

FREEMASONRY IN BERWICK

For the History Society's January meeting The Worshipful Master, Chaplain and Junior Warden of the town's St. David's 393 Masonic Lodge gave an illustrated lecture on 'The History of Freemasonry in Berwick-upon-Tweed.'

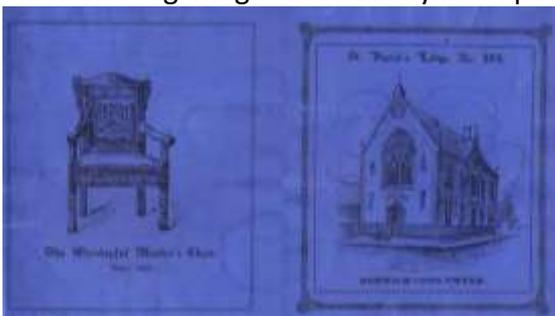
Steve Newman told us that although it is difficult to be precise the origin of Freemasonry in Scotland possibly goes back to 1307 when the Knights Templars fled there from France. They are thought to have amalgamated with the stonemasons guilds. There are suggestions that Templars took part in both the Battle of Falkirk and fought on the English side at Bannockburn.

Apparently Freemasonry in Berwick can be traced back to 1641 using Masonic evidence around the town including a plaque in Tweedmouth Parish Church recording the laying of the foundation stone by members of St. Cuthbert's Lodge No. 133 in 1789. Research suggests that lodges used to meet in various hostelries and private rooms before the building of the Masonic Hall in 1884

An interesting aspect raised was how much information can be found when tracing family history and work is being undertaken by Linda Bankier in transferring the information held at St David's lodge to the Berwick Record's Office for use by the public, for this purpose.

The presentation was both interesting and thought provoking and was brought to a close with numerous questions and answers.

The following images have kindly been provided by Steve Newman



The Worshipful Master's Chair with a date inscription of 1641, still held in the Berwick-upon-Tweed St David's lodge No 393



Linda Bankier, local Archivist at St David's Lodge transferring information for the Berwick Record's Office



Inside the Temple at the Berwick Lodge

Comprehensive details about the Masonic Hall in Berwick can be found at :-

<http://www.stdavids393.org.uk/>

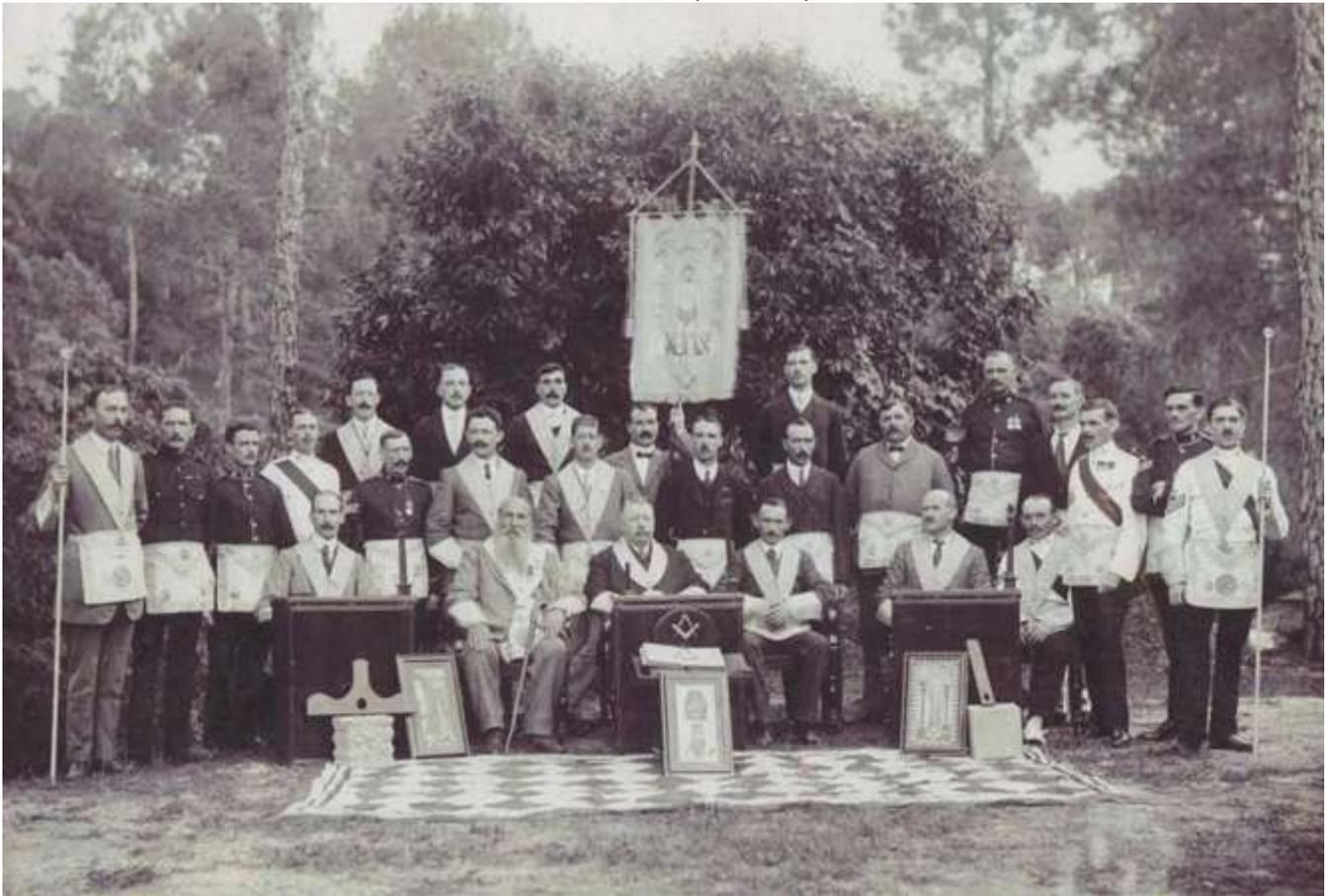


There is much debate about the origins of Freemasonry. Our logo is granted to every lodge that celebrates its centenary and you will see it has a knotted rope format. If you look too at the flag of Portugal you will see this same format behind the shield. This is a Templar symbol and as modern day Freemasonry started in Scotland it lends credence to the theory that Freemasonry grew out of medieval stonemasons guilds and the influence of the Templars who fled to Scotland after the despoilation on Friday 13th (Hence the superstition.) 1307.

The only other country in Europe where the Tempars fled to was Portugal. Nothing can be proved of course but it's interesting isn't it? Then of course there's Rosslyn Chapel!!

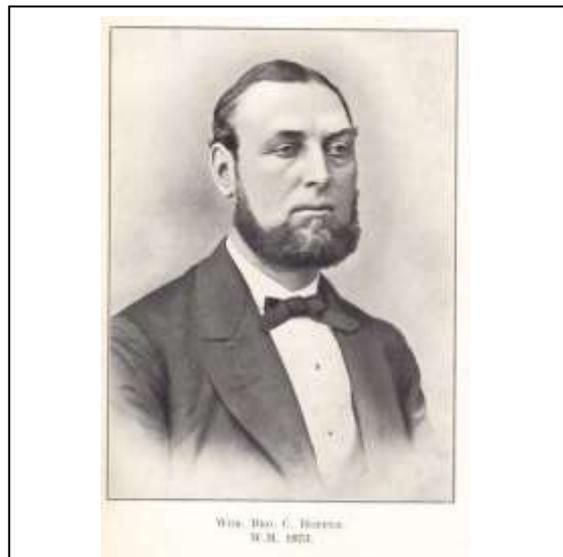
Knights Templar Berwick

Members of the KSOB in Masonic uniform – If anyone can add any details of location or members, Linda Bankier and Steve Newman would be delighted to hear from you.
Note the Chequered carpet!



Examples of records and the details available of previous Freemasons C 1873 at the Masonic Lodge in Berwick

HARVEY	Robert Carr	Castlegate, Berwick	Matchmaker
HEAGERTY	Daniel	Tweedmouth, Northumberland	Surgeon
HENDERSON	William	Castlegate, Berwick	Attorney Clerk
HERON	Henry Trotter	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Clerk
HIMSWORTH	Henry	Broom House, Beal, Northumberland	Gentleman
HOLMES	Ralph Seddon	Bridge Street, Berwick	Fishmonger
HOLMES	Sydney Mann	Ord Hill, Berwick	Farmer
HOPPER	Christopher	Station, Berwick	Hotel Keeper
HORNE	Eugene	Horndean, Berwick	Farmer
JACKSON	Thomas John	London	Traveller
JOBSON	James	Seremerston, Berwick	Signal Inspector N.E.R.
JOHNSTON	John Berry	Red Lion, Berwick	Hotel Keeper
JOHNSTON	Thomas	High Street, Berwick	Brass Founder
KEELING	William Wortley Frank	Holy Island, Northumberland	Vicar
LAMB	George Manners	Woolmarket, Berwick	Plumber
LAMBERT	Robert	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Auctioneer
LEWENS	Thomas	Grey Street, Berwick	Tobacconist
LOGAN	William Archbold	Hide Hill, Berwick	Wine Merchant
LUGTON	Thomas Wright	High Street, Berwick	Clothier
McADAM	Robert Patrick	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Carpenter
MACKAY	James	Sandgate, Berwick	Physician
MAKINS	Charles	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Clerk
MALTMAN	Johnston	Church Street, Berwick	Mariner
MARSHALL	Abraham	High Bridge, Newcastle	Carpenter
MARSHALL	James	Broadmeadows, Berwick	Farmer
MARSHALL	Thomas	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Farmer
MEIN	James	Lamberton, Berwick	Farmer
MILLER	Alexander Lorimer	Sandgate, Berwick	Auctioneer
MILNE	William	Newmills, Berwick	Miller
McINTYRE	Peter Slater	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Chemist
MONTGOMERY	James	Willington Quay, Newcastle	Butcher
MOOR	George	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Fell Monger
MORRISON	Thomas Marshall	High Street, Berwick	Draper
MOSCROP	Andrew	Central Station, Newcastle	Inspector N.E.Ry.
OCONNELL	William Frederick	Quay Walls, Berwick	Schoolmaster
OSWALD	Alexander Thomas	Ravensdowne, Berwick	Ship Broker
PATON	Chalmers Izett	Princes Street, Edinburgh	Printer
PATTERSON	John	Spittal, Berwick	Mariner
PATTISON	Thomas How	Woolmarket, Berwick	Painter
PETERS	Henry Alder	Ravensdowne, Berwick	Solicitor
POWELL	Edward John Williams	Farne Islands, Northumberland	Light Keeper
PRATT	George	Foul Ford, Berwick	Engineer
PROCTOR	Thomas	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Vicar
RENTON	John Campbell	Tweedmouth, Berwick	Mariner
RICHARDSON	John	Woolmarket, Berwick	Painter



Two Masonic members that were present as part of the laying of the Foundation stone on the Berwick pier.

