



Province of Devonshire
Dartmoor Lodge N° 4604
South Brent South Devon
The First Twenty Years
1924 - 1945
By
W.Bro Reginald G. Hard

Forward
BY
Worshipful Brother Mark A. Perring
Past Prov. Junior Grand Warden

Being asked to write a foreword to "To the First Twenty Years" of the Dartmoor Lodge No. 4604. I deem it an honour and a pleasure.

As the Senior Past Master of the Lodge, I was delighted to be associated with W.Bro. R.G. Hard, who has given so many, many hours of his time in researching and compiling dates, facts and the history of the past. Pleasure, I am sure, will be derived on reading this book, so ably edited and published by W.Bro. F. Denbow.

To me it brings back many happy memories of departed brethren, fine men, who also gave many hours of time and effort to bring into being this wonderful Lodge, that we love so much. They set us an example, which I hope will always continue throughout the coming years.

Mark A. Perring

A Photostat copy of this document was scanned and then run through OCR software. The file was then compared with the hard copy and edited to try and faithfully reproduce what was originally set down with no editing. Hard copies of the History are in possession of a number of members of the Lodge. I have added an Appendix III at the end with some photographs . Namely pictures of the Pleiades and Dartmoor Past Masters board showing many of the masons mentioned in this document. Also photographs of the Foundation Stone and Dedication Ceremonies. Any errors are mine.

W.Bro Bob Carter June 2015

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE DARTMOOR LODGE Number 4604
SOUTH BRENT SOUTH DEVON
1924 to 1945
Researched by Worshipful Brother Reginald G. Hard February 1983

Edited and published by W.Bro. Francis Denbow

Digitised by W.Bro Bob Carter June 2015

THE DARTMOOR LODGE WAS FOUNDED ON 30th APRIL 1924

This is recorded in the Silver Jubilee booklet. It is an excellent book, and I must congratulate W.Bro. W.H. Lafford (The Secretary at that time) on his knowledge and the way that he passed it on to us. But I have always felt that there must have been someone somewhere, that sowed the seeds of Masonry. I ask myself why South Brent? To get the answer, or part of it. I must take you back as to how South Brent came about.

South Brent is a small market town, eight miles from Ashburton on the road towards Plymouth. In the reign of Edward the Confessor and at the time of making the Domesday Survey, the Abbey of Buckfastleigh possessed two manors of Brent. Two entries describe the Abbey property, one referring to 'Brent', the other to 'Brent Tor'. Brent Tor eventually became the property of the Abbots of Tavistock, acquired either by purchase or exchange from Buckfastleigh. It appears that on February 25th 1538 Gabriel Dunne, the last Abbot of Buckfast (prior to the appointment of the late Abbot Netter In1903) surrendered his convent Into the hands of Henry VIII.

Sir William Petre obtained from King Henry the Manor and the Rectory of the Parish Church of Brent, and on November 25th 1155 Pope Paul IV, confirmed this grant of ecclesiastical property.

THE DOMESDAY SURVEY

There were two Brents at this time, one north of Tavistock, the other south of Ashburton. Both belonging to the Abbot of Buckfastleigh. It was decided to call this part 'South Brent', this was during the reign of Edward the Confessor.

The parish of South Brent includes the hamlets of Aish, Charford, Harbourneford, Lutton, Wonton, Avonwick, and Brent Mill. The population was estimated at about 1,400, with an acreage of 10,180, assessed at £12,139.

In the early nineteenth century there was a Vicar who came from Broadclyst by the name of Nathaniel Spear-Cole, there is very little written of him, only his death recorded In 1866.

At this time something happens in the Masonic field, for the son of the late Rev. Nathaniel Spear-Cole, Rev. W. Spear-Cole came to take up the living at South Brent, he came from Chitlington, Sussex.

In his obituary it is stated he was among the founders of Pleiades Lodge Number 710 Totnes. He passed away suddenly on the 13th March 1905, at Torquay aged seventy seven years.

There was also another Reverend Gentleman in the name of Thomas Russel, who became the Priest in Charge of St. Mary Church, Avonwick, but it was only for a short while, but, I have reason to believe, both these men played an important part, in bringing Freemasonry to South Brent and Devon.

Both men were at Oxford at the same time, and were ordained in the same year.

I suggest that they instilled Masonry into the minds of the following.

W.Bro. Wyndham Hull, Schoolmaster, South Brent.

W.Bro. Robert H. Gill, Church warden, Postmaster, South Brent.

W.Bro. William Velvin, Blacksmith.

W.Bro. Noah Heard, Farmer, Broadley, South Brent.

W.Bro. Thomas Tope, Retired Army Sergeant (Punjab).

I still ask myself why South Brent?, as the population had not increased it was still a small market town, mainly agricultural.

Clifton Terrace had just been occupied, and Totnes Road ended at the Old Fire Station. There were no motor cars or buses. and the railway from Totnes to Plymouth had recently been completed. So the main mode of transport was horse and carriage, remember this was before the First World War, and there was very little money about.

It does not take much to visualise the conversations as they travelled to Lodge meetings. All the above became Masters of Pleiades Lodge. It is recorded at the consecration of Dartmoor Lodge, that W.Bros. Gill and Hull had thoughts as long ago as 1904, twenty years before.

It was only right and proper that Pleiades Lodge should be our Mother Lodge, although they had to search their hearts because The Trinity Lodge number 2595 came into the scene. for Buckfastleigh was then a prosperous town, and their Past Masters were making enquiries.

W.Bro. R.H. Gill and the other three thought the time was right to call a meeting.

April 23rd 1923. The Pack Horse Hotel. South Brent.

The first meeting took place, twenty six brethren were invited, nineteen attended, the remaining seven sent their apologies.

W.Bro. Rev. T. Parry, The Vicar of Diptford was Invited to take the Chair.

W.Bro. Hull. Secretary.

W.Bro. Gill, Treasurer.

They took a long time to decide how, and who, should be the officers of the Lodge. The Trinity Lodge certainly wrote their name into our history. For out of all the officers five Past Masters came from the Trinity Lodge, four Past Masters from Pleiades Lodge, and one Past Master from Sir Francis Drake Lodge, one can feel the apprehension on reading the Minutes of the meeting.

It was decided that a Warrant be applied for from the Grand Lodge of England, for the formation of a Lodge at South Brent, with as little delay as possible.

PREMISES.

There were two suggestions.

The Pack Horse Hotel, proposed by W.Bro. Sandsford, who was the Manager at the time.

The Vicars Hall, proposed by W.Bro. Gill.

It was agreed that as they all knew the Pack Horse Hotel, they should visit the Vicars Hall In Church Street.

It was agreed that the Vicars Hall would cater for all their needs. and the tenancy be applied for, the cost being five pounds per annum.

I have to mention here that it was due to W.Bro, R.H. Gill's personal efforts that this came about, he was the churchwarden, and well respected, ably assisted by his family, his son Robert was at this time taking holy orders. His daughter took an active part in the Bible Class, and youth work from the hall, whilst his wife played her part with the W.I. and W.V.S. and the elderly of the village.

There were some alterations needed to the hall. It also required painting, and together with furnishings, It was to cost one hundred and fifty pounds.

It was agreed that the work would be carried out by Jervis Veale. Builders, South Brent.

NAME OF THE LODGE.

It could not be called the Brent Lodge, because the Lodge at Topsham number 1284 had this name.

There were two suggestions.

St. Petrocks, after the patron saint of South Brent. proposed by W.Bro. Bickford.

Dartmoor, proposed by W.Bro. Gill, the result of the ballot was,
Dartmoor 12 votes.

St. Petrocks 8 votes.

This was an excellent choice

In the year 1567, an inquiry was made concerning the boundary between Dartmoor and Brent Moor, and out of about 10,100 acres of land belonging to the parish only 6,312 were found to be cultivated, the rest being open common. The Commissioners after

receiving evidence ordered that stone crosses inscribed 'Bunda de Brentmoor' should be placed upon Three Barrow Beacon. Western Whitborough and at Buckland Ford and Wellbrook, assuming at the same time that no one would pull down, remove, or destroy these crosses, which were regarded as holy symbols.

There are 4,788 acres of common land adjoining Dartmoor, this now belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall.

There is no better place for peace and tranquility, than to walk or ride over South Brent moor, from the top of Three Burrows Beacon the coast line can be traced from Cornwall to Dorset.(Saltash to Lyme Regis).

As the Brethren come from all parts of the County, they can see Dartmoor in the distance, and, I know it will remind them of the second Thursday of each month, and thereby the day of their Initiation into Dartmoor Lodge, full of joy and expectation.

DUES

Initiation Fee	Ten Guineas
Joining Fee	Two Guineas
Annual Fee	One Guinea

It was also recommended, that a gift of Five guineas, as a founders fee, to be paid upon signing the Warrant. Agreed.

It is reported that all went away that evening full of joy and brotherly love, thinking all was well. It was short lived, for within a few weeks we note that an emergency meeting was called to receive a letter from the Prov. Grand Secretary, stating that the Annual Subscription should be raised from one guinea, to one and half guineas.

This was put to the vote and carried.

FURNITURE.

The Secretary also reported his visit to Shaugh Prior, where he had seen some Masonic furniture, which was lying idle in a shed, this could be purchased for THIRTY FIVE pounds, plus one pound for delivery.

It was agreed to purchase the furniture.

There are many stories regarding the furniture of the Lodge, of how it was purchased, some even say it was obtained dishonestly, being bought without the previous owners consent, there is no evidence to uphold these allegations, or to whom it belonged. It could have come from Lodge number 1746 which surrendered its Warrant many years ago. But come what may Dartmoor Lodge is the rightful owner.

The next time you enter the Temple, take notice of the Masters Chair, also the Chaplains, the I .P.M.'S and the Senior Wardens Chairs. I cannot date them. But what foresight our founders had to make such a wise purchase.

The rest of the furniture was all given by the Brethren of that time.

COLLARS.

It was agreed that each officer should provide his own collar and it be passed on to his successor.

If you look on the obverse of the Jewels that are appended to the collars, you will see who was the first holder of that office.

SQUARE.

The Square was given by Bro. E.R. Davey, of Riverside, South Brent. As he was only a Master Mason he could not be a founder of the Lodge. he was Installed Master of Pleiades Lodge, and also Installed Master of Dartmoor Lodge In 1935.

ORGAN

The organ was purchased for ten pounds from W.Bro. Chaffe, of Trinity Lodge and until recently rested in the Past Masters Room, as we know Christians of all ages have made full and free use of music as an aid, and in like manner, Dartmoor Lodge from its very first meeting availed itself of the aid in the performance of our rites and ceremonies.

During the first year the organist was mainly W.Bro. T. Parry or W.Bro. Chaffe this went on for two years until W.Bro. Bidmead took over and played for the next five years, he was followed by Bro White of Bittaford until 1931 when W.Bro. Arthur Manning came along he was responsible for the music up to his death, after which Bro. Jack Trist kept up the standard until 1984 when ill health prevented his regular attendance.

At the Consecration of the Lodge W.Bro. F.W. Tolchard Pr.G. Organist played the music, and mention of his ability was reported in the press.

SEATING.

The seats around the Temple were purchased from St. Petrocks Church, and given by W.Bro. Walter Hard, the age of them is unknown. I do know that they became surplus when the choir stalls were replaced.

W.Bro. R.H. Gill, donated the following items,

The Junior Wardens Chair, three pedestals with marble tops, two kneeling stools, the Gong and Heavy Maul, The Ballot Box complete with balls, and two heating stoves.

W.Bro. J. Wakeham, donated the three candlesticks.

W.Bro. R.H. Hoskins, The Volume of the Sacred Law.

W.Bro. W. Hull, Donated the small organ Lamp, an electric torch, the Alms box, and the Rough and Perfect Ashlar's.

W.Bro. J. Goodman, donated three Cable Tow's, The Hoodwink, and the Swords and Poinards.

W.Bro. J. Cutler of Kingsbridge donated two oak chairs.

The large chest which is situated In the Past Masters room. was donated by W.Bro. T. Tope. This chest had been with W.Bro. Tope throughout his army career, both in India and the Punjab. It had been in his possession for over fifty years. It still plays a very important part in the Lodge. It holds the greater part of our records, also the safe repository for the Volume of the Sacred Law when not in use in the Temple.

W.Bro. Tope, was a truly good Mason and gentleman, he was well respected in the community, he had an ear for anyone who was in trouble, a very wise old man. He was the Tyler of the Lodge for many years.

The Charter, is glazed on both sides, on the reverse are endorsed the names of the Founders as a permanent record. This item. was donated by W.Bro. A.W. Cranch (senior).

Reading through the minutes, it was agreed that a record of the founders should be placed on a plaque In the Temple. but the cost of a plaque was found to be too expensive so the minute was allowed to lapse, what a pity, maybe one day it may well be done, (who knows).

April 29th 1924.

This was the final practice evening for the consecration tomorrow. all left with great joy and apprehension.

PRESS CUTTING FROM THE WESTERN MORNING NEWS
APRIL 1924.
FREEMASONRY IN DEVON.
NEW LODGE IN SOUTH BRENT

For upwards of twenty years there has been a keen desire among the local Freemasons to establish a Lodge of their own at South Brent. The Vicar (Rev. Clarence Elwell, M.A.) having placed at the disposal of those interested the spacious old Church Hall in Wellington Square, the Founders met for the first time just over a year ago, being assisted by several brethren of the Trinity Lodge No. 2595. Buckfastleigh. Their petition has received the assent of his Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught, The Grand Master, and a Charter issued. The New Lodge will be called DARTMOOR No. 4604. The Lodge room has been beautifully furnished and decorated. The consecration is to take place on Wednesday April 30th 1924. by the Provincial Grand Master (Major G.C. Davie) and the Provincial Grand Chaplain. The First W.M. will be Rev. T. Perry P.Pr.G.A.Chap The office of I.P.M. being filled by Mr. G.A. Cullum P.Pr.G.D. Dr. S.R. Williams P.P.G.W. Is to be the first S.W. and Mr. John Wilcocks, P.Pr.G.D. the first J.W. The secretarial duties will be carried out by Mr. Wyndham Hull P.Pr.G.S-t.Br and the Treasurer will be Mr.R.H. Gill P.Pr.A.G.D.C. All the minor offices will be filled by Past Masters for the first year.

Copy of the Press report In

WESTERN MORNING NEWS.
MAY 3rd 1924.
Consecration at South Brent.
FREEMASON'S NEW LODGE.
Rev. T. Parry. The First W.M.

The consecration of the Dartmoor Lodge of Freemasons No. 4604 took place at South Brent on Wednesday afternoon. The ceremony was performed by the Provincial Grand Master, Major G.C. Davie, who was assisted by Messrs J.W.S. Gooding the A.P.G.M.; c.c. Davie as P.S.G.W.; A. Turner as P.J.G.W.; Rev. H.B. Clark as P.G. Chaplain; H. Stocker as Prov. Grand Secy.; H.G. Stamp, Prov. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies. Musical arrangements were under the direction of P.G. Organist, Mr. F.W. Tolchard.

This event had been looked forward to by visiting Brethren for some months, and it was not surprising to find that over 100, so many Provincial Officers, with their royal blue and gold being in attendance. The building secured for the Lodge is admirably suited for the purpose, being well lit and commodious, with ample space and several adjoining ante-rooms, which will add to the comfort of members.

W.Bros. Robt. H. Gill, and Wyndam Hull, may be said to be the pioneers of the project, which they have had in mind for a couple of decades, and it must, Indeed, been a happy day for them when their great dreams were realised. How the money has been raised to supply the building with its handsome furniture scarcely second to none in the Province, passes comprehension. But it has been done, and it is understood that at the consecration on Wednesday no debt remained on it.

The service of consecration was impressively carried out by R.W.Bro. G.C. Davey who was assisted by the Provincial Officers. The first W.M. (Rev. T. Parry) was Installed by a Board of P.Ms., over which W.Bro. H. Stocker presided.

After the ceremony the W.M. Installed his officers as follows :-

I.P.M.	W.Bro. G.A. Collum P.P.G.D.
S.W.	W.Bro. Dr. S.R. Williams P.P.S.G.W.
J.W.	W.Bro. J. Willcocks P.P.G.D.
Trees.	W.Bro. R.H. Gill P.P.A.G.D.C.
Secretary	W.Bro. Wyndham Hull P.P.G.Std.Br.
D.C.	W.Bro. Noah Heard
S.D.	W. Bro. W. Velvin P.P.G.St.Br
J.D.	W.Bro. R. S. Hosking, P.P.A.G.D.C.
I.G.	W.Bro. W.J. Chaffe
S.Steward	Bro.(Capt) D.S. Carnochan
Tyler	W.Bro. T.B. Tope.

The W.M. presented a founder's jewel to W.Bro. T .B. Tope.

The Banquet was held at the Anchor Hotel, The W.M. (Rev. T. Parry) presiding. He was supported by the Prov. G.M. and Provincial Lodge Officers.

After the loyal toast the Chairman proposed The Most Worshipful Grand Master (Duke of Connaught), also the Officers of Grand Lodge.

W.Bro. H. Stocker, P.G.Secy. in reply, thanked all those present for their kindness, consideration and sympathy shown him during his recent illness. He received messages from all the Lodges in the Province, which did his heart good. Having been on a bed of suffering for some months, he knew what suffering was, but he assured them that, the kindly messages he received from the brethren and the messages sent from Lodges, expressing that fraternal good feeling and affection were very touching to him and, candidly, it relieved pain and was a great comfort-(hear hear).

W.Bro. W.B. Collum gave "The R.W. Prov. Grand Master of Devon." Their revered G.M. was well known to all and they had learned to love him-(hear hear) he (the speaker) only hoped that this newly hatched chicken may be as successful as some of the old Roosters that the P.G.M. had consecrated in his early days-(hear hear). When he was acting Prov. Grand Master another Lodge of which he (W.Bro. Collum) had the honour of being a founder, was consecrated in 1898 in Plymouth, they did their best to follow the advice of the Prov.G.M. and he was positive the brethren of Dartmoor Lodge, consecrated with so much eclat that day, would do their utmost to follow the advice and wonderful example that W.Bro. Davey had set them-(applause).

W. Bro G.C. Davie, in reply, observed that he had started a new Lodge in a new centre, and was sure from the attendance and interest shown that day the Lodge would be a great success. He hoped it would be a centre of good feeling not only of Masons, but to all around the neighborhood-(hear hear). The success of the Lodge did not depend on him or upon any brothers outside, but on the Master and brethren, and more particularly on those brethren who were founders, who should start the Lodge in the way it should go. It was very easy to set a Lodge going in the wrong direction as well as on the right, and broadly speaking, what a child was when it was being educated, so it would be in future life. It was the same with the Lodge. There was no earthly reason why a Lodge in a small place should not be a success. He had some doubts at first as to whether it was advisable to start a Lodge in Brent, his reason being as to whether there would be sufficient interest in the future. There was always interest when a new Lodge started, but in time people were apt to get slack, and consequently he considered the application very seriously. He had to consider too, what was the good for the whole craft. He was not justified in pledging a few brethren, because there were broader interests to consider. He opened a Lodge some 25 years ago in another part of Devon, and he told them then, what he would tell the officers of Dartmoor Lodge don't be in a hurry to go too fast. It was possible to have a Lodge in a small place. The lodge he referred to took his advice and he ventured to say, that today there was not a happier Lodge in existence-(applause). They must not lower the standard nor take a wrong first step. Taking a personal note W.Bro. Davie said he was Initiated in 1861, and he had

governed the Province for nearly a quarter of a century. It was a long time, whilst he had been engaged in public work for 25 years-(hear hear). In that period he had naturally gained considerable experience. He had seen the world, and spoke as a man of experience of the world. "I ask you for the sake of Masonry and the craft, which you love and as far as practicable to act on my advice. It is easier to take a false step than to rectify it afterwards". He believed that they had made an excellent start. Masonry brought together men of all shades of thought and religion on common ground. He was only too glad to be present that day, and now the Lodge was started in the right way he was sure that future Prov. Grand Masters, when he was gone would congratulate perhaps sons and perhaps grandsons of that Lodge on the happy day it was founded, and on the good It had done-(applause).

The Chairman gave the "Deputy Prov. G.M. Asst. Prov. G.M., consecrating and Initiating officers., and officers of Prov. Grand Lodge., past and present", remarking that the work of the consecrating officers was well done. The solemnity of the service was most impressive to all who were present-(hear hear).

W.Bro. C.C. Davie replying, said it was a pleasure to assist in the ceremony. He never dreamt that there would such a galaxy of talent present. He hoped that the new lodge would all they desired-(applause).

The toast of the evening, that of the Worshipful Master of the Dartmoor lodge, (W.Bro. T. Parry) was submitted by the Prov. Grand Secy. (W.Bro. Stocker), who remarked that he knew the work W.Bro. Parry did for Masonry, and he was certain that in their good choice of Master, he would set such a standard that would last for many years. The W.M. ought to feel exceedingly proud of his position because, looking through the list of founders there were a large number who would have been eminently capable of undertaking the duties, so he congratulated W.Bro. Parry with all his heart-(applause). They knew he would fulfill his duties faithfully and earnestly. It was an eye opener to him to see such an attendance at the Lodge, the numbers were a compliment to the W.M.-(hear hear).

It had been his privilege since he had been Prov. Secy. to assist in the consecration of 15 new lodges but he had not been so impressed with the earnestness of the brethren who attended, as at the consecration of Dartmoor Lodge, he hoped that the good feeling and brotherly love shown that the day would continue, happiness would be the result-(applause).

Rev. T Parry, well received admitted he had never been in such a delicate situation, with such fulsome comments being showered on him. He was almost overwhelmed. He felt he did not deserve it. He felt a very proud man when he was selected to be the first W.M. of the Lodge. He was a comparatively young Mason. He might surprise many when he said he was only Initiated in 1916, and this was the second lodge he had presided over. He did not think many Past Masters present could say as such. He had been trying to search for the reason for the wonderful success in Masonry that had come his way. He could not see any reason except that it was sheer luck. He was however proud of the position and he assured them that he would be true to his

responsibilities, and whatever could be done for the good of Masonry in this district. It would be done.

He assured The Prov. G.M. That the founders had anticipated his advice in regard to Dartmoor Lodge-(hear hear). He was proud of the Mastership of Pleiades Lodge, but was prouder now to be selected by many Past Masters who were years and years his senior. It was a great honour to him which he appreciated very much-(applause).

W.Bro. Dr. S.R. Williams in moving "W.M's of neighboring Lodges and The Visitors", said that a great honour had been done the baby Lodge by such an august assembly. They had received a splendid send off, and they thanked the visitors for giving the such splendid support. They hoped eventually that Dartmoor Lodge would be a credit to the Province-(applause).

Response was made by the W.M. of Duncombe Lodge No. 1486 Kingsbridge. Trinity Lodge No. 2595. Buckfastleigh (I.P.M. Lane), and Bro. Rev. Scott. Harford (Erme Lodge).

W.Bro. C.H. Niles (Pleiades 710) proposed the Officers of Dartmoor Lodge. The Lodge he said had made good choice for its officers. and he wished a real successful and satisfactory year of office. Many might be tempted to envy the W.M. of such an important new Lodge, which might be called a royal blue Lodge. so many of the officers apparently being fully decorated-(laughter and hear hear). He wished them very best greetings. They would not lose them at Pleiades and it was a very proud day when he (W.Bro. Niles) signed the petition for the new Lodge. Whatever its success. Pleiades would feel that they were responsible-(applause).

W.Bro. Gill thanked them most sincerely. He had done some of the pick and shovel work and this was the end of his 20 years ambition. W.Bros. Hull and Velvin and himself had thought of it all the time and hoped some time it would become an accomplished fact. That day their realisations had been rewarded. They intended to make it a good Lodge-(hear hear).

The Banquet was held at the Anchor Hotel. the cost being six shillings, 100 brethren attended.

THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF DARTMOOR LODGE No. 4604

The first regular meeting of the Lodge was held on Thursday 8th May 1924.

The business included the first Initiation that of Mr Jervis Veale, a builder of Church Street, South Brent.

It was Bro. Veales firm that carried out the alterations to the Vicars hall. He took a keen interest in many activities, and was well thought of in the area. He had just completed the building of Mons Terrace,(which adjoins the Lodge).

He was Passed to the Degree of a F.C.

And Raised to the Degree of a M.M. on October 9th 1924.

Unfortunately his Masonic life was a very short one, for on the 27th July 1925 he was knocked down and received fatal injuries near the London Hotel on the Main Plymouth Road, he was aged 54 years.

He had filled the office of Chairmen of the Parish Council for eight years and was a school manager and a sideman of the Parish Church. He left a widow two sons and two daughters. There was a large attendance at his funeral at the parish church Mr Arthur Manning being at the organ, was conducted by the Vicar Rev. C. Elwell. The Masonic oration was read at the graveside by Rev. T. Parry. Freemasons from Lodges Dartmoor, Erme, The Trinity, Duncombe, and Integrity attended. His family later moved to Exeter.

The second Initiate.

The Rev. C. Elwell M.A.
Vicar of St. Petrocks Parish Church,
South Brent.

He was Initiated on 12th June 1924.

He was the first Chaplain of the Lodge.

Installed as Master April 1930

The Installation Banquet was held at the Royal Oak Hotel at 6.30 PM at a cost of six shillings.

During the period he was W. Master he held a church service at St. Petrocks church, it was held on the 1st June 1930, it was well attended and much appreciated. The collection amounted to £16-2-6, which was donated to the Royal Masonic Hospital. Those who attended Included the Depty. P.G.M., 18 Prov. Lodge Officers, 17 Past Masters and 52 Master Masons of which 19 were brethren from Dartmoor. (who arrived In 19 cars and 1 Charabanc.)

The Rev. C. Elwell who was promoted to Past Prov Chaplain, left the district for Nottingham, his moving was a sad loss to the Lodge and to South Brent. He passed away in 1980.

The third Initiate

Mr. A.W. Cranch (Sen) a builder of Oak House, Station Road, South Brent.

He was Initiated on 28th.August 1924.

and Installed as W.M. In 1932.

He was another pillar of strength in South Brent, he was also a churchwarden.

W.Bro. Cranch played an important part in the early planning of our present Lodge building. Sadly he passed away in April 1937.

THE BUILDING OF THE MASONIC HALL IN SOUTH BRENT

The early progress of the Lodge was all its founders had hoped for, and at the meeting held on 10th March 1927. I find that a Brother in the Lodge was anxious together with other Brethren to secure a permanent home for the Dartmoor Lodge for all time. He made an offer to give the necessary money for the immediate purchase of a suggested site, If the W.M. in the name of the Lodge would accept the offer, with the definite purpose of establishing ways and means for a Masonic Hall, say within the years 1927/28/29. Stipulating that, should the site not be used within the time stated, it would automatically return into the hands of the donor.

The W. Master, agreed to accept the offer on those conditions. No further action was taken until 14th November 1929. When a "Building Fund" was opened by W.Bro. Hulland and Bro. T.H. Evans. The site was fenced off, a gate and pillars were erected to comply with the terms of the offer made. There was a scheme put before the Lodge on 12th December 1929, it did not find favour. This scheme was put forward by Bro. A.W.Cranch, with an explanation of the work involved and the expenditure of about £1,300.

Notice of Motion 13th February 1930

That all future Initiates into the Lodge shall be informed that in addition to their regular Initiation fees, a further payment of five guineas, spread over a period of five years, if desired, to the "Dartmoor Lodge Building Fund" as a condition of membership of the Lodge.

Building Fund 1930. £33-8-0. Value of Building site £36-8-0.

May 1930

In reply to a question the Treasurer reported that it was necessary to be sure of sum of £500-0-0. as a building fund before putting the work into the hands of the contractor.

1937 a Building Committee was formed

It was decided that the old minute be rescinded and that the new committee would be W.Bros. Velvin and Adams and Bro. A.W. Cranch and Bro. Worden.

Building Committee meeting June 21st 1937

Two plans were considered, one within the £1,000 and the second for £1,200, which included all the features, that in the opinion of the committee were desirable. It was decided to place both plans before the Lodge.

A vote of thanks was extended to Bro. A.W. Cranch, for his efforts.

There were now three sets of plans before the Lodge.

1 for £1,000.

2 for £1,200.

Another sub committee was formed, and met to decide which plan should be recommended, reading these minutes, was as it is today, plenty of talk but little action!, so they decided Plan 1 be accepted.

Another problem arose, which way to build!, so as not to encroach on the adjoining land, the property next door belonged to W.Bro. Adams, and the field to W.Bro. Hoskin.

20th September, 1937

Treasurers report, Building Fund.

Total to date, £366-12-6. This left a sum to be raised on the loan of £605-0-0. After a long discussion on the ways and means of raising the money at a cost of £1,000.

January 13th 1938

There appears to have been problems during the past year, the building committee found itself rather unwieldy, so they appointed yet another sub committee, who had to report back to the Building Committee who then reported to the Lodge members. This sub committee being, W.Bro. Parsons, Bro. A.W. Cranch, and Bro. Worden. They went into all the problems and reported back on February 9th 1939.

The Financial position being such as to recommend to the Lodge that the building of the new Masonic Hall be commenced.

The contractors estimate of £1,104-0-0. was recommended to be accepted.

W.Bro. Hoskins gave a few feet of land so the building could be properly squared. He was thanked by the W.M.(W.Bro. J.J. Gerry) for his generosity.

It was decided that the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone would be held on August 16th 1939.

August 2nd 1939.

Not all plain sailing for W. Bro. Parsons and Bro. Worden as they now found, they could enlarge the building at a cost of £75-0-0.

This was approved.

It is felt that the erection of the Masonic Hall eventually came about by the dynamic approach of W.Bro. J.J. Gerry, he knew what was wanted and pressed hard to get it.

The W. Master explained the arrangements for the Stone Laying Ceremony.

August 16th 1939

The Brethren met and opened the Lodge in the Church Hall.

Then by virtue of a special dispensation, they marched fully clothed in Masonic Regalia to the site, each Brother carried his appropriate "Working Tools" which were used for the ceremony. (The sun shone on that day in every sense), the weather was perfect.

Just pause for a moment, think of the procession coming up the street, one hundred Freemasons in full Regalia. The sun shining on sleepy South Brent, and the colour of the brethren, the only other occasion that so many people would be seen was on Brent Fair Days, and then It usually rained!

It was a unique occasion, I feel was quite a milestone In our history. I well remember talking to W.Bro Frank Hlland, the enthusiasm he generated of the day was fabulous, he was overjoyed, words of mine cannot do justice for of occasion.

There now follows a copy of the program of the Stone laying Ceremony.

Stone Laying New Masonic Hall South Brent.

6th August 1939, 3-30 p.m.

ORDER OF PROCESSION

D.C. of Dartmoor Lodge.

Brethren of Dartmoor Lodge, juniors leading, followed by all Visiting Brethren.

W.Bro. Tope.

A.D.C. and Inner Guard, Asst. Secretary, Almoner, and Organist of Dartmoor Lodge.

Architect with plans (W.Bro. Parsons).

Four P.M.s of Dartmoor Lodge, with Corn, Wine, Oil and Salt, W.Bros, Hulland, Hard, Davey, Evans.

Secretary with records and Treasurer with coins for placing in cavity.

1 P.M. of Dartmoor Lodge with mallet, (W.Bro. Adams).

1 Steward (Bro. Squire) with J.Ws column, and J.W. (Bro. Manning) with plumb rule.

1 Steward (Bro. Norton) with S.Ws column, and S.W.(Bro. Willis) with level.

Chaplain, (W.Bro. Velvin) with V. of S.L. on cushion.

Officers of Grand Lodge.

1 P.M. of Dartmoor Lodge (W.Bro. Cousins) with Masters Column.

W.M. Dartmoor Lodge (W.Bro. Gerry) with Square (and Trowel).

J.D. (Bro. Johnson) and S.D. (Bro. Southwood).

2 Stewards Bros. Timewell and Came).

The Consecrating Officers.

The Prov. Grand Master.

Tyler. Bro. Corner and 1 Steward (Bro. Simpson).

For the return, the Brethren will form up in exactly the reverse sequence to the above, Bros. Corner and Simpson leading followed by the P.G.M. and the consecrating officers.

It was a most impressive ceremony, at which twenty seven Lodges attended. High Tea was served at the Royal Oak Hotel, at which seventy three brethren were present. The cost being two shillings and six pence.

(See Photograph's in Appendix III B.C.)

COPY OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE STONE
DARTMOOR LODGE No.4604

This Stone was laid by The Provincial Grand Master of The province of Devonshire.
R.W.Bro. The Lord Bishop of Crediton W.F. Surtees. M.A. August 16th 1939

September 3rd 1939

War was declared, all Masonic meetings were cancelled.

The building of the Masonic Hall continued and after all the trials and tribulations, was completed in 1940.

W.Bros. A.W. Cranch and R.S. Parsons and Bro. Worden, could now sit back and enjoy the congratulations that were poured on them, they deserved all the thanks of the brethren of that time. If you can recall all the controls that were placed on new building during this period, and the trying hours spent in committee, each one with a different interpretation, during my research, I spent some time with W.Bro. Bill Cranch, the travelling, and the argument he had, makes the mind boggle. W.Bro Cranch did most of the carpentry, the oak paneling and moldings were also his work.

We should be ever grateful to those worthy brethren who worked so hard, to leave us the wonderful Masonic Hall that we now have, to their memory we must strive to maintain it as such.

Wednesday 24th January 1940.

An emergency meeting was held to arrange The Dedication and Consecration of the Hall by the

Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Crediton. W.F. Surtees.

assisted by :-

W.Bro. H.G. New, P.G.D.	Asst. Prov. G.M.
W.Bro. Vincent Thompson	Prov. S.G.W.
W.Bro. Alfred Clegg	Prov. J.G.W.
W.Bro. The Rev. G.H. Greenslade	Prov. G. Chaplain
Bro. The Rev. Tinsley Such	Prov. G. Chaplain
W.Bro. Charles Back	Asst. Prov. G. Secy.
W.Bro. H.J. Stamp P.G.D.	Prov. G. D.C.
W.Bro. S.L.E. Pitman	Prov. G. Org.

DARTMOOR LODGE No.4604.
South Brent South Devon

W. Bro. J.J. Gerry (Master)
W.Bro. C.V. Bimead P.M. (Treasurer)

Dear Sir and Brother,

By command of the Worshipful Master, a Lodge of Emergency will be held at the Masonic Hall, Totnes Road, South Brent, on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24th, at 2.30 p.m.

Yours faithfully and fraternally
W.F.J. Burrows, Secretary.
Dunromin, South Brent
Dated, 6th January. 1940.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. To open the Lodge in the Three Degrees.

2. DEDICATION OF THE NEW MASONIC HALL by the R.W. Bro. The Lord Bishop of Crediton Provincial Grand Master.

Morning Dress or Uniform

A HIGH TEA (TICKETS 2/6)

Will be held after the ceremony In the Royal Oak Assembly Room. As accommodation is limited, places will be reserved only for those who notify the Secretary, on the enclosed post card, on or before Saturday 20th instant.

OFFICERS.

W.M.	W.Bro.	J.J. Gerry.
I.P.M.	W.Bro.	H.J. Cousins
S.W.	Bro.	J. Wills
J.W.	Bro.	A. Manning
Chap.	W.Bro.	v. Velvin P.P.A.G.St.Br.
Treas.	W.Bro.	C.V. Bimead
Secy.	W.Bro.	W.F.J. Burrows
D.C.	W.Bro.	Capt. D.S. Carnochan P.P.S.G.D.
S.D.	Bro.	J. Southwood
J.D.	Bro.	V.C. Johnson
A.D.C.	W.Bro.	G.E. Salter
Almoner	Bro.	J.R. Moore

Organist	Bro.	H.H. Maher
A/Secy.	Bro.	G.B. Preston
I.G.	Bro.	C.H. Hodge
Steward	Bro.	T.H.C Timewell
Steward	Bro.	C.J. came
Steward	Bro.	J.C. Norton
Steward	Bro.	D.R. Squire
Steward	Bro.	J.F . Simpson
Tyler	W.Bro.	E.R. Davey
Rep. on G.P.	Cottee W.Bro.	T.H. Evans.

Past Masters. T.B. Tope P.G.S.D.(Punjab); Wm Velvin P.P.A.G.st.Br.; Rev T. Parry P.P.G.Chap.; Capt. D.S. Cernochan P.P.S.G.D.; G.T. Adams, P.P.S.G.D. (Middx); R.S. Parsons, P.P.G.Supt.Wks.; H.Fell; G.B. Hulland, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Rev. C. Elwell P.P.G.Chap.; W. Hard; C.V. Bimead; W.F.J. Burrows; E.R. Davey; T.H. Evans; G.E. Salter; H.J. Cousins I.P.M.

(See photograph in Appendix III B.C)

The Prov. Grand Master addressed the Brethren on the motive of the Meeting, and expressed his appreciation of such an adequate building. He congratulated the Members for their splendid efforts. He also wished it be known that the term "Masonic Hall" referred to the whole of the building, while the Lodge room itself was the "Temple" and should be known as such.

One problem remained. The actual paying for the building. It had cost more than originally estimated.

A scheme was devised, whereby the outstanding balance was taken up by the Brethren In £5-0-0 bonds. It was agreed that the bonds would be re-paid by an annual draw, according to the sum of money available.

Referring to the Silver Jubilee Booklet, it seen on page 14 that in 1944 the question of the debt on the Lodge building was vigorously tackled, and, as a result of a challenge issued from the Chair, sufficient money was forthcoming to free the Building of all debt. Thus, this Lodge, with a membership of approximately sixty five, had built, and paid for, its own Masonic Lodge building during a most difficult and disturbed period.

August 1944.

A Meeting of the Building Committee.

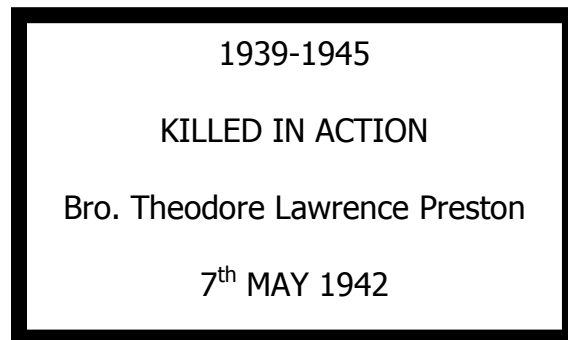
The W.M. W.Bro. W.C. Johnson. Explained the difficulty the Lodge was placed in, as regards to the deeds of the property next door known as "Dagmar", through the generosity of W.Bro. J.J. Gerry, W.Bro. Gerry explained, that the land the late W.Bro. Adams purchased, on which was now standing a garage, shall be retained by the Lodge, and the Lodge shall have access to that land from the rear. A fence shall be

fixed to the centre of the pillar, of the entrance of Dagmar to the garage, and then following the garden path to the bottom of the garden (this is now written into the Deeds of the property).

In conclusion, we must realise the work accomplished by our predecessors, one is immediately struck by the time and effort given by members in the early years of the Lodge. It is evident by the number of emergency meetings held, and during the early period, the mode of transport, the time taken for travelling, that here was set an example, of faith, of hope, and fortitude. In creating a Lodge, which has proved over the years, to have been influential in promoting charity, and raising many men to a higher level of spiritual and moral perfection. It is acknowledged with gratitude, those that made this possible. As the future becomes the present, may we and our successors continue to uphold the traditions of THE DARTMOOR LODGE.

Grateful thanks are afforded to all those who assisted and tolerated my enquiries, and to all who gave me their support.

Reg Hard.



APPENDIX. I.

A letter from Mr. Vere Cholmondeley of Glazebrook South Brent.

To The Secretary Dartmoor Lodge

Dear Sir.

17/11/24

I am handing over to you, some Masonic relics which belonged to my grandfather the Third Marquess of Cholmondeley.

I am advised that the most suitable permanent home for these relics is the museum of Grand Lodge and that they are worthy of a place therein.

I should like any members of your Lodge who are interested to see them and to have it recorded in your minutes that I handed these relics to you. In order that your Lodge might present them to the Grand Lodge museum: as it seems to me to be fitting that the Lodge in the place where I live should be associated with me in this matter.

Yours faithfully.

Vere Cholmondeley.

APPENDIX. II.

Here are reproduced the correspondence between W.Bro Wyndham Hull Secretary, and the Grand Lodge Librarian, W.Bro. W. Wonnacott.

The Librarian.
Grand Lodge Library and Museum.
Great Queen Street
London W.C.2.
March 4th 1925.

Dear Sir & Bro.

You will probably remember that a few months ago certain relics of a Masonic character formally belonging to the Third Marquess of Cholmondeley were submitted to you, for opinion as value for museum purposes, and information as relics (masonically) by Dr. S.R. Williams. In reply to W.Bro. Dr Williams you suggested, that the relics would be an acquisition if deposited in the Museum of Grand Lodge.

These relics have now become the property of the Dartmoor Lodge of Freemasons No. 4604, and on behalf of the W.M. (The Rev. T. Parry) and by special request and desire of the donor G.Vere Cholmondeley Esq. (a grandson of the late Marquess) residing at Glazebrook House, South Brent, Devon. I now send you these relics to be deposited as

suggested, for an indefinite period In the name of the Lodge, to which they have been presented.

I am to make the stipulation that should the W.M. of this Lodge for the time being, desire, and make application, to have these relics on view in the Lodge, on any special occasion, you may provide for such a possibility.

I shall be glad if you will kindly acknowledge the receipt of these relics to the Lodge direct, with any receipts, that, I may hand to the donor, as coming from you.

I am
Yours faithfully & fraternally,
Wyndham Hull P.M. etc.
Secretary

MASONIC RELICS

Presented to the Lodge by G.V. Cholmondeley Esq and formally belonging to his Grandfather, The Late Third Marquess of Chimondeley.

Documents.

1. G. Orient of France, certifying that Henry Cholmondeley took the 30th degree.
2. Certificate of a body (now defunct) called Trinosophes.
3. Vellum patent of the, province (French) of the Knight Templars - since issued, very much reorganised. - K.T. Ribbon.

Regalia.

1. Apron, Sash, and Star of a Craft Lodge. (Blue)
2. Apron, Collar, and Cross of Rose Croix. (Rose)
3. Sash Eagle etc. of the 30th Degree.(or Kadosh) (Black)
4. K.T. Ring (?)

N.B. All are of obsolete pattern and therefore curios and cannot be worn In English Lodges today.

This is a list of the items that were sent to the Grand Lodge Museum. There Is however a letter (handwritten), from the Librarian, giving a brief explanation of these Items, they are available for examination, should any Brother desire.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

United Grand Lodge of England
Freemasons Hall,
Gt. Queen Street,
London, W.C.2.
26th March 1925

Dear Sir and Brother,

With reference to your letter of the 4th. instant, to the Librarian of Grand Lodge, depositing the Masonic relics of the 3rd Marquis of Cholmondeley In our Museum. I have to inform you that these were exhibited to the Library and Museum Committee at their last Meeting and gratefully accepted by them as a valuable exhibit in the Museum.

I am directed to convey to you the sincere thanks of the Board of General Purposes, to the Dartmoor Lodge for depositing these relics, and to say the Board will facilitate the temporary exhibition of items at your Lodge upon application being made in advance.

You will be glad to hear that these articles have been properly labeled and placed together in the Museum, so they may be found without difficulty when required.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,
P. William Smith
Grand Secretary

(Note:- These "relics" are now to be found framed inside the South Brent Temple. See Appendix III B.C.)

APPENDIX III



Pleiades Lodge Past Masters Board showing some of the names mentioned in this document



Dartmoor Lodge Past Masters board showing some of the names mentioned in this document



Foundation Stone Ceremony Dartmoor Lodge no 4604 Bros, Preston Bidgood & W. Bro
Parsons, 16th Aug 1939



Brethren processing in full regalia for the Foundation Stone ceremony 16th Aug 1939



Left to right seated - H.H.G. New, A.P.G.M.; J.J. Gerry, W.M. Dartmoor Lodge No 4604; Bishop of Crediton, PGM; Standing - C. Back Asst P.G. Secty; S.L.E Pitman P.G.Org; V. Thompson, P.S.G.W.; W.A, Clegg P.J.G.W.; Rev. G.H. Greensdale, P.G. Chap; H.J. Stamp P.G.D.C.



"Cholmondeley Relics"

