

LODGE BANNOCKBURN

BRUCE & THISTLE

No. 312

1824 - 1974

HISTORY

of

LODGE BANNOCKBURN
BRUCE & THISTLE No. 312

on the Roll of

THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND

Compiled from the Records

by

Bro. WILLIAM LITTLE

Lodge No. 312

FROM GRAND MASTER MASON

I have read with very great interest the excellent history of Lodge Bruce and Thistle, No. 312, and commend it, not only to the members of the Lodge, but also to all those who are interested in the history of our Scottish Craft and the way in which it has developed over the years. It is a fact that Scottish Freemasonry has the oldest Lodge records in the world, spanning as they do very nearly 400 years, that have in them a wealth of historical interest which reflects the ups and downs in the history of the Scottish nation. This history of Lodge Bruce and Thistle will in its turn add to the colourful histories and funds of knowledge that are available to all those who are proud and interested in our Scottish Craft.

D. LIDDELL GRAINGER,

Grand Master Mason.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I offer you, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, warmest congratulations on attaining the 150th Anniversary of your foundation. The excellent history of the Lodge over such a long period is of great interest and inspiration to all in the Province, and indeed beyond. The proud record of your progress and achievements over these years reflects the quality and devotion to the Craft of the Brethren of Lodge Bruce and Thistle No. 312. We would wish you continuing success and prosperity in the years to come.

HECTOR C. CAMPBELL,

Provincial Grand Master.

TO
R.W.M., WARDENS, OFFICE-BEARERS and BRETHREN
of
LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE AND THISTLE
No. 312

Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 extends Heartiest Congratulations on your Lodge having attained its 150th Anniversary and wish your Lodge every success and prosperity in the years to come. During its long existence your Lodge members have been faithful in their efforts to keep Lodge Bruce and Thistle in the forefront of Freemasonry and at the present time the members are congratulated on the very enthusiastic manner they are keeping up the standard set by their predecessors, not only in Lodge Work but also by their social activities which are also benefitting the Lodge financially. The friendship which has existed between our two Lodges has existed for many years, but for a number of years now that friendship has been further cemented by the introduction of an annual visitation between the lodges which, we trust, and hope, will continue for many more years.

Bro. WALTER L. HANNAH, R.W.M.

Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30.

HISTORY

“This night the Brethren in the house of Hugh Paterson met, for the purpose of electing Office-bearers, according to the request of The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and, having unanimously chosen John Banks President for the night’s proceedings, the following persons were elected Office-bearers:—

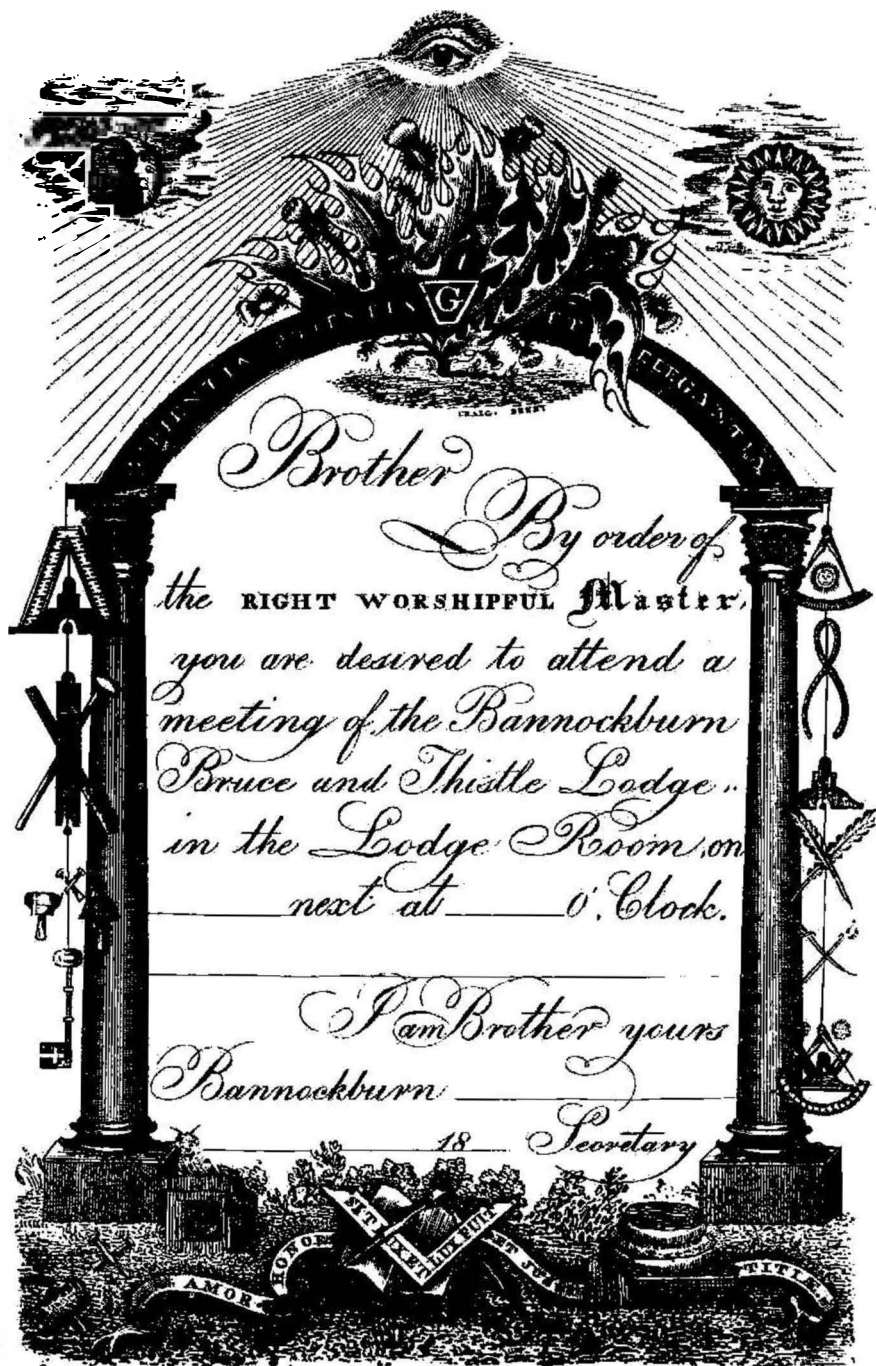
Thomas Crawford, Master
John Ferguson, Depute Master
William McAllister, Senior Warden
John Wilson, Junior Warden
James Dobbie, Treasurer
William Denovan, Secretary
John Banks, Steward
John McCulloch, Auditor
David McQew, Tylor.”

That is the first Minute Book Record of Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge, now numbering 312 in The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was recorded 150 years ago.

The Lodge has continued in the “Town,” with the name of such great historic significance to Scotland, since that time.

Any organisation of men that has stood the test of time from just after the Battle of Waterloo to the landing of the first men on the moon, must surely have contributed something worthwhile to the well-being of the community.

The nineteen founders when they met first in the house of James Anderson, Innkeeper, Newmarket, Bannockburn, to hold a Lodge of Brethren assembled and to formulate in Bannockburn the high ideal which is the foundation of Freemasonry, may not have imagined that their Lodge, started also as a Friendly Society, would continue in strength and be on its way to the second century of its existence.



Brother
By order of
the **RIGHT WORSHIPFUL Master,**
you are desired to attend a
meeting of the Bannockburn
Bruce and Thistle Lodge
in the Lodge Room, on
next at _____ o' Clock.

I am Brother yours
Bannockburn _____
18 _____ Secretary

It is fitting after perusing the known Records and Minute Books of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle to pay tribute to the historians of the Lodge represented by a long line of excellent Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers. Not all of the Records are in copper-plate handwriting, for many of the early members were weavers and could not record the Minutes as men of letters.

But shining through the Records, however presented, is the fact that Lodge Bruce and Thistle has been ever-mindful of charity—with top priority always being given to the less fortunate brethren, in sickness or other distressed circumstances, their widows and orphans.

The basic industry in the village of Bannockburn at the beginning of the 19th Century was the weaving of cloth. The occupations of 13 of the 19 founder members were—Manufacturers (2), Weavers (8), Wapers (3). The fees due at this time on being initiated as a Fellow Craft and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason were ten shillings, a not inconsiderable sum then.

The first name to be recorded as initiated as a member, dues paid, was Thomas Crawford, Plasterer, Stirling, the first R.W.M., as stated in the Minute of the first meeting on 6th November, 1824. It is probable that he was connected with a Stirling Lodge.

There has always been some speculation on how the "Thistle" became incorporated, along with the natural desire to have the famous Scottish hero King Robert the Bruce, forever linked with the name of Bannockburn. It may be of some significance, in attempting to discover why "Thistle" should be chosen—apart from the more obvious connotation of its being one of the National Emblems of Scotland—to record this fact. Some of the early meetings were held at "Sister Denovan's" and her "Crown and Thistle" Inn was at the end of Newmarket.

Meetings, many of which were in the homes of members in the early days, were not so frequent as in recent times.



R.W.M. James Smith and Office-Bearers for the year 1973-74 of Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge No. 312

But the Brethren attended many more public occasions, particularly the laying of foundation stones.

Brethren of Bruce and Thistle attended such ceremonies as at the new bridge over the Forth at Stirling in 1831; at the Wallace Monument in 1861; at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1870; and the Smith Arts Museum at Stirling in 1871.

Gifts to the Lodge from members were many in the early years and it is recorded that on the return from their visit to Edinburgh in 1870 one of the deputation, Bro. E. L. Wilson, R.W.M., presented a handsome mahogany mallet with ebony handle and Senior and Junior Wardens' Pillars.

The history of Scotland and the changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution can be traced from the Minute Books of the Lodge during the Nineteenth Century. The start of the working of coal in local pits could be seen in the number of miners who joined the Craft.

There were those who joined the emigrating Scots who were to make new lives for themselves and families in Canada and Australia.

Many of these Brethren were raised through all the Degrees to become Master Masons at one emergency meeting—a speedy arrangement also made for many soldier members going on active service.

The social and harmony ideal of Freemasonry has never been neglected by Bruce and Thistle in going from labour to refreshment. The changing social aspect can be traced through concerts, dances after St. John's Festivals, a cinematograph show, summer drives in charabancs, Masonic Balls, and on to the present 312 Social Club.

After Bruce and Thistle had taken a Lodge Room on its own instead of meeting mostly in members' houses they frequently let their premises to other organisations and societies to assist them in their formative years at the end of the Nineteenth Century. They included The Free Gardeners, The Y.M.C.A. for Sabbath morning meetings and also the let of their premises as a reading room.



Bro. JAMES A. SMITH, R.W.M.

The Lodge received help on many occasions from Bro. Col. Wilson, who owned the weaving mills for tartans in Bannockburn (providing storage space for Lodge possessions, etc.) and to other members of the Wilson Mills family.

In 1826 the Brethren attended the laying of the Foundation Stone of James Wilson's Mill. The exact location of this Mill is not known but could it have been the Royal George Mill Building in which the present Lodge Temple is situated?

Indeed, there is a lintel in the building with the date 1826.

The Lodge considered the building of a new Temple at the turn of the Nineteenth Century instead of renting a Lodge Room.

One of those rented and in use for many years was the building at the corner of Main Street and Kirk Wynd, near the old Ladywell Church, later the Murrayfield U.F. Church.

The Lodge decided, however, to rent as a hall the upper storey of the Old Town Hall and their first meeting in these premises was in February 1904.

During the Centenary Year of the Lodge (1924) the Brethren were in the midst of negotiations to purchase their present Masonic Hall premises at the Royal George Mill and to raise money to renovate it.

This was probably why no Thanksgiving Service and Dinner was held in that Centenary Year. The decision was taken to combine the Consecration of the new Masonic Temple with the Centenary Celebrations the following year on 24th April, 1925.

In a closely-knit community like Bannockburn, son has followed father into the Fellowship of the Craft during the 150 years of its existence as a Lodge.



Old Bannockburn—An unusual view of Main Street, Bannockburn, taken at the turn of the century from the Clock Tower of the former Ladywell Church, now Murrayfield U.F. Church. The Lodge Room of Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle was at one time in Main Street

The Brethren of the Lodge have always been ready and willing to give a practical token of their sympathy to those in distress. When three Brethren died in the Plean Pit explosion in 1922 special payments were made to their wives or dependents.

In the immediate years after the Second World War there were understandably many more candidates to join the Craft after long absences from home of serving men in the Forces.

Greater visitation between Lodges, no doubt because of improved transport in the motor car era, was also a feature of the post War years.

This short history is more of a sketch of its idealistic work during the first 150 years. Some happenings have been left unrecorded and names which might have been expected are not mentioned, because of some Minute Books not being available or perhaps through human oversight, but I hope that the inherent laudable intentions of the Brethren of the Lodge, down the years, to follow the precepts of the Craft, shine through it all and provide an inspiration to present Freemasons and to all who follow in the Bannockburn Lodge of Bruce and Thistle No. 312.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- 27.12.1825**—First Festival of St. John. Before The Festival Lodge Members walked through the town accompanied by the Bannockburn Instrumental Band.
- 23.10.1827**—Consecration of Lodge took place. Bro. John Sharp, R.W.M. of the Stirling Ancient Lodge, performed the ceremony. Other Lodges present were—Denny St. Andrews, Stirling Royal Arch and Stirling Rock Encampment.
- 8.9.1831**—Attended procession to laying of Foundation Stone of Bridge across Forth at Stirling.
- 27.9.1833**—Donation towards hall to be built at Bannockburn.
- 27.1.1858**—Took part in Burns Procession.
- 22.10.1860**—Members decided on new Lodge Room instead of meeting in houses of Members.
- 27.11.1860**—First meeting in the Lodge Room. Rev. Thomas Smith made an Honorary Member.
- 10.6.1861**—Decision taken to attend laying of Foundation Stone of the Wallace Monument.
- 2.1.1863**—Lt. Charles Humfrey, Ensigns Spens, Dixon and Norton were proposed and seconded for admission to Lodge and it was resolved that this was a case of emergency as they expect to leave for India.
- 8.1.1863**—These candidates could not come forward—in consequence of unforeseen duty.
- 26.1.1864**—Instruction to Lodge as to mourning for the Lodge on the death of M.W. Grand Master, The Duke of Atholl.
- 29.9.1870**—Grand Secretary wrote to Lodge Secretary reporting a communication from Grand Orient of France regarding a subscription from the Lodge in aid of families killed and wounded in the Franco-Prussian War. Lodge declined.

- 21.3.1871**—Lodge drank success to the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne.
- 30.10.1871**—Deputation to laying of Foundation Stone of Mr. Smith's Institution at Stirling.
- 30.1.1874**—Invitation from Lodge Abercrombie No. 531, Bridge of Allan, to attend their First Anniversary Festival.
- 13.11.1874**—It was deemed inadvisable at a Committee Meeting of the Lodge to have any public demonstration, viz.—such as a torchlight procession or otherwise—to celebrate the Lodge's 50th Anniversary, but to leave any celebration till the evening of Winter St. John.
- 29.12.1874**—This being the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge the success and prosperity of Mother 312 was specially given by the R.W.M. Bro. George Watson who embraced the occasion to give a short sketch of the history of the Lodge.
- 27.9.1878**—Agreed to give Lodge Room, free of charge, to young men to hold their Sabbath Morning Meetings.
- 7.2.1896**—Lodge change, following Grand Lodge Enactment. Age for entry from 18 to 21, but sons of Masons, 18.
- 5.10.1896**—Two Brothers, Neil Gillies (going to China) and James F. Denovan (going to South Africa) presented with two Gold Jewels at a unique farewell occasion.
- 21.2.1900**—Decided that Lodge be represented at Grand Lodge by Master and Wardens, instead of Proxy.
- 27.4.1901**—Bro. Rev. Andrew Morrison to make presentation to Bro. A. McCowan on his 25 years as Treasurer.
- 30.9.1902**—Bro. Rev. Andrew Morrison made Chaplain of Lodge and it was decided that a Masonic Service be held in Murrayfield United Free Church—of which Bro. Rev. Morrison was Minister.
- 26.2.1904**—Lodge met in new premises, top storey of Old Town Hall, and let from Town Halls Committee.
- 31.10.1905**—Agreed to give secretary £2 a year, treasurer, £1, tyler, £3.
- 8.1.1907**—R.W.M. James Hamilton read Bro. John Pennie's demit form from Mother Kilwinning Lodge No. 0 and he was accepted for affiliation.

- 21.5.1907**—Death intimated of Bro. John Buchanan in the riots in San Francisco and it was decided to convey the sympathy of the brethren to his parents.
- 26.1.1909**—Lodge decided to pay, on request from Lodge Iowa, Canada, for treatment during typhoid illness, of Bro. Thomas Bartram, a member of 312.
- 27.4.1909**—Payment of £5 made to widow of Bro. George McCormack, going to start a small business to support herself and family.
- 22.11.1910**—Lodge decided to have life membership fee on becoming Master Mason. Also decided to give £10 towards building new Grand Lodge hall in Edinburgh, which was to cost about £30,000.
- 11.4.1911**—Two brethren appointed to attend laying memorial stone of the new Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Friday, 28th April, 1911.
- 28.1.1913**—R.W.M. David Miller presented the picture "The Lady Freemason" to the Lodge.
- 25.2.1913**—Decided to send £2.2s to "Star of the East" Lodge, No. 880, Ionian Islands, Greece, under the Grand Lodge of England, on behalf of brethren of that Lodge who had been compelled to leave their homes, owing to the recent earthquake of January.
- 15.9.1914**—Special meeting held in the hotel—the Lodge Room being engaged by the military authorities for the accommodation of the Territorials. Letter from Grand Lodge suggesting that daughter Lodges should subscribe to the Prince of Wales War Relief Fund.
- 26.1.1915**—Roll of honour to be compiled of all members of Lodges engaged in serving King and Country.
- 23.2.1915**—Donation of £1.1s to the Belgian Refugee Fund.
- 28.9.1915**—Provincial Grand Lodge endowing bed for wounded soldiers in the new National Hospital and Lodge donated £3.
- 14.12.1915**—£1.1s to be donated on comforts for P.O.W., Bro. John Wilson, and £5.5s to another wounded P.O.W., Bro. William Cook.

- 8.2.1916**—Presentation to Bro. George Don, who had been 25 years tyler of the Lodge. He received gold albert and certificate—and life membership certificate.
- 30.2.1917**—Provincial Grand Lodge visitation stopped during war-time.
- 30.10.1917**—Decided to send Christmas parcel to all members of Lodge on active service.
- November 1918**—R.W.M. A. Rankine made a few remarks about "our happy position in having seen the end of the war" and the brethren sang the first verse of the National Anthem.
- 13.5.1919**—Petrol restrictions over after the war, Lodge decided to have a motor drive, the drive to go to Lochearnhead and Crieff.
- 26.4.1921**—Donation of £5 for communal soup kitchen scheme in Bannockburn.
- 16.7.1922 and 17.7.1922**—Special Meetings to attend Funerals of three Brethren—John Barlow, John Hunter and William Lennie, S.W.—who were among those killed in the Plean Pit Explosion.
- 26.9.1922**—Lodge gave £10 to Plean Colliery Disaster Fund.
- 31.10.1922**—Subscription opened among Members to present P.M. Medals to Bros. Dr. John Morrison and Henry Postle and presented to them on 29.12.1922.
- 11.12.1923**—New Regalia purchased for Office-Bearers.
- 15.7.1924**—A meeting of the Lodge Committee and Past Masters met to consider what should be done to celebrate Centenary of Lodge. R.W.M. and Secretary to visit Provincial Grand Master.
- 21.7.1924**—P.G.M.'s advice was to hold Thanksgiving Service and Dinner.
- 9.8.1924**—Lodge decided to purchase Royal George Mill (the present Lodge premises) for £110 and Mr. C. W. Duff, Master Plumber, who had purchased two other mill premises.
- 28.10.1924**—Decided to grant use of third floor of Royal George Building to Bannockburn Boys' Brigade.

- 24.2.1925**—Bro. David Miller appointed President of Provincial Grand Stewards, it being first time Member of Lodge had held P.G.L. Office.
- 10.3.1925**—Roll of Honour being prepared of all Brethren who served in the First World War.
- 7.4.1925**—Agreed that Consecration and Lodge Centenary be celebrated on 24th April, 1925.
- 9.11.1926**—Lodge Committee decided to run Saturday Night Dances to aid the Building Fund after the Strike is settled.
- 10.9.1929**—Letter from Washington Diamond Lodge intimating death of one of Bruce and Thistle Brethren—Bro. John Taylor.
- 29.11.1929**—Agreed to let Temple and Hall for Church Services to United Free Church.
- 14.3.1939**—Decided to give £2.2 - to Stirling Royal Infirmary, £1.1 - to Glasgow Royal Infirmary.
- 12.9.1939**—Rev. Norman Birnie, Billeting Officer, commandeered the Masonic Hall for the accommodation of evacuees as from 7th September in terms of the Defence Regulation. All meetings cancelled until further notice.
- 10.10.1939**—Meetings resumed in Masonic Hall.
- 13.2.1940**—£2 donated to Stirlingshire War Relief Fund.
- 12.3.1940**—Secretary instructed to write to Bro. Wm. Newlands thanking him for his generous and useful gift of candlesticks to Lodge.
- 26.9.1940**—Letter from Central No. 1 School Management Committee granting permission to hold meetings in Bannockburn Public School—Government having taken over Hall.
- 30.1.1941**—Retiral of Bro. David Miller, P.M., as Provincial Grand Office-Bearer after 23 years' service.
- 27.3.1941**—Agreed to give £2.2.0 to Clydeside Relief Fund after air raid.
- 8.1.1942**—Two Pastmasters of Lodge, Bros. David Miller and Peter Simpson, occupied Wardens Chairs as Provincial Grand Office-bearers—unique in history of Lodge.

- 26.2.1942**—Bro. Thomas Pitcairn, Provincial Grand Secretary, granted Honorary Membership of Lodge in recognition of his valuable services to the Craft.
- 19.10.1940**—Bro. Norman Birnie, 312, had become R.W.M. of Lodge to which he had become affiliated in Jamaica.
- 22.11.1942**—Secretary, P.M. John G. Wilson, called up for service in R.A.F. and was thanked for long service to Craft and to Lodge as Office-bearer, Master and Pastmaster and Secretary.
- 24.12.1942**—Christmas Eve message from R.W.M. James Wilson hoping that before next Christmas the War would be brought to a successful finish by a glorious victory and that Brethren serving in the Forces would return safely home.
- 29.12.1942**—R.W.M. James Wilson installed for third successive year—unique in annals of Lodge.
- 13.7.1943**—Bro. John Morris, Corporal in the Royal Canadian Air Force, instructed in the Second Degree.
- 19.8.1943**—Bro. Hugh Sloan, Flt. Sergeant, Royal Air Force, a member of the Lodge, killed while engaged in action over Sicily. Lodge expressed regrets that our Brother paid the last sacrifice.
- 26.11.1943**—Death intimated of Bro. Dan Robertson, Provincial Grand Master, who was an honorary member of Lodge 312.
- 11.5.1944**—The brethren informed that Bro. Colonel A. R. Bain, M.C., D.L., had been installed as Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire.
- 28.9.1944**—Bro. John G. Wilson gave a most interesting account of a visitation to Freemason's Hall, English Constitution, London. Later he attended a meeting held by Lodge Robert Burns No. 25. Bro. Wilson remarked that it was of interest to know that throughout the world there are five masonic lodges named "Robert Burns"—one in Scotland, two in England, and two in Australia.
- 23.11.1944**—Death intimated of Bro. Alexander Rankine, P.M., and a member of Provincial Grand Lodge.

- 30.11.1944—Bro. James Wilson, R.W.M., vacated the chair as Master of the Lodge after four successive years in that office. Bro. Alexander Young, Deputy Master, in paying tribute to his service to the Lodge, said "During his long tenure of office in the chair, which is outstanding in the annals of this Lodge, he has discharged the duties ably, faithfully, and devotedly." Bro. David Miller, Substitute Master, said Bro. Wilson had carried the Lodge through four difficult and anxious years.
- 28.12.1944—Bro. James Wilson, P.M., presented with a desk as a mark of appreciation from brethren after being Master of the Lodge for four years and Mrs. Wilson was presented with a gold wristlet watch.
- 11.1.1945—Family of late Bro. Alexander Rankine, P.M., very generously handed back his Pastmaster's Jewel so that monetary value be put into Benevolent Fund in memory of their father. The secretary was asked to convey to family the brethren's thanks and appreciation for their generous and gracious gesture.
- 22.2.1945—Honorary membership was conferred on Bro. John Blyth, Lodge St. Ayle, No. 95, Headmaster of Bannockburn Public School, in recognition of his valued services to the Lodge.
- 10.5.1945—Miss Eleanor Hay, of Honolulu, intimating death of her brother, Bro. Alexander Hay, a member of the Lodge, sent 10 dollars to the Lodge Benevolent Fund.
- 13.9.1945—It was reported that a new gavel had been presented to the Lodge by Bro. Lt. Hector Livingstone, on service overseas with H.M. Forces. The gavel was made of stone obtained from King Solomon's Quarries. It was a unique and highly prized addition to Lodge property, stated the R.W.M., Bro. John Turnbull.
- 29.11.45—Bro. William Wark, treasurer for the past six years, intimated his decision to retire from office and the Lodge decided to make a presentation in appreciation of his long and valuable services to the Lodge. The gift was presented on 28th December, 1945.

- 17.1.1946**—Reference was made to the death of Past Master Bro. Alexander Young, one of the oldest members, and devoted to the highest ideals of brotherhood.
- 31.1.1946**—Bro. David Miller, member of the Lodge for 42 years, who had filled many offices with merit and distinction, was presented with life membership. During the 42 years he had never taken out life membership, deciding to pay annual dues.
- 21.3.1946**—Bro. Pentland F. C. Black, Chaplain of Lodge, and minister of Cowie Church, was thanked for services rendered to the Lodge, on leaving to take up a new charge in Arbroath.
- 11.4.1946**—Bro. John Blyth, headmaster of Bannockburn Public School, was thanked for the excellent arrangements made for Lodge meetings held in the school for the past six years.
- 6.5.1946**—Intimation was made by Bro. John G. Wilson, P.M., that it had been agreed to form a Stirling and District Bowling Association and that Lodge 312 would be joining.
- 14.11.1946**—The Masonic Hall, New Road, released by Military Authorities who had been in war occupancy from July 1940. Number attending the meeting was 185.
- 12.12.1946**—Donation of £5 for Nursing Association.
- 30.1.1947**—Death announced of Bro. William Wark, Member for 40 years and former Treasurer.
- 4.3.1947**—Two Past Masters, Bro. James Wilson and Bro. James Plank, conferred First Degree on their respective sons, Bro. George M. Wilson and Bro. James Plank, Jun.
- 26.9.1948**—Divine Service at Murrayfield U.F. Church.
- 8.9.1949**—Bro. Rev. H. G. McCall installed Junior Provincial Grand Chaplain.
- 26.1.1950**—P.G.M. T. Pitcairn congratulated the Lodge on the repair and renovation of the Hall.
- 8.11.1951**—R.W.M. G. Richardson represented Lodge at the opening of the Masonic Homes at Ault Wharrie, Dunblane.
- 14.2.1952**—Reference made to the death of His Majesty King George VI, Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

- 27.11.1952**—Visit to Lodge of Bro. E. R. Wright, initiated into Lodge 312 in 1909.
- 10.9.1953**—Decided to give £5 to Bannockburn Hospital towards providing T.V. and wireless to patients.
- 10.12.1953**—Bro. George M. Wilson installed as R.W.M. by his father, Bro. James Wilson and his uncle Bro. John G. Wilson, both P.M.s of 312.
- 30.10.1954**—Lecture to Lodge on meaning of Freemasonry by P.M. Bro. James Wilson, Lodge 16.
- 28.4.1955**—Presentation to Bro. John McGregor on retiring from office of Director of Ceremonies after 20 years as Office-bearer.
- 8.3.1956**—Death of P.M. David Miller who was a Past Honorary Grand Bible-Bearer of Grand Lodge of Scotland.
- 12.9.1957**—Lodge won the Bowling Trophy of The Stirling-shire Masonic Bowling Association for the second year.
- 11.9.1958**—Death of P.M. Bro. John G. Wilson, Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden, well-known member of the Craft who had done much for the Lodge.
- 9.10.1958**—Bro. Archibald Swan, who had been organist in the Lodge for a decade, given a presentation by the Brethren. Honorary membership conferred on singer, Bro. Alexander Tait, at same meeting.
- 26.3.1959**—Lodge decided to be represented at re-dedication Service and Bi-Centenary Dinner of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76.
- 10.9.1959**—Bro. Alan Tait presented three paintings, his own work, to the Lodge.
- 9.3.1962**—Invitation to attend Bi-Centenary Celebrations of Lodge No. 87, Glasgow.
- 26.4.1962**—Death of Bro. James Wilson, P.M., who as Master, installing Master and Treasurer, had done a lot of good work for the Lodge and Freemasonry in general.
- May 1964**—It was decided that all Brethren attending the Masonic Ceremony at the Bruce Statue unveiling at the Borestone should meet at Whins of Milton School.

- 29.10.1964**—Visit of P.M. Bro. Andrew Wilson, Lodge Tonino No. 87, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.—80 year old and 29th year as Mason.
- 28.4.1966**—Death intimated of P.M. John Rennie, Mason for 48 years, R.W.M. in 1926 and Lodge Chaplain at this time. Did much work in renovating present Hall.
- 6.2.1967**—Donation of £100, over two years, towards third Masonic Home at Dunblane.
- 30.11.1967**—Donation of £15 between two Boys' Brigade companies in the village.
- 27.12.1967**—Donation of £100 to Grand Lodge for the third Masonic Home at Dunblane.
- 13.2.1969**—Bro. J. McLean, R.W.M. Lodge 30, Stirling, presented to Bruce and Thistle the apron of the late Bro. David Miller, P.M., which had been presented to him on attaining rank of P.M.
- 29.4.1971**—Death of Bro. D. Ramage, member of Lodge—a Freemason for 63 years.
- 9.12.1971**—Death of Bro. James Plank, P.M., former Provost of the Royal Burgh of Stirling.
- 20.12.1971**—Affiliation of Bro. Robert Cameron Hutchison, Lodge Berlin No. 46.
- 24.2.1972**—Bro. J. Greer, organist of Lodge for many years, presented with Masonic Bible.
- 9.12.1972**—Bro. J. S. Gardner installed as R.W.M.—ceremony watched by his father, Bro. W. Gardner, over 50 years a member of Bruce and Thistle.
- 21.12.1972**—Deputation from Lodge met representatives of Stirling County Council with a view to either having the council repair and tidy the building, containing the Masonic Hall, or trying to sell the building and grounds to the council if they gave the Lodge other accommodation in good order.
- 15.1.1973**—Bro. I. Chalmers, P.M., proposed that the Re-Dedication Function be held in the Masonic Hall on Friday, 1st November, 1974, and the 150th Anniversary Ball in Dunblane Hydro on 8th November, 1974.

- 12.2.1973**—Deputation from Lodge Thistle No. 87 conferred the First Degree.
- 22.2.1973**—Affiliation of Bro. G. McCulloch, formerly of Lodge Strathendrick No. 780, and Bro. Lachlan Campbell, formerly of Lodge Wayfarers No. 1926.
- 1.3.1973**—Appeal from widow of former Brother granted, and another from a Brother in Canada was continued for further information.
- 29.3.1973**—Intimation of death of two of oldest members—Bro. J. McPherson, P.M., who joined Lodge in 1912, and Bro. L. Stewart, who joined Lodge in 1914. Bro. A. Stewart, Lodge St. James, Doune, thanked Lodge for high honour of asking him to become Honorary Member.
- 12.4.73**—Reported that jumble sale realised £50 for 150th Anniversary Fund.
- 13.9.73**—Deaths intimated of well-known Brethren—Bro. J. McRorie and Bro. W. McFadyen, and Mrs. Mary Bridgeman, wife of P.M. Bro. D. G. Bridgeman, who was a good worker for the Lodge.
- 24.9.1973**—Decided that Lodge Charter—149 years old—be left on dais during working of First Degree as continual rolling and unrolling was beginning to show some damage.
- 22.11.1973**—Fifty Years' Membership Grand Lodge Certificates were presented by the R.W.M. Bro. James Gardner to twelve Brethren, one of them his father, Bro. William Gardner. The others were—Bro. Henry Leitch (61 years); Bro. Roderick S. Kerr (54 years); Bro. George Penman (54 years); Bro. Charles Whitfield (54 years); Bro. Robert Stevenson, P.M. (53 years); Bro. Harry Stevenson (53 years); Bro. William Lochiel (52 years); Bro. Angus Mulroy (52 years); Bro. Thomas Ross Wighton (51 years); Bro. Thomas Walls (51 years); and Bro. Charles L. Martin, who received his Certificate from his son, Bro. P. Martin, a Past Master of the Lodge.
- 8.12.1973**—Bro. J. A. Smith was installed as R.W.M. of the Lodge and became reigning Master for the 150th Anniversary Year.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1973-74

<i>R.W.M.</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. James A. Smith
<i>I.P.M.</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. S. Gardner
<i>Depute Master</i>	..	..	..		Bro. I. Chalmers, P.M.
<i>Substitute Master</i> ..	..	..	..		Bro. D. G. Bridgeman, P.M.
<i>Senior Warden</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Duffin
<i>Junior Warden</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. W. Wood
<i>Secretary</i> ..	..	..	..		Bro. J. Collington, P.M.
<i>Treasurer</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. D. Johnston
<i>Almoner</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. R. Kemp, P.M.
<i>Organist</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Greer, P.M. Lodge Buchlyvie 1268
<i>Senior Deacon</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. R. Barr
<i>Junior Deacon</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. A. Craig
<i>Inner Guard</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Wallace
<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. M. Mein
<i>Chaplain</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Davidson
<i>Jeweller</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. R. Todd
<i>Bible-bearer</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Wilson
<i>Sword-bearer</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. J. Dudgeon
<i>Marshal</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. S. Thomson
<i>Senior Steward</i>	..	..	..	..	.. Bro. M. Fowler
<i>Junior Steward</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. I. Hay
<i>Assistant Stewards</i>	..	..	..	..	Bro. R. Hamilton
					Bro. A. McLearie
					Bro. G. Gow
					Bro. J. McDermott
					Bro. J. Palmer
<i>Tyler</i> ..	..	..	..	..	Bro. T. Duchart

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

1824-1828						Thomas Crawford
1828-1831						William McMillan (Died in Office)
1831-1833						James Garrow
1833-1835						James Rae
1835						Robert Jaffray
Lodge in abeyance till 1840 then carried on by acting Past Masters 1841-42. No records available from 1842 until 1850						
1850-1851						James Gillespie
Another seeming abeyance period till 1856						
1856-1859						James Garrow, P.M.
1859-1860						William Dougall
1860-1862						Daniel Currie
1862-1866						Alexander Wilson, Jun.
1866-1868						Alexander Duchart
1868-1871						E. L. Wilson
1871-1875						George Watson
1875-1876	.. Geo Watson Acting RWM ..					George Watson, P.M.
1876-1877						George Watson, P.M.
1877-1878	.. Geo. Watson Acting RWM ..					James Hill - Not install
1878-1883						George Watson, P.M.
1883-1894						James Currie
1894-1896						Robert Taylor
1896-1898						T. L. McFarlane
1898-1899						J. T. Murray
1899-1901						D. M. McIntosh
1901-1903						John Blair
1903-1905						Henry Postle

1951-1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	George Muir
1952-1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	Robert Wilson
1953-1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	George M. Wilson
1954-1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	Keith Allan
1955-1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	Robert Laird
1956-1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	George B. Maver
1957-1958	...	...	...	...	...	...	Robert J. Moultrie
1958-1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dixon P. Vallance
1959-1960	...	...	...	...	...	...	Hugh A. Smith
1960-1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	William Scott
1961-1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	James Rennie
1962-1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	James Waugh
1963-1964	...	...	...	...	...	...	James Collington
1964-1965	...	...	...	...	...	...	David McLachlan
1965-1966	...	...	...	...	...	...	George McPherson
1966-1967	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ian Chalmers
1967-1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	Peter Wingate
1968-1969	...	...	...	...	...	...	Peter Martin
1969-1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ronald Kemp
1970-1971	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dugald G. Bridgeman
1971-1972	...	...	...	...	...	...	Robert McCandlish
1972-1973	...	...	...	...	...	...	James S. Gardner
1973-1974	...	...	...	...	...	...	.. James A. Smith

