

THE HISTORY
OF
ISLAND OF INCH
MASONIC LODGE
NO. 589
CONSTITUTED A.D. 1781





Original window from Inch Island Masonic Hall



Foundation Stone from Inch Island Masonic Hall

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been a pleasant and interesting task to compile this History of Island of Inch Masonic Lodge, No. 589. Much of the information contained herein has been extracted from the Lodge records and especially the minute books which are available for the period 1859 to the present time. There are no local records, other than the original Lodge warrant, available for the years 1781 to 1856. Fortunately some early correspondence from the Lodge has been preserved in the Grand Lodge archives in Molesworth Street and access to this has enabled a fuller account of the Lodge's story to be told.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Alex Ward, Grand Lodge Librarian, for making this correspondence and the other relevant Grand Lodge records available.

Rt. Worshipful Bro. Arthur Fielding granted permission to quote from his paper entitled "Maiden City Masonry" which he presented to the Lodge of Research when it visited Londonderry in 1980.

The "Transactions" of the Lodge of Research have also provided some very interesting information which has proved useful in my attempts to understand and explain the references to the Royal Arch in the Lodge minutes. The two volumes of "The History of the Grand Lodge of Ireland", also published by the Lodge of Research, have been the source for the biographical details of the Grand Lodge Officers named on the Lodge Warrant.

Thanks are also due to Bro. Mervyn Holmes for taking many of the photographs and to those who provided photographs for inclusion in the History.

This is the History of a Lodge which has worked continuously since its Warrant was issued two hundred and thirteen years ago. I hope that the story contained in the following pages will be of interest not only to members of Lodge 589, but also to the wider Masonic Fraternity.

Ian Bartlett

September 1994

Provincial Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. Masons Londonderry & Donegal



Constituted
1846

Provincial Grand Master
W. Long, B.A.
22 Abercorn Road,
Londonderry
Telephone 263664

Dear Reader

I was delighted when I learned that someone had undertaken to write a history of my Mother Lodge, Island of Inch No. 589, one of the oldest and most colourful Lodges in the Province.

I was doubly delighted when I received a copy of the following History compiled by Worshipful Brother Ian Bartlett, and I congratulate him most heartily for his dedication and diligence in so doing, which obviously must have involved a great deal of very deep research.

I congratulate him on this production, and would commend it, not only to the Members of the Lodge and other Members of the Order in the Province and further afield, but also to those outside the Order who may wish to learn more about us.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

W. Long
Provincial Grand Master



R. W. Bro. William Long B.A.
Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry & Donegal.
Initiated into Lodge 589 in May 1947

TRANSCRIPT OF THE WARRANT OF LODGE No. 589

BY THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL. RANDAL WILLIAM, EARL OF ANTRIM, GRAND MASTER OF ALL THE LODGES OF FREEMASONS IN THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND, THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JOSEPH KEEN ESQ., DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, THE WORSHIPFUL JOHN JONES AND RICHARD BOLTON ESQs. GRAND WARDENS.

**ANTRIM
G.M.**

**JOSEPH
KEEN
D.G.M.**

WHEREAS OUR TRULY AND WELL LOVED BROTHERS, JAMES CRAIG, JAMES McDOWELL AND JAMES HODGE HAVE BESOUGHT US THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ERECT A LODGE OF FREEMASONS IN THE ISLAND OF INCH, COUNTY OF DONEGAL, OF SUCH PERSONS WHO BY THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN MASONRY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING AND ADVANCEMENT THEREOF. WE THEREFORE DULY WEIGHING THE PROMISES AND HAVING NOTHING MORE AT HEART THAN THE PROSPERITY AND TRUE ADVANCEMENT OF MASONRY AND REPOSING SPECIAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR TRULY AND WELL BELOVED BROTHERS, THE SAID JAMES CRAIG, JAMES McDOWELL AND JAMES HODGE OF WHOSE ABILITIES AND KNOWLEDGE IN MASONRY WE ARE SATISFIED: DO BY THESE PRESENTS, OF OUR CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE, AND MEER MOTION, NOMINATE, CREATE, AUTHORIZE AND CONSTITUTE THE SAID JAMES CRAIG, JAMES McDOWELL AND JAMES HODGE TO BE MASTER AND WARDENS OF A LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, TO BE HELD BY THEM AND THEIR SUCCESSORS LAWFULLY ADMITTED INTO THE SAID LODGE FOR EVER. AND WE HEREBY GIVE AND GRANT UNTO THE SAID JAMES CRAIG, JAMES McDOWELL AND JAMES HODGE AND THEIR SUCCESSORS, FULL POWER AND LAWFUL AUTHORITY, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO PROCEED TO ELECTION OF A NEW MASTER AND WARDENS, TO MAKE SUCH LAWS, RULES AND ORDERS, AS THEY FROM TIME TO TIME SHALL THINK PROPER AND CONVENIENT, FOR THE WELL BEING AND ORDERING OF THE SAID LODGE; RESERVING TO OURSELVES AND OUR SUCCESSORS, GRAND MASTER OR GRAND WARDENS OF IRELAND, THE SOLE RIGHT OF DECIDING ALL DIFFERENCES WHICH SHALL BE BROUGHT BY APPEAL BEFORE US AND OUR SUCCESSORS, GRAND MASTERS AND GRAND WARDENS OF IRELAND. BY WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HERETO SET OUR HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS THIRD DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD GOD 1781 AND IN THE YEAR OF MASONRY, 5781 .

No. 589

ENTERED BY ME
THOMAS CORKER, D.G.SECT.

By the Right Warrant of the Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Ireland
of all the Masters and Brethren of the said Grand Lodge
of the said Grand Lodge
of the said Grand Lodge
of the said Grand Lodge

WHEREAS our Trully and Well-beloved Brethren
of Free-masons, in the County of Donegal
of such persons as by their Knowledge
and Skill in Masonry, may contribute to the well-being and Advance-
ment thereof. We therefore only wishing the Peace, Unity, and Advanc-
ment of Masonry, and reposing special Trust and Confidence in our
Trully and Well-beloved Brethren the said *James Craig, James
M. Dowell & James Hodge* of whose Abilities
and Knowledge in Masonry, WE are satisfied: Do by these Presents,
of our certain Knowledge, and meet Motion, Originate, Create, Au-
thorize, and Constitute the said *James Craig, James
M. Dowell & James Hodge* To be Master and Wardens
of a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be held by them and
their Successors lawfully admitted in the said Lodge for ever. And
We do hereby Give and Grant unto the said *James Craig,
James M. Dowell & James Hodge* and their Successors full
Power and lawful Authority, from Time to Time, to proceed to E-
lection of a New Master and Wardens, to make such Laws, Rules
and Orders, as they from Time to Time shall think Proper and Con-
venient, for the well-being and Ordering of the said Lodge: re-
ferring to Ourselves and our Successors, GRAND MASTERS OF GRAND
WARDENS OF IRELAND, the sole Right of deciding all differences
which shall be brought by Appeal before Us, or our Successors,
Grand Masters of Grand Wardens of the said Grand Lodge, where-
of, WE have hereunto set our Hand and Seal: Given, this *third*
of *May* in the Year of our Lord 1781 and in the
Year of Masonry, 1781

Entered by me,

Tho. Cooney D.G. Sec.

*Arthur
G. M.
Joseph Keen
D. G. M.*

N. 589

Warrant of Lodge 589

Original held in Bishop Street Freemasons Hall

"THE EARLY YEARS"

Island of Inch Masonic Lodge No. 589 was warranted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the 3rd May 1781. It was one of ten Lodges warranted in Ireland in that year. 589 is the oldest Lodge now sitting in the City of Londonderry and the fourth oldest in the Province of Londonderry and Donegal, the preceding Lodges being No. 531, Moneymore, No. 532, Curran and No. 588, Ancient Donegal.

Grand Lodge had started the practice of warranting Lodges in February 1731 as a means of extending its authority and having Lodges acknowledge its supremacy. By the end of 1787 some seven hundred warrants had been issued but Lodges in the north of the country were slow to apply for them, in fact, only two Lodges in Ulster had warrants before 1737.

The Warrant is the only document that has survived from the foundation of the Lodge. It bears the signatures of the Grand Master, Lord Antrim, the Deputy Grand Master, Joseph Keen, and the Deputy Grand Secretary, Thomas Corker.

Lord Antrim was born in 1749 and was appointed Grand Master for the first time in 1772 at the age of 23, he again held that office from 1778 to 1781 and in 1783 he became Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England (Antients).

The Deputy Grand Master, Joseph Keen, first served in 1770 then again from 1776 to 1782, and finally from 1785 to 1789. He was Clerk of the Ordnance for Ireland for 32 years. It seems that Brother Keen was held in high respect by Grand Lodge because they granted a sum of money for presentation to be made to him in 1783.

Thomas Corker was appointed Deputy Grand Secretary in February 1768 and held that office until 1801. In 1767 the office of Grand Secretary became Honorary and the duties were carried out by the Deputy. Corker was a major figure in Irish Freemasonry and during his long term in Office the Craft prospered.

The other Grand Officers mentioned on the warrant are, the Senior Grand Warden, John Jones, who was a Dublin Attorney and the Junior Grand Warden, Richard Bolton, who was an Iron Founder and Merchant.

Of more local interest are the names of those warranted to erect the Lodge. James Craig was the first Worshipful Master and James McDowell and James Hodge the first Senior and Junior Wardens. Between 1781 and 1784 twenty members were registered in the books of Grand Lodge.

Unfortunately the minute books for the period May 1781 to July 1859 are lost. The Grand Lodge archives contain some letters from the Lodge Secretaries between 1824 and 1879 which help fill some of the gaps in the early history of the Lodge.

The earliest correspondence from the Lodge in the Grand Lodge Archives is the Secretary's return from 1824, it reads:

*"Inch,
19th December 1824*

Sir & Brother

Enclosed herein is a one pound note of the Northern Bank, No. 6784 which you will be pleased to place to the credit of Lodge 589 as dues to the Grand Lodge and acknowledge receipt of same when convenient.

*I am
Sir & Bro
Yr M^r. OB^r. Servant
Geo. Wolfe ."*

On the back of this document is a list of names of thirty one members of the Lodge. There are similar returns for subsequent years.

On the return for 1826 the Secretary informed Grand Lodge that:

"James Ewing a member of this Lodge has been by regular ballot of the same suspended from the privileges of Freemasonry for the term of seven years from 27th December 1829 for conduct highly unmasonic."

Ewing appealed to Grand Lodge. In a letter to the Deputy Grand Secretary he wrote:

"I as a member of Lodge 589 held on the Island of Inch am now prohibited from meeting my brethren in Masonry and stand charged with a crime that I consider myself in no way blameable. I do hereby humbly request you to try to cause me to be tried by three respectable Lodges who will clearly perceive my acquittal ."

He further implied that the members of 589 who decided on his suspension were selected by his enemies in the Lodge.

The Deputy Grand Secretary then wrote to 589 requesting more details of the charges against Ewing and received the following reply:

*"Lodge 589, Inch Island
12th January 1827*

Dear Sir & Bro.

In answer to yours of 4th. inst. containing orders of Grand Lodge, we have to state that

James Ewing stands accused and convicted by us on the following charges.

- 1st. For having repeatedly disclosed the private transactions of this Lodge to persons not Freemasons.*
- 2nd. For having in open Lodge violently seized the Bible from before the Master and taken an oath thereon to the following purport; that a criminal connection has actually taken place between him and the sister of a member of this Lodge recently deceased.*

In allusion to the above charges we beg leave to state that we cannot be more explicit without departing from the regular rules of Freemasonry and violating that decency which ought to be observed in all communications of this kind.

James Gay W.M.

John Anderson S.W.

William Ewing J.W."

Grand Lodge decided to appoint a committee of the Worshipful Masters of Lodges 93, 633 and 640 to hear Ewing's appeal. The findings of the committee refer to the first charge only, which they deemed to be proved and Ewing's suspension was confirmed by Grand Lodge. The next reference to Ewing is in a letter to Grand Lodge dated 27th December 1834. The Secretary, Samuel Moore, writes:

"James Ewing who was suspended for seven years has borne with humility his suspension and now wishes to be restored which, with your approbation, we are willing to do."

Presumably Ewing was restored to good standing and resumed membership of the Lodge.

The average Lodge membership from 1824 to 1832 was twenty-one but then declined to twelve for a number of years due mainly to emigration and the depressed state of the country.

In February 1828 the Worshipful Master, James Gay, drowned whilst crossing from the mainland to the Island. The Secretary notes the accident in his annual returns to Grand Lodge:

"I am sorry to relate the reason our return was so long delayed was that on the morning it should have been sent our master James Gay, became a victim of the waves on his return from being out of the Island on business."

Prior to 1848 when the Causeway was completed it was only possible to reach the Island by boat or at certain times it was possible to ford across on horseback.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

A digression from the history of 589 Craft Lodge is necessary at this point. Prior to 1829 when the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland was formed the Royal Arch Degree was conferred under the authority of the Craft Lodge Warrant. There was much diversity of working and indeed the present Royal Arch ritual was not adopted until 1864. In general, Lodges were quite slow to acknowledge the supremacy of the new Grand Chapter and it took many years for it to establish complete control over the degree.

In 1831 the Lodge applied to form a Chapter under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter. It seems that this was belated recognition of the Supremacy of the Grand Chapter over the Royal Arch Degree as the letter of application was written in a rather contrite manner:

"Please to lay our case before your committee. We acknowledge our neglect in not writing to you our acquiescence concerning the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and hope that you let our remote situation together with the regularity of our Lodge for fifty years back plead for our mistake. If you shall be so good as to admit us on the same terms as our neighbouring Lodges."

The first members of Island of Inch Royal Arch Chapter No. 589 were registered in the books of Supreme Grand Chapter on 19th March 1833. There are only extant minutes for three meetings of the Chapter in November 1865, November 1867 and March 1870. However some of the Lodge minutes in 1859, 1860 and 1863 refer to Royal Arch Degrees being conferred in the Lodge. It appears that the Chapter, as such, met only once a year to elect officers and that the Royal Arch Degrees continued to be conferred at the Lodge Meetings.

The fact that certain Lodges did not recognise the new Grand Chapter and also that some Royal Arch Chapters refused to recognise Royal Arch Masons who had received their Degrees in Craft Lodges led to certain difficulties. A member of 589 who had received the Royal Arch Degree under the "old" working was refused admission to Chapter 633 as they only recognised the degree conferred under the control of the new Supreme Grand Chapter. It was to take several years to create uniformity of working.

CORRESPONDENCE AND MINUTES 1836 TO 1862

In September 1836 the secretary applied to Grand Lodge for permission for the Lodge to walk in procession at a funeral. This request was refused as Grand Lodge had on 21st June 1836 passed a resolution banning all Masonic processions. This decision was promoted by a desire not to become involved in the political controversies of the time. In 1835 there had been strong condemnation in Parliament of Secret Societies and confrontation between the Police and those holding political processions. The Grand Lodge in banning processions decreed:

"That if any Masonic Lodge should violate its duty by disobedience of the foregoing command, it shall be visited with the highest punishment the Grand Lodge can inflict."

In 1844 Lodge 589 was one of twelve Lodges which petitioned Grand Lodge to appoint a Provincial Grand Master for the Counties of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh. The Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes refused the petition on the grounds that the number of Lodges signing the petition was too small and that some of them were in arrears of dues to Grand Lodge. Two years were to pass before a Provincial Grand Master was appointed and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry and Donegal formed.

In a letter to the Deputy Grand Secretary, John Fowler, dated September 1855 the Lodge Secretary in seeking to explain the delay in forwarding dues to Grand Lodge states:

"Our Lodge was greatly run down by assisting a deal of poor Brethren that were emigrating to Australia which left us where we are now."

There is a letter in the Grand Lodge archives which solves the mystery of the missing Lodge records and Minute books. Grand Lodge had requested the Secretary to provide the dates on which the Past Masters of the Lodge were installed. The reply read:

*"Dec. 3 (1855) ?
Inch Lodge No. 589*

Worshipful Sir & Brother

In reply to yours we are complying with it as far as in our power lies. Some time ago we purchased new books and we brought nothing forward of that kind thinking it was useless and WE BURNED THE OLD BOOKS .

There are four subscribing Past Masters that their names and dates was in the old books. That is

*John Dermott
Robert Ewing
James Hodge
James Creswell*

*I am yours fraternally
James Fleming
Secretary to 589"*

This unfortunate loss of the old Lodge records has deprived us of a fuller account of the early history of 589. The records that are now available begin with an accounts ledger dating from 1856, minutes of some meetings between 1859 and February 1862 and then an essentially complete set of minutes from April 1863 to the present time.

In the Accounts Ledger dating from 1856 the names of the members in that year are recorded:

James Longwill
Robert Porter
James Creswell
James Fleming
Samuel Ewing
James Craig
Robert Ewing
James Hodge
Patrick Fleming
William Fleming
John Dermot

The Ledger shows that in February 1859 there was £0-11-1 on hand. In October of the same year the balance had risen to £3-6-7. In 1864 £2-0-5 was paid to Grand Lodge in respect of dues and in the same year Brother W. Lynch paid £2-5-0 for exaltation to the Royal Arch Degree and the late Brother Dermott's widow received five shillings and in 1865 she received only three shillings. This lady was the widow of John Dermott who died late in 1862. There is a letter to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Sir James Stewart, from the Lodge Secretary, Samuel Fleming, which expressed John Dermott's dying wish:

*"15th September 1862
Inch Lodge no. 589*

Right Worshipful Sir & Brother

It is with sincere regret that we approach you on this occasion as our old venerated brother John Dermott is daily expected to depart this life and he wishes to be interred with the Rights and Honours of Masonry.

We will humbly await your approbation.

Yours Fraternally

*Samuel Fleming
Secretary*

The Provincial Grand Master forwarded the request to the Deputy Grand Secretary recommending that it should be approved. The reply from the Deputy Grand Secretary is not known.

In 1860 there was some ill feeling between two brethren. The Secretary wrote to Dublin about the matter;

"Inch Lodge No. 589, Dec. 18th. 1860.

Worshipful Sir and Brother,

There was a dispute between Br. Jas Creswell and Br. Jas Fleming and on the 15th November it was brought before the lodge and we came to the conclusion that if either of them would speak of the like again they would be punished as the lodge would think proper. On the 11th. off this month Creswell broke through the agreement and was brought this night before the lodge by Fleming. Instead of giving any satisfaction he got on with such abusive language that no person could stand him and we thought it best to have your opinion what to do as the brethren wish to get rid of him altogether. He is in arrears to the lodge and it is supposed by the brethren that this is part of the reason he rises such disturbances.

Yours Fraternally

Samuel Fleming. Sec."

There are no further references to the matter in the correspondence files.

There was a problem about the initiation of a candidate in July 1862, the following letter gives the details.

"Inch Lodge No. 589.

Worshipful Sir & Bro.

We are about to state to you concerning a candidate who came here to be initiated and some of the brethren thought him the worse for drink and would not make him that night, so he was offended and spoke of the matter to some members of a Derry lodge who

proposed him in their lodge, but he would rather come and be made at home in our lodge & I am quite certain he would be a bright member as he is a fine clever young man and we have as much call for a good member as they have in Derry.

He belongs to our Island so I thought I would write to you & have your opinion on the matter, please write to me as soon as possible.

*Yours Fraternally
Samuel Fleming. Sec.*

P.S. The Derry men threaten to get our warrant suspended if we make him."

There is no record of any reply from Dublin.

The first extant minute of a meeting is dated 27th August 1859, it reads:

"Inch Lodge No. 589

The Lodge met on this evening and Brother Alexander Shuldham passed the Chair and Alex. Shuldham and Bro. George Knox raised to the Degree of Royal Arch Masons, both on this night. Lodge closed and parted in harmony."

On the same page is another, even briefer, minute of a meeting held on 1st February 1862 which reads:

"James Craig was raised to the degree of Royal Arch Mason."

The first of the continuous minutes reads as follows:

"Inch Lodge No. 589 2nd. April 1863"

"At a meeting of this Lodge held in the Lodge Room in Kernaghan on Thursday 2nd day of April 1863.

The Lodge opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree. The following members present:

*Brother James Fleming W.M.
Brother Robert Porter S.W.
Brother James Craig J.W.
Brother Samuel Ewing J.D.
Brother William Fleming P.M. Treasurer
Brother Robert Ewing
Brother William Lynch
Brother Joseph Fleming
Brother John Fleming Act. Secretary*

Lodge Closed.

Lodge opened in the Fellowcraft Degree. Brother Joseph Fleming admitted to the Degree of Fellowcraft Mason. Lodge closed.

Lodge opened in the Past Master's degree. Brothers William Lynch and Thomas McDowell admitted to the Degree of Past Masters in the Chair.

Lodge closed and parted in harmony.

John Fleming. Act. Secretary."

These short minutes contain some interesting details about the Lodge and also about the workings of Irish Freemasonry in the 19th Century.

The location of the first Lodge premises is not known but in a letter written in 1834 to Grand Lodge there is a reference to paying for the use of a room. Grand Lodge had appealed to Lodges to contribute towards the purchase of a Masonic Hall in Dublin and received the following reply from 589:

"We received your circular letter and cannot by any means stand in conformity with your intended notion of subscribing to the purchase and support of a Masonic Hall in account that we live in a most remote part of the Kingdom and have to pay high for our own Lodge Room."

From 1846 the Lodge met in its own hall in the townland of Kernaghan (Carnaghan on modern maps) the foundation stone on the hall reads:

THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THIS BUILDING WAS LAID WITH MASONIC HONOURS ON THE 27TH MARCH 1846 BY THE Rt. WORSHIPFUL SIR JAMES STEWART Bart. MASTER OF LODGE 69 AND Senr. GRAND WARDEN OF IRELAND ASSISTED BY ALEX. GRANT Senr. WARDEN OF 69 AND THE BRETHREN OF LODGE 589. JAMES CRESWELL, MASTER.

At this time the Lodge opened on the degree relevant to the business of the meeting. For example, if there was a Fellowcraft Degree to be conferred then the Lodge opened on that degree. If a Master Mason Degree followed then the Lodge was closed on the Fellowcraft Degree and was opened on the Master Mason Degree. There was no "calling up" and "calling down" as is done today. There are many references in the minute books to the Lodge opening directly on the second or third degrees.

The minutes that have been quoted above state that; "Alexander Shuldham passed the

Chair" and "Brothers William Lynch and Thomas McDowell admitted to the Degree of Past Master in the Chair." Up to 1864 it was necessary for a Mason to be Past Master of a Craft Lodge before he was eligible to be advanced to the Royal Arch. This condition obviously restricted membership and Lodges overcame this by carrying out a ceremony called "Passing the Chair" sometimes referred to as a Past Master's Degree. This was not the degree that we know today as the "Installed Master" but it did have some secrets and possibly required the candidate to exemplify the opening and closing ceremonies. The practice of this ceremony was prohibited by Grand Lodge in November 1850. The minute of the Grand Lodge meeting reads:

"Whereas the Grand Lodge having heard that certain Lodges under its jurisdiction hold meetings in which they confer a degree called by them, "The Past Master Degree" This is to give notice to all Lodges that such practice is not recognised, but on the contrary is strictly prohibited by Grand Lodge, no person being entitled to the name or privileges of Past Master except by election to the Chair, installation and service as actual Master of a Lodge for six months."

In October 1862 an application for relief was made on behalf of Brother Patrick Dermott to Grand Lodge. The letter from 589 read:

"Inch Lodge No. 589. October 13th 1862

Worshipful Sir and Brother

We are in receipt of yours on the 9th Inst. concerning Brother Patrick Dermott. He is a farmer on a small scale and for want of a horse had to let part of his land for the last crop and for want of funds we purchased an old horse and was not sufficient to do his work and has since died which leaves him still in a hopeless state. It would take 12 or 13 pounds to purchase one able to do his work.

His family consists of himself, lame from the injury he received, a wife and six sons, the eldest is about 11 years of age and three old people unable to do anything whatsoever. We done all we could for him during the time he was confined to bed and during the summer his children was obliged to stay from school as he was unable to pay for them and remains so to providence sends some assistance."

There is no further reference to the matter in the correspondence files.

CAUTIONED BY GRAND LODGE

In 1863 there were sixteen subscribing members, the dues were three shillings and the initiation fee was £2-5-0.

From 1863 to 1884 the minutes are very brief. They usually give the names of the Brethren present and details of any Degrees conferred.

In December 1863 Inch Lodge was in trouble with Grand Lodge. The full details are not given in the minutes but it appears that a Mr Brophy from Waterford was initiated without due enquiry being made of Lodge No. 5, Waterford. These two extracts from the minutes record some of the details:

- 22nd December 1863 *"By summons from P.G.L. whereby the Master, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer to appear on charge of infringement of law 100. W.M. and P.M. attended, the case to be referred to the decision of Grand Lodge."*
- 21st January 1864 *"Communication from Grand Lodge read relative to the charge brought by P.G.L. for infringement of rule 100 to show cause as to why we should not be suspended replied to."*

The reply to the communication from Grand Lodge referred to in the extract from the minutes of 21st January is preserved in the Grand Lodge archives. It reads:

*Inch Lodge 589
Jan 21st 1864*

Rt. W. Sir & Bro

In answer to yours of the 16th inst. as to show cause why we should not be suspended from the rights and benefits of Freemasonry for having transgressed Rule 100.

In the first place it is the first time that ever a charge of this has been brought against 589.

And in the second place we thought it was a favour conferred on us by our Brethren in Derry as a well known Brother was with the person initiated.

Hoping the Grand lodge will deal leniently with us.

I remain Rt. W Sir & Bro

Yours Fraternally

John Fleming. Secretary

The reply from Grand Lodge is recorded:

18th February 1864. "Communication from Grand Lodge relative to the charge against the (Secretary?) in which this Lodge is to consider themselves cautioned."

After this encounter with Grand Lodge there are several references in the minutes in respect of Derry Lodges admitting candidates who resided in the Inch area without enquiring as to their suitability. In November 1869 Lodges 69 and 164 were written to about failing to make enquiries but there is no record of any reply.

1865 - 1899

In September 1865 in an effort to encourage attendance it was agreed that any member who was absent from a meeting without sufficient cause would be fined threepence for the first offence, sixpence for the second and one shilling for the third. If the Brother was absent for more than three consecutive meetings he would be reported to Grand Lodge.

An instance of a candidate receiving three Degrees in the space of one week is recorded in the April 1868 minutes. On the 2nd April, Mr Thomas Henry L'Isle Heath received both the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees and on the 9th April he received the Master Mason Degree. He was probably a member of the Heath family who lived at Fahan House which was built in 1740 by the shore of Lough Swilly.

During this period special meetings were held on the festival of St. John the Baptist in June and of St. John the Evangelist in December. In 1879 it was resolved that any Brother not present at the December festival having received due notice would be fined two shillings and sixpence. Up to the year 1875 it was the practice to elect officers for six months and install them at the St. John's Day meetings. It was usual for the officers elected in June to be re-elected to the same offices in December so in most cases they did serve for twelve months. Because the Lodge had only twelve or so attending members, Brethren were sometimes re-elected to offices they had previously held.

The first reference to a Past Master's Jewel is in a minute of a St. John's day meeting on 27th December 1871 when it was,

"Proposed by Brother Austin and seconded by Brother Samuel Ewing that in consideration of the very zealous and praiseworthy manner in which the duties of W.M. have been performed during the past years by P.M. J. Fleming, that he be presented with the Jewel of a Past Master to mark their sense of his services and that Brother Kenning of the Masonic Depot, London be communicated with to ascertain the list of prices of such decorations."

There is no record of a presentation of this jewel. John Fleming was initiated in October 1862 and was installed as Worshipful Master for the first time in 1866, he held that office on eight occasions. He was Secretary for a number of years and held the joint office of Treasurer and Secretary.

At a meeting in May 1872 a communication was read from Lodge 85, Carrickmacross, requesting permission to affiliate Brother R. E. Ball. The Secretary was instructed to advise Lodge 85 that Brother Ball was affiliated to Lodge 589 but he never paid affiliation fee or dues and that:

"He is now indebted to the Lodge."

The meeting hall was originally a two storey building. The Lodge Room was in the upper storey and the lower one was from time to time leased to tenants. The local Orange Lodge used the Lodge Room for their meetings and it appears that they were slow to pay the annual rent of £2-0-0. In September 1872 the Masonic Brethren decided that:

"The Lodge Room be cleared out of all furniture except what is used for Lodge purposes and be kept closed except for our use."

There were also problems with members of the Lodge who leased part of the premises. In 1874, Brother Thomas McDowell who had served as Lodge Secretary had possession of part of the building. In December of that year it was agreed that he should pay £3-0-0 per annum as rent. There is a record that he did pay this amount in February 1875 but in September 1876 the Lodge decided to consult a lawyer to get possession of the premises leased to McDowell. The matter came to a head in March 1879 when it was decided that:

"A process be issued for the first quarter sessions against Thomas McDowell and Samuel Fleming for non payment of rent and possession of the premises."

This is the first mention of Samuel Fleming in connection with the matter. It appears that the threat of Legal Action succeeded in removing McDowell but in January 1880 the Lodge decided to consult a lawyer to get possession of:

"The portion of the Lodge that Samuel Fleming is living in."

The result of the consultation is not recorded.

In December 1877 the Deputy Grand Secretary wrote to the Lodge Secretary requesting payment of the Grand Lodge dues. The reply explains the reason for the delay in payment:

*"Burnfoot
December 12th, 1877*

Dear Sir & Brother

I beg to say that owing to the fever being in the vicinity of our Lodge Rooms that we could not venture near them. I hope that you will take this as a reasonable excuse for delay.

Yours fraternally

S.W. Buchanan Secretary 589, Inch"

In January 1883 a Mr T. Colquhoun was proposed for membership, he received his First Degree two months later and immediately proposed a candidate. At the next meeting of

the Lodge he proposed four candidates and after receiving his Second Degree in May 1883 he proposed another candidate. It seems he was intent on keeping the Lodge busy!

From August 1884 the minutes start to give a little more detail about the business transacted and are recorded in a format which closely resembles that with which we are familiar today. They are also signed by both the Worshipful Master and the Secretary and are sealed. Previous minutes were sometimes unsigned and not always sealed.

The question of renovating the hall occupied the minds of the Brethren in January 1887 and a committee was formed of the whole Lodge to collect funds and to report on any progress at the next meeting. There is no further reference to this and no major repairs to the hall are recorded until 1914.

In May 1887 Samuel Ewing who had been Worshipful Master in 1869 emigrated to America. Brother Porter proposed and Brother Colquhoun seconded;

"That we as a Lodge express our regret at the departure to America of Brother S. Ewing from amongst us and wish him every prosperity in the land of his adoption."

The Brethren were unable to hold their stated meeting in October 1887, the reason is stated in the minute book:

"We the Freemasons of Lodge 589 met on Tuesday 25th October 1887, found our Lodge broken into that our meeting could not be held or any business transacted."

Once again the problem of tenancy of the lower portion of the hall arose. In February 1887 a committee was appointed to meet with Mr Babington, Solicitor, with reference to S. Fleming who had taken possession of part of the ground floor. Whether this was the same Fleming that had caused the previous dispute in 1879 is not certain. At a later meeting it was proposed by Brother J. Fleming that a committee be formed to discuss the payment of rent with the tenant but a counter proposal that legal action be taken to evict him was carried. Again the outcome of the dispute is not recorded.

The minutes from 1888 to 1893 record the routine business of the Lodge. There are no references to anything unusual or controversial.

A caretaker was appointed in March 1894. It was agreed to let the lower apartment to her for a rent of one shilling and sixpence per week and to pay her the same amount per month for caretaking duties.

The by-laws were amended in 1895 and the new ones were written in one of the roll books and sent to Grand Lodge for approval. The book was returned by Grand Lodge with the by-laws signed and approved by Archibald St. George, Deputy Grand Secretary.

This is the earliest set of Lodge 589 By-Laws that still exists. Brother David Irvine's tender for printing one hundred copies in pamphlet form was accepted.

In October 1896 the Secretary read a letter from the Provincial Grand Lodge, South Eastern District, asking for support for a resolution which would give the Master and Wardens of subordinate Lodges more facilities for discussing and voting on any motions relating to proposed changes in the laws and constitutions. The Lodge agreed that the resolution was worthy of support:

"But could not take any action on the matter as the meeting of Derry Provincial Grand Lodge was held during the month."

At the same meeting the Secretary was instructed to write to Grand Lodge about Lodge 63 not getting the recommendation of 589 in respect of a resident of the Inch Area being initiated in that Lodge. The Deputy Grand Secretary replied that it was too late to take any action!

In 1896 and 1897 an increasing number of candidates from the City of Londonderry were being proposed for membership of 589. The Lodge was anxious to adhere to the Grand Lodge law on making proper enquiry about these candidates and there was some discussion on whether or not it was necessary to write to all the Derry Lodges or to just a few in respect of the suitability of those proposed. The Secretary was instructed to write to Grand Lodge for advice on the matter. On the 23rd September 1897 the Deputy Grand Secretary replied that it was only necessary to obtain a satisfactory reply from one or two of the City Lodges. Some of the replies are given in the minutes, most are favourable but some are not. One read:-

"Mr 'X' had been rejected by our Lodge some time ago and that no City Lodge would admit him, and we emphatically object to his initiation by 589."

The candidate was withdrawn pending further enquiry, the Secretary being instructed to write to St. Johnston Lodge who replied that the person had been proposed there but was withdrawn prior to ballot. The matter was resolved after all the City Lodges had been written to. The candidate was balloted for in November 1899 and accepted.

Only three Brethren attended the August communication in 1899, Brothers Fleming, McGregor and Porter. At about 8.30 a deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge arrived to carry out an inspection. The visitors were, the Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robert Rodan, the Provincial Instructor, Brother James Barr and Brother William Ingram of Lodge 640. After waiting for about half an hour it was decided to open the Lodge with the visiting Brethren filling some of the offices. The minutes state:

"The Deputation inspected the books of the Lodge and seen something of our working bestowed great praise upon us. Brother Porter, the oldest member of the Lodge, stated that this was the first inspection of 589 by the Provincial Grand Lodge."

1900 - 1911

In January 1900 the services of John Fleming were recognised:

"The Lodge was called from labour to refreshment and after a time from refreshment to labour when it was proposed by Brother Best that Lodge 589 send £1-0-0 to the Masonic Orphan Boys School and that the vote resulting from this subscription be conferred upon Brother Past Master John Fleming as a slight recognition of the esteem in which he is held by this Lodge."

Brother David Best was a member of Lodge 138 and affiliated to 589 in 1898. He acted as a Lodge Instructor as there are several references to the Lodge being formed into a Lodge of Instruction under Brother Best. He resigned from the Lodge in May 1900 after a meeting at which:

"A discussion arose as to the old and new ways of working at which there was some feeling shown."

The result of the discussion was that a Lodge of Instruction would be held to which the Provincial Grand Lodge Instructors would be invited. It appears that Brother Best felt slighted by this decision and on the day following the meeting wrote a rather sharp letter to the Secretary resigning from the Lodge. The letter is preserved in one of the minute books. Part of it reads:

"I wish to sever my connection with Inch Lodge after reflecting over our last stated meeting in 589. I am quite disgusted with the proceedings. Our business during the evening was neither instructive nor elevating....."

But the way I was insulted when the manner of which I have been endeavouring to assist the Brethren to work up the Lodge as authorised by Grand Lodge. All I had done and was doing was put down as a new innovation and not to be taken as real until the Grand Lodge Instructors come down and instruct."

One of the oldest members of the Lodge, Brother James Longwill died in April 1901 and the following resolution was passed at the April communication:

"We brethren of this Lodge deeply regret the sad and lamented death of our dearly beloved Brother, James Longwill, who was for fifty years a Mason."

Brother Longwill was initiated in June 1853.

The question of repairs to the Hall was raised again at several meetings in 1901 but no action on the matter was taken.

On occasions the attendance at meetings was very poor and the minutes of the May 1902 meeting record the frustration felt by those Brethren who did attend:

"A stated meeting was called for the 22nd May at 8 pm, the Brethren being duly cited by circular in the usual manner, but only three of them attended, viz. Brothers John Fleming, D. McGregor and T. Bell. These remained at the hall till 10.45 pm when having abandoned hopes of any of the other Brethren coming, they left sorely disappointed."

In November of the same year:

"The Lodge was called from labour to refreshment in order to give more time for absent Brethren to arrive as there was a post card from Brother Hughes stating that he would be present. After waiting, all were wearied thereby, the Lodge was called from refreshment to labour and the election of officers for 1903 was proceeded with. At this time Brothers Hughes, Heatley and McGahey arrived along with a Mr Finlay who failed to gain admission. The Lodge closed in peace, love and harmony at 11.55 pm."

At the installation of officers in January 1903 Gilmour Fleming was installed as Worshipful Master. There were only nine Brethren present and the Secretary added a note to the minutes:

"The weather was very rough, blowing a strong gale with snow, otherwise it is likely that there would have been a larger gathering of the Brethren."

At the next meeting the Secretary was ordered to see to the erection of two stalls for horses in the basement of the hall. It was also agreed to hold an emergent communication on the 3rd March to bid farewell to the Junior Deacon, Brother W McClintock who was emigrating to Canada. It was decided to present Brother McClintock with an Apron.

The renovation of the hall was discussed at several meetings in 1903. A tender by Mr Lynch to carry our unspecified work for the sum of £4.00 was accepted.

At the December meeting, Brother Bell stated that his apologies had not been truthfully recorded in the minutes and he had not been credited with them at the counting of attendances. His statement was checked against the minutes and found to be incorrect but the Secretary, Brother Duncan McGregor felt aggrieved and resigned, as did the Treasurer. However the problem was settled after some discussion and the two officers withdrew their resignations.

In 1903 and 1904 the Lodge was growing with both candidates for initiation and affiliating members. An interesting proposal for membership in December 1903 was that of Mr Samuel James McCorkell, a Mineralogist, recently returned from Vancouver where he had been engaged in Gold mining. The increase in membership was noted in a letter

received in February 1904 from the Deputy Grand Secretary in which he stated:

"I trust that the present prosperity of 589 may long continue."

The Lodge meeting times varied. Some meetings began at 8 pm, others at 8.30 pm and some as late as 10.30 pm and in many cases lasted until after midnight. The October 1904 communication opened at 10.30 pm and closed at 1.30 am. This was the last meeting attended by the Secretary Brother Duncan McGregor as shortly afterwards he became seriously ill and died. Brother McGregor was, judging by the minutes he recorded, a most efficient Secretary. He was succeeded as Secretary by Gilmour Fleming.

A concert to raise funds to renovate the hall was held in the Masonic Hall, Buncrana on 13th March 1905. The sum of £1.11.0 was raised.

There were further problems with L.O.L. 1927 who held their meetings in the hall. At the April 1905 communication the Secretary reported that the Orange Lodge had not paid their rent for the past year. He was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Lodge demanding payment. In October it was decided to send a registered letter to the Worshipful Master of Inch Orange Lodge stating that unless arrears of rent were paid before 1st January 1906 they would be refused admission to the hall. There is no further reference to the matter in the subsequent minutes.

The minutes from 1906 to 1910 record the usual business of the Lodge. As well as new members from Londonderry there were also again in 1910 a few candidates from the local area. There had been some concern about the future of the Lodge at this time as the number of Brethren from the Inch area was declining. However the process of decay was halted by the efforts of Brother Gilmour Fleming who encouraged Brethren from the City Lodges to affiliate to 589.

There is an interesting reference in the December 1910 minutes:

"Brother Jenkins who was to have received his M.M. Degree wired from Rathmullan, "Sorry to disappoint you, unable to cross."

After the installation of Officers in January 1911, it was proposed that Worshipful Brother John Fleming be made an honorary member of the Lodge in recognition of his long and valued services to Inch Lodge. At the next meeting in February John Fleming declined the offer. Sadly, Worshipful Brother Fleming passed away in October 1911 having been a dedicated member of the Lodge for forty nine years.

RENOVATION OF THE HALL AND THE GREAT WAR PERIOD

In April 1912 the question of repairs to the Hall was again discussed. The Secretary, Worshipful Brother James Bolton, reported that he had received all the old papers of the late Brother John Fleming but there were no deeds for the hall amongst them. It was decided to instruct a solicitor to write to the Registrar of Deeds in Dublin to obtain a copy. At a later meeting it was reported that the solicitor, Mr Robinson, could find no trace of a deed. It was agreed to proceed with the renovations and a committee was formed to report back to the Lodge. The committee met in the Masonic Hall, Londonderry on 19th October 1912 under the Chairmanship of Worshipful Brother Tomb. Two plans were submitted, one for adding a new wing to the hall at a cost of £380 and the other for erecting a porch to the entrance end of the hall, lowering the floor of the Lodge by four and half feet, re-sheeting the ceiling, putting in new windows, a new fireplace and new ventilators at a cost of £120. It was agreed to adopt the second plan. It was decided to send an appeal for funds to all Lodges in Ireland and to print a circular with a photograph of the hall and a short history of the Lodge. Two years were to pass before any work began.

There was a further dispute over the tenancy of part of the hall in October 1912. Brother Robert Neely reported that he and four other Brethren could not get into the hall as the caretaker did not have the key. She said that her husband had taken it with him. Brother Neely said that he was compelled to break open the door. Brother Tomb said that the caretaker, Mrs Lynch, and her husband had refused to sign an agreement for monthly tenancy of the room below the Lodge. In November 1912 the Lodge decided to dispense with the services of Mrs Lynch and appointed Worshipful Brothers Simpson and Bolton to visit her and demand possession of the key and the premises. The Lodge was called from Labour to refreshment to enable the two Brethren to see Mrs Lynch who refused to give up the key. The matter was referred to Messrs. Caldwell and Robinson to take legal action. The next reference to the dispute is contained in the minutes of a meeting held on 5th April 1913 when an account from the solicitor was submitted for payment. The costs amounted to £9.2.0 of which £5.6.6. had been recovered by the Sheriff. This left a balance of £3.15.6 to be paid. The Secretary and Treasurer were directed to see Mr Robinson with a view to reducing the amount. The account was finally settled for £1.1.0.

Fund raising for the renovation of the hall got underway in April 1913 when a "Drawing of Prizes" and a Jumble Sale were organised. The draw raised £84.2.0 and the jumble sale £16.2.2. Members promised subscriptions for the building fund and two of the local gentry, Lord Templemore and Colonel Fleming were approached, apparently without success, for donations.

In February 1914 'The Inch Volunteers' were allowed to use the hall for drilling for an annual rent of one penny:

“Brother Bryce was to see that the hall was properly locked up.”

Donations to the Masonic charities were made on a regular basis. In February 1914 the Lodge decided to endow a chair in the boys schools with a donation of £10 payable in four instalments.

The First World War broke out in August 1914 and at the September communication the Worshipful Master referred with pride to the fact that six Brethren from Inch had joined the Colours, they were; Brothers Norman McClure, John Whiteside, Ernest McClure, William Donaldson, Robert Bell and William McClay.

In October 1914 the renovation work on the hall started and the Lodge met in Londonderry until January 1915 when the work was completed. The contract was awarded to a Mr Mooney from Burt who later became a member of the Lodge.

The first Communication in the refurbished Hall was held on the 23rd January 1915. As the Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Norman McClure, was on active service the Chair was occupied by Very Worshipful Brother James Barr, P.P.J.G.W., who congratulated the members of 589 on the splendid way in which they had carried out the renovation of their ancient and historic Lodge, he went on to state that the hall was one of the finest in the Province. The Officers for 1915 were then installed and afterwards the members adjourned for refreshments.

At the end of the minutes of this meeting there is an account of a social meeting held in the reading room of the Masonic Hall, Londonderry on the 29th December 1914 at which Brother Norman McClure was present as he was home on leave from the front. He was presented with a Past Master's Jewel. A set of Provincial Grand Lodge Regalia was presented to the Lodge Secretary, James Bolton, on his appointment to Provincial Grand Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Thomas A McClintock was present at the April 1915 communication. He was a Lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps, and had been wounded in action and was home to recuperate. The Worshipful Master, Brother H.E. Scott, paid tribute to his service and wished him well when he returned to France. Brother McClintock was initiated on 20th October 1904 and remained a member until his death in 1974.

The Roll of Honour which today hangs in the foyer of the Freemason's hall in Bishop Street, was presented to the Lodge by the Junior Warden, Brother Cairns Knox in September 1915. The scroll was illuminated by him as a tribute to the members of the Lodge who had volunteered for active service. The frame was presented by Worshipful Brother Gordon. The original scroll was updated by Brother Knox at the end of the war and repaired by him after it was damaged in 1920 during the raid on Inch Hall.

There was some concern expressed about Lodge meetings being delayed due to the late arrival of the Derry Brethren. In June 1915 a proposal was made that they should leave the City at 3.15 pm sharp. However a counter proposal that no change to the existing departure time be made was carried. At this time the Lodge meetings started at 5.00 pm. It seems that carriages were hired from Worshipful Brother Robert Neely to transport the members to Inch. Robert Neely was the owner of Neelys of Magazine Street.

The Lodge received several gifts after the installation of officers in January 1916. A kneeling stool was presented by Brother G. Wolseley, a sword and scabbard by Brother W. Fleming and pedestals for the Wardens by Worshipful Brother Simpson. Brother Knox donated two columns for the warden's pedestals and Brother Emery gave a cased set of the Square and Compasses.

At the Festive Board the Worshipful Master, Garnet Wolseley, presented each Brother present with a booklet giving a short history of the Lodge and containing the names of the officers for 1916, a list of all subscribing and Honorary members, a list of the names on the Lodge Roll of Honour and the toasts proposed during the evening. A photocopy of this interesting booklet was recently presented to the Lodge by Worshipful Brother Ivan Archibald.

In 1916, the renovation fund account was still £75 in deficit. Various schemes to raise money were implemented including a further appeal to the City Lodges and to the Provincial Grand Lodge which donated five guineas. There was also a generous donation of three guineas from Lodge 63. At the end of the year the account had a credit balance of £14.11.6. The question of title to the hall was still not resolved and it was decided in July 1916 to appoint trustees and have a deed of conveyance drawn up by a solicitor.

Brother Ernest McClure was killed in action on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Brother McClure was a Lieutenant in 10th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and is believed to have died at a point known as "The Crucifix" at Thiepval. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval. Twenty six members of 589 served with the forces in the Great War and Brother McClure was the only one to be killed.

In September 1917, a letter was received from Brother J. Blackstock, Medicine Hat, Alta, Canada, on behalf of Brother James Fleming, a member of 589, who had emigrated to Canada some years previously. The letter contained a request for Brother Fleming's clearance certificate and dues of £3.3.6 were enclosed. The Worshipful Master, Brother Cairns Knox directed that the Certificate be forwarded to Brother Blackstone as requested.

In November 1917, a notice of motion from Brother W.J. Campbell was handed in, it read,

"That in future, no Brother shall be elected to the office of Senior Warden unless he is in a position to confer at least two Degrees."

This notice of motion was withdrawn at a later meeting.

Membership of the Lodge was still increasing and at almost every meeting candidates for initiation and Brethren for affiliation were being proposed. In December 1917 a ballot was taken for three candidates one of whom was rejected, the Worshipful Master ordered that a second ballot be taken and this time candidate was accepted. At another meeting later in the same month a second ballot was ordered for another candidate but he was rejected.

At an Emergent meeting held on 11th May 1918 four candidates, all residents of Inch Island were proposed for initiation. At the next stated meeting held on 25th May, a ballot for three of the candidates was held resulting in two of them being rejected. As a result of this five Brethren requested an Emergent communication to consider the following notice of motion:

"That all references in the minutes to the proposing of candidates at an emergent communication held on 11th ult. be deleted, and, further that all reference to ballot for candidates at a stated communication held on 25th ult. be deleted from the minutes of that meeting on the ground that the proposal and ballot in question were irregular and informal, and in contravention of Grand Lodge law No. 113."

The Emergent meeting was held on 13th June and the notice of motion was carried unanimously. The business of proposal of candidates was not on the summons for the emergent meeting held on 11th May and it was therefore in contravention of Grand Lodge 113 which stated that the business to be transacted at a Lodge of Emergency shall be expressed in the summons and no other business shall be entered on at that communication. The candidates were again proposed, this time presumably appearing on the summons for this Emergent meeting. They were balloted for at the next stated meeting and accepted.

The Lodge met on three consecutive days in August 1918 for the purpose of conferring Degrees on Mr John Lowthers a Sergeant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He received his First Degree on 28th August, and the Second and Third Degrees were conferred on 29th and 30th August. The three meetings were held in the Masonic Hall, Londonderry. Special dispensation was obtained from Grand Lodge to confer the Degrees in such a short period of time.

The minutes of the November 1918 meeting record the end of the Great War:

"The Worshipful Master, Brother Fred Wolseley referred to the fact that since we last met here, the great conflict raging in France and Belgium for over four years had now come to an abrupt termination and an armistice had been signed on 11th November 1918. The Brethren rising and singing The Doxology and the National Anthem."

Roll of Honour

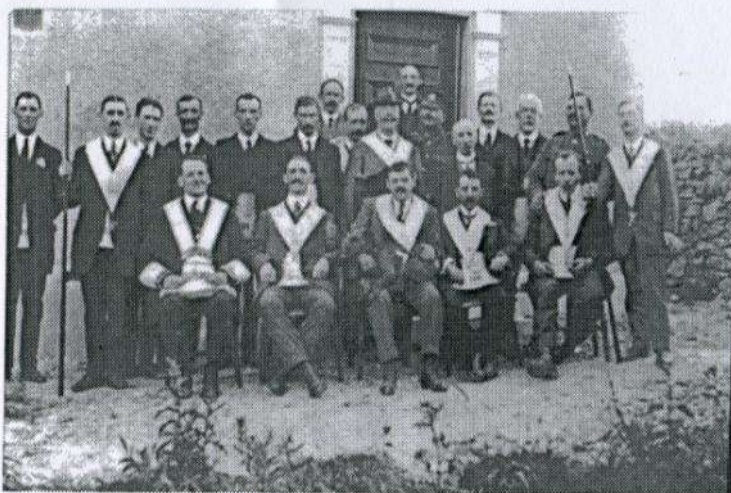
- Wor. Bro. S. A. McCLINTOCK, Captain R.A.M.C.
" T. A. McCLINTOCK, Captain R.A.V.C.
- Bro. JOHN S. TOMB, Captain R.A.M.C.
" ERNEST McCLURE, * Lieutenant R. Innis. Fusiliers
" WILLIAM BUCHANAN, Lieutenant Leinster Regiment
" DAVID A. CRESWELL, Lieutenant R.I.R.
" THOMAS CRESWELL, Lieutenant R.I.R.
" JOHN MAY, Lieutenant M.T.S.
" EDWIN KING, Sergeant-Major Army Gym. Instructor
" SAMUEL CRAIG, Sergeant-Major R. Innis. Fusiliers
" JOHN C. WHITESIDE, Sergeant-Major N.I.H.
- Wor. Bro. NORMAN McCLURE, Qr.-M.-Sgt. R.F.A.
- Bro. JOHN LOTHER, Sergeant C.E.F.
" ANDREW STEELE, Corporal R. Innis. Fusiliers
- Wor. Bro. ROBERT J. BELL, Corporal R. Innis. Fusiliers
" HAMILTON TATE† (M.M.) Private C.E.F.
- Bro. DAVID WILSON, Private A. & S. H.
" ARTHUR B. LAWRENCE, Private M.T.S.
" WILLIAM DONALDSON, Sapper R.E.
" WILLIAM McCLAY,, Trooper Inniskilling Dragoons
" ROBERT E. BROWN, Trooper N.I.H.
" JAMES REYNOLDS, Trooper N.I.H.
" ROBERT JENKINS, P.O. R.N.
" WILLIAM J. FISHER, P.O. R.N.
" CHARLES E. GOSLING, P.O. R.N.
" FRED HENDERSON, P.O. R.N.

* Killed in action † Died since demobilization

The Lodge Roll of Honour listing
those members who served in
the Great War



Bro. Ernest McClure, Lieutenant,
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.
Killed in action during the Battle of
the Somme, 1st July 1916.



Members of the Lodge photographed outside
Inch Masonic Hall in June (?) 1915

Front row from left: V.W.Bro. J. Bolton, Garnet Wolseley,
Harry Scott, J.M.C. Knox & James Simpson
The Deacon on the left is Fred Wolseley and the Deacon on
the right is A. Lawrence. Standing in front of the left
pillar is Boyd Bryce. The person standing immediately
behind Garnet Wolseley is thought to be V.W.Bro. Harry Little.

1920 - 1931

MOVE TO LONDONDERRY

The growth in membership continued. In the period from 1917 to 1919 there were thirty two candidates initiated and fifteen Brethren affiliated. In January 1920 it was decided to hold the Installation of Officers Communication in the Masonic Hall, Londonderry, because the hall at Inch was too small. The attendance books shows that forty two members and fifty five guests attended the meeting. The minutes of this meeting record the death of Worshipful Brother Robert Neely who died as a result of an accident at his home at Creevagh.

In February 1920 the Lodge was opened without the Warrant present and a ballot was held for four candidates. The minutes record:

"The Worshipful Master called the Lodge off as the motor car with the warrant had now arrived. On the Lodge being called on again Brother Canning raised a question as to the ballot which had just been taken. Worshipful Brother Bolton proposed and Brother Emery seconded that a technical breach of the Grand Lodge Laws may have been made, but owing to the great amount of business to come before the Lodge it would be better to postpone the ballot until the next communication."

This proposal was passed and the ballot was held again at the next meeting.

A fortuitous decision was made at the April 1920 meeting when it was agreed to increase the insurance cover on the hall and furniture from £350 to £1000.

On or about 11th June 1920, the hall was broken into and the contents and furniture were badly damaged. There are two accounts of the break in, one in the minutes and the other in the Londonderry Sentinel. The Sentinel report reads:

"During last week the Masonic Hall on Inch was broken into and almost the entire furniture in the building wrecked. Presses containing valuable presentation instruments were forced open and the contents destroyed. A silver presentation Compass and Square was stolen. Masonic Aprons and emblems were mutilated and the Bible was torn in pieces. The Roll of Honour was also destroyed. The outrage was only discovered when some members visited the hall during the weekend. No one resides in the hall, which is closed up except when meetings are being held. The police are investigating the outrage."

The Lodge is one of the most ancient in the North of Ireland having been founded about two centuries ago. It contains many priceless historic relics, as well as antique furniture which has been in the Lodge since it was opened. The Bible destroyed was a very large

book and beautifully bound. Fortunately the Lodge Charter was not in the building. It is kept at the home of one of the Brethren on the Island for safety."

The minutes of the July meeting held in The Masonic Hall, Londonderry, record:

"The Worshipful Master, Brother Little explained to the Brethren that the reason why we were met here tonight was that on or about the 11th June the Masonic Hall at Inch was broken into and the Regalia and Collars cut and destroyed, the furniture cut and broken. The Secretary and himself had made a claim for malicious damages to the Donegal County Council. The Board of Management had very kindly granted the use of this hall until such time as we are in a position to resume labour in the hall at Inch."

Pages from the torn Bible and the attendance register from 1896 to 1920 which was also damaged in the break in are still in the possession of the Lodge. Meetings were held in Londonderry until April 1921.

In 1920 there was serious civil unrest in Londonderry and at certain periods a curfew was imposed by the authorities. This was referred to at the November 1920 meeting when arrangements for the January 1921 Installation of Officers were discussed. It was agreed to have a joint supper with Lodge 164. The joint event appears to have been a success with a charity collection of £20.

In April 1921 the Lodge resumed labour in the Hall at Inch. The Brethren decided to hold a Masonic Church Service in the Methodist Church, Carlisle Road, Londonderry. The service was held on the 5th June and the sum of £60 was collected for the Masonic charities.

The Chaplain, Worshipful Brother James Tomb presented a large Volume of the Sacred Law in September 1921 to replace the one destroyed in the raid on the Hall in the previous year.

The statement of accounts for 1921 shows that the repairs to Inch hall and the replacement of the regalia cost a total of £50.

From February 1922 to July 1924, all meetings were held in the Freemasons' Hall, Londonderry, due to the political troubles in the Irish Free State.

In April 1922 a presentation was made to Very Worshipful Brother James Bolton and his wife. Brother Bolton had been Lodge Secretary for twelve years and had served as a Provincial Junior Grand Warden. The Brethren gathered in the reading room of the Masonic Hall and Worshipful Brother Mark McNeary:

"In very eulogistic terms referred at great length to the Great amount of work Very

Worshipful Brother Bolton has done for this Lodge and for Masonry generally."

Brother Bolton was presented with two Divan chairs and a silver cigarette case and Mrs Bolton received a lady's bag.

In 1924 Garnet Wolseley was elected Secretary of the Lodge. He and his brother Fred affiliated from Lodge 640 in 1912.

The August and September meetings in 1924 were held in the hall on Inch. The Worshipful Master, Brother J. Burnside, expressed his wish that: *"It would be their privilege to hold as many as possible of the meetings in our own hall in the future."* He also conveyed the thanks of the Lodge to Brother Andrew Steele who donated two swords to replace those stolen in 1920.

From October 1924, the Lodge communications were again held in Londonderry, with only occasional meetings in the summer being held in the hall at Inch. This was to be the pattern until the Inch premises were sold in 1956. The Board of Management of the Freemason's Hall wrote to the Lodge in November 1925 regarding charges for the use of the Lodge Room. A committee was appointed to meet the board to discuss the matter. The committee recommended that the Lodge should pay £10 for the use of the hall. In May 1927 the Brethren considered procuring a charabanc and in future holding all meeting in Inch Hall. This was in response to an account from the Board of Management for £11 for rent.

In May 1926 Mr George Blair received the Entered Apprentice Degree. The Degree was conferred by Worshipful Brother J Burnside.

On the 26th May 1928 Worshipful Brother J Burnside handed in the following notice of motion:

"That Bye-law No. 2 be altered to read, the stated communication of this Lodge shall be held in the Masonic Hall, Londonderry on the fourth Friday of the month at 8 pm."

The notice of motion was passed at the September communication and at the next meeting, Brothers J & H Tomb, both residents of the Inch District requested their clearance certificate. Whether or not this was because of the change of meeting place we can only speculate.

The June 1929 meeting was held at Inch and the Lodge honoured its longest serving member, Worshipful Brother John McIntyre by presenting him with a Past Master's Jewel. Brother McIntyre was initiated in 1879. He was by profession an Architect, practising in Letterkenny and had designed Churches for Convoy, Castledearg and Stranorlar:

"At the conclusion of labour light refreshments were served and a very enjoyable evening was spent interspersed with a pleasant stroll by the waters of the Swilly."

The year 1931 marked the Lodge's One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary. Unfortunately there are no references in the minutes to any celebrations to mark the occasion, however in January 1932 at the festive board following the Installation of Officers the minutes record that a Jewel which had been specially designed to commemorate the anniversary was presented to some Honorary members of the Lodge and also to the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Kimmit. The Jewel was similar in design to that issued to mark the Two Hundredth Anniversary in 1981.

In September 1933 the Board of Management agreed to a reduction in rent for the use of the hall in Magazine Street. The Board minutes state:

"That owing to the extenuating circumstances at present prevailing in the Irish Free State and that it would not be safe nor in the interests of the brethren of Lodge 589 to hold their meetings in their hall in Inch during the long winter evenings, that this committee reduce the rent to £1.5.0 per meeting, but that this will not create any precedent regarding any other Lodge."

In November 1933 a letter was received from the Secretary of Sioux Lookout Lodge No. 518, Ontario, intimating that Brother T A Creswell, a member of 589, was in a local hospital recovering from an operation for appendicitis and that members of Lodge 518 were visiting him every day. The Secretary was instructed to write to thank the members of the Ontario Lodge for their kindness to Brother Creswell. Sadly, Brother Creswell died in May 1934.

In January 1935, Worshipful Brother Andrew Steele was invested as Secretary in succession to Garnet Wolseley. The members of the Lodge decided to mark the services of Worshipful Brother Wolseley by making a presentation and the matter was left in the hands of the new Secretary who at the next meeting reported that he had been in touch with Brother Wolseley and that he was opposed to the idea stating that:

"Anything that he did for Lodge 589 was a Labour of Love."

Although most of the communications were now being held in the Magazine Street premises, 589 did not have any representation on the Board of Management, neither was it a member of the Derry Masonic Fund. In September 1936 the Secretary was empowered to approach the Derry Masonic Fund to ascertain terms for membership, but it seems that the matter was dropped for the time being as there is no record in the minutes of the outcome of any approach at that time.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR PERIOD

Several of the Brethren had joined the Forces on the outbreak of the Second World War. The Lodge agreed in October 1939:

"That members joining H.M. forces and those already serving be exempt from dues for the duration of the war and also that their seniority count while they are away. The W.M. wished them God Speed and hoped that they would soon be with us again."

The question of representation on the Board of Management was resolved in 1940. The Board turned down a request for representation in January of that year because 589 was paying only £10 per year for rent whilst the other Lodges were paying £20. In addition an allowance was made for every meeting held in the hall on Inch. In October the Board proposed that full representation would be granted on payment of the same rent as all the other Lodges. This was agreed to by the Lodge and the first representative appointed was Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson.

Bye-law No. 3 which referred to the meeting place was again changed in December 1940 to read:

"The stated communications to be held in the Masonic Hall, Londonderry or the Masonic Hall, Inch."

Because of petrol rationing no meetings were held in Inch Hall for the duration of the War.

Previous reference has been made to the Lodge considering membership of the Derry Masonic Fund. In June 1941, the Officers held a meeting to discuss joining the fund and the Secretary was instructed to write to Worshipful Brother E. D. Kellock, Secretary of the Fund, making an offer of £40 for membership, Brother Kellock replied:

"At a recent special meeting of the Derry Masonic Fund Committee, I was instructed to intimate to you that it was unanimously decided to grant your Lodge full representation on the Board. We note with pleasure your offer of £40 towards the fund."

Worshipful Brother Harry Little was appointed as the first representative.

In June 1941 Grand Lodge donated £100 to the Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry and Donegal for the temporary relief of the suffering and distress of Brethren and their dependents due to air raids. The Lodge decided that because of the danger from such attacks that the Worshipful Master should take the Warrant home for safe keeping. The Board of Management introduced a levy on each Lodge of £1 per month to defray the cost of firewatching.

In January 1942, Worshipful Brother Dick Campbell was invested as Secretary, a position which he was to hold until January 1974.

In March 1942, the Provincial Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Robert Glenn was elected an honorary member of the Lodge on the proposal of Caulfield Wilson seconded by Harry Little.

There are frequent references in the Wartime minutes to letters being received from Brethren on active service thanking the Lodge for gifts that had been received. One of the members, Brother F. C. McConkey wrote from a Prisoner of War camp in Germany, expressing his appreciation for the generosity of the Brethren. The arrival of many service personnel in Londonderry led to an increase in visiting Brethren attending Lodge communications. Among the visitors were Brothers Downes and Bestwick from Massachusetts and Brother Stannmore from New York.

In November 1944 a meeting of all the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of the City Lodges was held to consider the building of a new Masonic Hall. It was agreed that a new hall was desirable and Lodges were asked to contribute £25 per month, spread over a period of five years, to a building fund.

The matter was fully discussed at the next meeting of 589 which agreed that a new hall was required, but did not support a compulsory levy. A proposal by Caulfield Wilson that the Lodge would support any effort made in respect of building a new hall but could not agree to a compulsory levy was carried. In January 1945 it was further proposed and agreed that 589 would contribute £100 per year to a building fund.

The former Bishop's Palace in Bishop Street was purchased in June 1945 and Dick Campbell was appointed as the Trustee from Lodge 589. Various fund raising efforts were organised by the Lodge in support of the building fund including a dance at Newbuildings which raised £20.

During the War years it was impossible to obtain Jewels for Past Masters. The Lodge decided to open a Jewel Fund to accrue money to buy Jewels for all the Wartime Masters when such items would again become available. The nine Worshipful Masters who served between 1943 and 1951 all received their Jewels in January 1952.

THE POST WAR YEARS

The immediate post War years saw a continuing growth in membership, with this there was the necessity to hold many emergent meetings to confer degrees. Much of the degree work was carried out by Caulfield Wilson, Dick Campbell and George Blair.

For over thirty years until the early 1950's the installation of the Worshipful Master was carried out by Very Worshipful Brother Robert Haughey, Member of Lodge 164 and an Honorary Member of 589 and a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

In May 1945 the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother R. Kimmitt died and in June of the following year, Sir Basil McFarland was appointed as his successor and in 1947 he succeeded the Duke of Abercorn as Provincial Grand Master.

At the January 1946 meeting a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary was read in which he paid tribute to Very Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson. He said:

"I wish to compliment Lodge 589 on sending up to Provincial Grand Lodge a representative capable of discharging all the duties and upholding the dignity of the order. Very Worshipful Brother Wilson deserved the best thanks of all the Brethren for the services he has rendered during the prolonged interval since our beloved Provincial Deputy Grand Master passed away. Brother Wilson had the courage to act as Provincial Deputy Grand Master and performed the duties in a most efficient and acceptable manner."

The Lodge met again in the hall on Inch Island in July 1946. The Lodge Room was prepared by Worshipful Brother Thomas McDowell and his wife to whom thanks of the Lodge were expressed by the Worshipful Master. Worshipful Brother McDowell was one of the few remaining members of the Lodge still resident on Inch Island and until his death in 1951 he and his wife looked after the hall. Mrs McDowell continued to prepare the hall for Lodge meetings until 1953.

In February 1947, the minutes record the following:

"Worshipful Brother J W Wallace proposed that the name of Mr William Long (Law Clerk) of 2 Maureen Avenue, Londonderry be placed on the books of the Lodge for the usual time prior to ballot"

Right Worshipful Brother Long received his Entered Apprenticed Degree on 23rd May 1947, was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree on 26th September 1947 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on 30th December 1947.

Brother Albert Wallace received his third Degree in October 1947, this was a unique

event in that he had received his three Degrees during his father's year of office as Worshipful Master.

In October 1948, the Secretary read a letter from Worshipful Brother Gilmour Fleming who has been Lodge Secretary from 1904 to 1910. Brother Fleming had emigrated to Vancouver in 1910, but had retained his membership of 589. He said that he was delighted to hear that the old Lodge was going stronger than ever and conveyed fraternal greetings to all the Brethren. Another member of the Lodge, resident in Vancouver was Brother Hamilton Tate. He also had emigrated about 1910 but had returned with the Canadian Expeditionary Force to fight in the Great War. For some years the Brethren believed that he had died and his name was removed from the Lodge Roll. However, on hearing that he was alive, he was reinstated. Both Brethren maintained regular contact with the Secretary.

In January 1950, Brother David Archibald was installed as Worshipful Master with, once again, Very Worshipful Brother Robert Haughey acting as Installing Officer. Worshipful Brother Archibald served as Worshipful Master until July 1951 when he was succeeded by Worshipful Brother Samuel Buchanan. Brother Buchanan was unable to be present for installation in January 1951 due to illness and he was installed at an Emergent communication in the Hall on Inch Island on 17th July 1951. He was the last Worshipful Master to be installed in the Lodge Room on Inch.

Samuel Williamson was installed as Worshipful Master in January 1952. One of his first duties at the February communication was to mark the death of the King. The minutes record:

"Before proceeding with the business the Brethren stood in silence in memory of our late beloved Monarch King George the Sixth, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Scotland."

In 1953 the Lodge received a bequest of £10 from the late Worshipful Brother Cairns Knox. The money to be used to endow a chair in the Victoria Jubilee Annuity Fund. Brother Knox also left his past Master's Jewel which he asked to be sold and the money raised to also be donated to the fund. The Jewel was sold for £3-10-0.

FAREWELL TO INCH ISLAND

1953 was a significant year in the history of Lodge 589. In July the last meeting was held in Inch Masonic Hall when Mr Bertie Reynolds received his First Degree. The minutes of the meeting record that he paid his initiation fee of £7.7.0 and that the Degree was conferred by Worshipful Brothers George Blair and Dick Campbell.

At the next meeting which was held in Londonderry on 25th September the Secretary stated that it was the opinion of some of the Brethren that the hall on Inch should be disposed of as it served no useful purpose. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at some future date and the Secretary was instructed to make enquiries about the whereabouts of the deeds of the hall. The Secretary wrote to some of the older Brethren including Garnet Wolseley, Gilmour Fleming and Hamilton Tate, but none of them were able to provide any information about the title to the hall or the location of the deeds.

The minutes of the communication held on the 26th February 1954 record the death of Very Worshipful Brother Harry Little.

"The Worshipful Master referred to the Great loss sustained by Masonry in general and this Lodge in particular by the death of Very Worshipful Brother Harry Little, who has always taken a prominent part in the furtherance of Masonry. Very Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson also paid tribute to the worth of Very Worshipful Brother Little recalling how on numerous occasions he had been instrumental in having the needs of the widow and orphan attended to."

The question of disposal of the hall on Inch was raised again in May 1954 when Caulfield Wilson handed in a notice of motion:

"That Lodge 589 take the necessary steps to dispose of Island of Inch Masonic Hall on Inch Island."

Very Worshipful Brother Wilson also proposed that the Secretary make application to the Provincial Grand Lodge for permission to proceed with the sale of Inch Hall. The Provincial Grand Lodge gave permission for the sale of the Hall at its stated communication held at Moville in June 1954.

The proposal to dispose of the hall did not meet with the approval of all the Brethren. When Very Worshipful Brother Wilson's notice of motion was discussed at the September communication an amendment was proposed by Worshipful Brother George Blair that the hall should not be sold. The amendment was put to the meeting and only seven Brethren voted for it. The motion was then put and sixteen members voted for it and the Worshipful Master declared it carried. The arrangements were left in the hands of Brother William Long. It was sold in 1956 to Inch Presbyterian Church for £100.

The proceeds from the sale were donated to the Masonic charities. The Lodge Altar was given to Ramelton Lodge and the chairs and pedestals to St. Johnston Lodge.

In September 1956 formal permission was received from the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for the Lodge to use the title "Island of Inch"

A further honour was conferred on Very Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson in May 1955 when he was appointed as representative of the Grand Lodge of Alberta to the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Brother Wilson served with distinction as permanent Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for many years.

At the conclusion of the October communication at which the Provincial Grand Master, Sir Basil McFarland, was present the Brethren adjourned to the dining room where a presentation of Regalia was made to Right Worshipful Brother Wilson. The Provincial Grand Master spoke in glowing terms of the amount of good work carried out by Right Worshipful Brother Wilson all over the Province and also of the enthusiasm with which he discharged his duties in Provincial Grand Lodge.

175 YEARS OLD

In 1956 the Lodge celebrated its one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary. In January a circular was sent to all members requesting them to make a special effort on behalf of the Benevolent Institutions. An extract from the circular reads:

“From our ancient Warrant which, through bad times and good, has never been handed in or been out of use since it was granted in the year 1781, we find that in this year, 1956, the Lodge is now celebrating its one hundred and seventy-fifth birthday. From old records we find that our predecessors believed in acknowledging in some beneficial manner each quarter century advance in the life of the Lodge and the active members of today feel that this laudable practice should be continued.

The Lodge has decided that the most beneficial expression of thankfulness for the long and successful life of the Lodge is to make this year's donation to the charities, which after all are the soul of Masonry, a record one.”

The appeal certainly bore fruit as the accounts for 1956 show that £340 was distributed to the benevolent institutions.

In addition to increased support for the charities it was decided to further mark the anniversary by presenting a ceremonial sword to the Provincial Grand Lodge. The sword was presented at the February 1957 communication by the Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother J. W. Walker.

The Provincial Grand Master attended the communication in May 1957. He complimented the Worshipful Master on the healthy state of the Lodge both numerically and financially and thanked the Brethren for having presented the ceremonial Sword to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

Worshipful Brother Gilmour Fleming died in Vancouver on 2nd December 1957. He was initiated in 1899 and was Worshipful Master in 1903. He then served as Secretary until 1910 when he emigrated to Canada.

In January 1959, to mark his appointment as Provincial Senior Grand Warden, very Worshipful Brother Dick Campbell was presented with a Jewel of Office by the Brethren of 589.

1960 - 1980

Over the next few years there was continued growth in membership which led to some complaints that the Lodge was too big and that it took too long for junior members to attain office. There was also continued support for the Masonic charities and in 1962 a television set was donated to the Boys' School. The charities also continued to support the needs of distressed Brethren and their dependents.

In 1964, Worshipful Brother Hamilton Tate, the oldest member of the Lodge, died in Vancouver. He affiliated to 589 in 1908 and reached the fine old age of 94. Very Worshipful Brother Robert Haughey also passed away in 1964. The death of the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Raymond Brook, was announced at the June communication, he had served as Grand Master since 1948 and was succeeded by the Earl of Donoughmore.

In 1965 Worshipful Brother George Turner was made an Honorary Member in recognition of the services he rendered to 589. Right Worshipful Brother Turner was one of the stalwarts of Freemasonry in the Province of Londonderry and Donegal and his sudden passing in 1988 deprived the order of a much talented Brother who was held in high esteem by the Brethren in the Irish Constitution.

Dick Campbell completed twenty five years as Lodge Secretary in December 1966 and at the conclusion of the Lodge meeting supper and refreshments were served in the dining room, after which the Worshipful Master, Brother William Kerr, presented Brother Campbell with a silver tea service in recognition of his dedicated service to 589. Brother Campbell stated that the presentation had come as a complete surprise to him and that any work that he had been able to do during his thirty-six years as a member was for the love of the old Lodge.

The possibility of the spread of foot and mouth disease in November 1967 caused the Grand Master to direct the cancellation of all Masonic meetings until 1st January 1968. This instruction was amended in December to allow meetings to be held with the permission of Provincial Grand Masters. The Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry and Donegal decided that as the two Counties were both agricultural areas the ban on meetings would continue. However, the situation improved and the ban was lifted on 15th January 1968.

The installation of officers for 1968 was held in March and Brother William Long was installed as Worshipful Master by Very Worshipful Bro. David Gilliland. Worshipful Brother Long then installed Robert Bell as Senior Warden and Bertie Reynolds as Junior Warden. Brothers Victor Brown and Joe McNulty were invested as Deacons and Noel Guy as Inner Guard. At the refreshment board the toast of the Benevolent Institutions was submitted by Very Worshipful Brother George Turner and the sum of £120-5-6 was collected.

A general meeting of members of the City Lodges was held in March 1968 to consider the future management of the hall. It was decided that from 1st January 1969, each Lodge would pay a capitation fee of £3 per member to the Board of Management of which Worshipful Brother William Long had been appointed Chairman.

The Lodge lost one of its leading members in January 1972 with the death of Right Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson. The minutes of the communication held on 28th January record:

"The Worshipful Master then referred in very feeling terms to the rather sudden passing of Right Worshipful Brother Caulfield Wilson saying how much his presence would be missed, not only in Lodge 589, but in other Masonic Circles. He then gave a brief outline of the services rendered to masonry by this beloved Brother, a Member of 589 for almost fifty years in which he had held all the progressive offices, being Worshipful Master in 1934. A past Provincial Senior Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derry and Donegal and Permanent Director of Ceremonies in the same for many years, which office he held to the time of his death. His memory would be long remembered not only for services rendered but for his wise counsel, genial smile and kindness shown to the Brethren."

One of the senior members of the Lodge, Worshipful Brother Dan Keown, left Londonderry in February 1972. Brother Keown had been initiated in 1933 and served as Worshipful Master in 1945. He did keep in touch with the Secretary and returned in 1983 to receive his fifty year Jewel which was presented to him on Inch Island by Very Worshipful Brother George Blair and Worshipful Brother Norman Doherty. Worshipful Brother Keown died in August 1984.

Very Worshipful Brother David Gilliland was present at the communication held in April 1974 in his capacity as Provincial Grand Lodge Inspector. His comments on the working are recorded in the minute book:

"First he wished to congratulate the officers of the Lodge in the manner in which they had carried out their various duties. Whilst they were not absolutely perfect, they were a good average especially when he had just learned that both of the Wardens were acting in their respective offices. He also wished to congratulate the Inner Guard, Brother D. I. Archibald who, to his mind, was most perfect in the discharge of his duties."

Some concern was expressed about the safety of the Lodge Warrant because of the terrorist activity in the City. Permission was obtained from the Grand Lodge in May 1972 to obtain a temporary authority which could be displayed at meetings in place of the original Warrant issued in 1781. The Worshipful Master was authorised to take any precautions necessary for the safety of the Warrant.

In February 1974, Worshipful Brother Joe McNulty succeeded Dick Campbell as Secretary. The Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Joseph Thompson was present at the installation meeting and paid tribute to the long and faithful service given by Very Worshipful Brother Campbell to the Lodge as Secretary.

Two other distinguished Brethren were also present Right Worshipful Brother J.O. Harte, Grand Secretary and Worshipful Brother R. J. Clinton, Secretary of the Benevolent Institutions, Brother Malcolm Campbell was installed as Worshipful Master by Right Worshipful Brother J. L. Rankin.

Worshipful Brother William Long was appointed to the office of Provincial Grand Secretary in 1976 in succession to J. L. Rankin. Right Worshipful Brother Long had served for several years as Lodge Treasurer and was succeeded by Worshipful Brother Noel Guy. Unfortunately, in May 1976, the Lodge Secretary, Worshipful Brother Joe McNulty died suddenly and Worshipful Brother Guy acted as Secretary until February 1977 when he was invested in that office.

Very Worshipful Brother George Blair completed fifty years as a member of 589 in May 1976. Very Worshipful Brother Blair received his first Degree in the Hall on Inch Island on 15th May 1926. He was Worshipful Master in 1937 and was elected to Provincial Grand Lodge in 1970 and held the office of Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1976. The Brethren of 589 presented him with a Provincial Senior Grand Warden's Jewel to mark his fifty years in Masonry. Very Worshipful Brother Blair continued to be an active member of the Lodge and served for many years as Director of Ceremonies. In May 1991, a further presentation was made to him to mark his sixty-fifth year as a member of the Lodge. The esteem in which he was held was reflected by the large attendance on that occasion. Very Worshipful Brother Blair passed away on 13th October 1993. He will be long remembered by everyone in Lodge 589.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD

In 1981, the Lodge celebrated its 200th Anniversary. The Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother J.L. Rankin, attended the Installation Dinner in February 1981 and in his remarks congratulated the Lodge for completing 200 years of continuous working. A special Jewel was struck to mark the event, it was similar to the one designed for the 150th anniversary celebration in 1931 and a service of thanksgiving was held in St. Columb's Cathedral on 3rd May 1981.

The Marquess of Donegal was appointed Most Worshipful Grand Master in November 1981 following the death of Lord Donoughmore. Right Worshipful J.O. Harte, Grand Secretary, retired at the end of 1981 and the Secretary wrote to him expressing best wishes on behalf of the Lodge for a long and happy retirement.

Once again the Lodge suffered a serious loss with the death of the Secretary, Worshipful Brother Noel Guy, in February 1982. Brother Noel Drain and Worshipful Brother Noel Simpson filled the office until Worshipful Brother Norman Doherty was invested as Secretary in February 1984.

On a happier note, a presentation of an engraved watch was made to Dick Campbell in June 1983. He had completed fifty three years as a member and had served as Secretary for thirty years.

At the November communication a presentation was made to Right Worshipful Brother William Long to mark his appointment as Provincial Assistant Grand Master following seven years in the Office of Provincial Grand Secretary.

In 1985, the Lodge donated £1240 to the Victoria Jubilee Annuity Fund. This money was raised by sponsorship of Brother Gordon Johnston from Lodge 473, Enniskillen, in the Belfast Marathon. The sponsorship was organised by Brother Noel Drain. At the May meeting a cheque for the amount was handed over to the Provincial Assistant Grand Master by Brother Johnston.

At the communication held on 22nd November 1985, the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Darwin Templeton. He remarked that he was delighted to be present and made reference to the attacks then being made on Freemasonry:"

"Brethren should never be ashamed of being a Freemason as our history proved that over the years ours was a caring society, not a secret society but rather a fraternity with secrets. Our fraternity was world-wide, the greatest fraternity in the present free world. Brethren should always remember their obligations to help and care for the needy."

At the same meeting tribute was paid to Very Worshipful Brother Dick Campbell who had recently died. Both the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Assistant Grand Master spoke of the great service that he had given to Freemasonry over many years.

A happy event occurred in May 1988 when Wor. Bro. David Archibald completed fifty years membership of the Lodge. He received his first Degree on 28th May 1938 and served as Worshipful Master in 1950. Several distinguished Brethren were present at the communication held to celebrate the event including the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Harold Gough and the two Provincial Assistant Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Brothers William Long and Alex Smith. A fifty year Jewel was presented to Worshipful Brother Archibald by the Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Jim Holmes. At a reception held after the meeting, Right Worshipful Brother Long presented Worshipful Brother Archibald with an inscribed watch and paid tribute to his service to Freemasonry. Worshipful Brother Archibald continued his active interest in Lodge 589 whilst his health permitted. He passed away in February 1991.

In November 1989 the Lodge Secretary, Worshipful Brother Norman Doherty, was honoured by the Provincial Grand Master who conferred on him the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in recognition of his dedicated service to Freemasonry.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

The appointment of Right Worshipful Brother William Long as Provincial Grand Master of Londonderry and Donegal in succession to J.L. Rankin was announced at the January 1990 communication of the Lodge. The news of the appointment was received by acclamation and several Brethren expressed their pleasure at the high honour conferred on Right Worshipful Brother Long. A presentation of Tyrone Crystal and a Masonic watch was made to Right Worshipful Brother Long at the February communication. He was installed as Provincial Grand Master at a meeting of Grand Lodge held in the Apprentice Boys' Memorial Hall on 1st March 1990.

Worshipful Brother Alex Funston celebrated his 50th year as a member of Lodge 589 in May 1990. Worshipful Brother Funston was initiated on 24th May 1940 and served as Worshipful Master in 1954. A large number of Provincial Officers attended the Lodge meeting at which a presentation of a fifty year Jewel was made to him, these included the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Long, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother George Dunlop.

At the same meeting the Provincial Grand Master was presented with a new set of Cuffs and an Apron suitably decorated with the emblems of his office. At the conclusion of the meeting the Brethren adjourned to the McCurdy Room where a further presentation was made to Worshipful Brother Funston and his wife. Worshipful Brother Funston was appointed to Provincial Grand Lodge in 1993 as Provincial Grand Master's Standard Bearer.

Following his appointment as Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Long announced the appointment of Right Worshipful Brother George Dunlop as his Deputy and Right Worshipful Brothers Lawson Swinerton and Alex Smith as his Assistants. All four Brethren attended the meeting of Inch Lodge held on 25th October 1990 along with several other Provincial Grand officers.

The Lodge suffered a severe loss on 11th January 1991 with the sudden death of the Secretary, Very Worshipful Brother Norman Doherty. The minutes of the January communication express the sadness felt by the Brethren:

"The Worshipful Master then referred to the loss sustained by Lodge 589 in the sudden death of our Secretary, Very Worshipful Brother Norman, J. Doherty P.P.J.G.W. Worshipful Brother Cairns paid tribute to the work for 589 and other branches of our Order done by Very Worshipful Brother Doherty and stated that Norman would be greatly missed by all the members of 589, especially so many Junior Brethren who he encouraged to take a keen interest in our order at every opportunity."

Right Worshipful Brother Long also paid tribute. He reminded the Brethren that on his

installation night Very Worshipful Brother Doherty promised to be a caring Master and one year later promised to be a caring Secretary. He had been both and his standards had been of the highest."

Worshipful Brother Noel Drain was invested as Secretary in February 1991.

In June 1991 the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother George Dunlop presented a Certificate, issued by Grand Lodge, to 589. This document certifies that the Lodge has worked continuously since 1781. It is now the oldest Lodge meeting in the City of Londonderry.

Island of Inch Lodge has a proud and long tradition of Masonic Working stretching back over a period of two hundred and thirteen years. The light of Freemasonry kindled, on Inch Island in 1781 still shines today and will continue to do so for many years to come.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS OF ISLAND OF INCH
MASONIC LODGE 589

1781	JAMES CRAIG	1865 (2)	WILLIAM FLEMING
1782	JAMES McDOWELL	1866 (1)	WILLIAM FLEMING
1814	JOHN CRAIG	1866 (2)	JOHN FLEMING
1815	JOHN CRAIG	1867 (1)	JOHN FLEMING
1816	JOHN DERMOTT	1867 (2)	WILLIAM LYNCH
1817	JOHN CRAIG	1868 (1)	WILLIAM LYNCH
1819	JOHN DOUGHERTY	1868 (2)	JOHN FLEMING
1820	GEORGE WOLFE	1869 (1)	JOHN FLEMING
1821	GEORGE WOLFE	1869 (2)	SAMUEL EWING
1822	JOHN CRAIG	1870 (1)	SAMUEL EWING
1823	SAMUEL EWING	1870 (2)	JOHN FLEMING
1824	JOHN CRAIG	1871 (1)	JOHN FLEMING
1825	JOHN CRAIG	1871 (2)	JAMES LONGWILL
1826	JAMES GAY	1872 (1)	JAMES LONGWILL
1827	J.ANDERSON	1872 (2)	CUNNINGHAM WITHEROW
1828 (1)	J.ANDERSON	1873 (1)	CUNNINGHAM WITHEROW
1828 (2)	JOHN DERMOTT	1873 (2)	JOSEPH FLEMING
1829	JOHN DERMOTT	1874 (1)	JOSEPH FLEMING
1830	JOHN DERMOTT	1874 (2)	ROBERT HENDERSON
1831	JOHN CRAIG	1875	ROBERT HENDERSON
1832	JOHN CRAIG	1876	JOHN FLEMING
1833	JOHN ANDERSON	1877	JOHN FLEMING
1834	JOHN DERMOTT	1878	JOHN FLEMING
1835	JOHN DERMOTT	1879	JOHN FLEMING
1836	JOHN CRAIG	1880	JOHN FLEMING
1837	JOHN CRAIG	1881	JOSEPH FLEMING
1838	ROBERT EWING	1882	JOSEPH FLEMING
1839	ROBERT EWING	1883	JAMES LONGWILL
1840	JAMES CRESWELL	1884	JOHN FLEMING
1841	JAMES CRAIG	1885	JOHN FLEMING
1842	JAMES CRAIG	1886	ROBERT PORTER
1843	JOHN DERMOTT	1887	W.McCONNELL
1844	JOHN DERMOTT	1888	JAMES PORTER
1845	JAMES CRESWELL	1889	W.McELHINNEY
1846	JAMES CRESWELL	1890	JOHN McINTYRE
1847	JOHN DERMOTT	1891	JOHN McCONNELL
1848	JAMES CRESWELL	1892	ROBERT COOK
1849	THOMAS CRAIG	1893	JAMES McCONNELL
1850	JOHN DERMOTT	1894	T.COLQUHOUN
1851	JOHN DERMOTT	1895	JAMES McCONNELL
1852 (1)	ROBERT PORTER	1896	JOHN McCONNELL
1852 (2)	JAMES FLEMING	1897	JAMES BOND
1853	JAMES FLEMING	1898	JAMES McCONNELL
1854	WILLIAM FLEMING	1899	JAMES McCONNELL
1855	WILLIAM FLEMING	1900	THOMAS McCORKELL
1856	JAMES CRAIG	1901	THOMAS McCORKELL
1857	WILLIAM FLEMING	1902	STEWART HUGHES
1858	WILLIAM FLEMING	1903	GILMOUR FLEMING
1859	SAMUEL EWING	1904	THOMAS BELL
1860	ROBERT PORTER	1905	SAMUEL McClINTOCK
1861	WILLIAM FLEMING	1906	GILMOUR FLEMING
1862	JAMES FLEMING	1907	JAMES YOUNG
1863	WILLIAM FLEMING	1908	THOMAS McClINTOCK
1864 (1)	WILLIAM FLEMING	1909	JAMES LAMBERTON
1864 (2)	ROBERT PORTER	1910	JOHN McCREA
1865 (1)	ROBERT PORTER	1911	JAMES SIMPSON

1912	JAMES TOMB	1953	WILLIAM KINNEAR
1913	ROBERT NEELY	1954	ALEXANDER FUNSTON
1914	NORMAN McCLURE	1955	GERALD McCARTER
1915	HENRY SCOTT	1956	GEORGE McBRIDE
1916	GARNET WOLSELEY	1957	JAMES WALKER
1917	CAIRNS KNOX	1958	EDWARD MACROY
1918	FREDERICK WOLSELEY	1959	JOHN ANDERSON
1919	HUGH HENDERSON	1960	JOSEPH FORSYTHE
1920	HARRY LITTLE	1961	FRANK CAREY
1921	JOHN WHITESIDE	1962	ROBERT McFARLAND
1922	HARRY GARVIN	1963	WILLIAM GRAHAM
1923	WILLIAM FLEMING	1964	NORMAN McCONAGHY
1924	JOHN BURNSIDE	1965	SAMUEL EDWARDS
1925	WILLIAM POYNTZ	1966	WILLIAM KERR
1926	WILLIAM HENDERSON	1967	THOMAS HENRY
1927	WILLIAM BOYD	1968	WILLIAM LONG
1928	LOWRY BOYD	1969	ROBERT BELL
1929	THOMAS McDOWELL	1970	HERBERT REYNOLDS
1930	ANDREW STEELE	1971	VICTOR BROWN
1931	JOHN HARLEY	1972	JOSEPH McNULTY
1932	ALBERT CRESWELL	1973	NOEL GUY
1933	WILLIAM STEELE	1974	MALCOLM CAMPBELL
1934	CAULFIELD WILSON	1975	ROBERT ORR
1935	WILLIAM SHANNON	1976	JOHN THOMPSON
1936	ROBERT FERGUSON	1977	IVAN ARCHIBALD
1937	GEORGE BLAIR	1978	MURRAY DIXON
1938	THOMAS McBRIDE	1979	JOHN McPHERSON
1939	RICHARD CAMPBELL	1980	NOEL SIMPSON
1940	EDWARD McCLURE	1981	MOORE ADAIR
1941	SAMUEL PERCIVAL	1982	JOHN CAREY
1942	ROBERT CULLEY	1983	NORMAN DOHERTY
1943	SAMUEL McCONNELL	1984	WILLIAM WILSON
1944	ROBERT STEWART	1985	FRANK CAREY
1945	DANIEL KEOWN	1986	LAWRENCE GAMBLE
1946	ALEXANDER SMYTH	1987	DEREK WOODS
1947	JOSEPH WALLACE	1988	JAMES HOLMES
1948	REGINALD McWILLIAMS	1989	NOEL DRAIN
1949	JOHN LOVE	1990	WILLIAM CAIRNS
1950	DAVID ARCHIBALD	1991	IAN BARTLETT
1951	SAMUEL BUCHANAN	1992	ROY THOMPSON
1952	SAMUEL WILLIAMSON	1993	KENNETH HUNTER

1994 ALBERT GRAHAM

- NOTES: (1) THERE ARE NO RECORDS OF THE NAMES OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTERS FOR THE PERIOD 1783 TO 1813
- (2) THE NUMBERS IN BRACKETS AFTER THE YEAR INDICATE THAT TWO WORSHIPFUL MASTERS WERE INSTALLED IN THOSE YEARS TO SERVE FOR SIX MONTHS.
- (3) THE NAMES OF THE MASTERS FOR THE PERIOD 1863 TO 1874 HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE LODGE MINUTES. IT IS, IN SOME CASES, NOT CLEAR IF THE PERSON NAMED IN THE MINUTES AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER WAS THE ACTUAL ELECTED MASTER OR WAS ACTING IN THAT OFFICE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE ACTUAL MASTER.

MEMBERS OF ISLAND OF INCH LODGE No.589 AS OF JULY 1994

NAME	INIT.	NAME	INIT.
A.FUNSTON.	24/05/40	S.J.A.COLHOUN	25/06/76
W.A.STARRETT.	26/03/43 (A)	Q.KEE	22/10/76
A.McDADE.	23/04/43	W.S.CAIRNS	22/10/76
J.FRAINEY.	28/05/43	J.CAREY	22/10/76(A)
R.BELL.	22/06/45	K.F.HUNTER.	17/12/76
F.H.CAREY.	22/06/45	W.A.McNEILL.	24/02/78
R.L.SMYTH.	26/04/46	D.I.BARTLETT.	23/06/78
W.LONG.	23/05/47	J.A.HAWTHORNE.	23/09/78
V.S.BROWN.	24/11/50	A.S.GRAHAM.	23/09/78
S.J.McCLINTOCK.	25/02/55	O.McCOMBE.	11/10/78
R.THOMPSON.	22/04/55	T.A.MOORE.	27/10/78
W.J.DENNING.	16/12/55	G.CALDWELL.	23/11/79
J.LYTTLE.	25/05/56	P.W.ADAMSON.	23/11/79
W.T.SMYTH.	27/09/57	A.R.CRAWFORD.	28/12/79
W.SHERRARD.	28/02/58	F.MARCHINI.	25/04/80
R.HAMILTON.	26/09/58	M.HOLMES.	27/06/80
J.R.GUY.	25/09/59	D.CORBETT	27/03/81
R.J.ORR.	23/04/60	J.McFADDEN	27/03/81
J.B.DOHERTY.	23/02/62	J.HAZLETT	10/07/81
S.MARSHALL.	28/06/63	D.AYTON	25/06/82
J.THOMPSON.	27/03/64	R.THOMPSON	19/02/83
W.J.McLUCAS.	26/06/64	S.A.LESLIE	17/02/84
D.I.ARCHIBALD.	22/10/65	T.COWAN	17/02/84
J.A.ALLEN.	26/11/65	T.V.HEATLEY	25/05/84
J.A.McGOUGH.	23/06/67	W.McCLEMENTS	22/03/85
S.R.HARRISON.	24/01/69 (A)	J.GAULT	24/01/86
J.J.McPHERSON.	26/06/70	S.SIMPSON	23/05/86
G.L.SUMRA	27/08/70	W.O.FUNSTON	24/02/87
J.M.ADAIR	27/08/70	D.S.GILLESPIE	24/02/87
N.SIMPSON	25/06/71	R.G.LAVERY	27/03/87
S.J.V.CAREY	23/02/73	S.J.HYND	27/01/89
W.W.WILSON	22/02/74	R.R.MITCHELL	17/02/89
L.A.GAMBLE	25/10/74	A.W.GRAHAM	24/02/78
D.N.WOODS	25/10/74	D.C.S.ALLEN	25/01/91
J.D.HOLMES	28/02/75	R.J.LYNCH	22/02/92
N.A.DRAIN	28/11/75	G.N.SIMPSON	27/03/92
K.PARKHILL	19/12/75	A.BIRNEY	24/05/94
W.McCLAY	19/12/75	A.FUNSTON	23/06/94

(A) - AFFILIATED

MASONIC LODGES IN THE PROVINCE OF LONDONDERRY AND DONEGAL

LODGE	WARRANTED LODGE	WARRANTED
16 KILREA	02/05/1805	404 PORTSTEWART 13/12/1906
42 MAGHERA	12/03/1907	407 RAMELTON 02/07/1812
52 LONDONDERRY	05/11/1849	438 RAPHOE 20/03/1868
63 LONDONDERRY	08/06/1891	477 LONDONDERRY 05/03/1920
69 LONDONDERRY	07/12/1814	496 DESERTMARTIN 07/12/1920
100 LONDONDERRY	/1992	506 CASTLEDAWSON 09/06/1921
102 STRABANE	/1809	515 LONDONDERRY 10/06/1921
127 COLERAINE	06/11/1857	522 KILLYBEGS 13/10/1921
138 LONDONDERRY	20/03/1871	531 MONEYMORE 06/06/1776
164 LONDONDERRY	18/04/1850	532 CURRAN 06/06/1776
191 LONDONDERRY	02/10/1896	554 CAMPSIE 03/03/1923
196 LONDONDERRY	18/12/1882	588 DONEGAL 05/04/1781
211 MAGHERAFELT	12/04/1866	589 LONDONDERRY 03/05/1781
235 COLERAINE	17/06/1885	590 BALLYRONAN 09/10/1924
256 DONEMANA	01/11/1810	640 LONDONDERRY 10/02/1785
271 LETTERKENNY	05/09/1873	716 COLERAINE 05/06/1947
281 ST.JOHNSTON	03/10/1822	719 LIMAVADY 11/01/1860
287 BALLYSHANNON	03/10/1890	754 COLERAINE 02/02/1792
291 BELLAGHY	07/12/1900	778 DONEMANA 04/10/1955
297 MOVILLE	04/10/1900	779 GARVAGH 16/10/1947
309 TUBBERMORE	04/12/1902	784 LONDONDERRY 01/03/1956
316 AGHADOWEY	20/03/1877	910 LIMAVADY /1991
320 CULMORE	06/12/1889	913 COLERAINE /1991
341 STRANORLAR	12/03/1912	940 COLERAINE 12/06/1928
366 LIMAVADY	05/10/1903	941 CASTLEROCK 07/06/1945

SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF INCH ISLAND

Inch Island in County Donegal lies approximately nine miles North West of the City of Londonderry. The Island is connected to the mainland by a causeway which was completed in 1848 and is accessed from the main road between Burnfoot and Fahan.

One of the most interesting buildings on the Island is the Castle, now a ruin, which was built about 1430 by Neachtan O'Donnell who was the son in law of the O'Doherty, Chief of Inishowen. The now ruined Castle stands on the Southern edge of the Island on a small ridge protected by a steep cliff on the South and West and by a steep slope on the North. The Jewel presented to Past Masters of Island of Inch Lodge features a representation of the Castle.

In 1454 Rury O'Donnell ordered Donnell O'Donnell, his rival for the Lordship of Tirconnel, to be burnt alive inside the castle, but the latter escaped and defeated Rury's forces, thus obtaining the lordship for himself.

There is a large cairn in the centre of the Island, known locally as the King's Grave. It is said to be the grave of Fergus McRoy, King of the Red Branch Knights.

The Island was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester at the time of the Plantation of Ulster. His nephew was the first Earl of Donegall, an ancestor of the Past Grand Master of Ireland, The Marquess of Donegall. The Chichester family built Inch House in 1701 as a hunting lodge and retained possession of it until the early 1920's.

Most of the land on the Island was leased by the Chichesters to members of the Fleming family. They had settled in the area in about 1690 and were very active in the Lodge.

In July 1689 the ships sent from England to relieve the Siege of Londonderry sailed into Lough Swilly and anchored off Inch. They sailed from Inch into Lough Foyle and eventually brought much needed relief to the besieged City.

In 1813, on the North point, opposite Rathmullan, a fort was erected to counter the threat of a Napoleonic invasion. The fort had accommodation for one officer and twenty seven soldiers. In 1920 it was occupied by "Irregulars" some of whom were responsible for the raid on Inch Masonic Hall. It is said that they were forced out of the fort by soldiers of the Free State Army who borrowed a heavy gun from the British and shelled the fort from Fahan pier.



Bro. Robert Hamilton &
Wor. Bro. Victor Brown
Prior to laying a wreath
at the
Lodge Roll of Honour
on
11th November 1988.



Wor. Bro. Alex Funston (Left)
Pictured with
V. Wor. Bro. George Blair.

Wor. Bro. Funston celebrated
fifty years membership in May
1990 and was appointed
Provincial Grand Master's
Standard Bearer in 1993.



Photograph taken in May 1988 at the Lodge meeting held to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the initiation of W. Bro. David Archibald. W. Bro. Archibald is seated third from the right.



Photograph taken in May 1991 at the Lodge meeting held to mark the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the Initiation of V. W. Bro. George Blair.

Standing: Bro. A. Graham, W. Bro. A. Funston, R. W. Bro. J. Moore, R. W. Bro. J. Dunlop, V. W. Bro. A. Colhoun, W. Bro. N. Drain, W. Bro. N. Simpson, Bro. D. Aytton, V. W. Bro. J. January, W. Bro. D. Hamilton, V. W. Bro. W. Giboney, Bro. R. Lavery, V. W. Bro. T. Houston, W. Bro. W. Wilson, V. W. Bro. H. Smith, W. Bro. W. Cairns & Bro. A. Crawford.

Front Row from Left: Bro. R. Thompson, R. W. Bro. G. Dunlop, P.D.G.M., R. W. Bro. W. Long, P.G.M., W. Bro. I. Bartlett, V. W. Bro. G. Blair, R. W. Bro. Harold Gough, P.P.D.G.M., Bro. K. Hunter.



V. W. Bro. James Bolton
Lodge Secretary 1910 - 1924
and Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden



W. Bro. Garnet Wolseley
Lodge Secretary 1924 - 1935



V. W. Bro. Harry Little, P.P.G.W.
First representative from the Lodge
to serve on the committee of
the Derry Masonic Fund



W. Bro. Cairns Knox
who illuminated the Lodge Roll of
Honour which hangs in the Foyer of
the Masonic Hall in Londonderry



V. W. Bro. Richard Campbell
Lodge Secretary 1942 - 1974
Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden



W. Bro. Noel Guy
Lodge Secretary 1977- 1982



R.W. Bro Caulfield Wilson
Permanent Provincial Grand Director of
Ceremonies & Representative of the
Grand Lodge of Alberta at the
Grand Lodge of Ireland



V. W. Bro. Norman Doherty
Lodge Secretary 1984 - 1991
Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden



INCH MASONIC LODGE

No. 589.

17th Nov 1909

Dear Sir and Brother *Longden*
A Stated Communication of above

Lodge will be held in Inch Masonic Hall, on
Saturday 9th day of Nov
at 5.30 o'clock p.m., for the transaction of such
business as shall regularly be brought before it.

Yours fraternally,

J. H. Longden P.M.,
Secretary.

Dues, £ 5.00

Arrears

Bro

James Simpson

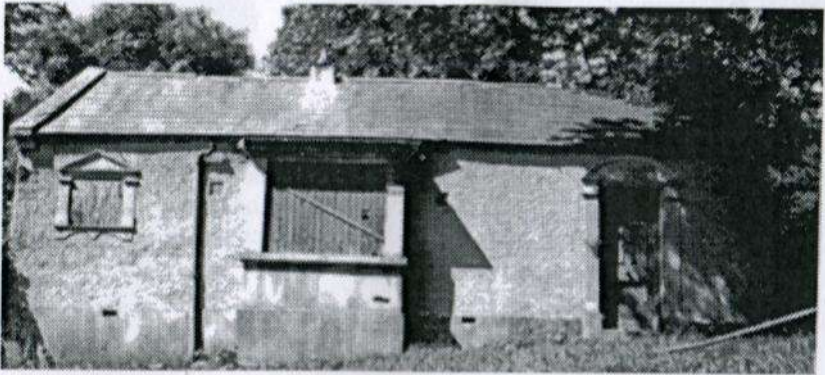
Lodge Circular dated 17th November 1909.
Note that the Annual Dues were five shillings.



Frontispiece of the oldest extant set of Lodge Bye-Laws printed in 1896

Front Cover of Menu used for 175th Installation Dinner on Friday, 25th January 1957





The Masonic Hall on Inch Island
which was built in 1846
and substantially renovated in 1915



Inch Hall today







Removal of Foundation Stone from Inch



Bishop Street Freemasons Hall 2020