the three Principals. From that year the orthodox practice of each Principal installing his successor in office has been, generally, carried out.

Charles Travis a drill instructor with the Royal Artillery Militia was elected janitor on 2 March 1887. He was a joining companion of the Chapter, formerly a PZ of the United Services Chapter No. 1245. He was honoured by appointment as Provincial Grand Janitor in 1896, an office he held for 16 years. The Royal Lodge, Filey, possessed his portrait in oils and, in 1961, presented it to the Old Globe Lodge.

At the 12 January 1912 meeting E. Comp. Sam Middleton, a Master Mariner, was elected Janitor and appointed to collect subscriptions on a commission basis of 5%.

The banners of the Chapter purchased in 1878 were, by 1914, in need of repair. The Scribe E drew the companion's attention to this saying that for some years we had been using the Denison Chapter banners. He was authorised to get the necessary repairs done at a cost not exceeding £1. There is no further record respecting the repair of banners until 1920 when the treasurer expends 3s-6d on repairing the banners and £1-2s-0d on re-making the head dresses.

In 1881 a notice convening the meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter required the Principals should attend wearing their robes but not their coronets. Whilst the Old Globe Chapter still displays the Principals headgear there is no record of when these were last worn, or if they were ever worn. E. Comp. J. W. Charlesworth, a member of the Humber Chapter No. 57 said that the three Principals of that Chapter used to wear similar headgear, (the two Scribes also wore red "mortar boards") until the April meeting 1941. In fact he was the Z wearing the crown at that meeting. On 7 May 1941 the Humber Masonic Hall and all its contents were destroyed by enemy action and the headgear was never replaced. The Principals of the Albert Victor Chapter No. 2328 consecrated in 1979 and meeting at St. Saviourgate in York wear headgear similar in appearance to those of the Old Globe Chapter.

E. Comp. Helliwell a joining member from Eboracum Chapter No. 1611 in 1903 presented the Censer, still used at the installation meetings, to the two Scarborough Chapters to be their joint property.

The first reference to the closing or valedictory address being given in the chapter is in the minutes for March 1904.

A Director of Ceremonies was appointed for the first time in March 1905 when E. Comp. J. Knaggs was invested in that office.

In 1907 the Scribe E drew the Chapters attention to "the moth eaten condition of the Principals robes". The Companions decided to destroy them immediately and purchase new ones. After consulting with Denison Chapter new robes were purchased at a total cost of £7-14-0p to be the joint property of the two Chapters.

1919 marked the commencement of closer co-operation between the two chapters when at the installation meeting in March the Principals of Denison Chapter gave the addresses to the Principals, the Officers and the Companions. This has continued until the present time.

It was agreed in 1944 that the Chapter notice should contain a full list of the names of the members. This was done for the first time 12 May 1944.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Principle for the year 1951-52, E. Comp. William Millner, died prior to the November 1951 meeting. To commemorate his memory the Chapter agreed to purchase a Past Z's jewel to be worn by each IPZ during his year in that office. The Old Globe Lodge, of which he was a Past Master, however presented to the Chapter a Past Z's jewel to be used for that purpose a practice that continues to the present day. Bro. J. W. Chapman had originally presented this jewel to the Old

Globe Lodge on 4 October 1849.

In 1957 an application was made for a Centenary Warrant. As a result of this application Supreme Grand Chapter raised the question of the period 22 March 1859 to the 6 July 1864 and requested that the minute books be sent to The Grand Scribe E for examination. A letter was received from Provincial Grand Chapter 22 March 1958, which said. "There is no doubt that the Chapter has existed since the granting of the charter in 1859 but the lack of regular meetings between 22 March 1859 and the 6 July 1864 amounts, in our opinion, to an interruption in the existence of the Chapter within the meaning of Royal Arch regulation 91 and it is accordingly considered that the Chapter cannot qualify to petition for a Centenary Warrant until 6 July 1964. It was pointed out that Supreme Grand Chapter had accepted dues from the Old Globe Chapter for the period between 1859 and 1864, which amounted to a continued existence of the Chapter. The Chapter was informed that there could be no appeal against the decision of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Early in January 1962 it was decided that due to the historical character of the chapter floor cloth it should be placed in safe storage to avoid further damage through wear and tear and carefully preserved to be used at the next and last time at the Centenary meeting. Excellent Companion W S Knowles said to mark the centenary he would present an exact replica of the floor cloth prepared and painted by his son. This was used for the first time at January 1962 meeting.

The centenary meeting was held in the Grand Hotel on 26 November 1964 attended by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent the Most Honourable Marquis of Zetland TD DL accompanied by the Second and Third Grand Principals and other Provincial Grand Officers. There were 28 members of Old Globe Chapter and many visiting Excellent Companions and Companions including Companions of the Zetland Chapter No. 236 York and the All Saints Chapter No 422 who had been so helpful in the founding of the chapter. The centenary was marked by numerous gifts to the chapter. A new floor cloth as previously described, a new bible and a set of five models of the "Regular Platonic Bodies" for use during the ceremonies. There was total attendance of 101 after which the companions sat down to dinner in the Sea View Lounge of the Grand Hotel.