

CIVIL WAR STORIES. *I am often asked if there are any records of Masonic activity during the American Civil War. I hope to highlight a few over the coming months.* Confederate



Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Armistead was born in New Bern, N.C. and was a member of Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge # 22. Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, a Union officer, was born in Norristown, Pa. and was a member of Charity Lodge # 190 of that town. The two shared a friendship that had gone back for many years until politics of the time caused them to go separate ways. **Friends Choose Different Paths**

The two men were stationed in California when the War began. Armistead's sympathies lay with the Southern cause and he resigned his commission in the U.S. Army to become a Confederate Officer. Hancock was a staunch Union man and went East to join the Federal ranks there. Both men served capably and well and were promoted into their respective leadership roles. During war, time

passes rapidly amidst the powder and smoke of battle, and it would be twenty-seven months before they would meet again. It happened on the bloody battlefield known as Gettysburg, on July 3, 1863, when Pickett's Charge took place. Gen. Armistead's brigade formed the second rank of the attacking division. It was at Cemetery Ridge that he was mortally wounded; coincidentally Hancock also sustained serious wounds, which would keep him hospitalized for a considerable length of time. **Capt. Bingham Reacts**

Hancock had an aide with him, Capt. Henry Harrison Bingham, during the formidable battle that became known as marking the "High Tide of the Confederacy." After Hancock had been carried from the field, it was Bingham and some other Union officers who heard the cries for help from Armistead's lips as he lay there.

Bingham was a Judge-Advocate of Hancock's Second Corps at Gettysburg. He had been born in Philadelphia, Pa. and also a Freemason, belonging to Chartiers Lodge # 297, Canonsburg, Pa. He had had a brilliant career, fighting at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania where he was breveted for bravery and war service, and now at Gettysburg, where he too was wounded. Bingham recognized the distress cry of a Freemason as would have his superior, Winfield Hancock, and such a cry must be acknowledged. It mattered not if the wounded man wore Blue or Grey, he was a brother Mason, and Bingham answered the seriously injured Armistead, who talked to Bingham of his close relationship with Hancock.

THE MAGAZINE OF LODGE ST. BRYDE No. 579

Lodge St. Bryde, No. 579




October

2014

Issue

No. 153



Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

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France Visit.

THE RIGHT ANGLE



October Masonic Diary

Friday 3rd. Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. Regular Communication. 7.30 P.M. at Baillieston. (440)

Wed. 8th. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579. Annual General Meeting and Election of Office-bearers at 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 15th. Lodge St. Bryde visit Lodge St. Enoch No. 1288. F.C. Degree by Bro. Tom Lynch, WSW.

Wed. 22nd. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. M.M. Degree by Lodge Eastmuir No. 1126.

Sun. 26th. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579. Annual Divine Service at 6 for 6.30 p.m. in Uddingston Old Parish Church.

Thurs. 30th. Grand Lodge of Scotland. Regular Communication, Freemasons Hall, Edinburgh. 2 p.m.

Lodge Montefiore No. 753.

Lodge Montefiore will be working their version of the
McBride Ritual Fellow Craft Degree
On Monday 13th. October at 7.30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending contact Bros. J.L. Jack
or Duncan Mulholland.

Lodge St. Bryde No. 579

Annual Divine Service

The Annual Divine Service of the Lodge will be held in
The Old Parish Church, Uddingston on
Sunday, 26th. October 2014 at 6 for 6.30 p.m.

Regalia will be worn.



He asked Bingham to relay a message to Hancock, his old friend and brother, and gave his personal effects including a pocket watch, to the captain. Bingham promised to get them to Hancock, giving Armistead what help and assistance he could, until the General was taken from the field. He would die two

days later at a hospital on the George Spangler farm site, comforted by the fact that his personal effects would go to his fraternal brother to be returned to his family. This story has been historically verified and stands as a testament to the depth of the Masonic bonds between members even in wartime.

Another less known but similar story takes place on the same July 3, 1863 horrific date, when the Confederate forces were coming closer to the Union lines, and Sgt. Drewry B. Easley of the Confederate 14th Virginia infantry suddenly saw some Union skirmishers nearby. They were hiding, huddled in a tall wheat field and had been cut off from their retreating buddies: death was certain to happen. Then Sgt. Easley suddenly recognized a Masonic distress sign given by one of the Yankees and ordered his men to pass them by.

Munn's Vision for the Monument

Years later, Sheldon Munn who was a former park guide at Gettysburg, and who also had written a book entitled, "Freemasons at Gettysburg," woke early one day after having a vivid dream in which he "saw" a monument at Gettysburg, honoring the service of soldier Masons. It seemed a clear charge to Munn to see that this happened.

Thus was born the "Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial," which was finally dedicated in 1993. The life-sized statue done by sculptor Ron Tunison of Cairo, N.Y. (also a Mason) depicts Bingham bending over a reclining Armistead, Bingham's arm around the general's shoulder, his other hand touching Armistead's, as he receives the request from the General, who fears Union soldiers will take his personal effects if they remain with him.

The two sculpted figures portrayed atop a large granite base are a poignant testimony to the fraternal love shared by those who belong to any of the numerous similar groups where bonds make them brothers.

Lodge St. Bryde No. 579

Instruction Class

The results of the Instruction Class have been tremendous
and our Degree work is of a very high standard. If you
would like to join and learn Ritual Work, the Instruction
Class usually meet on a Sunday Night.

Contact Bro. Alex Hamilton, P.M. for details.

Brother Alex L. Hamilton, P.M.

The Regular Meeting of Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 was indeed an historical occasion in the history of the Lodge. Bro. Tom Davidson, PGM and a large Deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge attended and presented our Brother Alex Hamilton with Distinguished Membership of the Lodge. Bro. Hamilton was Initiated on 9th. May 1979 and progressed through various offices to become RWM in 1989 and again in 2005 & 2011. In Provincial Grand Lodge he was elected as our Representative in 1995 and progressed to become Senior Provincial Grand Warden in 2012. In Grand Lodge he has been an ever present attender and was appointed to the Board of Grand Stewards in 2007. Recently he has been Instruction Class Master and the fruits of his work has been very evident during our Ritual work.

An Honour very much deserved.



Provincial Grand Lodge News.
Fund Raising. Provincial Grand Master Bro. Tom Davidson has announced that the Fund Raising in aid of Prostate Cancer and Brest Cancer awareness has reached the fantastic sum of £15,000. Donations were made at the October Communication to the two charities.
Christmas Carol Service. The PGL

Carol Service will take place on Sunday 14th. December 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in Blantyre Old Parish Church.

Provincial Grand Lodge Visit. Brethren of the Lodge were delighted that Bro. Tom Davidson, Provincial Grand Master attended our meeting on 24th. September to present Bro. Alex Hamilton, P.M. with a Distinguished Service Membership Certificate. The P.G.M. is extremely busy with his duties and it was wonderful to see him make the presentation.



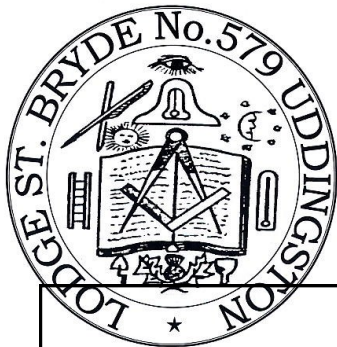
Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St. Andrew.

The Installation of The Grand Master Mason and Grand Office-bearers will take place in Grand Lodge on Thursday 27th. November 2014 at 12.30pm.

TICKETS.

Application for tickets, price £60 each, can be made with Bro. J.L. Jack, Secretary.

The closing date for Applications will be 24th. September 2014



Lodge St. Bryde News.

Lodge Buchanan No. 1499 will hold their Annual Divine Service on Sunday 19th. October 2014 at 6 for 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrews Church, Cambuslang. A good attendance by our Brethren is requested.

Deaths

Bro. Tom Donald.

Died 2nd. September 2014.

Bro. Tom Donald was Initiated into the Lodge on 9th. May 1962. His work with the Merchant Navy and the fact that he lived in Aberdeen kept him away from the Lodge for many years. He had been in ill health in recent years and his Brother in Law, Andrew McAlpine, P.M. paid fitting tribute to him at our last Regular Meeting.

Bro. Alasdair Dunlop, P.M.

Died 1st. September 2014.

Bro. Alasdair was Initiated into Lodge St. Bryde on 26th.

November 1986. He progressed through the various offices of the Lodge to become RWM in 1996 and again in 2003 and 2010. He was Lodge St. Bryde's Representative in Provincial Grand Lodge, a position that he was very proud to hold.

His enthusiasm for the Craft knew no bounds and he was a Past Master of Lodge Burns Immortal No. 1730 and Mount Lodge in Fleetwood. He was the Treasurer of Lodge Meridian No. 1779 and a Member of Thomas Harper Lodge Birmingham and The Civil Was Lodge of Research No. 1865 in Virginia.

Both these Brethren will be sadly missed by all who knew them.

Proposed trip to France 2016.

Bro. Stuart Jack, WJW has been researching members of Lodge St. Bryde who fell in the First World War. He has to date confirmed two of our Brethren. It has been proposed that members of our Lodge visit the resting place in France and pay our respects probably in 2016. Any Brother of our Lodge who would like to visit please contact Stuart. Bro. Stuart has set up a direct debit scheme so that members can pay directly into the savings account for the trip.

If any Brother has any information, ie. The names of members of family who were members of our Lodge who gave their lives in the First World War, this information would be of great help.

New Date. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 will visit Lodge Douglas No. 1557 on Friday 12th. December to confer an E.A. Degree. This is thought to be the first time that 579 have officially visited 1557 in Est Kilbride. A good Deputation is requested. **Lodge Buchanan.** Jim Vasey, P.M. will be presenting a Lecture "Temple" at Lodge Buchanan on Monday 3rd. November. 579 Brethren will be welcome to support Jim. **Lodge Ad Hoc Report.** Now that the Report by the Committee has been circulated, the RWM would hope to address some of the points made at the AGM on 8th. October. All Brethren present will have the opportunity to discuss the suggestions made and it is hoped that some positive points will come from these discussions.



The Next Meeting of **Adelphi Bluebell Lodge** No. 4 of Free Gardeners will take place on Wednesday 29th. October at 7.30 in Baillieston.