

LODGE **LEASK 1084**

(Founded 4th May 1911)



**ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF
FREEMASONRY IN MAUD,
ABERDEENSHIRE**

COMPILED BY

**Past Master Bro. Dr Douglas Nicol, Past Masters,
Office Bearers and Brethren of Lodge Leask 1084**

FOREWORD

Compiling any historical book is fraught with difficulty. No less so this brief history of Lodge Leask 1084. The Past Masters and Brethren have sweated over books photos and newspaper clippings to research the information for this book. It is unfortunate that many of the Minute Books, particularly from the foundation until the end of the Second World War are missing. We have had to rely on the records gleaned from the Petition Books, Attendance Books and the Lodge Register and Mark Register of this period which are still extant. Furthermore, we have received some information from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and I have to thank Bro James Noble for his help. We have also interviewed members of the local Community. They are listed in the “thanks” noted below. Painful research has thrown up some discrepancies however. Two Masters (W Urquhart 1913, and John Smith 1914), who had previously been recorded in Grand Lodge records and ours were not actually Leask Masters, but Masters of St Andrew 518. Further research shows that these Brethren were not initiates or affiliates of Leask but do actually appear in St Andrew RAC records as affiliating to the Chapter from St Andrew 518. Another Master, Robert Michie (1919-20) had not been recorded in the Masters List. The attendance book confirms that he was indeed RWM of Leask at that time. As a result of these discrepancies the Lodge has now one less master than previously thought and the Masters Board has now required to be redone.

Amongst the 500 or more Brethren who did not ascend to the Chair, there were many who achieved great feats in life in general and Freemasonry in particular but their story will largely go untold for the purpose of this book. However, their contribution to the working of the Lodge is very much appreciated in making Leask the Lodge it is today.

Had there been more time, further information could have been gleaned but the local community has been very supportive and helpful and we are eternally grateful to all contributors. Interviewing elderly Brethren has been fascinating and had there been more time or more foresight to record information from Brethren who have departed to Grand Lodge above, then further fascinating information could have been included

Dr Douglas R HNicol, PM & Secretary
January 2011

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to ;

Mr Jack Webster, Bro James Noble of Grand Lodge of Scotland, Mr Douglas Rothney, Bro Henry Scott, Gina Walker, The late Bro. Sandy Yule., the Mavor family Mr Bert Cruickshank, Jack Cowie, Norman Law, John Ingram, the Dalgarno family, the Urquhart family and many many others. If you haven't been mentioned I apologise.

The Masons of Mourne

*Dear Mary the Lodge is a wonderful sight;
And the Right Worshipful Master is in great form tonight;
The wardens and deacons all know what to do;
And I am the poor devil they are going to put through!
When the irons of the tyler are wrought to white heat;
Sure the gridirons are put on the poor victim's seat.
I tell ye dear Mary I'd much rather be;
Where the Mountains of Mourne roll down to the sea.*

Verse reportedly adapted by Past Master Alex Rothney in the late 1920s from the poem “The Mountains of Mourne” by Percy French when Alex was Lodge Secretary . It was printed in full (four verses) on the billet for the annual dinner dance for a number of years.

INTRODUCTION
Maud in the Early 20th Century
 By
Jack Webster

It is always hard for one generation to look back on another and to grasp the mood of that age. As a boy in Maud, in the first half of the 20th century, I bombarded my grandmother with questions about life in the 1880s but struggled to imagine what it was really like.

There may be youngsters in Maud today who, if sufficiently interested, are faced with the same problem as they look back to the 1930s - to the days of my own childhood, when the village was a very different place. Physically, the buildings are not much different. The only major house-building of the 1930s was Coronation Cottages, all eight of them to house bigger families in 1937, the Coronation year of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

But most of the shops have gone. For example, we had four grocers, three butchers, three bakery shops, two shoemakers, at least three joiners, two tailors, two painters, two watchmakers, a chemist, a plumber, coal merchant and so on.

More significantly, there were three banks. But that is just the beginning of the the story. Maud had two major features which placed it ahead of any other village in the North-east.

As the central point of Buchan, it had a bustling railway station which was the very heart and soul of the village. Five or six passenger trains a day came steaming out from Aberdeen, splitting into two halves, one heading for Peterhead and the other for Fraserburgh. And back they came in the other direction.

In the days of few cars, most arrivals came by train, bowler-hatted commercial travellers, visitors from afar, people we knew and strangers who raised our curiosity.

The station was a place of excitement. Right there on the platform there was "The Refresh," yes, a splendid pub, run by the sisters Lil and Lena Murison with efficiency and dignity. No trouble there. Years later the Refresh was managed by a member of Lodge Leask, Jimmy Urquhart, whose wife Irma still resides in the village.

Still on the station platform, John Menzies had a newsagent's shop, run by another splendid lady, Tibby Bruce, with her bottle-bottom spectacles.

All life flowed through the station. As well as passengers, goods trains came thundering up from the Broch and Peterhead carrying fish to the south. Powerful locomotives were spun in the opposite direction by a massive turntable. An army of linesmen walked the tracks daily, in the directions of Auchnagatt, Brucklay and Mintlaw, to check the security of the rails.

And so to the other major feature of Maud - the three livestock marts which, together, turned our village into the biggest weekly cattle market not just in Scotland but in Britain. Its only rival was Banbury in Oxfordshire.

Those three marts, all separate companies until amalgamation, were the Central and Northern Farmers (it stood in Station Road, where Freddie Simpson's joinery is now), and the family firms of Middleton's (on the opposite side of Station Road, at its junction with Victoria Road) and Reith and Anderson (where the modern health-centre complex now stands).

Maud on a Wednesday was a busy place, with farmers arriving from all directions, cattle floats bringing animals by the hundreds from the great livestock fields of Buchan to be sold to other farmers - or to butchers.

Many of them went off south by train, adding another dimension to the railway traffic which was the heartbeat of Maud.

We locals knew very little of the destinations. In fact, cattle from Maud were soon being served as prime Aberdeenshire beef on the tables of the prestigious Savoy and Dorchester Hotels in London.

With many other dealers, Tom Lauchlan from Kilmarnock, for example, came north every week with one special order in mind - to supply meat for the Egyptian Army! Yes, true.

The famous Smithfield Meat Market in London used to set its benchmark prices by what happened in Maud on a Wednesday. That is how important our village was in its heyday. And these were just some of the facts I discovered in later life.

Still with the Station, it became the focus of some dramatic moments. On the annual July day of Aikey Fair, between Maud and Old Deer, there would be 2000 horses for sale, many destined for the south to become carters' horses all over Britain.

They were walked round by Clackriach on their way to Maud Station. And there the fun began. Railway porters were little accustomed as they strove to encourage rearing, unwilling horses into the confines of the carriages. There were some frightening scenes, which fascinated me when my mother took me to the vantage point of The Avenue, from which we could look down on the drama.

Saturday, 2nd September 1939, was a day to remember. Many farm servants (as they used to be called) were among those who joined the Territorial Army in the 1930s. It seemed like an interesting hobby.

But with Hitler's invasion of Poland, it was now for real. On that Saturday morning, they came streaming towards Maud Station, dressed in khaki and with packs on their backs. I remember waving to Jimmy Pirie, who worked on my granny's farm at Pitfoskie.

As they lined up on the platforms of Maud Station, trains came steaming in from Peterhead and the Broch, collecting soldiers at stations on the way and linking up to form one long train, bound for Aberdeen.

As they took embarrassed farewells of wives and families (Buchan men are not good at that sort of thing!), they stuffed gill bottles of whisky, bought at The Refresh, into their tunics - and their long train disappeared under the bridge at Old Maud for a fate unknown.

Those weekend soldiers were now the 5th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, part of the famous 51st Highland Division, destined for battle in France. Fighting a rearguard action in June of 1940, they were holding off Rommel and his Panzer troops until our own forces could be evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. It was Britain's bleakest hour.

With the French capitulating, they were then ordered to surrender. Thus those hardy men of Buchan and elsewhere were marched right across France and Germany to spend the next five years as prisoners-of-war. But the drama of 2nd September was not yet over. That same afternoon, train-loads of children arrived from Glasgow, to escape the dreaded bombing raids on British cities.

About 200 of them stepped off at Maud, pupils of Dowanhill and Hyndland Schools, doubling the population of Maud School and bringing an alien culture to our village. They were billeted in our private homes. In our case, the Singer boys became my "adopted" brothers for a year at 2 Park Crescent.

Jimmy Singer, a genius of a lad, became better known as Burns Singer, hailed by Hugh MacDiarmid as a talent who would surpass himself. Sadly he died young, already the subject of biographies. But he can be claimed as a former pupil of Maud School.

Next day, we sat round our wireless sets to hear Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announce that we were at war with Germany. A whole new way of life began - food rationing, gas-masks and total black-out of lights in case we gave clues to enemy bombers. Some bombs did fall near Maud.

But if war was a six-year drama of tension and fear, it also brought Maud its greatest moments, at least for a child.

Successive battalions of soldiers came to train in Buchan, in preparation for the eventual D-Day, when we would return to the continent and defeat the Germans. At any given time a thousand troops would be billeted in Maud, taking over the Station Hotel, Victoria Hall (the biggest hall in Buchan), Kerr's Hall and, of course, Brucklay Castle, at that time a magnificent building.

The true heyday in the whole history of Maud ran from 17th October 1942 to 1st May 1943 - seven months of incredible activity, due to the presence of the 4th Battalion, the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

They streamed in with their bren -gun carriers (small tanks) and convoy of army lorries and brought Maud alive as it had never been, before or since. As well as trebling our population, they filled our air with the sound of pipes and drums, their silver band and dance-band, their constant parades and military manoeuvres - and the mighty spectacle of Beating Retreat on the Square.

What excitement! Their Colonel-in-Chief was the Duchess of Gloucester, who came to give Maud its only royal visit. As boys and girls, we lined up with our flags in the Pleasure Park and witnessed such pageantry as we could never have imagined.

Every family welcomed these Border soldiers into their homes. They were great guys, many of them just like our own local lads who were now so far away in German prison camps. The Pleasure Park Pavilion became their canteen, staffed by local ladies.

As well as music and much-needed colour in a blacked-out world, the Kosbies, as we called them, introduced us to a game we knew nothing about. This mis-shapen ball was apparently for rugby. Taking over Winnie Tait's park by the Creeshie Raa, they played with great skill.

We didn't then realise that we were watching three Scottish internationalists in Frank Coutts, Stoor Richardson and Tommy Gray. Tommy would later lose most of his foot in battle but, after the war, they fitted a special boot - and Tommy Gray resumed as Scotland's full-back!

Then came that sad day when they had to march off to Aberdeen, on the first stage of the journey south, to prepare for D-Day. With heavy hearts, the whole village turned out to wave them off. As they were piped up the Old Maud road, past our house at 2 Park Crescent, I fell in behind them and marched like a toy soldier. During their stay they had taught me to play the pipes and I became their mascot. Towards Auchnagatt, Captain Frank Coutts came back and said I must go home now. My mother would be worried.

So I stood, a forlorn figure with tears running down my cheeks, and waved till they were out of sight. I knew that Maud had lived its greatest moments and that it could never be the same again.

Fifty years later, they invited me to join them in a return to the Netherlands, to the town of Flushing they had re-captured in a fierce battle which cost them lives. This time, Brigadier Frank Coutts, the man who said my mother would be worried, called me into the ranks and I marched proudly past the war memorial, keeping step with my heroes. I was now into my sixties.

At Maud School, our headmaster was Donald Murray, who had come from Skene in 1937. One of his pupils had been that popular North-east writer, Jessie Kesson, who dedicated her book "White Bird Passes" to her old dominie.

In a warm and comforting atmosphere, we went from the infant classes of Miss Catto, a lovely lady who stoked the open fire and gave us a caramel on Friday, to Miss Belle Duncan and on to Miss Violet Morrison and Miss Jean Duffus.

Into the Higher Grade - you could finish your schooldays there at the age of 14 - we had Miss Stuart for French, Miss Cameron for English and Latin and Mr Murray for Maths and science. For the school picnic we went by train to Fraserburgh Beach and, in 1938, we went by bus to the Playhouse in Peterhead to see "Snow-white and the Seven Dwarfs."

What excitement! Just as there was when Dick's Circus came on its annual visit to the Pleasure Park. But all that came to an end with the war and its blackout. Hitler had severely damaged our childhood.

At that time, incidentally, the very first headmaster from 1896, Mr John Law, was still living in The Avenue. In 1949, when I started the Maud Review, an annual magazine of village life, I interviewed Mr Law about those early days. I remembered him in particular when, in 1996, I unveiled the centenary plaque.

Among its former pupils, Maud School had some interesting stories. The name of Mabel Cowie will mean little to anyone today. She was a real Maud quine, one of four daughters of the Rev. William Cowie, minister in the village for 35 years, who is remembered on a plaque at Maud Church to this day.

Mabel went from Maud School to Peterhead Academy and on to Aberdeen University. But that was just the start. She developed as a writer and, under the pen-name of Lesley Storm, became one of the great British playwrights of the 20th century.

Beyond her novels, she gained fame with a psychological play called "Black Chiffon," and followed up with a string of others, including "Roar Like a Dove," the film rights of which were reported to have been sold for £90,000. And that was a long time ago.

As a teenager visiting London in 1950, I plucked up the courage to ring her bell in South Kensington, where she lived in some style. She entertained me to afternoon tea and was delighted to "hae a news wi' a loon fae Maud."

By contrast, Emmons Millar had a different kind of story. Brought up by his granny, Mrs Skene at Ythanbank, Emmons landed in America, where he became the golf professional at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

He paid a nostalgic visit to Maud in 1949, staying at Atherb Cottage, and was delighted to re-visit his childhood haunts. Little did he know that a major drama would unfold at his hotel some years later.

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, his brother Bobby stood for the White House and chose the Ambassador Hotel to make a major speech. He had just finished and was being escorted out through a back entrance when another assassin stepped out and shot him dead.

There is so much to tell about Maud, like the so-called "Poor's House" which was turned into a splendid hospital, so good that, in the modern idea of progress, it had to be closed.

The hospital, like the church and the Masonic Lodge, stood in what has become known as the Low Village but was originally called Bank Village, in the parish of Old Deer. Once you cross the burn, you are into the parish of New Deer - and that is where the modern village developed. It was known as New Maud, a term still used in my childhood, but we dropped the "New" and the whole place became, simply, Maud, straddling two parishes.

And there were the great characters, like Willie Ritchie, Faldie Laing and Geordie Neil the postie, who had the melancholy task of delivering the telegrams that told of yet another village boy killed in the war.

And no record of Maud would be complete without mention of Lizzie Allan, a village legend if ever there was one. Losing both legs from a childhood illness, Lizzie was confined to her wheel-chair but ran her little sweetie and tobacco shop in Timmer Street, as we called it, directly opposite Morrison the Baker.

She was also the best-read woman I have ever met, an extreme socialist who didn't mince her words with farmers and their subsidies. Many a customer departed with his week's supply of Bogie Roll, vowing that he would never darken her door again. But they always did.

Speaking of Morrison the Baker, Captain John Morrison was the leading figure in pre-war Maud. As a widower who served in the First World War, he returned with a stunning French wife, known always as Madame Morrison.

In their extensive back yard she used to hold garden parties, with fashionable ladies from Paris. A touch of Gay Paree in Maud was quite a novelty. Luigi Zanre from Peterhead told me how he used to bring up large canisters of his famous ice-cream - and was not allowed to leave till he had downed a glass of the very best champagne.

Captain Morrison had his bakery and main shop on Timmer Street and a second shop opposite Towler's the grocers - next door to the oldest house in the upper village, owned by Andrew Dempster the watchmaker.

The well-to-do Captain also built properties in Maud, not least Victoria Hall, the biggest and most splendid village hall in Buchan. Repertory companies used to visit, with plays like "Alf's Button." At the end of the war, the Victory Ball was held there. His grand-daughter, Hazel Johnston, still lives opposite the church.

Our local Member of Parliament, the rumbustious Robert Boothby - protege of Winston Churchill and the finest orator I ever heard - opened the Bowling Green on 7th May 1931. And we had splendid tennis-courts in the Low Village and a football team which competed in the Buchan League.

Clearly, it was a very different Maud in which I grew up, full of colour, variety and honest endeavour. To the remnants of my generation, it seems a little quiet today.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ABERDEENSHIRE EAST

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East was founded in 1827, the first Provincial Grand Master being Sir Andrew Leith-Hay of Delgaty Estate in Turriff. He declined his appointment and it was not until 1871 that an active Provincial Grand Master in the person of John Charles Hunter was appointed. Several eminent Brethren have held the position since then including an affiliate member of Leask Bro Rev Derek Scott from 1984-89. The current Provincial Grand Master is Bro William G Grant of Lodge Forbes 67 in Rosehearty, who was installed by the Grand Master Mason, Charles-Ian Wolridge-Gordon of Esselmont in August 2009.

There are currently fourteen Lodges in Aberdeenshire East. Several have been lost over the years. Lodge St Drostans No.1270 of New Aberdour, (the current Provincial Grand Master's home town), Lodge Hutchison, Hatton of Cruden No 1187 in Hatton and Lodge St Magnus No789 of Pennan which have all become dormant. Furthermore, Sons of the Soil no 1452, transferred to Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen City.

Leask has always contributed greatly to the functioning of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East. Currently, Bro Ronald Simpson PM is Provincial Grand Chaplain and Bro Dr Douglas Nicol PM is Provincial Grand Secretary.



THE NAME AND THE FOUNDATION

By
Rev Canon Patrick Jones

The Lodge is named in honour of William Hutchison Leask (1850 – 1918), who was Provost of Peterhead from 1899 to 1918.

In early life, Leask worked for James Johnstone, shipping and commission agent, where he acquired an intimate knowledge of these branches of maritime business and also of stave importing. About 1873 he set up his own firm, which expanded to become one of the largest businesses on the north-east coast of Scotland. As a natural extension of the firm's activities, it became closely associated with the fishing industry and by 1900 Leask had launched into shipowning, becoming a pioneer in the steam trawling industry. Partly through his industry and business acumen, Peterhead soon came to possess one of the largest fleets of steam drifters on the entire Scottish coast. He was manager and one of the largest shareholders in the Peterhead Trawling Co. and sat on the boards of several other fishing companies. He was Lloyds' agent at Peterhead and consular agent for Norway.

Increasing prosperity enabled him to devote ever greater amounts of his time to public work in and around the town. Elected a councillor, he advanced to treasurer, then to junior and senior Baillie. A length he became Provost of Peterhead, which office he held for nineteen years. In this capacity he was able to proclaim the Accessions of both King Edward VII in 1902 and King George V in 1910. He became a magistrate and took the lead in acquiring a new water system for the town. At the same time he held office in all manner of public bodies, and as his life progressed he gathered immense regard and admiration as a public benefactor who held the interests of the town and its people close to his heart. A worshipping Christian, he was a member and manager at the West Associate United Free Church. In politics he espoused the Liberal Party and was chairman of the Peterhead Liberal Association.

Provost Leask's death was followed by widespread mourning and drew forth many varied and eloquent tributes from public figures. Among these, the local press noted that

In his busiest hours he was the most accessible of men, not only to his business friends, but to the poorest of the people; and his advice and help were as readily given to the widow and to her children as to the newest business proposal.....of this kindness there are many stories in the town.

As well as the epitaph, The Buchan Observer reported on his funeral with a description of the cortege and ceremony;

Death of Provost Leask, Peterhead

- The startlingly sudden death of Provost Leask, Peterhead, on Wednesday evening last week evoked a feeling of sincere and profound regret in the community among whom he had spent his life, and done a noteworthy life's work on behalf of his own town and people. The sad event occurred at the Peterhead Bowling Green about seven o'clock in the evening, the Provost having motored from Whitehill to enjoy a game at bowls and had just tossed for the opening when he suddenly fell on the green award and expired almost immediately!

“The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon from the Provost's town residence, The Brae, Harbour Street, to Peterhead Cemetery, the assembly being the largest and most representative body of mourners ever witnessed in Peterhead, all classes joining in paying a last tribute of respect to the worthy and respected Chief Magistrate of the burgh.

The funeral procession was preceded by a detachment of naval men under Admiral Kennedy, followed by representatives from the Military. Next came the Town Council, the local police, under Police Superintendent Middleton, the Feuars' Managers, the Harbour Trustees, and the members of the Parish Council and the Burgh School Board. Immediately in front of the hearse came a large assemblage of Freemasons. Provost Leask having attained the rank of Provincial Grand Master for Aberdeenshire East. Behind the hearse were the chief mourners, followed by the general public.

In the Congregational Church, the Rev. R.W.T. Middleton prefaced an appropriate sermon on “Life's Interruptions,” with some remarks bearing on the sudden death of Provost Leask. He made quite general mention, which was fitting because of the slight direct knowledge, which he had of Provost Leask. It was no mean responsibility to fulfil the function of civic leader in a community so compact as Peterhead. Familiarity was the final test, and many years of office had served to win the late Provost a warm place in many reins he had shown force of purpose and wisdom of touch. Peterhead today owed him a debt, which it was fitting to acknowledge”.

William Leask was a keen and prominent Freemason. He was Master of the Keith Lodge No. 56 in 1884-87 and again in 1889 and then ascended through the offices of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East to become Provincial Grand Master between 1904 and 1918. Freemasonry in the Province rapidly expanded during these years and Leask presided at the consecration of at least four new Lodges in the Province, namely Lodge Ugie 939, the Fraserburgh Lodge of Freemasons 1055, Lodge Leask 1084 and Lodge Dundonnie 1087. He also held the highest offices in the Keith Royal Arch Chapter No. 44 and in the Order of Knights Templar.

A reproduction of his portrait now hangs in the anteroom of the Temple.

THE FOUNDATION

The consecration of Lodge Leask took place with full Masonic ceremonial on 22nd May 1911 and was followed by a supper at the Station Hotel, Maud, at which the new Master paid fitting tribute to PGM William Leask.

The Minute Books from the Foundation to the end of the Second World War have unhappily been lost, making it difficult to glean anything other than the most rudimentary information. The Founder Members and their original Lodges were as follows and their photographs are placed on page:

William D. Clark, first Master of Lodge Leask, Liberal Organizer of Maud (Vale of Alford. No. 910)

Alexander Henry, hotel keeper (St. Andrew 518, New Pitsligo)

James Henry, general merchant in Maud (St. Andrew 518, New Pitsligo)

George Calvert, road surveyor (St. John 111, Hawick)

Alexander Milne, chemist in Maud (Keith Lodge No. 56, Peterhead)

Alexander Scott, postmaster (St. Andrew 518, New Pitsligo)

William Smith, general merchant (Lodge Fraser 267, Strichen)

John Wilson, postman in Maud (St. Andrew 518, New Pitsligo)

James Scott, farmer of Maud (Lodge Fraser 267, Strichen)

George Birnie, ostler in Maud (Craiginnan No. 850, Dollar)

Robert Ogston, blacksmith in Maud (Lodge Fraser 267, Strichen)

FOUNDING BRETHERN LEASK 1084



W. D. Clark RWM



Alex Henry D.M



James Henry S.M



Alex Scott, Secretary



William Smith, Treasurer



George Calvert W.S.W.



Alex Milne W.J.W.



John Wilson S.D



James Scott J.D.



George Birnie I.G.



Robert Ogston, Tyler

The first candidates were initiated on the 22nd May 1911. Seven local men took that first step in Freemasonry. Seven candidates on one evening must have been quite an impressive occasion. These were ;

Roland J Miller, 29, a journalist of 4, Narrow Lane, Peterhead

Andrew Cranna, 40, a mason

Charles Cranna, 33, a mason

Alexander Cranna, 28, a carpenter

The above three brothers resided at 13 High Street St Combs

James Cheves, 30 an accountant, of Victoria Road Maud

Hector Mavor, 35, a carpenter of Chicago Cottage Maud

John Johnston, 28, a painter of Maud

It is unfortunate that the minutes regarding the founding ceremony and first meeting are missing so it is currently impossible to say if the founding ceremony took place in the afternoon and the Entered Apprentice Degree took place in the evening. Hector Mavor was destined to become the first “home initiated” Master in 1914. These 7 initiates were passed and raised in groups of up to five at a time by August of that year. Five brethren were raised on one evening on July 19th. This latter event, although an impressive, feat must have been a logistical nightmare for the Brethren. There were 19 initiates and one affiliate in that first year from May until December of that year.

THE TEMPLE

From its foundation, the Lodge met in the building opposite the Parish Church in Bank Road in “The Low Village” which is now a Private dwelling house. The original use of the building was as a girls’ school. The building belonged to the Railway Company which rented the premises to the Lodge. This meant that it was administered successively by the Great North of Scotland and LNER companies and after 1948 by the nationalised British Rail. Matters requiring negotiation were dealt with through a “factor”. It is recorded that permission had to be obtained from this official before electric lighting could be installed in 1948.

Passenger traffic ceased to pass through Maud Junction in 1965 as a result of the Beecham cuts after which financial pressure began to increase on the Lodge from its Landlord. In October 1973, the Lodge Secretary, Rev W D Scott, informed the Lodge that British Rail required the rent to be paid in advance rather than in arrears as had been the case hitherto. Subsequently a few months later the Lodge was presented with a new rental agreement which it referred for a legal opinion. The solicitor, Bro Colin McRae of Fraserburgh who was a lodge member, advised that there was no option but to comply with British Rail’s new terms for the let and use of the building. Soon afterwards, British Rail advised the Lodge that the Insurance premium was to be increased. The Lodge then tried to purchase the property only to meet with a peremptory refusal.

A decision was subsequently made to seek new premises. In addition it had been recognised that the building was far from suitable for purpose being damp and poorly ventilated. In poor weather condensation streamed down the walls and the state of the roof was a matter of some concern. The water supply was unsatisfactory and there were no toilet facilities. Harmonies had to be held in the Railway station Refreshment Room which had the benefit of a drinks licence and was affectionately known as “the Refresh”.

Matters having come to a head, a committee was appointed and charged with the task of relocating the Lodge. The membership consisted of PMs Angus Buchanan, and Bros Arthur Pirie, Kenny Gray, James “Sonny” Taylor, and Bryan Keith. The first four were all either past masters or destined for the Chair. The fifth, Bryan Keith was a local joiner and went on to found Bon Accord Glass in Aberdeen. Jimmy McLennan and Harold Cook joined the committee as representatives of St Andrew RAC. Their motivation was no doubt encouraged on receipt of a demand for £30.92 from British Rail being the balance due on the insurance premium. Strenuous objections were made by the Lodge to this demand which unfortunately was in vain.

In February 1975, the committee reported that Bro Alex Duncan, the village butcher owned a building in Henry Lane which he was prepared to offer the Lodge for £500. The building, although in a deplorable state, might possibly be suitable for conversion to a Masonic temple. The building had in fact been the former slaughterhouse, known locally as the “killin hoose”. A large hole in the roof permitted the escape of smoke from the cauldrons in which the butcher rendered fat. Many roof tiles were missing. In the floor was embedded a large stone with an iron ring to which the animals were tethered prior to despatch. A partition wall would have to be removed and the present inhabitants, a group of hens would also face eviction.

Bro Bryan Keith drew up plans to which after circulation and study by the Lodge the Brethren gave general approval. All members agreed to close with Bro Duncan’s offer, subject only to the necessary planning permission.

With commendable expedition the Brethren at once began to discuss ways of financing the project and at a special meeting on 6th March it was agreed to appoint a Board of Management to oversee the whole programme for raising funds and preparing the new Temple for Masonic purposes. The elected Board consisted of two members each from from the Lodge and Chapter, Bros David Cook and Bro David Ritchie and Comps James McDonald and Robert Bruce; and seven Trustees namely Bros Angus Buchanan, Harold

Cook, Bryan Keith, James “Sonny” Taylor and Companions James MacLennan, Arthur Pirie and Kenneth Gray. The body had the additional responsibility of drawing up a constitution for the new temple and was entrusted with the full authority by both Lodge and Chapter. In addition to the purchase price, it was found that a new floor had to be laid at a cost of £273.

The Trustees reported that a loan was assured from the Peterhead Masonic Club, whilst the Lodge launched a “100-Club” which along with the profits of a dinner dance and a grand raffle helped with overall costs. Much work was required and this was undertaken by the Brethren under Bros Buchanan, Keith and “Sonny” Taylor. PM Bro James (Sonny) Taylor did much work in particular the RAC vault, as did the others.

The last meeting in the old temple took place on 21st April 1975. Bro. the Revd. W. D. Scott offered a prayer of thanksgiving and sought blessing upon the future work of the Lodge. The first meeting at the new temple was held on 20th October, Bro. Michael Davidson being Right Worshipful Master. Bro. W. D. Scott, who was now Depute Master, again offered prayer and read an appropriate passage from the Volume of the Sacred Law.

It remained for the new temple to be regularly consecrated. An impressive ceremony took place on 17th November 1975, being carried out by the Grand Master Mason, Bro. R. Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont at the head of a Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Delegations attended from four invited neighbouring Lodges. It was recorded that ‘the ceremonial was carried out with dignity and efficiency, and the Lodge blessed with corn, wine and oil in true Masonic manner.’ Then followed the Installation of Bro. David Cook as Right Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, after which the company adjourned to the Maud Village Hall for a buffet supper and harmony. All catering was done by ‘the wives of the Masons of Lodge Leask’, help having been ‘invited from all wives who could manage.’ These ladies were duly and heartily thanked at the next regular meeting on 1st December. (See Ceremonial of the Consecration of the Lodge in Appendix 1).

Funds still had to be raised to pay off the residual debt resulting from the purchase and re-fitting of the Temple. To this end the Management and Trustees organized among other initiatives a couple of discos at the village hall for which Brethren were recruited to help. These raised a total of £116, clearing the deficit and leaving the Lodge free to concentrate on its Masonic labours for the next 35 years.

In 1990, the old carpet tiles were lifted from the anteroom and replaced by a new carpet donated by Bro Dave Benton and the fitting was funded by Ian Sutherland and Ron Simpson. In 1993, the project was to purchase a new Masonic carpet. After a lengthy campaign to raise funds, the carpet was laid down and consecrated on 1st November 1993. Funding the carpet was hard work. Two barbeques organised by RWM Ian Sutherland and Brothers Ron Simpson and Dave Benton were held at a Farm at Strichen. The carpet was purchased from Bro Kenny Ross of K&L Ross Supplies of Aberdeen.

In 1998, the state of the Lodge was deteriorating and a substantial water leak was noted in the North east corner. The leak interrupted Lodge working when PM William Bruce was conducting a second degree. Immediately prior to the obligation water started pouring through a vent in the ceiling and the RWM had to adjourn the Lodge so that a bucket could be obtained to catch the rainwater prior to continuing the proceedings. Urgent repairs were needed and several fund raising events were planned. Several brethren contributed sums of £50 to the Lodge. Bro Harry Troup donated a week’s holiday in his time share and tickets were sold at £10 each and the princely sum of £4000 was soon reached.

A major Lodge Redecoration was undertaken in Summer 2010 and many brethren contributed their time and talents to this task.

Also in 2010, the late PM Bro Alan McPhee’s legacy to the Lodge was used to manufacture two great pillars on either side of the Master’s Chair. The pillars were constructed by local Joiner Bob Rae of Auchnagatt and his son Stuart. The pillars are adorned with chapiters and two glass globes on which are painted with the celestial and terrestrial worlds. The latter two projects were undertaken to commemorate the Centenary.



Formal Picture at Consecration of New Lodge in 1975—Centre David Cook RWM, to his immediate right Grand Master Mason, Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont and to his right the then Provincial Grand Master



RWM and Brethren in 1975. Virtually all became masters of Leask at some point. First on the left of the back row is Bobby Morrice who was Tyler for over twenty years. He seldom entered the Lodge but sat outside at the open coal fire of the old Lodge building being a welcome support for anxious candidates awaiting their fate.

LODGE LIFE

By

Rev Canon Patrick Jones PM

All that can be said with certainty is that Masonic work continued uninterrupted throughout both World Wars, so that the Brethren must have successfully coped with the difficulties arising from the nationwide blackout between 1939 and 1945. In the early years of the Lodge's history, Masters held office for one year, not two as at present. A church service at the Parish Church, Maud was an annual event as usually was a Celebration of the Festival of St. John on 27th December which took the form of a substantial dinner. In 1927 for example, the latter took place at New Deer Public Hall with 'aerated waters' as liquid refreshment to accompany the meal.

The practice of visiting neighbouring lodges increased greatly as motor cars took over from bicycles as the general mode of transport. From the 1950s to the 1970s Lodge Leask started to carry out annual exchange with the Lodges at Rothes, Strichen, Fyvie, Old Aberdeen and St Serf in Kinross as well as others. Exchange visits to other Lodges for the purpose of the working of Masonic degrees still a major part of Lodge Life.

Mark Degrees are worked regularly often with a Past Master working the Degree. Past Masters Degrees usually occur about once per year and the Brethren revel at the "tut tut brigade" of Past Masters realising the workings of a degree are not as easy as they remembered in their respective reigns.



L-R PMs Michael Davidson, John (Iain) Sutherland, Greig Elrick, Kenny Gray, Arthur Pirie, William Sell, Alan McPhee, Alfred Gordon, William Taylor at a Past Master's Degree in 1996

MASTERS
(Years of Reign in Parentheses)
By
PM Dr Douglas Nicol

From the Lodge Foundation, the Installation of the RWM and his Office Bearers took place in late December. On several occasions, the Installation ceremony actually took place on Christmas Day, reflecting the general attitude towards Christmas Day at the time. Christmas day in Scotland was regarded only as a religious festival and the important holiday in Scotland was New Years Day. It was not until the late 50's that Christmas Day became a public Holiday. It appears that the Lodge Installation was changed to the third Monday in November in the 30's. Since the early 60's it has been customary for Lodge St James No 256 of Peterhead to undertake the Lodge Installation with only a few exceptions. Past Master Charlie Kelman Snr of St James 256 was installing Master from 1977 to 1987 and was followed in turn by James Hardie PM until 2007. Alfred J W Davidson PM, the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire East has been Installing Master since then.

Brief outlines of each Master are recounted below. We have photos for most of the Masters which if are either beside the Master or at another part of the booklet.



1) William D. CLARK--(1911-13), was Number 1 in the Roll Book and installed as the first master being an affiliate founder member as stated above. He had been initiated in Vale of Alford no 910 of Alford, and came to Maud as Liberal Party Organiser.

He was a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East and was recorded as having presented a life membership certificate similar to that of Wilson Scott's in Appendix II to William Leask at the laying of the foundation stone of the Lodge Ugie Temple in 1911.

2) John WILSON (1913-15) resided at Redford Road, Maud (No 8 in Roll Book). He was a postman in the village of Maud. He was one of the original founding members and his Mother Lodge was Lodge St Andrew 518.



3) Hector MAVOR (1915-17) –Roll No 17 was a joiner in Maud. He was initiated 22nd May, passed 5th June and raised on June 19th 1911. He had the distinction of becoming the first Leask initiate to reach the Chair of the Lodge. He spent some time as Lodge Secretary and was recorded in 1948 as Tyler. Bro Henry Scott remembers Hector sitting in the ante-room heating himself at the coalfire. Henry remembers him as a very mild mannered pleasant and polite man—“one of the nicest men I have ever met”. As a young man he had set out with his carpenter's bag on his back to the American city of Chicago. On his return, he built a house in the Avenue and named it “Chicago”. Hector's joinery business, situated beside the School, was later bought by another Lodge member, Bryan Keith in the early 70's

His son, also Hector and likewise a joiner was initiated in 1926 when he lived at Chicago Cottage. He later moved to Aberdeen.

4) John G. MORRISON (1917-18)-Roll No 27 was a carpenter of Ballarat Cottage Maud. He was initiated on October 2nd, passed October 16th and raised on October 30th 1911.

5) William HENDERSON (1918-19)-Roll No 39 was the village shoemaker in the Square, Maud. He lived in Rosedale. The shop remained as a shoemakers (Kimmer's Shoppie) and is now occupied by the “Computer Cabin” but the name W Henderson is still clearly engraved on the glass door. He was initiated January 6th 1913, and subsequently passed on January 20th and raised on February 1st.

6) Robert MICHIE (1919-20) Roll No 37 was initiated November 4th passed November 18th and raised December 2nd in 1912. Bob Michie was a well-known shoemaker in the village. His shop was, once again, in what the locals called Timmer Street (due to the now demolished row of wooden shops) but is officially Market Street. Bob's shop was through from his sister's shop. Jessie Michie was another of the village characters, whose business was haberdashery.

Our original Masters list did not show him as Master but he was noted to sign as Master in the Attendance book, but in the Petition Book he signs as DM and it was assumed that he sat as a temporary Master in the absence of the Master, who may have been absent from the Lodge due to illness or death. Scrutiny of Grand Lodge records however confirm that he was indeed an installed Master as he acted as an installing Master in 1921. Further information from village inhabitants confirms that he was Master of Leask 1919-20.



7) George William HENRY (1920-21) Roll No 59 was initiated on January 29th, passed on February 12th and raised February 26th 1918. He was recorded as 35 on initiation and was the village postmaster.

8) Alexander Ellis GILLESPIE (1921-22)-Roll No 47. Alex was a local carrier and farmer of New Deer who owned a threshing machine. The threshing mill was an important part of rural agricultural life and was taken from farm to farm by Alex and drawn by a team of two Clydesdale horses. He was initiated November 3rd, passed November 17th and raised on December 1st 1913. He was a Church Elder and a President of the Buchan Bowling Association.



9) James Alexander GARROW (1922-23) Roll No 83. Bro Garrow was initiated 7th March, passed 21st March and raised on April 4th 1919. He owned and ran the tailors business in Market St., Maud before moving to New Deer after his stint as Master.

10) George Bremner DUNLOP (1923-24)-Roll No 96 was initiated October 3rd, passed October 17th and raised on October 31st of 1919. He was initially a slater and later became a postman in Maud and lived in Drymuir, Maud at the time. Henry Scott described him also as a polite helpful man who attended the lodge into the 40's. He was also First Principal of the Chapter 1927-28.



11) Cleveland T. YEATS (1924-25)-Roll No 77 was 26 on his initiation on 7th March 1919. He was passed on March 21st and raised on 4th April. He was a Hotel keeper of the Aberdeen Arms, New Deer.

12) John MACKAY (1925-26)-Roll No 104 John was a chauffeur and lived at 61 Queen Street, Peterhead. He was initiated passed and raised on November 14th, 28th and December 12th 1919 respectively. He shared his initiation with 12 others, and his passing and raising with 11 others including Alex Rothney, Master no 13. It seems incredible that so many candidates were initiated at one time. It was not uncommon to have large numbers going through at one time in the post war periods but 13 was a record for the Lodge and must have constituted a logistical nightmare.



13) Alexander ROTHNEY- (1926-27) –Roll 105. Alex was a Signaller at Brucklay Maud was initiated November 14th, passed 28th, and raised on 12th December 1919. He was a distinguished and keen Master and was thereafter Lodge Secretary until his death. He organised the dances and a copy of a billet complete with a poem adapted by Alex is in the Lodge possession. Alex had served in the Gordon Highlanders during WWI and having been wounded spent time recuperating in Northern Ireland.

Alex moved from being a signaller at Brucklay to the same job at Maud in 1937. Jack Webster remembers him giving a hilarious performance in a local production of “Phil the Fluter’s Ball.”

He passed prematurely as a result of cancer to Grand Lodge at the age of 49 in 1944. He was also First Principal of the St Andrew RAC 1925-26. His son Douglas still lives in the village of Maud. Another son joined the Lodge in 1959.

14) George Simpson RENNIE (1927-28) Roll No 144. Bro Rennie was a Shoemaker in Maud and was initiated on 1st Nov, passed on 15th Nov and raised on Nov 29th 1921.

15) James RENNIE (1928-29) Roll No 164, was initiated on Nov 17th, passed on December 1st and raised December 15th 1925. He was a railway linesman in Maud and resided first at Scareleys Croft and then at Cushnie Cottage.

16) William PATERSON (1929-30) –Roll No 132 was initiated February 1st, passed, February 15th and raised March 1st of 1921 He was a miller from Auchnagatt and moved thereafter to Crimond Mills, Lonmay.

17) James HENDERSON (1930-32) No 167 affiliated from Lodge Gordon 589 in November 1925 and was described as a Station Agent and resided at Brucklay.



Lodge Members were significant in village life as is shown in this photo taken at the opening of Maud Bowling Green by the local MP Robert Boothby-later Lord Boothby in 1931. Lodge Members are underlined

Back Row L-R Capt Morrison, J Garrow PM, Tailor, Unknown, James Henry, Hotelier, James Milne, Joiner, John Craig, Plumber, Hector Mavor, PM Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Robert Michie PM, Souter
Front Row L-R Robert Sangster, Hector McPhail, Hospital Governor, Robert Boothby MP, Alex Reid Butcher, Henry Leask, Farmer

18) James George FOWLIE (1932-34) Roll No 135. Jim was initiated February 8th, passed 22nd and raised in March 8th 1921. He was a farmer in Drymuir beside Maud. Unfortunately little information is available about him.



19) Robert Henry Dunbar DALGARNO (1934-36) Roll No 187. Robert was initiated 1st February, passed 15th February and raised on March 1st 1926. He was a primarily dairy farmer at Mains of Clachriach, Maud. He was responsible for producing and delivering milk to about half the homes in the village. He is remembered by Bro Henry Scott as a most genial and laid back man. He possessed a car when most of the Brethren had bicycles and acted as a chauffeur driving brethren to and from the lodge. He had a habit of pipe-smoking “XXX Bogie Roll” – a popular tobacco at that time in the car creating a very smokey journey for the others. His grandson, Steven still farms at Clachriach today. Sadly Bob passed prematurely to Grand Lodge above at the age of 50 in 1949.

20) George IRONSIDE (1936-37) Roll No 179 was initiated April 20th, raised May 4th and raised May 18th 1925. He was an Engineer who lived at 4, Auchreddie Road East in New Deer.

21) John Charles HENDERSON (1937-39) Roll No 219. He was initiated March 20th 1933 passed April 3rd and raised on May 15th 1933. John was the Signalman at Arnage Station and became Station Master at Brucklay Station.

22) James WEBSTER (1939-43) No 222 was initiated February 5th, passed February 19th and raised March 12th 1934. He owned Brucklay Garage when it was a corrugated iron shed and known as Hopecroft Garage—Jim was a blacksmith to trade and became a mechanic.

There appears to have been a Hiatus in Lodge working in the mid 40s presumably due to the war. There was a military camp nearby but there does not appear to have been an influx of initiates/ affiliates as we see in similarly placed Lodges. Only one initiate was recognised as military. Bro Graham Donaldson Wylie was initiated in 1943 and was a member of the KOSB's. Bro Peter MacKenzie, a seaman, was initiated in 1942, but did not do his third degree and possibly perished in the war.

The RWM was absent from 1943 onwards and it is noted from the Attendance book that others have signed as Master.

23) Alexander WRIGHT (1944-46) No 242 was initiated December 28th 1936, passed on January 11th and raised on January 25th 1937. He owned and ran a grocer's shop in Victoria Road, Maud. The premises are now a private house in which his son Alan still lives. He passed to Grand Lodge above in 1958 aged 58. He was a Church Elder and a President of the Buchan Bowling Association.



24) Angus BUCHANAN (1946-48) -Roll No 260. Angus affiliated to the Lodge in 1945 from Lodge Abbot Tyneside No 714. He was Governor of The Buchan Home, which was the local poor-house which was later to become Maud Hospital.

25) Alfred Douglas HAY (1948-50) Roll No 252. Douglas was initiated April 21st 1941, passed May 5th and raised on May 19th all 1941. During his reign it was noted that three brothers, Stewart, George and Douglas Simpson together passed through their respective degrees which must be an almost unique situation. Plans were made at this time to raise money for a new Lodge. The Installation ceremony of 1949 was carried out by Bro J Webster and Bro Ebenezer Morrison, Past Masters of ST George 190 of Aberdeen and Bro J Milne Cordiner and James Munro PM of Old Aberdeen 164. Hector Mavor, PM in 1916 celebrated 30 years as Tyler. Douglas lived at 7 Coronation Cottages Maud next door to the Rothneys. Douglas Hay achieved what was said recently, by a medical expert on the radio, to be an almost unheard-of feat (chance of over 500,000 to one) - he and his wife produced three sets of twins, Aileen and Isobel, William James and Jean, Lena and June. (Lena did not survive infancy). They had 15 children altogether. He was employed as a Motor Lorry Driver for Aberdeenshire Council. Another son Derek died in August 2010. Sadly Douglas passed to Grand Lodge above soon after his term as Master had ended. At time of writing his grandson Ryan has just passed the ballot for initiation.



26) Alexander GIBSON (1950-51) Roll No. 274 was initiated Sept 5th, passed October 1st and raised October 15th 1945. He was nicknamed “Whitey”. He was Master during his spell as gardener at Brucklay House. Thereafter he moved to Haddo House becoming head gardener there at the latter end of his reign. Newspaper articles of the period report a very successful year and note visits to the Lodge of a Bro Scott from Canada, originally Greens New Deer who had gained “high Masonic rank in Canada”. Other now overseas members visiting were Bros George Fowlie and Robert Morris, the latter presenting a Gavel of Egyptian clay to the Lodge.



27) Robert WATT (1951-52) Roll No 286. Robbie was assistant governor at Maud Hospital and lived in the Lodge at the Hospital gate. He affiliated to Leask from Forbes 67 of Roseheartly in 1946. Bro Watt was Installed by an Installing Board from Aberdeen under John Webster PM of Lodge St George No 190.

28) John RITCHIE (1952-53) Roll No 289 was initiated on 7th January 1947, passed 20th January and raised on March 3rd all 1947. He is described in the Roll Book as an “an attendant” and resided at the Bank House Maud. The reference to Bank indicated the part of Maud ie Bank or the “low village” and was not a reference to the house in which he stayed being associated with a bank. He received his 50th Anniversary Certificate from the then RWM Bro Dr Douglas Nicol in 2000 at the annual Kirk Service along with Bro Rev Derek Scott.



29) Robert URQUHART (1953-55) Roll No 266. He was initiated April 16th, passed April 30th and raised May 28th 1945. He was employed as a miller at the meal mill at Mill of Clachriach and delivered the ground oat meal back to the farming clients.

30) Alex John STEPHEN (1955 -56) Roll No 290. Alex John was initiated 6th January, passed 20th January and raised March 3rd 1947 sharing each date with John Richie. He was a farm manager of an arable farm at Mains of Old Maud to Miss Ironside and her sister, Suzie Gregor, a life-long teacher at Maud School. He was brought up at Turfhill and his father, like Jack Webster’s, was both farmer and auctioneer, living latterly in Stuartfield. His brother was Dr Andrew Stephen who was medical officer of health at Sheffield. He became Dr Sir Andrew Stephen and was chairman of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and, greater still, the only Scot ever to become chairman of the Football Association, taking over immediately after England won the World Cup in 1966. He passed to Grand Lodge Above in 1975 but his son still resides in Mintlaw.



31) Richard M. FOUBISTER (1956-57) Roll No 294. Richard was initiated 27th February, passed 13th March and raised 27th March 1950. Richard was a member of the Middlemuir Foubister farming family. He eventually left farming and became a joiner, married and lived in Middlemuir Cottage just beside the farm. He is also known to have played in a dance band.

32) James A. IRONSIDE (1957-58)-Roll No 289 Jim was initiated 16th January, passed 30th January and raised on 20th February 1950. He is described in the Roll Book as a Monumental Mason and resided at 8 Fordyce Avenue New Deer.



33) Howard STIRLING, (1958-59). Roll No 322 Howard was initiated 8th October, passed 22nd October and raised 5th November 1951. He was a Carpenter from New Deer and also as was the local custom ran an undertaking business.

34) Leslie TAYLOR (1959-60) Roll No 321 Leslie was initiated 16th April, passed 30th April, and raised on 14th May 1951 He was a Grocer of Denhead Stores, Mintlaw, His son Leslie also a member of Leask later ran a very successful haulage company which unfortunately folded in 2010 a year after his premature death.



35) George Alexander PATERSON (1960-61) No 326 was a Haulage Manager and resided at 11 Fordyce Terrace, New Deer. He was initiated 16th March, passed 30th March and raised 21st April 1953.

36) Richard James HUTCHEON (1961-62) Roll No 288 worked for Aberdeenshire County Council and resided at 3 Fordyce Road New deer. He was initiated 16th January, passed 30th January and raised 20th February 1950 in Leask. He had a very interesting if not traumatic life having been in the Gordon Highlanders and captured at St Valery and subsequently spent the war in a POW camp in Germany. He was presented with his Diamond Certificate by RWM Rev Patrick Jones and PM Bro Dr Douglas Nicol in April 2010. He currently resides in Turriff.





37) Alexander BROWN (1962-63) Roll No. 329 was a farmer, was in Hillhead of Knaven then moved to West Bruntbrae Maud where he was electrocuted de-horning calves., He was initiated, 15th March, passed 4th April and raised 19th April, 1954. (Group photo below)



Gathering of Masters around 1962

Back row; Alexander Brown, Angus Buchanan, Donald Fowlie, George Paterson, Richard Hutcheon, Jimmy McDonald, Leslie Taylor, Howard Stirling, John Ritchie

Seated; Alex Stephen, James Ironside, Robert Foubister



38) Donald FOWLIE (1963-64) (Roll No 333) was an Electrical Engineer of Maud and was initiated, 7th March, passed 21st March, and raised on 7th April 1955. Donald became master in 1963. He lived at Chicago Cottage a former residence of Past Master Hector Mavor. Donald and his wife, Betty emigrated to Australia to be near their family in 2003. He is still in contact with Lodge members and has contributed to this book.

39) William TAYLOR (1964-65) – Roll No 356 was initiated 2nd February, passed 16th February and raised 2nd March 1959. He and Donald Fowlie were installed to the Chair of King Solomon by an installing team from Lodge St James of Keith which broke from the usual tradition at this time of using the installing team from St James 256 of Peterhead. He was a Joiner and resided at the Crescent, New Deer. He still lives in the High Street New Deer.





40) James A. TAYLOR(1965-66) Roll No 363 was initiated 21st March, passed 18th April and raised on 2nd May 1960 sharing each ceremony with Harold Cook (Master No 52), Kenny Gray (Master No 50), and Eddie Gray , Three future masters sharing the same three ceremonies must be virtually unique. Although a Forestry Worker at the time of his initiation. “Sonny” became a local joiner and undertaker. His tall gaunt solemn appearance befitted his profession. Her was a dedicated mason and undertook much work to prepare the present lodge building for the purposes of Freemasonry. His work on constructing the Royal Arch Chamber is outstanding. His son Gilbert carried on the Undertakers business in Mintlaw until recently and still has a joinery and hardware business in Peterhead.

41) Peter F. MACKIE Roll (1966-67) No 264- Peter worked for the Railways as a Shunter. He was initiated on March 5th 1945, Passed on March 19th and raised on April 2nd of that year. Peter gifted the Pedestal Bible to the Lodge in 1988. He spent his latter years in Maud Hospital before passing to Grand Lodge above.



42) James RITCHIE (1967-68) Roll No378 was initiated 1st October , passed 15th October and raised 5th November 1962 sharing his ceremonies with Ali Gibson(Master No 51) and Alfred Gordon (Master No 53) He was described as a stonecutter and resided at New Deer. Sadly Jimmy was killed in a road accident in 1978.

43) William NORRIS (1968-69), Roll No 332 Bill was a labourer for the Water Board and resided at New Deer, He was initiated 1st November, passed 22nd November 1954 and raised 8th February 1955 Sadly, Bill died in office in 1969 and hsi wife gifted a clock to the Lodge in his memory. His daughter Ada married Arthur Pirie (Master No 45)



44) Alexander CLUBB (1969-70) Sandy was a forester who came originally from Tarves. He affiliated from St Mary’s No 1287 of Fyvie in 1965. Sadly he was killed in a road accident on Christmas Day 1970 when he was struck by a passing car whilst attending to his own broken down vehicle. His Lodge Memorial Service on 29th December, 1970 attracted 120 mourners. Further tribute was made in a regular meeting of the Lodge and a letter of condolence was read from Lodge St John Operative No 193 in Rothes. In the October Bro Hugh Taylor of St Mary reported several visits to Mrs. Clubb and at a later meeting it was agreed that both Lodges would share in providing a small granite memorial to be placed on Bro Clubb’s grave.

45) Arthur M. PIRIE (1970-71). Arthur (a Clerk of Works) and his brother George were initiated on 18th February 1963, and passed together on 4th March. Arthur was raised on 18th March. He served as Secretary from 1965-69 becoming RWM the following year. As a PM he became a stalwart member of the Lodge and served as Almoner until he died in 1997. A Memorial Service was undertaken in the Lodge in late 1997. Being well known in the area, he was well suited for this office of Almoner. He was renowned for his many anecdotes often delivered during a lecture and became a support for many younger masons





46) Kenneth Ivor GRAY (1971-72) Kenny was initiated on 21st March, passed on 18th April and raised on 2nd May 1960. He was an Agricultural Engineer and managing director of Grays of Fetterangus. He still resides in Fetterangus and attends the Lodge occasionally. His son Kevin is a member of Ugie 939 and his grandson Matthew was recently initiated passed and raised in that Lodge .



47) John. Alexander BUCHANAN (1972-73) John, a banker, was the son of Past Master, Angus Buchanan and was initiated 2nd Dec 1963 and passed on 16th Dec. He was raised on 20th January 1964. His twin brother William was initiated in February of that year.



48) Harold COOK (1973-74) Roll No 362 was the local Grocer of Burnside Stores Maud, and later became manager of Flemings in Peterhead. He was initiated 21st March, passed 18th April and raised 2nd May 1960. On each occasion he shared his evening ceremony with James Taylor and Kenny Gray. Harold took an interest in the Lodge for many years after leaving Maud and occasionally visited although in poor health until the mid 90's.



49) Michael J. DAVIDSON Roll No 434-(1974-75) Michael was initiated 2nd March 1970, passed 16th March and raised on 6th April of that year. He was a Bacon Curer at the time of his initiation and later became a Prison Officer. He still attends the Lodge. It was during his tenure of Office that the Lodge moved to its present premises



50) David J. COOK Roll No 443-(1975-76) David is the son of PM Bro Harold Cook. He was initiated on 6th February, passed 1st March and raised on 3rd April 1971. He was a laboratory assistant at the time of his initiation and now resides on The Isle of Wight and travels widely in his occupation as an executive in an Environmental Control firm. His installation ceremony followed the dedication ceremony of the new Lodge building by Grand Master Mason, Bro Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont, father of the present Grand Master Mason.



51) Alistair W. GIBSON Roll No 379-(1976-77) He was initiated 1st October, passed 15th October and raised 5th November in 1962. He shared all three ceremonies with James Ritchie and Alfred Gordon other future Masters. Ali was a joiner and delayed his passage through the offices because of work commitments. Although dogged by ill health, he was a regular attender until his passing in 2009. His Memorial Service was held in the Lodge on 31st October 2010.



52) James C McDonald- (1977-79) Roll No 462-affiliated from Lodge Strathdon 1538 in 1973 and was an Agricultural Engineer and resided in Maud. He is remembered as a great character and was the life and soul of the Lodge being known as "Auld Mac".

53) Alfred W. GORDON (1979-81) Roll No 380 was initiated 1st October 1962, passed 15th October and raised 5th November of that year. Remarkably he also shared all three ceremonies with Ali Gibson (Master no 55), and James Ritchie. Another example of three future Masters sharing all three ceremonies. As they were all of the same age (21-22) they must have motivated each other to reach the chair albeit up to 20 years later.



54) Robert RITCHIE Roll (1981-83) No 472, was a plumber from New Deer and the younger brother of PM James Ritchie. He was initiated 21st October, passed 4th November and raised on 2nd December 1974. He still runs a plumbers business in New Deer and has given information for this book.

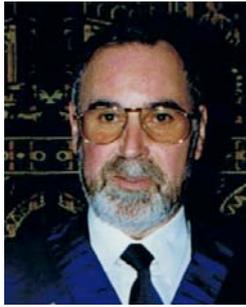
55) Ian A. EWEN-(1983-85) Roll No 456 was a prison officer and resided in Boddam. He was initiated on 5th March, passed 2nd April and raised 5th May 1973. Until recently he represented the Lodge at the Provincial Bowling competition. He was also responsible for organising the Lodge dances at the New Inn in Ellon for many years.



56) Greig ELRICK Roll No 497-(1985-87) Greig was named after his mother's doctor, Dr Greig Hunter of Turriff was initiated into Leask on 5th February, passed 5th March and raised on 2nd April 1979. Greig was initially a prison officer and lived in Peterhead. He latterly became a bus driver for Maynes of Buckie and now lives in Cuminestown, attending the Lodge occasionally.

57) & 62) William J. SELL-Roll No 523- (1987-89 &1995-96). Initiated passed and raised. Willie spent his early years in Old Deer becoming a prison officer and latterly became a driver for the local Out of Hours Medical Service. He continues as a regular attender in the Office of Almoner. He is the only Master other than Bro Ron Simpson to have served for two terms, namely 87-89 and 95-96.





58) Alan McPHEE Roll No A 169-(1989-90) Alan affiliated from Lodge of Remembrance no 6419EC of which he was a Past Master. Following his stint as Master he became Secretary of the Lodge until 2001. He was a well respected and much loved member of the Lodge and sadly passed to Grand Lodge Above in 2008. The Lodge sponsored a key of the Brindley and Foster Organ Restoration in Grand Lodge in his memory. On his passing to Grand Lodge above, he left a sum of money to the Lodge which funded the Pillars on either side of the Master's Chair which were erected to his memory.

59) John (Iain) A. SUTHERLAND Roll No A 170- (1990-91) affiliated from Lodge St John No 60 on 3rd November 1986. He was manager of the Peterhead Power Station and lived beside Methlick. After his stint as Master, he became Treasurer until 1997. He is a great organiser and responsible for motivating several projects including fund raising projects for the carpets in the early 90's.



60) David GARDNER Roll No A 171-(1991-92). David was initiated into Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 in 1970 (aged 21), becoming junior deacon in 1972 before having to suspend his masonic activities to study engineering at Strathclyde University. He moved to New Deer to become an Electrical Engineer at Peterhead Power Station and affiliated to Leask on 2nd February 1987. He was an accomplished organist and played the old reed organ in the Lodge and also the organ at the Masonic Kirk Services taken by Bro Rev Derek Scott in Maud Parish Church. He was eventually installed in the Chair on 18 November 1991. In 1993, he relocated to Perth. Now retired he occasionally attends Lodge No. 42 in Auchterarder, Perthshire. He is a keen fiddler in two Strathspey and Reel Societies and has also taken to making and repairing fiddles. He is also an active member of the Perth Barbershop Singers.



61) & 63) Ronald J. SIMPSON Roll No 540-(1992-95 & 1996-97) Ronnie was initiated on 23rd March, passed 4th May and raised on 7th December 1987. He is a local garage owner in Stuartfield and has become synonymous with Lodge Leask being a frequent visitor at all levels in Freemasonry. Having served a total of four years as Master in 92-95 and again in 96-97, he has now served as Lodge Treasurer since 2001. He is an Honorary Member of many Lodges and Proxy Junior Warden of Lodge of Lodge Lusaka No 1368 in Zambia. He received his Provincial Commission as Provincial Grand Chaplain in 2009 and received Honorary Grand Rank as Honorary Grand Junior Deacon in 2008 from the then RWPGM Bro Alfred J W Davidson. In 2008 he was also honoured by the Lodge with a Distinguished Service Jewel and certificate for services to the Lodge in particular and the craft in general. He has become an ambassador for Freemasonry throughout Scotland and beyond and has a reputation as an expert

Installing Master for many Lodges. He has also achieved highly in other Orders of Freemasonry and was a driving force behind the founding of Hill o' Mormond Conclave of the Secret Monitor and is currently Deputy Provincial Grand Worthy Supreme Ruler for North Scotland. He is a PZ of St Andrew RAC.

64) William M. BRUCE Roll No 528- (1997-98) Willie, a native of New Deer was initiated on 17th December 1984, passed on 7th January 1985 and raised on 21st January 1985 whilst still a student at Aberdeen University. As a computing expert he is now a widely-travelled oil industry executive, and is resident in Stuartfield. He is the Grand nephew of Past Master Alex Gillespie (No 8). He continues to attend and support the Lodge as often as possible and still contributes to the work of the Lodge. He is also a Past First Principal of St Andrew RAC. His detective work secured photos of some of the New Deer Masters for this booklet.





65) Dr. Douglas R. H. NICOL-(1998-2000) Roll No -570 is the local GP (known in Doric as the “Maad Dochtir”) was initiated, 5th December 1994, passed 6th February and raised on 20th February 1995. He has been Lodge Secretary since 2001. He restored and developed the annual Kirk Service and founded the annual Indian Gourmet Experience. He is the Provincial Grand Secretary of Aberdeenshire East, Proxy Senior Warden of Lodge Thistle 1014 of Barbados, a Grand Steward and a member of Grand Committee, and is currently on the Benevolence Committee. At Grand Lodge he was responsible for forming the First Aid Group and is on the Benevolence and Homes Committee. He is a re-poning member and Immediate Past Master of Lodge Felix 355 (2009-2010) and WSW of Lodge Sir Robert Moray 1641. He is a PZ of St Andrew 146 and a Past Most Worthy Supreme Ruler of Hill o’ Mormond Conclave of the OSM. His

unique approach to time keeping has become legendary.

66) John A. MACRITCHIE-(2000-02). Roll No 571. John is an Advocate in Aberdeen and was initiated Dec 5th 1994, passed 16th January and raised on 6th March 1995. He is also a reponing member Lodge Felix 355 becoming Master in 2010-11. Presently being seldom able to attend Lodge due to relocation in Dundee, he has nevertheless acquired a formidable reputation for wit and bonhomie. His absence from the Lodge has resulted in him achieving cult status somewhat similar to Elvis Presley—Many sightings have been reported but he never seems to make an appearance. He does however support the Lodge in many ways and is always ready to help in any way he can. As well as being a Proxy Senior Warden of a Lodge Piet Retief No 1501 in Central South Africa, he is PZ of St Andrew RAC 146, a past Provincial Second Principal of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Aberdeenshire and founding member and Past Worthy Supreme Ruler of Hill o’ Mormond Conclave of the OSM.



67) Andrew E. PATTERSON (2002-04) –Roll No 566 was initiated 6th December 1993 passed 24th January 1994 and raised on 21st March of that year. An engineer in the offshore oil industry he continues to attend regularly and to contribute to many Lodge activities. He is a keen DIY fanatic and has laboured hard in many projects in the Lodge.

Andy did a considerable amount of work scouring Libraries, Museums and Newspaper records finding much valuable information for this booklet. He undertook the groundwork and photo scanning for the entry on the life of Provost Leask for which much gratitude is due.

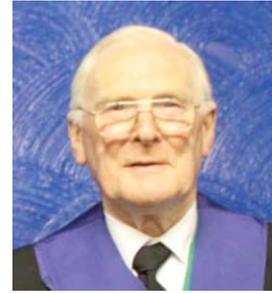
In 2010, several Lodges in Aberdeenshire East including Leask sponsored his daughter Chloe to undertake a “Gap Year” teaching English to under privileged children in Santiago, Chile. Andy and Audrey visited Chloe in Chile in March 2011, visiting some Lodges there.

68) Kevin E. HURHANGEE (2004-06) Roll No 578. Kevin was initiated 16th December 1996, passed 6th January 1997 and raised on 20th January of that year. Kevin is a dental surgeon in Peterhead, and he continues to attend regularly and to contribute to many sides of the Lodge’s activity. He is a keen golfer and amongst his other interest he includes karate being a pupil at one time of James Hardie PM No 256



69) Iain TROUP (2006-08) Roll No 583 Iain was initiated as a Lewis(the son of Harry Troup) at the age of 18 on 14th April 1997, passed on 20th October and raised on 8th November of the same year. He is a Trading Manager for Strachans, Peterhead. He continues to attend regularly and to contribute to many Lodge activities. He is a keen athlete and Rugby enthusiast and is a Past-captain of Aberdeen Wanderers RFC. He is also an enthusiastic member of Round Table and enjoys contributing to their fund raising events.

70) Rev. Canon P. G. D. JONES (2008-10) Patrick affiliated from Lodge St Nathalan of Tullich in Mar in 2002 . He was a PM of Lodges of Lodge St. Nathalan of Tullich-in-Mar No. 259, Ballater and is currently Provincial Grand Chaplain of Aberdeenshire West and achieved Honorary Grand Rank as Honorary Grand Chaplain.



71) Dr James R Mackay, (2010-) Roll No 580 is the present RWM of Leask. He was initiated 3rd March 1997, passed 17th March and raised on 28th April of that year. He is also a local doctor and in partnership with PM Bro Nicol. He has come to the Chair of Solomon in a very busy year. Not only is he Master in the Centenary year, but 2010-2011 appears to be a very busy year as regards numbers of candidates. He will therefore be in charge of the Lodge during a time of great resurgence in the craft. A great responsibility therefore rests on his shoulders. He is due to host the Province's Reigning Masters Degree on 22nd April 2011.

NOTABLE PERSONALITIES

- 1) Rev Derek Scott Derek affiliated from Lodge St Servanus 771 on 1st March 1971. He had been a Past Master of his other Lodge. He was Lodge secretary from 1972 to 1989. He undertook the Lodge Kirk Service from the time he joined the Lodge until his retirement. With his retirement, the Service went into abeyance until it was restarted in 2000. He passed to Grand Lodge above in 2001. His distinguished Service included Provincial Grand Chaplain and Provincial Grand Master 1984-89. He served as Grand Junior Chaplain in 1970-71 and Senior Grand Chaplain from 1971-72. He was a 32nd Degree Mason



- 2) Ted Dudderidge. Ted affiliated from Lodge Quantock No 4446 EC in Somerset. He served the Lodge well during his stay in Aberdeenshire before he moved to Gravesend in Kent in 2004. He was responsible for founding the annual Carol Service which has become a popular family event on the first Sunday of December every year. He gifted Mark Overseers tables to the Lodge on his departure.

- 3) Henry Scott – Henry was initiated in 1948 and farmed at Barry Maud, as did his father Wilson (also a member of the Lodge) before him. He lived in Sheltered Housing in Maud overlooking the Lodge, and until recently he lived in a house called “Barry” in the village. He has been a valuable source of information for this book. Henry was looking forward to attending the Centenary Celebrations of the Lodge but sadly Henry passed to Grand Lodge above on the eve of this book going to press.

- 4) Harry Troup. Harry affiliated to the Lodge in 1990. He served as Treasurer from 1998 to 2002. He was most proud to see his son Iain initiated into Leask as an 18 year old Lewis and subsequently installed as Master. He and his wife Mary contributed much to the work of the Lodge. He worked tirelessly in the background undertaking refurbishing projects and preparing the unique harmonies which were as unique and colourful as his masterful use of the English language. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Certificate and Jewel in 2010 for his work for the Lodge. Harry has had a varied and very colourful life and has carried out many good charitable works during his time as a contractor in faraway countries. He was initiated into Lodge Turbol No 9 in the Lebanon. This, his mother lodge, was under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York. Before he could progress the Lodge was blown up by terrorists and he was evacuated to Cyprus by boat. He completed his second and third degrees in Lodge Latheron No 1274 near Wick, his home town. In his latter years he was a businessman in Peterhead and affiliated to several local Lodges including Leask.



- 5) James Hardie, is a Past Master of St James 256 and an Honorary Member of Lodge Leask. Jim (Known as Fargo) in his younger days was well known as a martial arts teacher being a 1st Dan in Judo and a 5th Dan in Karate. He has led the St James Installing Team as Installing Master to Lodge Leask from 1988 until prevented from ill health in 2007. He was most generous to the Lodge and many items of furniture were contributed by him. He is seen here at the Installation of Bro Kevin Hurhangee who incidentally was also taught Karate by Jim in his youth.



LODGE EVENTS

By Douglas Nicol

From the early 1980s the public perception of Freemasonry was enhanced by permission given to the Parish Church of Maud to hold a fund-raising 'shop' in the Lodge anteroom during the summer months. The shop is a popular destination for villagers and helps raise funds for the local Parish Church. The Lodge arranges number of events during the year which involve family and friends and for the benefit of charity fund raising.

ANNUAL KIRK SERVICE.



The origins of the Kirk Service are lost in time. It was held in Maud Parish Church and taken by the then Lodge Secretary, Bro Rev. Derek Scott until his retirement from the Ministry in 1987 when the Kirk Service went into abeyance. A Kirk Service on 21st May 1972 attracted over 80 Brethren. Deputations attended from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East under RWPGM Bro William McDougal Gordon and the Grand Lodge of Scotland led by the Grand Master Mason, Bro David Liddel-Granger of Ayton. Bro Rev Derek Scott was Senior Grand Chaplain at Grand Lodge Scotland that year.



Bro Dr Douglas Nicol resurrected the idea of a Kirk Parade and Service in 1999 when he was Master. There were initial difficulties gaining permission to hold the Service in a Church but the first service went ahead in May 2000 in Old Deer Parish Church. To boost numbers it was decided to involve the other country Lodges, Fraser 267, St Andrew 518, Ugie 939 and St Andrew RAC, who took turns to host the Service. In addition Brethren and Sisters of other Order were welcomed to the parade and Service in their relevant regalia. The result has been a colourful display of the Masonic Orders parading to the local

Church. The event really promotes fraternal bonding amongst the Orders. The collection at this event is always divided between the Kirk and a named local charity.

The Rev James Wishart of Old Deer Parish Church, welcomed the Lodges and took the Services for the next 9 years until his retirement in 2009. Jimmy insisted on a family service which proved a great success and on one memorable occasion had PMs Ronnie Simpson and Douglas Nicol in full Masonic Regalia making plasticene models with the children. Jimmy who retired at the end of 2009 was a great friend to the Masonic Order and is greatly missed since he retired to Orkney. The Brethren wish Jimmy and his wife Helen a long and happy retirement.



Rev Jimmy Wishart, Mrs Helen Wishart, IPM Rev Canon Patrick Jones and Dr Douglas Nicol PM on at Jimmy's last Masonic Kirk Service



Kirk Service Presentation 50th Anniversary Certificate 2000-L-R RWPGM James Stewart, PPGM Rev Derek Scott, PPGM Douglas Grant, PM John Ritchie, PPGM William McDougal Gordon, RWM Dr Douglas Nicol

CHARITY WORK

Like all Masonic Lodges, Leask involves itself collecting for both Masonic and non Masonic charities. As well as regular projects, the Lodge has donated to national and local organisations, play groups, sheltered housing, care homes etc. The Lodge has also supported Grand Lodge and Provincial charity projects and this year are supporting the Charity Project of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire east to celebrate the Centenary of Grand Lodge Building and the 275th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was started from an idea of Bro Ted Dudderidge in 1996. It has been organised by Lodge Leask and St Andrew RAC on an annual alternating basis ever since with the RWM or MEZ leading proceedings. Guests are most welcome and Santa makes an appearance to the delight of the many children present. The Carol Service takes place on the first Sunday in December and other members of the Lodge and their families take part with readings, songs, musical recitals on organ, etc. It has been a most successful event with the Lodge packed to capacity. Money raised at this event is given to local charities such as the Rainbows, Playgroup etc



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INDIAN GOURMET EVENING

The Indian evening was started in 1996 when a Sunday evening meal was arranged for Brethren, Companions of St Andrew RAC, wives, and friends at the Sahib Restaurant in Peterhead. The Annual dinner is now held in January or February at the B Raj restaurant, owned by Baldev Sony in Fraserburgh. This has proven to be a popular event with over 30 Brethren and partners attending each year. In 2010 there were two Indian Gourmet nights reflecting the events popularity and also to allow the RWM, Rev Canon Patrick Jones the opportunity to attend as the heavy snows of that winter had resulted in him and Mrs Jones being snowed in on the occasion of the dinner. The Brethren's distress at the knowledge of their Master missing out on his annual Indian feast made a second dinner an easy decision.

DINNER DANCES

These are held annually or when sufficient support can be gathered to make them viable. Popular venues have been the Station Hotel, Ellon, the Ban Car Hotel, Lonmay and the Sports Club at Longside. This an important fundraising event as well as an opportunity to honour the ladies for their support during the Masonic season. It has been customary for the Brethren to wear the regalia at the dinner and for the first dance. At the end of the evening the position is reversed and the ladies don the regalia for the last dance. The photo shows Past Master Sandy and Mrs Gibson and Henry Scott with Sheila Dalgarno (later Mrs Scott) at the annual Ladies night Dance in 1952 which on that occasion was held at the Station Hotel in Fraserburgh.





In the photo left, taken at the Dinner Dance of 1961, we see Reggie and Lil Shirran and Donald and Betty Fowlie. Reggie had a Butchers shop in New Deer and although not achieving the chair maintained an interest in the Lodge. Donald was to achieve the Chair two years later

MARK PENNY

The current Mark penny dates from 1996 and was designed to reflect the links of Freemasonry to the community of Maud. The Lodge was founded in Maud as it was an economically prosperous village and there was easy passenger access by train from Aberdeen and Peterhead which was an important consideration in 1911 as motor cars were scarce. Furthermore, the St Andrew RAC No 146 of New Pitsligo which had been dormant since 1893, was re-poned in Maud in 1911 as a result of the easy access. Also as a result of the railway, Maud became a very successful cattle market and the presence of the railway gave the local cattle dealers easy access for their livestock (predominantly Aberdeen Angus Cattle) to the markets of the south.

The Obverse of the token therefore is the standard design but the reverse has a equilateral triangle the emblem of the deity transacted into three sections. At the apex of the triangle we see the All Seeing Eye of the Great Architect. The lower left segment shows an Aberdeen Angus Bull which characteristically has no horns. The other segment has the representation of a steam engine. Hence the Maud Mark Token tie the local community and its early economy to the Lodge.

The centenary Mark Token has the same reverse design but the obverse bears a three quarter face effigy of Provost William Leask himself who at the time of the Lodge foundation was Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire East. This token will be available for sale in base metal and enamelled forms and there will also be enamelled commemorative jewels bearing the effigy of Leask, cufflinks bearing the equilateral triangle, badges etc



OTHER ORDERS

Leask members have always prided themselves in their relationships with other Orders in Freemasonry. Two other orders share the temple at Maud and these orders have long participated with each other in various events such as Dinner Dances, Carol Service and The annual Kirk Service.

1) St ANDREW ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER No 146



St Andrew RAC was founded in 1873 in New Pitsligo in conjunction with Lodge St Andrew 518. Sadly it became dormant in 1893 after only twenty years. It was reopened in Maud in 1911 soon after Leask's foundation. Presumably the easy access of Maud by railway played a major part in the transfer of St Andrew RAC to Maud. Companions would be more likely therefore to travel to Maud than New Pitsligo and save the RAC from the fate of dormancy. The Brethren of St Andrew 518 certainly don't seem to have borne a grudge as many members of this Lodge have played an active part

in the affairs of the RAC in Maud. ME Companion Joe Brice is currently First Principal and St Andrew give a steady supply of candidates to its namesake RAC.

HILL O' MORMOND ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR No 468

By PM Ronald Simpson



A Secret Monitor Conclave for the Buchan area was conceived by Past Masters Graham A McCombie and Paul Robinson of the Fraserburgh Lodge of Freemasons No 1055. In conjunction with Members of Craigisla Conclave, they considered the viability of a Conclave in the North East. Members of Lodge Leask were approached who agreed to permit a meeting in the Lodge and allow an assessment of the Lodge Premises for the purposes of the OSM. The Station Hotel was also considered for dining facilities. Having agreed that the venue was perfect for the purposes of founding a Conclave in Maud.

The years went by and Bros McCombie's and Robinson's work and Masonic commitments deviated them from their grand design. However all was not lost and Bros John Grant and Sandy Mitchell from Keith Aberdeenshire took up the cudgel and persuaded (or rather rail-roaded) PM Ron Simpson to approach other Brethren and form a steering committee. This was duly done and after seeking permission and assistance of the Provincial Grand Conclave for North Scotland. Grand Conclave in London was informed and permission was granted to found a conclave in Maud. The name of Hill O'Mormond was unanimously decided upon by the Standing Committee and Grand Conclave issued the number as 468. The next step was to choose a Supreme Ruler and Past Supreme Ruler W Bro William Murray of Buckie was chosen. Due to large numbers attending, the most successful inaugural meeting was held at the Masonic Temple in Broad Street Peterhead and the subsequent meeting in Maud saw the first candidates joining the Conclave. The first candidates were Bros Douglas Nicol PM of Leask and PM David Hutcheon PM of St Andrew 518.

Photos on previous page show the Installation of Ron Simpson as Worthy Supreme Ruler in 2006 and below Foundation Meeting of Hill O'Mormond Conclave at Peterhead.

CONCLUSION

Although there has been a great deal of work expended gathering the data in this booklet, I am sure there is still a lot of information out there which should have been put in. If anything important has been missed we apologise for the omission, but we would still appreciate the information and photos.

We were impressed at the wide social structure of the 645 Brethren who had gone through the Lodge during the hundred years. We were also alarmed at the number of Masters and past Masters who were prematurely torn from this earth and taken to Grand Lodge above at aged 50 or under either from illness or accident. We thank the Lord for their contribution and for the contribution of all the Masters and Brethren to the continuing life of our Lodge and to their wives and family for their continued tolerance and support. We, the present Brethren of the Lodge are grateful to our own wives, partners and families for their ongoing tolerance and support for our Masonic activities. Let us hope that our successors are equally fortunate.

Lodge Leask 1084 is entering its second century in a position of strength with a full programme of candidates. We are in the fortunate position that we are having to arrange "Special Meetings" and meetings with two or more candidates to get through the work. The candidates are generally younger and the Office Bearers are enthusiastic. Many of our members are keen visitors taking the name of Leask all over the Province and beyond.

To celebrate our Centenary, we shall have a ceremony at the Lodge on 7th May when we hope that the Grand Master Mason and a team from the Grand Lodge of Scotland shall re-dedicate the Lodge for the next Century. Thereafter there will be a celebratory dinner (prepared by Bro Brian Dempster PM and Bro John Wilson of Lodge of Old Aberdeen No 164) to be held in the public hall in Maud followed by a Ceilidh dance. Our wives and partners shall also attend the dinner in gratitude of the support they have shown us and so that they may share our festivities. A provisional order of service and menu are shown in Appendix IV.

We owe it to our predecessors who have conserved and promoted this Lodge for the first hundred years to preserve it in the condition we have received it and lay the foundations for an even more successful second hundred years and beyond.

Bro Dr Douglas R H Nicol PM
Lodge Secretary



OFFICER BEARERS LODGE LEASK
2010-2011

Right Worshipful Master.....	DR JAMES MACKAY
Immediate Past Master.....	Rev Canon Patrick Jones
Depute Master.....	Colin Begg
Substitute Master.....	Harry Troup
Secretary.....	Dr Douglas Nicol PM
Treasurer.....	Ronald J Simpson PM
Worshipful Senior Warden.....	Duncan Adam
Worshipful Junior Warden.....	Alan Ramsay
Senior Deacon.....	Geoffrey Jones
Junior Deacon.....	Paul Naysmith
Inner Guard.....	Paul Bates
Tyler.....	Robbie Howie
Chaplain.....	Andrew E Paterson PM
Almoner.....	William J Sell PM
Director of Ceremonies.....	Kevin Hurhangee PM
Bible bearer.....	Darren Begg
Architect.....	Andrew Neil
Jeweller.....	Martin Low
Director Of Music.....	Robert Wallace
Organist.....	Craig Wallace
President of Stewards.....	Ian Troup PM
Steward.....	Paul Yule
Steward.....	Thomas Faithful
Steward.....	Neil Robertson
Steward.....	William Wood
Steward.....	Matthew Bean
Steward.....	Aly Abdel Salam
Steward.....	Kevin Sykes

Active Past Masters; Michael Davidson, William Bruce, John A MacRitchie

LIST OF MASTERS

1) William D. CLARK	1911-13		
2) John WILSON	1913-15	39) W. TAYLOR	1964-65
3) Hector MAVOR	1915-17	40) James A. TAYLOR	1965-66
4) John G. MORRISON	1917-18	41) Peter F. MACKIE	1966-67
5) William HENDERSON	1918-19	42) J. RITCHIE	1967-68
6) Robert MICHIE	1919-20	43) W. NORRIS	1968-69
7) George W. HENRY	1920-21	44) A. CLUBB	1969-70
8) Alexander E. GILLESPIE	1921-22	45) Alex M. PIRIE	1970-71
9) James A. GARROW	1922-23	46) Kenneth GRAY	1971-72
10) George B. DUNLOP	1923-24	47) John A. BUCHANAN	1972-73
11) Cleveland T. YEATS	1924-25	48) Harold COOK	1973-74
12) John MACKAY	1925-26	49) Michael J. DAVIDSON	1974-75
13) Alexander ROTHNEY	1926-27	50) David J. COOK	1975-76
14) George S. RENNIE	1927-28	51) Alistair W. GIBSON	1976-77
15) James RENNIE	1928-29	52) James C McDONALD	1977-79
16) William PATERSON	1929-30	53) A. GORDON	1979-81
17) James HENDERSON	1930-32	54) R. RITCHIE	1981-83
18) John G. FOWLIE	1932-34	55) John A. EWEN	1983-85
19) Robert H. D. DALGARNO	1934-36	56) Greg ELRICK	1985-87
20) George IRONSIDE	1936-37	57) William J. SELL	1987-89
21) J.G.HENDERSON	1937-39	58) Alan McPHEE	1989-90
22) James WEBSTER	1939-43	59) John A. SUTHERLAND	1990-91
23) A. WRIGHT	1944-46	60) David GARDINER	1991-92
24) Angus BUCHANAN	1946-48	61) Ronald J.SIMPSON	1992-95
25) A. Douglas HAY	1948-50	62) William J. SELL	1995-96
26) A. GIBSON	1950-51	63) Ronald J.SIMPSON	1996-97
27) Robert WATT	1951-52	64) William M. BRUCE	1997-98
28) John RITCHIE	1952-53	65) Dr. Douglas R. H. NICOL	1998-2000
29) R. URQUHART	1953-55	66) John A. MACRITCHIE	2000-02
30) A. STEPHEN	1955 -56	67) Andrew E. PATERSON	2002-04
31) Robert M. FOUBISTER	1956-57	68) Kevin E. HURANGEE	2004-06
32) J. A. IRONSIDE	1957-58	69) Iain TROUP	2006-08
33) Howard C. STIRLING	1958-59	70) Rev. Canon Patrick G. D. JONES	2008-10
34) Leslie TAYLOR	1959-60	71) Dr James R MacKay	2010-
35) G. A. PATERSON	1960-61		
36) Richard. J. HUTCHEON	1961-62		
37) A. BROWN	1962-63		
38) Donald McA. FOWLIE	1963-64		

APPENDIX I

GIFTS TO THE LODGE

During its existence, many Brethren and their families have gifted money or items to the Lodge in appreciation or often in Memoriam of Brethren passed to Grand Lodge Above. We hereby show our appreciation and grateful thanks. If any have been forgotten, please accept our apologies.

Below is a list of gifts and their donors between 1945 and 2011

1952 An RWM's gavel made of Egyptian granite - Bro. Morrice

1955 A Bible 'for the use of Lodge Leask and St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter' – PM Bro. J. Webster of Lodge St. George No. 190, who was Installing Master at the installation of Bro. Alex. J. Stephen

1974 A legacy of £150 – estate of Bro. James Bruce

1980 Two photographs of a procession, led by Bro. C. A. Milne RWM, taken on the day of the Consecration of the Temple - Bro. G. Milne

1980 A gavel for use by the RWM - Bro. James Hardie PM of Lodge St. James No. 256

1981 Jewels - Bro. James Hardie

1981 A plaque, one of a number presented to Lodge St. James 256 by Brother Herbert Grote or Groat of Lodge Aufgehenden Licht (Germany) - Bro. James Hardie

1981 A baton for the Director of Ceremonies - Bro. James Hardie

1982 Cuffs for the RWM - Bro. James Hardie

1983 A set of working tools - Bro. James Hardie

1984 Two tapestries, since identified as Muslim prayer mats, to be hung behind the Wardens' chairs - Bro. A. Thomson

1988 A pedestal Bible - Bro. P. Mackie PM

1989 Apron and sash for use by the WSW and other Masonic effects belonging to the late Bro. J. C. McDonald PM - Mrs McDonald

1989 Mark Tracing Board - Br. James Hardie

1990 Case to contain the McDonald regalia - made and donated by Bro. A. Pirie PM

1990 Cheque for £300 - 'Treasure Petroleum'

1990 Regalia of the late Bro. H. Stirling PM

1991 A battery clock – Mrs. Norris in memory of the late Bro. Wm. Norris, who died in 1968 during his term as RWM

1993 Set of Masonic Candles - Bro. G. Elrick PM

1993 ainting, the work of Mrs. T. Dudderidge - Bro. T. Dudderidge PM

1993 History of PPGM Wm. Leask - Bro. James Hardie

1993 A Masonic wall-clock - Bro. R. Simpson RWM

1993 Deacons Wands Past Master Donald Fowlie

1999 Wardens Columns-Bro Douglas Nicol RWM

1999 Masters Collar Bro Douglas Nicol, RWM and DM John MacRitchie

2000 Masters & First Principal Boards – Bro Ronald Simpson PM

2000 RWM Apron Bro Douglas Nicol RWM

2000 Depute Master's Cuffs -Bro John MacRitchie DM

2000 Substitute Masters Cuffs- Bro Harry Troup

2000 Alter Drape-Bro & Mrs Ted Dudderidge

2008 Masters and Wardens Gavals Bro Douglas Nicol PM

2010 Legacy from Alan McPhee PM

There have been other gifts to the Lodge from various relatives and other donors and we apologise for any exclusions. We would appreciate any information regarding donations not included in this list.

APPENDIX II

Ceremonial of Dedication of New Lodge

Faith, Hope and Love, now dwell on earth,
And earth by them is blest;
But Faith and Hope, must yield to Love,
of all the graces best.

The Grand Master will dedicate the Lodge in the East.

The Grand Chaplain will pronounce a Blessing.

Brethren: So mote it be.

GRAND HONOURS

The Office-Bearers of Grand Lodge will resume their places.

The Grand Chaplain will offer Prayer.

Brethren: So mote it be.

Grand Master Mason: "Glory to God in the Highest".

Brethren: "And on earth peace, goodwill towards men".

The Brethren will sing (tune Effingham):

Now blessed be the Lord our God,
the God of Israel,
For He alone doth wondrous works,
in glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name,
to all eternity,
The whole earth let His glory fill,
Amen, so let it be.

The Lodge will be Opened, Passed, and Raised by the R.W.M.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will be received.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason and his Deputation will be received in due form.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master will accept the Emblem of Authority and assume the Chair.

The Grand Chaplain will offer Prayer.

Brethren will sing (tune Stroudwater):

The Lord doth reign, and cloth'd is He
with majesty most bright;
His works do show Him cloth'd to be,
and girt about with might.

The world is also established,
that it cannot depart,
Thy throne is fix'd of old, and Thou
from everlasting art.

Thy testimonies ev'ry one
in faithfulness excel;
And holiness for ever, Lord,
Thine house becometh well.

Grand Chaplain will read from the V.S.L.

ORATION

LODGE LEASK No. 1084

Maud

CEREMONIAL OF CONSECRATION

17th. November, 1975.

The Grand Lodge will assemble and will perambulate the Lodge for the first time during which shall be sung (tune Newington):

O greatly bless'd the people are
the joyful sound that know;
In brightness of Thy face O Lord,
they ever on shall go.

The Grand Master will dedicate the Lodge in the South.

The Grand Chaplain will pronounce a Blessing.

Brethren: So mote it be.

GRAND HONOURS

The Procession will make a second perambulation during which shall be sung (tune Walton):

O grant us light that we may know,
The wisdom Thou alone cans't give
That truth may guide where'er we go,
And virtue bless where'er we live.

The Grand Master will dedicate the Lodge in the West.

The Grand Chaplain will pronounce a Blessing.

Brethren: So mote it be.

GRAND HONOURS

The procession will make a third perambulation during which shall be sung (tune Newington):

Over/-

APPENDIX III



Life Membership certificate of Wilson Scott dated 1919-the father of Lodge Leask's oldest known surviving member, Bro Henry Scott

APPENDIX IV

Proposed Ceremonial Menu and Toast List for Centenary Celebrations on 7th May 2011

100th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The Lodge will be Opened, Passed and Raised

Reception of

Brother William G Grant

Provincial Grand Master

And Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East

Reception of

Brother Charles I R Gordon of Esslemont

Grand Master Mason

And Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland

CEREMONY OF REDEDICATION

The Grand Master will receive the EMBLEM OF AUTHORITY from the MASTER OF THE LODGE

Opening Praise

The Brethren will sing Psalm 23-Tune; Crimond

The Lords my shepherd, I'll not want

He makes me down to lie

In Pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by

Goodness and mercy all my life

shall surely follow me

And in God's House for evermore

My Dwelling place shall be.

SCRIPTURE READING

ACT OF REDEDICATION

OBLIGATION

The Three-fold Blessing

The Brethren will sing Psalm 122- Tune-St Paul

Verse 6

Pray that Jerusalem may have

Peace and felicity

Let them that love thee and Thy peace

Have still prosperity

BLESSING FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren; So Mote it be

Verse 7

Therefore I wish that peace may still

Within Thy walls remain

And ever may Thy Palaces

Prosperity retain

BLESSING FROM THE WEST

Brethren; So Mote it be

Verse 8 Now for my friends and brethren's sakes
 Peace be in Thee; I'll say
 And for the House of God our Lord
 I'll seek Thy good alway.

BLESSING FROM THE EAST

Brethren; So Mote it be

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND MASTER MASON

The Brethren will sing Paraphrase 2-Tune ; Salzburg

Verses 1 & 2

O God of Bethel!, by whose hand	Our vows, our pray'rs we now present
Thy people still are fed	Before Thy throne of grace;
Who through this weary pilgrimeage	God of our fathers! Be the God
Hast all our fathers led.	Of their succeeding race.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Brethren; So Mote it be

Verse 5

Such Blessings from Thy gracious hand
 Our humble pray'rs implore;
 And Thou shalt be our chosen God
 And portion evermore

BENEDICTION

Brethren; So Mote it be

THE GRAND MASTER MASON

Will return

THE EMBLEM OF AUTHORITY

To the

MASTER OF THE LODGE

THE MASTER

will thank

THE GRAND MASTER MASON

Collection on behalf of the Benevolent Funds of Grand Lodge

The Grand Master Mason and Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will retire.

The Provincial Grand Master and Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East will retire

Lodge Leask No 1084 will be closed in Due and Antient Form

Grace

Rev Canon Patrick G. D. Jones PM

Paraphrase 2, Verses 1& 2

Tune; Salzburg

O God of Bethel!, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Our vows, our pray'rs we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers! Be the God
Of their succeeding race.

MENU

Scottish Vegetable Broth

Roll & Butter

Prime Roast Beef and Trimmings

Apple Crumble & Cream

Teas, Coffee and Mints

Wines

TOAST LIST

THE QUEEN	Brother Dr James R Mackay <i>Master</i>
THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND	Brother Dr Douglas R H Nicol PM <i>Secretary</i>
REPLY	Brother Charles I. R Wolrige-Gordon Of Esslemont <i>Grand Master Mason</i>
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ABERDEENSHIRE EAST	Brother Ronald J Simpson PM <i>Treasurer</i>
REPLY	Brother William G. Grant <i>Provincial Grand Master</i>
LODGE LEASK NO 1084	Brother Iain Bain <i>Past Master,</i> <i>Lodge Ugie No 939</i>
REPLY	Brother Dr James R Mackay <i>Master</i>
THE LADIES	Brother Scott Winchester
REPLY	Mrs Alison Nicol
VISITING BRETHREN	Brother Iain Troup PM <i>President of Stewards</i>
REPLY	Brother Alfred J W Davidson <i>Past Provincial Grand Master</i> <i>Past Master Lodge No 256</i>
ABSENT FIRENDS	Bro. Paul Naysmith <i>Junior Deacon</i>
DOC	Bro Kevin Hurhangee PM

AULD LANG SYNE & THE QUEEN
FOLLOWED BY CEILIDH DANCE

