

The United Industrious Lodge, No. 31 Canterbury was formed in 1819 by the union of the two lodges then existent in the City - the Industrious Lodge, whose number in that year, was 416, and Lodge 37, whose original number was 24. Documentary evidence of these two lodges exists in the form of the Treasurer's account book of the Industrious Lodge; of the minutes of Lodge 24 from the year of its origin in Canterbury until its union with the Industrious Lodge in 1819, and of a complete record of the minutes of the United Lodges up to the present date, with the exception of the minute book in use at the time of the blith on Canterbury.

The Industrious Lodge was warranted on November 28<sup>th</sup> 1776 by the regular Grand Lodge known as the Moderns, and held its first meetings at the Gleece Inn on The Parade. Its original number was 498; four years later it became 403; in 1781-404, and in 1792-326. This number it retained until the Union of the two Grand Lodges, when it became 416 on the united rolls.

On March 24<sup>th</sup> 1806, another lodge was formed in the City under the Athol Constitution, its number being 24. This number originally belonged to a Bristol lodge, which was warranted in 1753, and held its meetings at the Edinburgh Castle, Marsh Street, Bristol, but which is stated to have lapsed about 1765. In 1813 the number of the lodge in Canterbury became 37.

Both these lodges in the City had considerable periods of prosperity, but by 1816 their membership had considerably fallen, and lodge 37 suggested to the sister lodge that they might profitably join forces "owing to the decline of Masonry in the City with the view that it would greatly benefit the Craft." This proposition was considered by the Industrious Lodge but not acceded to.

Three years later a joint meeting of the two lodges was held to reconsider the matter, it was decided to form a union working under the Warrant of Lodge 37, and with the title of the United Industrious.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> 1819, the first regular meeting of the United Industrious Lodge was held at the Sarcen's Head, now demolished.

In 1832, the number of the lodge became 34, and in 1863 intimation was received from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, that the lodge would in future stand on the registers as No. 31.

In January 1877, it was proposed, and carried: "That the lodge cordially recommends that a Royal Arch Chapter should be attached to it."

About two years later permission for the members of the Lodge to wear the Centenary Jewel was granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. The Centenary Warrant dated December 16<sup>th</sup> 1878, stating that the two parent lodges had united in 1819 "with the authority of Grand Lodge."

In the same year the members of the three Canterbury Lodges, the United Industrious, S<sup>t</sup>. Augustine and Royal Military, <sup>decided</sup> to construct a Temple on their premises at 38, S<sup>t</sup>. Peter's Street and on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1880,

the foundation stone was laid by the Mayor, Worshipful Brother  
Mooney, a Past Master of Lodge 31.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, a Lodge was held by the Provincial Grand Master,  
the Viscount Cholmondeley for the Consecration and Dedication of  
the building to Freemasonry. R.W. Bro.

In 1926 our Provincial Grand Master, Col. J. S. W. Cornwallis  
was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1926 was the occasion of the celebration  
of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Industrious Lodge, No. 31.

Divine Service was held at Holy Cross Church previous to the opening  
of the Lodge and an address was given to the Brethren by the Worshipful  
Master, W. Bro. the Rev. Norman Lytett Lytett, M.A., Rector of Chatham.

The Provincial Grand Master of Kent, R.W. Bro. J. S. W. Cornwallis, Deputy  
Grand Master of England was present at the Lodge meeting, at which  
W. Bro. W. Weston, P. Prov. D.G.D.C., and D.C. of the Lodge read a history of the  
Lodge. The verbatim reports of the address given at the church and of  
this paper are in the minute book.

In 1928 W. Bro. W. Biggleston presented the Lodge with a silver  
I.P.M.'s jewel which had come to him from his father, W. Bro. W. M. Biggleston  
with the engraving, "W. Bro. Philip Biggleston, United Industrious Lodge, No. 31,  
commemorative of the Installation of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, April 28<sup>th</sup> 1875

A member of the Lodge, W. Bro. W. Poole, T.D., B.A., F.R.S.S., P.A.G.  
was appointed by the Trustees, Prestonian Lecturer for 1932. Chap.

In April 1934 W. Bro. J. Amos, then Secretary, on the death  
of a Miss Pout was given the jewel on the collar of the Secretary  
to-day. This is silver and the date stamped on the jewel is 1785.

In April 1935, Bro. P. W. Arthur, J.W., gave a recital on the  
organ presented by W. Bro. J. Amos and W. Bro. W. Biggleston  
This organ, made by Hugh Russell, was discovered in an Auction  
Sale Room at Tenterden. It came from the Old Meeting House  
at Tenterden, a place of worship. The cost to these two Brethren  
was ten pounds, the organ is dated 1789, and is in use in the  
Temple to-day.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1935, the Provincial Grand Master of Kent,  
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, passed away after a life  
of public service to Kent and the Country.

His son, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, M.C., P.B.W.,  
was appointed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master  
to be Provincial Grand Master of Kent.

On Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1936, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis  
Provincial Grand Master of Kent, honoured the Lodge with his  
presence for the Raising of Bro. Desmond Biggleston, son of  
the Treasurer, W. Bro. W. Biggleston, P. Prov. J.G.W. The Provincial  
Grand Master presented Bro. Biggleston with the Centenary Jewel  
of the Lodge which had belonged to Bro. Biggleston's grandfather.

W. Bro. Henry Moss Biggleston.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1936, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, M.C., J.P., P.G.W., Provincial Grand Master of Kent, was elected an Honorary Member.

The Cantuarian Lodge, No. 5733, was consecrated on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1938. This was instigated by Bro. Birley, a member of the Lodge and Headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury, and brought to fruition during the Headmastership of Bro. the Rev. J. Shirley (Canon). W. Bro. J. M. Furley, P.A.G.D.C., was the first Worshipful Master.

After the War, in on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1941, Bro R. J. Jenyns the Junior Warden was giving the charge in the first degree, when a big explosion from a German land mine nearby shook the Temple. The Brethren continued with the charge, completely unperturbed.

Bro R. J. Scarff, P. Pro. G. Purser, an Honorary member, was Tyler of the Lodge from 1922 to 1938 and again from 1940 to 1945. He and his wife were responsible for the catering at the lodge from 1922 to 1938 and did a remarkably fine job.

During the War the following Brethren of the Lodge lost their lives by enemy action — Brothers D. D. Starr, B. Taylor and D. Biggleston.

In 1947 some boxes of dried fruits, currants, sultanas and raisins were received both from the Bardross Lodge, No. 2586 Australia and the Rakia Lodge, No. 31, New Zealand, Constitution, which is near Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand. These were much appreciated at a time of scarcity of food in this country, and were distributed amongst the Brethren.

In the Autumn of 1946 The Canterbury Masonic Trust under the chairmanship of W. Bro. O. P. Dawton (Lodge No. 31) convened a meeting of all Lodges and Chapters meeting at No. 38 St. Peter's Street, to consider the need of improving the ancillary accommodation at the Temple. It was decided to go ahead and the method of financing the operation was agreed. Plans were prepared embracing the demolition of the staircase and hall and the caretaker's quarters. On the space so provided, to erect an Assembly and Robing Room with Tyler's lodge, toilets and cupboard accommodation with a back entrance to the premises. Also an easy rise staircase to a large dining room seating 120 and a modern fully equipped kitchen, the latter having an outside staircase to the car park. A second Lodge of Instruction room (Black room) was provided from the old Robing Room. Central heating was installed to both old and new accommodation. Outside, a parcel of land was acquired from the City Council

to enlarge the existing car park. On the new establishment was opened by the The Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, Provincial Grand Master, and a memorial tablet was affixed to the wall of the Assembly Room.

#### Masonic meetings.

\* On the outbreak of War in Sept 1939 masonic meetings, by order of Grand Lodge were discontinued for a period of two months

○ for masons using the temple.