

HISTORY
of
LODGE BANNOCKBURN
BRUCE & THISTLE No.312



On the Roll of
THE GRAND LODGE
OF SCOTLAND

Compiled from the Records

by

Bro. James G. White P.M. 312

Therefore when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present delight, nor for the present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for and let us think as we lay stone on stone, that the time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labour and wrought substance of them, “See what our fathers did for us.”

John Ruskin

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This Historical Record of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No.312 has been compiled from all available sources of information, principally the Lodge Minute Books and Attendance Books.

Regrettably the Lodge does not possess the minute books covering the first 40 years of its existence (1824 – 1864) and the period 1930 – 1939.

The latter period is probably due the Lodge premises being requisitioned by the Military Authorities in 1939 for the accommodation of evacuees upon commencement of The Second World War. No previous mention exists anywhere with regards to this Minute Book and the likelihood is that it has been lost for all time, perhaps heaved over amongst the rubbish!

This is not necessarily the case regarding the first minutes as Bro. William Little quoted from that book in his Historical Sketch written in 1974. We live in hope that this book will at some point in time be rediscovered. Perhaps it is lying in someone's attic!

Thanks are due to all who assisted in any way with the compilation of this book, particularly the historians of the Lodge represented by a long line of excellent Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers. This appreciation is especially extended to the late Bro. William Little who, having written the History in our 150th year in 1974, provided a sure and solid foundation from which to build.

Final thanks go to Bro. Philip Maley P.M. of Lodge St. Servanus No.771 for his advice and assistance in the layout of this book and to Bro. David Robertson (Photographer) of Alloa for his excellent photographic contribution.

Should anyone feel that pertinent facts or events have been omitted, I apologise, as there was no deliberate intention to offend or favour others.

Bro. James G. White P.M.



Bro. Alexander Don
Right Worshipful Master
Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312

FROM PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Bro. John McLeod Sneddon

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master



We are very honoured and privileged to join with you in the 175th celebrations of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312.

Your charter was granted on the 1st day of November 1824, Bro. Thomas Crawford being your first Right Worshipful Master. Three years later on October 23rd 1827, the Lodge was consecrated by Bro. John Prentice, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30.

Throughout the 175 years of your existence the brethren of '312' have always strived to maintain the highest principles of Freemasonry

with dignity and decorum, both within the Lodge and throughout the community.

This Lodge is held in very high esteem within the Province of Stirlingshire and beyond. It is worth noting that several brethren who have graced the chair have progressed into office in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, surely a measure of the quality of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle.

It is pleasing to note that Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead No. 176, my own Mother Lodge, was one of your sponsor Lodges along with the Lodge of Alloa No. 69 and that friendships with both these Lodges are maintained to this day.

It is with great pleasure I offer sincere congratulations on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire and wish you continued success in the years that lie ahead.

Bro. John McLeod Sneddon
R.W.P.G.M.

FROM THE LODGE OF ALLOA No.69

On behalf of the Past Masters, Office-Bearers and Brethren of the Lodge of Alloa No. 69, may I as Right Worshipful Master congratulate all connected with Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 on the occasion of having reached the momentous milestone of your 175th anniversary.

I consider myself extremely fortunate in having been invited to make some small contribution to this updated version of your Lodge History, the principal reason being that the Lodge of Alloa No. 69 was one of the two Lodges who sponsored the erection of a Lodge in the town of Bannockburn.



Additionally, however, we in '69' recognise and appreciate the close bond of friendship which exists between the Lodge of Alloa and 'Bruce & Thistle', beginning over 175 years ago and continuing to the present day.

This relationship, along with the countless others forged over these years, will ensure that your fine Lodge will go on to celebrate many more anniversaries in years to come.

Bro. Alexander Campbell Robertson
R.W.M.

FROM LODGE ST. ANDREW DENNY & LOANHEAD No.176



I took my first steps as a Mason in Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 in 1979.

I could not then possibly have imagined that 20 years later I would be invited to write a foreword for this updated version of the Lodge's history to mark its 175th anniversary.

Whilst I do so with great personal pleasure, the honour falls to me as the present Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead No. 176.

Back in 1824, members of the Denny Lodge assisted in the formation of Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle. Now a former apprentice of '312' occupies the chair of one of your sponsor Lodges. Fate is indeed a strange phenomenon! We at Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead No.176, congratulate Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle on the occasion of having reached your 175th anniversary and wish all at '312' best wishes and prosperity in future years.

Bro. John Bell
R.W.M.

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THE MASTER MASON'S SONG

My Father was a Mason
And to his lodge did go
My Son he said come join us
And make this nation grow

A nation joined together
That will walk hand in hand
And make this grip of Friendship
Known throughout this mighty land

A nation joined together
How happy we shall be
When every man around us
Has taken his Third Degree

So let us honour our humble lodge
And keep its name held high
By being Masons good and true
Until the day we die

And from discord let us be free
By what we say and do
And be proud that we are Masons
From Lodge Bannockburn '312'

BRO. ALEXANDER BUCHANAN
R.W.M. 1983-84

OFFICE-BEARERS 1998 - 1999

Right Worshipful Master	Bro. Alexander Don
Immediate Past Master	Bro. Thomas W. Thomson
Depute Master.....	Bro. James Collington
Substitute Master	Bro. Alan D. Buchan P.M.
Senior Warden	Bro. Robert Don
Junior Warden.....	Bro. Gary Williams
Secretary	Bro. James A. Smith P.M.
Treasurer	Bro. James G. Duffin P.M.
Almoner	Bro. Alex Buchanan P.M.
Organist (Acting)	Bro. Alex Smith H.M.
Senior Deacon.....	Bro. Scott Jaffray
Junior Deacon	Bro. David Brodie
Inner Guard.....	Bro. Steven Bedborough
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Thomas McG. Cochrane P.M.
Chaplain.....	Bro. John Rankin P.M.
Jeweller.....	Bro. William Paterson
Bible Bearer	Bro. John McLachlan
Sword Bearer	Bro. George Millar
Marshal	Bro. George Graham
Senior Steward.....	Bro. Thomas Campbell
Junior Steward	Bro. Christopher Williams
Assistant Steward	Bro. Gerald Anderson
Tyler.....	Bro. Alexander Mathers



The R.W.M. and his Office Bearers 1998 - 1999

L-R Back: S. Bedborough (I.G.) G. Millar (Sw. Br) J. McLachlan (Bible Br) A. Mathers (Tyler) C. Williams (J.S.) T. Campbell (S.S.)
 Middle: S. Jaffray (S.D.) W. Paterson (Jewlr) A. Buchanan PM (Alm) T. Cochrane PM (D o C) G. Anderson (A.S.) J. Rankin PM (Chap)
 Front: G. Williams (W.J.W.) J. Duffin PM (Treas) A. Buchan PM (Sub M) A. Don (R.W.M.) T. Thomson (I.P.M.) J. Smith P.M. (Secy) R. Don (W.S.W.)



The R.W.M. and his Past Masters

L-R Back: Alan Buchan Alex Craig Harold Bedborough William McMillan John Wallace Gilbert Clarke John Davidson Andrew McLeary Grahame Smith
 Middle: James White James Wilson Alex Buchanan Andrew Craig John Rankin Thomas Thomson Thomas Cochrane
 Front: William Wood James Duffin Peter Martin George McPherson Alexander Don R.W.M. Ian Chalmers Dugald Bridgeman James Gardner James Smith

A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH
by
Bro. William Little 1974
(Updated by Bro. James G. White P.M.)

"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 proceeding, 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	Tyler

The above is the first Minute Book Record of the Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge numbering '312' on the roll of The Grand Lodge of Scotland and was recorded 175 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 which has stood the test of time from just after the Battle of Waterloo to the landing of men on the moon must surely have contributed something worthwhile to the well-being of the community.

The nineteen founder members 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.

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 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 Bannockburn 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 Nineteenth Century was the weaving of cloth. The occupations of 13 of the 19 founder members were Manufacturers (2), Weavers (8), Warpers (3). The fees due at this time on being initiated as a Fellow Craft and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason were ten shillings (50 pence), a not inconsiderable sum then.

The first name to be recorded 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 he was connected with a Stirling Lodge

and may have been the same Thomas Crawford who was R.W.M. of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 in the year 1800.

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.

The first public parade of the Lodge occurred in December 1825 when the Brethren of the Lodge, accompanied by the Bannockburn Instrumental Band, paraded through the town prior to assembling for the first Festival of St. John.

The consecration of the Lodge took place on October 23rd, 1827, almost three years after the charter was granted, with the ceremony being performed by Bro. John Prentice R.W.M. of the Stirling Ancient Lodge.

Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle's two sponsor lodges, The Lodge of Alloa and Lodge St. Andrew Denny and Loanhead were also in attendance as were Stirling Royal Arch and Stirling Rock Encampment.

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

Brethren of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle attended such ceremonies as the new bridge over the Forth at Stirling in 1831; the Wallace Monument

in 1861; 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 Warden's 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 the local pits could be seen by 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 members going overseas on active service.

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

After Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle had taken a Lodge Room on its own instead of meeting mostly in members houses the premises were frequently let 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 the let of the premises as a reading room.

The Lodge received help on many occasions from Bro. Col. Wilson, who owned the weaving mills for tartans in Bannockburn by 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 bearing the date 1826.

The Lodge considered the building of a new Temple at the close 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 the present Masonic Hall premises at the Royal George Mill and to raise money to renovate it.

This was probably why no Thanksgiving Service or 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 175 years of its existence as a Lodge.

It is particularly interesting to trace names such as Wilson, Plank, Vallance, McQue (sometimes McQew), Morrison, Stevenson, Buchanan, Jaffray and

Don appearing and re-appearing as generation succeeds generation throughout the Lodge's history.

To pick out just one of the above names, in December 1888 it was recorded that Bro. John Don, 84 years of age, had been a Freemason for 65 years. This pre-dates the Lodge by one year. In 1916 a presentation of a Gold Albert and Seal and a life membership certificate was made to Bro. George Don who had been the Lodge Tyler for 25 years.

The current R.W.M. is Bro. Alexander Don and his brother Robert is the W.S.W., both of whom followed their late father into the Lodge. Whilst it is not known if these two brethren are direct descendants of Bros. John & George Don, in a small community such as ours it is likely that some connection exists.

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 Pleau Pit explosion in 1922 special payments were made to their wives or dependants.

In the immediate years after the Great War and again 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 175 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 Bruce and
Thistle Lodge No. 312.

William Little

Extract From The Minute Book of The Grand Lodge of Scotland

Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge

1 Nov 1824

An application was made to The Grand Lodge by Thomas Crawford and others residing in Bannockburn Stirlingshire craving a Charter to hold a lodge in that Town under the name and Title of Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge and the Grand Lodge having considered this petition with Certificates from Alloa Lodge and Denny and Loanhead granted the following Charter to Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge and appointed the following Brethren as Office Bearers of that Lodge viz;

Thomas Crawford	Master
John Ferguson	Past Master
Wm. McAllister	Senior Warden
John Wilson	Junior Warden
John Dobbie	Treasurer
William Denovan	Secretary

Given at the Grand Lodge of Scotland this first day of Nov 1824 and of Light 5824 by:

<i>His Majesty George the Fourth</i>	King and Patron
<i>His Grace The Duke of Argyle</i>	Grand Master
<i>Lord Glenorchy</i>	Depute Grand Master
<i>Wm. Ingles Esq</i>	Substitute Grand Master
<i>W. T. Campbell Esq</i>	Grand Warden
<i>Wm. Gibson Craig Esq</i>	Grand Warden
<i>Sir John Hay</i>	Grand Treasurer
<i>Alex Laurie</i>	Grand Secretary
<i>James Bartram</i>	Grand Chaplain

ADVERSITY & PROSPERITY

In his remarks to the Brethren on the occasion of the Lodge's 50th Anniversary on 29th December 1874 the R.W.M. Bro. George Watson observed that "The Lodge has had its years of adversity as well as its years of prosperity. The latter had fairly predominated, and he hoped that its career in the future would show an equally fair balance on the prosperous side when summed up at the expiry of another fifty years".

One hundred and twenty five years later, with the Lodge now having realised its 175th Anniversary, the sentiments echoed by Bro. Watson on that occasion are as appropriate today as they were in 1874.

This section of the Lodge's history records various circumstances and events which map out the chequered history of our Lodge over these 175 years.

- 1835 From the strong beginnings of 1824, some nine years later the Lodge went into abeyance for a period of five years.
- 1841 The Past Masters re-commenced the meetings. No records exist for the period 1842 – 1850, suggesting that the Lodge once again went into abeyance though it is possible that the minutes were simply lost.
- 1850 The Lodge was once again resurrected with Bro. James Gillespie being installed as R.W.M. At the end of Bro. Gillespie's year, the Lodge once again had to go into abeyance.
- 1856 Meetings re-commenced once again with Bro. James Garrow, a Past Master of over 20 years standing (R.W.M. 1831-33) taking the chair for three years. The Lodge never again had to go into abeyance and must surely owe a great debt of gratitude to this brother.

- 1877 The proposal by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to raise fees was discussed within the Lodge at which time it was agreed that if carried "it would virtually prevent any candidates coming forward, the present fee being already sufficiently high". Whilst the minutes rarely make reference to the well-being of the Lodge in either monetary or attendance terms, it can be assumed that the latter period of the 1800's was a particularly lean period in terms of attendance.
- 1878 Bro. George Watson, who served six years as Master from 1871 – 1877, subsequently chaired every meeting of the Lodge during his year as I.P.M. signing the minute on each occasion as Acting R.W.M. Thereafter he was re-installed and served once again as Master during the period 1878 - 83. Bro. Watson effectively served the Lodge as Master for a period of 12 years, albeit one of those years was as "Acting Master".
- 1879 In October the Lodge discussed the option of meeting on a quarterly as opposed to a monthly basis. It was decided to continue the meetings on a monthly basis for a further twelve months in the hope that attendances might increase. This matter was not raised again, presumably due to an upturn in support.
- 1883 Bro. Watson's successor in the chair was Bro. James Currie who served as Master until 1894, a period of 11 years. These two brethren chaired the Lodge for a period of 23 years, one would presume because of poor attendances or lack of interest.
- 1896 Owing to a Grand Lodge Enactment, the minimum age of entry to the Craft was raised from 18 years to 21 years except for the sons of Masons who could continue to join at 18 years of age. Whilst there are no records to suggest that this affected the intake of suitable gentlemen into the craft, it must be assumed it had a further bearing on what would appear to have been difficult times for the Lodge.

- 1914 The Lodge premises were taken over by the Military Authorities upon the outbreak of The Great War. The premises were required for use by the Territorial Army. The Lodge made arrangements to meet within a local hotel.
- 1918 In November a special meeting was held when the R.W.M. Bro. A. Rankine made a few remarks about "our happy position in having seen the end of the war". The Lodge was closed with the Brethren singing the first verse of the National Anthem.
- 1919 In the years after The Great War the Lodge, in common with all other Lodges, saw a great influx of candidates, many of whom were returning home from active service. During the meeting of 11th March, petitions for initiation were read out on behalf of 21 gentlemen.
- 1923 Looking towards the Lodge's Centenary Year, a full set of Office-Bearers regalia was purchased.
- 1939 In September the Lodge premises were once again taken over by the Military Authorities upon the outbreak of The Second World War. The premises were required for the accommodation of evacuees. The Lodge made arrangements to meet in Bannockburn Public School. This necessitated a change in the Lodge meeting nights from the second and last Tuesday of each month to the second and last Thursday - a change which stands to the present day.
- 1940 In the immediate years during and following the Second World War there were understandably many more candidates to join the Craft with men returning home after long absences from serving in the forces.
- 1944 During the Annual Visitation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, it is recorded that "Grand Lodge are somewhat

concerned about the large influx of members being admitted into Freemasonry and ask that Lodges exercise great caution in admitting candidates". Greater visitation between Lodges, no doubt because of improved transport in the motor car era, was also a feature of the post War years.

- 1951 In March, due to the high number of applications for initiation being received, it was decided to close the application list forthwith.
- 1972 It was recognised that the condition of the Lodge Building was deteriorating, and approaches were made to Stirling County Council. In December of that year a deputation from the Lodge met representatives of the Council with a view to having them repair and tidy the building containing the Masonic Hall. The alternative was to sell the building and grounds to the council if they gave the Lodge other accommodation in good order. These options were not progressed.
- 1975 During the summer months several meetings were held to consider the condition of the building, which was by that time giving grave cause for concern. Initially it was believed that the principal problem concerned the re-tiling of the roof, which would cost an estimated £3,000. Stirling County Council agreed to pay £2,000 towards the roof repairs. Discussions then took place regarding the Lodge borrowing £3,000 and in addition to the re-tiling of the roof to have the external walls re-pointed and the middle hall floor replaced.

Arrangements were put in hand to borrow the monies from either the Bank or the Brewers. The Bank employed a surveyor to inspect the building. The report detailed a significant number of faults, in particular extensive dry rot throughout the building. As a result, they were not prepared to extend a loan. The Surveyor's report indicated the cost of necessary repairs would be approximately £11,000 - £12,000.

Letters were despatched to various bodies including Stirling District Council; Central Regional Council and the Historic Buildings Council seeking any financial assistance they could offer. It was agreed that a serious fund raising effort required to be undertaken.

1977 Due to the impoverished state of the Lodge funds, a hand delivered appeal was made to all Brethren for a contribution to allow the Lodge to fulfil its financial obligations. This appeal met with a 'modest' response.

1981 In February the Treasurer reported that both the Lodge and the Social Club funds were in the red, a situation that could not be allowed to continue. Eight months later, with the Lodge unable to pay the local council rates, it was decided to start a weekly tote and to install a gaming machine to generate income.

Such was the poor state of the Lodge's finances, that for the first time in recorded history it was decided to regrettably decline all external charitable appeals. The Lodge, however, continued to make its annual donations to the Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge Benevolent Funds as well as the Masonic Homes.

1982 The decision was taken to close the Bottom Hall to reduce the annual Council Rates Bill.

1983 The Senior Warden Bro. Alex Buchanan assisted by various brethren and their Ladies organised various events including sponsored walks, sales of work and raffles and succeeded in raising over £1,000 for Lodge Funds.

The Lodge was once again unable to pay the rates bill and the R.W.M. made an appeal in open Lodge for the Brethren to offer loans in order that the financial obligations might be met.

- 1984 After many years of running repairs, the roof of the building was completely re-tiled. This was a major undertaking and the Lodge's gratitude was expressed to all those who worked on this venture. In particular this appreciation was extended to Past Masters John A. Davidson and Andrew Craig. Without their expert skill and knowledge, these works could not have been undertaken.
- 1985 Whilst the Annual financial report for the Lodge was still in deficit, the Treasurer was pleased to report that the Social Club (after a £2,000 loss the previous year) was now showing a profit. The hope was expressed that this was a sign of better things to follow, and a vote of thanks was proposed to all those who assisted and supported the Social Club for their efforts.
- 1992 Every weekend during the months of August, September and October, a team of volunteer workers led by Senior Warden Bro. Richard G. Buchanan worked unceasingly in the old social club on the third floor level. During this period all the lintels, beams and joists which support the middle hall floor (the current social club) were replaced. This was a major project, the need for which had first been identified in the Surveyor's Report of 1975. Their efforts were greatly assisted by Bro. James Collington P.M. and Mrs. Collington who fed, watered and nourished the team on a diet of homemade soup, scones and sandwiches.
- 1995 Bro. Alan Rodger, R.W.M. of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76, assisted by a few '312' brethren, undertook the refurbishment of the kitchen. This was a project that had required to be done for some time and all at '312' were very appreciative of Bro. Alan's endeavours.
- 1999 As the Lodge enters its 175th year, it is pleasing to record that the Lodge finances are in a healthy state with the brethren and Office-

bearers continuing to be fully supportive in their role as Lodge Members.

THE TEMPLES

The Lodge did not always have its own premises. In the early days most of the meetings, which were not as numerous then as they now are, were held in members' homes. On other occasions meetings were held in various hostelrys including "Sister Denovan's Crown & Thistle Inn" at the Newmarket end of the town. Latterly meetings were held in the Old Town Hall prior to the present building being purchased. This chapter recalls the locations of Lodge meetings throughout our history.

1860 Four years after coming out of a period of abeyance, the members of the Lodge took the decision to meet in a Lodge Room as opposed to members' houses.

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

During the first meeting in the new Lodge Room, in November 1860, Bro. Rev. Thomas Smith was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge. Available records suggest Bro. Smith was the first Brother to be so honoured by the Lodge.

1865 Due to the Lodge Room being too small, the Festival of St. John and Masonic Ball was held in the suite of rooms belonging to the R.W.M. Bro. Alex Wilson.

1899 At the close of the nineteenth century, the Lodge considered the building of a new Temple instead of renting a Lodge Room. The eventual decision, however, was to rent instead of purchase.

1903 After some lengthy negotiations with the Town Hall Committee, the decision was made to rent the upper storey of the Old Town Hall with the first meeting in these premises being in February 1904. This was

to be the Lodge's regular home (war years excepted) for some 20 years.

- 1914 The Lodge premises were taken over by the Military Authorities upon the outbreak of The Great War. They were required for use by the Territorial Army. The Lodge made arrangements to meet within a local hotel.
- 1924 In this, the Lodge's Centenary Year, the brethren were in the midst of negotiations to purchase the Royal George Mill in order to convert it into a Masonic Hall. A number of events were organised to raise the necessary funding, not just for the purchase of the premises, but also the cost of renovations.

In August 1924 the Lodge concluded the purchase of the Mill for the sum of £110. Internal rebuilding and alterations were to add a further £600 to this sum. To this day the Lodge meets within these premises.

- 1925 Due to the concerted efforts required to finance and purchase our own premises, the Lodge decided against holding a Thanksgiving Service and Dinner in the Centenary Year. It was agreed that any celebrations would be delayed to coincide with moving into the New Masonic Hall at which time both the Lodge Consecration and Centenary would be celebrated.

This was duly realised when, on the 24th of April 1925, the new Temple was consecrated by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. This was followed by a Centenary Dinner.

The first meeting to be held within the new premises was on 2nd May 1925 at which time a letter was read out from Lodge Carron 139 enclosing a cheque for the magnificent sum of £11 for the Building Fund. This sum was raised by the Brethren of Lodge Carron who held a Whist Drive and Dance to assist their Sister Lodge.

- 1939 In September the Lodge premises were taken over by the Military Authorities upon the outbreak of The Second World War. The building was required for the accommodation of evacuees. Arrangements were made to meet in Bannockburn Public School.
- 1946 In anticipation of the Lodge moving back into the Masonic Hall upon its release by the Military Authorities, the minute of 11th April records a very special vote of thanks to Honorary Member Bro. John Blyth, Headmaster of Bannockburn Public School, for the excellent arrangements made for all Lodge meetings over the past six years. Bro. Blyth had "always been most courteous, obliging and helpful, and spared no effort for the comfort and accommodation of the Brethren". Gratitude was also expressed to Bro. Blyth for "his services at the organ so willingly rendered at all the Lodge Meetings".

In October a communication was received from the Quatering Commandant, Perth, informing the Lodge that the Masonic Hall was to be released from requisition on 16th October.

The meeting of 14th November 1946 marked the happy occasion of the Lodge returning to the Masonic Hall, New Road, Bannockburn following the de-requisition by the Military Authorities who had been in occupancy since July 1940. This was also the occasion of the Annual Visitation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. The Provincial Grand Master Bro. Col. A.R. Bain congratulated the Lodge on its return to its own premises and expressed the hope that never again would it be found necessary to take over the premises for war purposes. This meeting was attended by 185 brethren comprising of 14 from Provincial Grand Lodge: 30 visiting brethren and 141 members of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle.

1950 The R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Thomas Pitcairn congratulated the Brethren on the repair and renovation of the hall subsequent to its release by the Military Authorities.

THE LODGE FURNISHINGS

Many of the Lodge furnishings have been gifts from Brethren and visitors over the years. It seems appropriate that this section of the History should record these items in order that the brethren may appreciate their heritage and historical value.

This chapter has been split into two sections which are referred to as the 'Operative' and the Non Operative' furnishings.

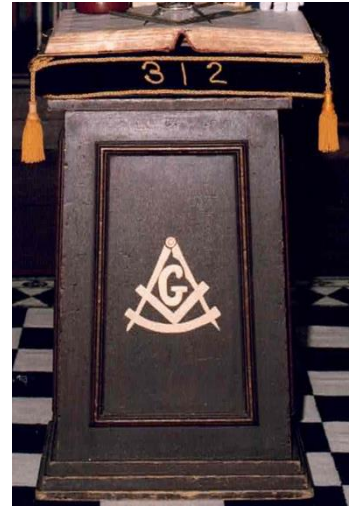
Operative Furnishings

1824 The oldest and most valuable item in the Lodge's possession is its charter, granted on the first day of November 1824 by The Grand Lodge of Scotland. In 1973 it was decided that the Charter - then 149 years old - should be left on the dais during the working of the First Degree as continual rolling and unrolling was beginning to show some damage. A framed copy of the Charter now hangs in the window alcove in the South of the Lodge, immediately to the right of the Junior Warden.

1870 On their return from the laying of the Foundation Stone at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1870, one of the deputation, Bro. E.L. Wilson R.W.M., presented a handsome mahogany mallet and Senior and Junior Wardens' Pillars adorned with the Celestial and Terrestrial Globes. These are still in use by the Lodge today, being the Master's mallet and the columns placed on the dais of the Senior and Junior Warden respectively.



1894 The Altar upon which The Holy Bible rests was presented by Bro. James Currie to mark his retirement as R.W.M. after a period of eleven years. In the same year Bro. Currie also presented the Lodge with a Pedestal, to be used as seen fit by the Brethren. This is listed in subsequent inventories as the Masters Pedestal or dais.



1896 The furnishings were further enhanced when Bro. I. McIntosh of St. Ninians presented two pedestals to the Lodge for the use of the Senior and Junior Wardens.

1927 To mark his retirement as R.W.M. Bro. John Rennie presented the two wands used by the Senior and Junior Deacons.

1948



The Volume of the Sacred Law was presented in 1948 by Bro. John White who subsequently became Master in 1949 - 50. This is an old family style bible (circa 1875) that has recently been refurbished. No records exist as to the origins of the Square and Compasses.

- 1957 The silver candlestick holder used in the Master Mason Degree when the candidate is received for the first time and during the delivery of the Emblems was presented by Bro. George Wilson P.M.
- 1977 The ceremonial sword wielded by the Sword Bearer as he escorts the Master at the opening and closing of each meeting was made and presented by Bro. John Hennessy in November 1977. In accepting on behalf of the Lodge, the R.W.M., Bro. Robert Barr, suitably replied and thanked Bro. Hennessy for this gift which Bro. Hennessy was assured would be put to good use.
- 1987 The three lesser lights placed in front of the R.W.M. and his Wardens at each meeting were made and presented by Bros. Harold Bedborough and Richard G. Buchanan. Both subsequently became Master of the Lodge.
- 1992 The Lodge was presented with a hand carved table for the presentation of the working tools during our ceremonies. This fine table was made and gifted by Bro. Robert Robertson of Lodge Zetland No. 391. At the last count Bro. Robertson had presented some sixteen such tables to various Lodges. In accepting this table on behalf of the Lodge, the R.W.M. Bro. John Rankin congratulated Bro. Robertson on the quality of his craftsmanship and assured him it would be a very welcome and useful addition to the Lodge furniture.



1995 The working tools used for the reception of all candidates into the Lodge were gifted by Bro. James G. Duffin P.M. In accepting these on behalf of the Lodge, the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White thanked Bro. Duffin for this most generous gift.

The current Lodge Carpet was used for the first time on St. Andrews night 1995. The monies to purchase this carpet were raised by Brethren and visitors purchasing a carpet square for the sum of £10 with the four corners being sponsored for £25. A framed print of this carpet with the names of all who contributed to its purchase hangs on the South wall of the Lodge.

1997 The baton used by the Director of Ceremonies in carrying out his official duties was presented by Bro. James G. White P.M. The R.W.M. Bro. Alan Buchan, on behalf of the Lodge, thanked Bro. White for this fine gift.

1999 Having passed to the Grand Lodge above early in 1999, the widow of Bro. James Collington P.M. donated his Past Master's jewel to the Lodge. As a permanent tribute to Bro. Collington, a member of 53 years standing (36 years as a Past Master), the brethren decided this jewel, presented to him in 1964, should form part of the Master's regalia and will now be worn by all future Masters of the Lodge.

LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE & THISTLE No.312

NEW LODGE CARPET

Bro. John A. Davidson R.W.M. 1979-80											Bro. Alex Buchanan R.W.M. 1991-92 Bro. Robert Buchanan R.W.M. 1992-93
Bro. Colin T. Wyse R.W.P.G.M. 1984-85	Bro. James G. White R.W.M. 1984-85	Bro. James Collinson R.W.M. 1982-84	Bro. Harry Thomson	Bro. Thomas Thomson Inner Guard	Bro. Thomas Cochran W.S.W.	Mrs. Norma Cochran	Bro. Walter Boyd	Bro. Gary Williams Captain	Bro. Peter Morrison	Bro. William Paterson	
Bro. Bill Batten P.M. CLX	Mrs. Elizabeth White	Bro. James Nelson	Bro. John Barrie	Bro. John Barrie	Bro. John Barrie	Bro. Richard Thomson	Mrs. Susan Hamilton	Bro. Christopher Williams	Bro. Robert Hamilton The 1979-91	Bro. Robert Don Sound Dracer	
Bro. Robert Don Sound Dracer	Bro. Derek Irvine	Bro. Ian E. Evans Treasurer 89	Bro. Russell Dixon	Bro. Trevor Williams	The Lodge of Alba No. 69	Bro. Gilbert Christie R.W.M. 1989-90	Bro. Tucker Hamilton	Bro. Robert McFadyen	Bro. James McDonald	Bro. Andrew Don Bible Dracer	
Bro. Andrew Don Bible Dracer	Bro. Nigel Scottie R.W.M. 1984-85	Bro. Graham J. Smith R.W.M. 1984-85	Bro. Ronald J. Foster P.M. 771	Bro. Kevin N. McCallum R.W.M. 771	Bro. David Drysdale R.W.M. 49	Bro. Alan Rodger R.W.M. 74	Bro. John Kemp W.S.W. 74	Bro. Robert McFadyen	Bro. William Stevenson	Bro. Oliver Mather P.M. 47	
Bro. Thomas Don Jar	Master Thomas Don	Bro. George Graham	Bro. James A. Smith R.W.M. 1973-74	Mrs. Agnes Smith	Bro. William Thomson	Bro. Peter Jeffery M.M. 174	Bro. Jack Daley	Bro. Robert McFarlane	Bro. Paul Rogerson	Bro. Robert McFarlane	
Bro. Thomas Don Jar	Bro. James Gutter R.W.M. 1972-73	Bro. Hugh A. Smith R.W.M. 1959-60	Bro. Alex Smith R.M. 74 R.M. 312	Bro. Harold Reddrough R.W.M. 1987-88	Bro. Alec Buchanan R.W.M. 1980-86	Bro. John Jeffery Jnr. Steward	Bro. William A. Hall L.P.M. 771	Bro. Norman Forbes R.W.M. 74	Bro. Stephen McVie	Bro. John Wallace R.W.M. 1978-79	
Bro. James G. Duffin R.W.M. 1974-75	Bro. William Millin M.M. 521	Bro. Robert Slavin M.M. 170	Bro. John McKinnon M.M. 179 R.M. 312	Bro. Derek Burt M.M. 170	Bro. Scott Jeffery Asst. Steward	Bro. Neil McLachlan	Bro. Neil McLachlan	Bro. Hugh O'Donnell P.M. 144	Bro. Philip Miley P.M. 771	Bro. Robert Barr R.W.M. 1978-77	
Bro. John Kinross	Bro. William Ferguson W.W. 771	Bro. David O'Hare	Bro. William Duncan	Bro. James Paterson	Bro. Donald Lyle W.S.W. 771	Bro. Andrew L. Catall R.W.M. 1989-91	Bro. Andrew Lindsay	Bro. Thomas C. Paterson P.M. 771	Bro. Alexander Frank P.M. 531	Jodie Paterson	
Bro. Joseph Kinross	Bro. Cameron M. Fraser R.W.M. 1993-94	Bro. John Fraser M.M. 411 R.M. 312	Bro. Graeme A. Fraser	Bro. Dugald G. Briggman R.W.M. 1979-73	Bro. David Roddie Senior Dracer	Bro. William McMillan R.W.M. 1988-89	Bro. Andrew Craig R.W.M. 1982-83	Bro. Thomas Currie	Bro. Alex McAnaghtie	Bro. William Parment	
Bro. Harry G. Proctor	Bro. Stuart Wilson	Bro. Stewart Hunter Marchant	Master Ryan Hunter	Bro. Edward Chambers M.M. 28	Bro. Peter B. McNiven	Bro. Robert McNiven	Bro. James McAdam M.M. 771	Bro. Thomas Adams P.M. 771	Bro. Sandy McAnaghtie	Bro. Thomas Campbell	
Bro. Alan D. Buchanan W.A.V.	Bro. Hector Wilson	Bro. Wilson Williamson	Bro. Paul Williamson	Bro. John A. Davidson R.W.M. 1979-80	Bro. Alexander Gennell	Bro. Ronald McMillan R.W.M. 531	Mrs. Elin Duffin	Bro. John Rankin R.W.M. 1991-92	Mrs. Helen Buchanan 1992-93	Bro. Richard G. Buchanan R.W.M. 1992-93	
Bro. John Rankin R.W.M. 1991-92											Bro. James G. White R.W.M. 1994-95

Carpet purchased by '312' first used on St. Andrews Night 1995.

Monies raised by members and visitors sponsoring each of the 121 squares for the sum of £10 per square

The four corners were each sponsored for £25 with the names being drawn by lot from a list of brethren wishing to sponsor a corner.

Thank you to all who contributed

James G. White

Non Operative Furnishings

1868 One of the oldest items in the possession of the Lodge is an inlaid Mother of Pearl Japanese Jewel Box used for the storage of the Mark Keystone and other items required for the Mark Ceremonial. Whilst no record exists to indicate the origin of this fine piece of work, it is recorded in the Inventory of Lodge Property in 1868.

Also in that inventory was the Engraved Copper Plate for the Lodge Circulars or Summonses. The current whereabouts of this Copper Plate are not known.



1870 The R.W.M. Bro. E.L. Wilson presented a handsome and richly bound photo album enclosed in an Oak Box polished with brass inscription which reads 'Bruce and Thistle Lodge Bannockburn '312''. Whilst this fine album is still in pristine condition, it is regrettable to record that it has never been utilised as intended.

1893 Included within the Inventory of Lodge Property is "The Ritual with Brass Key". This book, which is known to the present Brethren as "The Masters Book", had not been seen by most of the current Past Masters of the Lodge until it was re-discovered in January 1999.

Also, within this inventory, reference is made to "one Jute screen". This refers to the image of King Robert the Bruce on the printed screen that is situated on the wall behind the Junior Warden. This is a rubbing taken from the brass plate that was placed over the tomb of King Robert the Bruce. The Latin text around this screen states that King Robert was re-interred in Dunfermline Abbey in 1818, and the brass plate was placed on top of his tomb in 1889, 560 years after his death. Below is an image of the jute screen on the South wall and for comparison a copy of a brass rubbing of the tomb death. South wall and for comparison a copy of a brass rubbing of the tomb.

1913 The picture of 'The Lady Freemason' that adorns the window alcove in the S.E. corner of the Lodge was presented by Bro. David Miller R.W.M.

1915 During the Great War it was decided that a Roll of Honour be compiled of all members of the Lodge engaged in serving King and Country. This Roll of Honour hangs in the East of the Lodge.



- 1945 On his return from active service with H.M. Forces in 1945, Bro. Lieutenant Hector Livingstone presented the Lodge with a new gavel. This gavel was made of white stone obtained from King Solomon's Quarries and was described by Bro. John Turnbull, R.W.M., as "a unique and highly prized addition to the Lodge property". Whilst not in actual use, this gavel is stored with the implements used for the Mark Ceremonial.
- 1984 In recognition of the long association between the two lodges, the Brethren of The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87 presented a silver tray to Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 and at the same meeting conferred Honorary Membership upon the R.W.M. Bro. Alex Buchanan. This tray is used on formal occasions such as Installations and other dinners.
- 1993 Upon returning from an overseas visit in 1993, Bro. William Bateman presented the Lodge with an inscribed Masonic Clock. This clock was a gift to the Lodge from his brother, a reigning Master in Canada. In accepting on behalf of the brethren, the R.W.M. Bro. Richard G. Buchanan charged Bro. Bateman to convey the thanks and appreciation of all at Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle to his brother. This clock is in the South East part of the Lodge.
- 1995 The R.W.M. Bro. David Drysdale of The Lodge of Alloa No. 69 along with two of his brethren presented the Lodge with two perfect ashlar. In accepting these, the R.W.M. assured them that they would be placed in a prominent position at all meetings.

The Right Worshipful Master's Board that hangs in the East and bears the name of every Master in the Lodge's history was unveiled in 1995 by our senior P.M. Bro. James Collington. On that occasion the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White expressed the thanks of the Lodge to Bro. Collington for the unveiling ceremony and to Bro. Alex

Buchanan P.M. for his efforts in having the board stained, varnished and written up with the names of the one hundred Masters to date.

- 1996 To mark the bi-centenary of the death of Bro. Robert Burns in 1796, Grand Lodge produced a limited edition set of 1,000 prints of the inauguration of Bro. Robert Burns as Poet Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning in Edinburgh on 1st March 1787. This is a copy of the original painting that hangs in the museum of Grand Lodge. The R.W.M. Bro. Alan Buchan purchased No. 312 of this print, signed by The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bro. The Lord Burton, had it framed and presented to the Lodge. This now hangs on the South wall of the Lodge to the right of the Junior Warden.
- 1998 Bro. Alan Rodger, P.M. of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 and an Honorary Member of '312' presented to the Lodge the framed Past Masters apron of his Grandfather Bro. James Rodger who was Master of '312' in 1937 - 38.
- 1999 The most recent acquisition in the Lodge was made in 1999 when Bro. Grahame J. Smith P.M. presented a limited edition numbered print of Bro. Robert Burns bearing a copy of the Bard's signature. This also has a Certificate of Authenticity signed by a direct descendant of Jean Armour. This print has now been framed and hangs in the East of the Lodge.

OUR SISTER LODGES

The members of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 are proud to be members of a brotherhood encompassing the four quarters of the globe.

Whilst the Lodge minutes record many reports of visitations to sister Lodges throughout Scotland, and indeed the world, the close affinity which exists between '312' and our sister Lodges within the Province of Stirlingshire shines clearly through the history pages.

Notwithstanding the above, close ties with a few Lodges outwith the province have been developed, the oldest being our association with The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87 that goes back to 1955.

Earliest relationships were with our two sponsor Lodges, these being The Lodge of Alloa No. 69 and Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead No. 176. The Lodge was subsequently consecrated by the R.W.M. and Office Bearers of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 with deputations from Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 and Stirling Rock Encampment as well as our two sponsor Lodges in attendance.

1872 Whilst no account of this item appears within the records of '312', the minutes of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 record a great deal of gratitude to Bro. James Brown, a M.M. of '312' who affiliated to Stirling Royal Arch. In 1872 Stirling Royal Arch went into abeyance for a period of twelve years. During this period Bro. Brown paid the Annual Dues to Grand Lodge on behalf of '76', thus preserving their identity and retaining the number '76' on the Roll of The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Bro. Brown and 17 other Brethren (two of whom were M.Ms of '312') reactivated Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 with Bro. Brown

in the Chair. He was Master for a period of three years at the end of which the Lodge had 80 active members.

Bro. Brown was the first Life Member of '76' and the first Past Master to receive a Past Master's Jewel. The minutes of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch also record that Bro. Brown subsequently became Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

1874 The first recorded minute regarding other Lodges was the acceptance of an invitation from Lodge Abercromby No. 531 in Bridge of Allan to join with their brethren in their First Anniversary Festival.

1875 At the installation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire when Bro. Lord Balfour of Burleigh was installed as W.P.G.M. Depute and Bro. George Christie was installed as W.S.P.G.M., the Lodge was represented by the R.W.M. Bro. George Watson

The R.W.M. Bro. Watson also reported an interesting account of his visit to the Lodge of Alloa No. 69 when the new Lodge premises were consecrated.

1895 The first record of the Mark Ceremonial being conducted within the Lodge appears in the minute 12th April 1895 when Bro. John King, P.M. of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30, formed a Lodge of Mark Masters and advanced 15 brethren to the honourable rank of Mark Master Mason.

1900's In the early 1900's it appears to have been common practice for Lodges to assist each other in fund raising efforts to acquire premises. Requests for donations towards building funds were regularly received and amounts varying from a half crown up to five pounds were regularly granted.

- 1903 An appeal from Lodge Callendar No. 588 requesting assistance in their fund raising efforts to build a new hall. The Lodge responded in the first instance by making a donation from Lodge Funds of £3 and advised the Brethren of Lodge Callendar that it was the intention to run a bazaar or a Prize Draw on their behalf.
- 1904 The following year the Lodge raised the sum of £5.17.9d from this Prize Draw and bazaar. This was raised to £6 and despatched to the Secretary of Lodge Callendar.
- 1905 The Lodge donated the sum of £5 to the Building Fund of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30.
- 1906 It was not only local Lodges who were supported by '312'. Amongst those Lodges outwith the province who received donations from '312' were Lodge St. Mary Coltness No. 31; Lodge St. John Coupar Angus No. 105; Lodge St. Fillans No. 815, Killin, and Lodge Odin No. 917 Kirkwall.
- 1910 A donation of £10 was made towards the building of the new Grand Lodge Freemason's Hall in Edinburgh, a project which was to cost £30,000.
- 1928 The Lodge participated in running a "Sister Lodges Stall" at a bazaar held by Lodge Polmont No. 793 in aid of their Building Fund.
- 1944 Bro. John G. Wilson P.M. gave a most interesting report of a visit he had undertaken to Freemason's Hall, English Constitution in London. He later attended a meeting held by Lodge Robert Burns No. 25 and remarked with interest that throughout the world there are five Masonic Lodge's named after our National Bard - one in Scotland, two in England and two in Australia.

- 1946 Bro. John G. Wilson informed the brethren that the Lodge had agreed to be a member of the Stirling & District Bowling Association and would play annually for the Christison Trophy.
- 1951 At the official opening of the Masonic Home at Ault Wharrie, Dunblane the Lodge was represented by the R.W.M. Bro. George Richardson. The opening ceremony was performed by H.R.H. The Princess Royal (Princess Mary) on the 27th of October 1951.
- 1956 In August the Lodge recorded its first victory in the Christison Bowling Trophy of the Stirlingshire Masonic Bowling Association. This was followed by further success in 1957.
- 1957 The R.W.M. Bro. Robert Laird along with his two wardens Bros. Robert Moultrie and Dixon Vallance represented the Lodge at the Bi-Centenary celebrations of The Lodge of Alloa No. 69.
- 1958 The Lodge was represented by the R.W.M. Bro. Robert Moultrie in Dunblane at the opening of Randolph Hill, the latest addition to the Royal Scottish Masonic Home.
- 1959 In March the Lodge was represented at the Re-dedication Service and Bi-centenary dinner of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76.
- 1962 An invitation was accepted to attend the Bi-centenary celebrations of Lodge Thistle Glasgow No. 87.
- 1983 The Lodge was honoured when the R.W.M. Bro. Andrew Craig was invited to propose the Toast to the Prosperity of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 at their Dedication Dinner upon their moving to the new Masonic Temple in Forth Street, Stirling.
- 1984 At the 125th celebrations of Lodge Zetland No. 391 the R.W.M. Bro. Alex Buchanan and his Wardens Bros. Grahame J. Smith and

Alexander Buchanan represented '312'. The ceremony was conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bro. J.M. Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet.

- 1985 To mark the 30th anniversary of the association of our two Lodges, the R.W.M. Bro. Grahame J. Smith, on behalf of the brethren of '312', presented a decanter to The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87.
- 1988 In memory of Bro. Alexander Buchanan P.M. who passed away suddenly the previous year, a Sports Night was held between Lodge St. James No. 590 Harthill and Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle. The winners were Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle. This has become an Annual event with the spoils to date being evenly balanced.

Lodges Ancient Stirling No. 30 and Buchlyvie No. 1268 organised a sponsored "It's a Knockout" in Annfield Stadium, the home of Stirling Albion Football Club. The Lodges who participated were Ancient Stirling No. 30; Stirling Royal Arch No. 76; St. James Doune No. 171; Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle No. 312; Abercromby No. 531; Buchlyvie No. 1268; Buchanan No. 1499 and Easterhouse No. 1591. Whilst it is pleasing to record that the event was won by Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle, it is even more pleasing to record that the sum of £3,200 was raised for the Handicapped Children of the Stirling Area.

In July 1988 Bro. Grahame J. Smith P.M. was appointed to the office of Grand Scribe E in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. This appointment reflected great honour on both Bro. Smith and his Mother Lodge.

- 1989 Lodges Ancient Stirling No. 30 and Buchlyvie No. 1268 ran a second sponsored "It's a Knockout. Whilst Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and

Thistle did not on this occasion win the tournament, the real winners were the Local Charities who benefited to the tune of £2,700.

- 1994 Past Masters Alex Buchanan, John Rankin and Richard G. Buchanan along with W.S.W. Bro. James G. White visited The Lion Lodge No. 312 E.C. in Whitby, North Yorkshire. They were very well received in what was hoped would prove to be the first of many visits between the two Lodges holding of the same number either side of Hadrian's Wall.
- 1995 The Lodge received a visit from the W.M. Bro. Clive Dodsworth and three brethren from The Lion Lodge No. 312 E.C. in Whitby, N. Yorkshire. These brethren enjoyed not only a M.M. degree as practised by Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle, but also stayed an additional night to enjoy the Annual Burns Supper.

The Lodge was represented by the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White and several brethren at the 250th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire in the Masonic Hall, Alva.

Bro. James Collington P.M., on behalf of the Lodge, presented an inscribed decanter to the R.W.M. and Brethren of The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87 to mark the 40 year association between the two Lodges.

- 1997 The R.W.M. Bro. Alan D. Buchan accompanied by several brethren represented the Lodge at the Centenary Celebrations of Lodge Craiginnan No. 850 in Dollar.

The Lodge recorded its seventh victory in the Christison Bowling Trophy of the Stirlingshire Masonic Bowling Association, a tournament which has now been running since 1947.

- 1998 The R.W.M. Bro. Thomas. W. Thomson, accompanied by several brethren, represented the Lodge at the 125th Celebrations of Lodge Abercromby No. 531 in Bridge of Allan.
- 1999 The R.W.M. Bro. Alexander Don, accompanied by several brethren, represented the Lodge at the 400th Celebrations of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30.

BENEVOLENCE & CHARITY

Shining through the records, however presented, is the fact that Lodge Bannockburn 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 Brethren of the Lodge have always been ready and willing to give a practical token of their sympathy to those in distress. Whilst it would neither be possible, nor desirable, to recount every instance of benevolence recorded within the minutes, certain events are worthy of specific mention.

- 1907 On request from Lodge Iowa in Canada where he was then residing, the Lodge agreed to pay for the medical treatment of Bro. Thomas Bartram, a member of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle, who was afflicted with typhoid.
- 1908 The Lodge made an Annual Donation of one guinea to Glasgow Royal Infirmary; the sum having been set at the level required to "entitle the Lodge to one patient". This donation was made on an annual basis up until 1939.
- 1909 A payment of £5 to the widow of Bro. George McCormack to enable her to start a small business to support her family.
- 1913 Two guineas were donated to the '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 made homeless after an earthquake.
- 1914 During the Great War Years donations were made to various causes including the Belgian Refugee Fund and the Provincial Grand Lodge

of Stirlingshire fund for the endowment of a bed at the new National Hospital.

During this period the Lodge of course also looked after its own. Donations were made for the comfort of Prisoners of War such as Bros. John Wilson and William Cook, members of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle.

In addition, the Lodge sent Christmas Parcels to all members engaged in active service.

1921 £5 towards a communal soup kitchen in Bannockburn.

1922 The Lodge lost three members, Bros. John Barlow, John Hunter and W.S.W. William Lennie in the Plean Pit explosion. £10 was donated to the Disaster Fund and provision made for the widows and families.

1939 It was unanimously agreed to make an annual donation of two guineas to Stirling Royal Infirmary and to cease the annual donation of one guinea to Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

1953 A donation of £5 was made towards the supply of a television and wireless set for the use of the patients at Bannockburn Hospital.

1967 The sum of £200 was donated towards the third Masonic Home at Dunblane.

A donation of £15 was made to the two Boys Brigade companies in the village.

1981 Such was the poor state of the Lodge's finances, that for the first time in recorded history it was decided to regrettably decline all external charitable appeals. The Lodge, however, continued to make its annual

donations to the Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge Benevolent Funds as well as the Masonic Homes.

Whilst the ability to make charitable donations was curtailed, this did not prevent the Lodge assisting the community whenever possible.

- 1982 A Prize Bingo night was organised to raise funds to purchase a special hearing aid for a local child.

A donation of £100 was made to the Plean Wheelchair Fund which had been established for two needy persons, one of whom was a brother of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle.

- 1988 The Lodge Members and the patrons of the Social Club donated sufficient funds to purchase chocolate Easter Eggs for the residents of Bannockburn Hospital. This has been repeated every year since then, when the R.W.M. accompanied by Office-Bearers and Honorary Member Bro. Alex Smith have visited the hospital on Easter Sunday to personally hand out the eggs to the elderly residents and to give a small harmony in the lounge.

The first of what has become Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle's Annual Charity and Cabaret night. This event, organised by the Junior Deacon Bro. John Rankin, raised the sum of £220 which was donated to the Local Handicapped Children Fund.

Since 1988, Bro. John, (now a Past Master), has run this event on an annual basis, raising in excess of £6,000 for local charities thanks to the generosity of the Artistes who give of their time free of charge and the support of the Lodge Members and Social Club patrons.

Bro. Alex Buchanan P.M. also organised a sponsored walk in aid of local charities. This event raised £265.

1989 The Annual Inter Lodge Sports Night raised £150 which was donated to Bannockburn Hospital. This is an ongoing event with local charities being the recipients of all monies raised.

The second Annual Charity and Cabaret night raised the sum of £453 for The Whins of Milton School.

1990 £100 to the Stirling Royal Infirmary Heart Machine Appeal. This was augmented by a further £100 raised in the Inter Lodge Sports Night held later in the year.

1996 The Lodge donated the sum of £1,100 to the Dunblane Appeal. This money was raised by Lodge Members, visitors and patrons of the Social Club who supported a Gentlemen's Smoker. All in attendance proved to be extremely generous on that occasion. This event had originally been intended to assist with funding for the Lodge's 175th Anniversary in 1999.

The Ladies Section have always been very involved in supporting the Lodge in whatever way possible such as organising raffles, prize bingo nights and Ladies Nights. This has been augmented in recent times by Bro. William McMillan Snr and his wife Margaret who for several years sold Hamburgers on the Saturday Night Socials. In so doing, all have raised significant sums for the benefit of both the Lodge and the Community.

One of the most recent examples of the Ladies fund raising ventures to benefit the community was in May 1999 when Mrs. Agnes Mathers, ably assisted and supported by the Ladies of the Lodge, raised the sum of £762 for the support of a young girl suffering from a serious respiratory illness. These monies were raised by the selling of Hamburgers on the Saturday Night Socials (Agnes having taken over from Bro. William McMillan and his wife Margaret) and the running of a Prize Charity Bingo night.

FOUNDATION STONES

In previous times, particularly the latter half of the 19th century, it was customary for Lodges to be involved with the laying of foundation stones of public buildings. Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 was very active in their support of these occasions with the brethren often travelling great distances.

The Lodge was represented at such ceremonies as the new bridge over the Forth at Stirling in 1831; the Wallace Monument in 1861; the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1870 and the Smith Arts Museum at Stirling in 1871.

In 1826 the Brethren attended the laying of the Foundation Stone of James Wilson's Mill in Bannockburn. 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 bearing the date 1826.

Below is a brief list of the foundation stone ceremonies at which the Lodge was in attendance.

- 1861 The Wallace Monument
- 1866 County Buildings, Falkirk
- 1870 Albert Bridge, Glasgow
- 1870 Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- 1871 Smith Arts Museum, Stirling
- 1872 Municipal Buildings, Alloa
- 1876 New Post Office, Glasgow
- 1879 New Masonic Hall, Falkirk
- 1882 Forth Bridge at South Alloa
- 1900 Dobbie Hall, Larbert
- 1902 The Grand Lodge of Scotland, Edinburgh

In May 1964 the Lodge participated in the Masonic Service at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Plinth supporting the statue of King Robert the Bruce at the Borestone.

PRESENTATIONS TO MEMBERS OF '312'

Like its sister Lodges, Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 has never been slow to recognise and appreciate those brethren who have given exemplary service to the Lodge.

Throughout the Lodge's history such valued members have been presented with various tokens of appreciation and these are recorded here.

1869 The first member to be recognised in this manner was Bro. James Garrow P.M. who was presented with a Silver Snuff Box when moving to Glasgow as a "testimonial for the services which he had rendered in connection with this Lodge".

As mentioned elsewhere in this book, Bro. Garrow was installed as R.W.M. in 1856 (25 years after his first term as R.W.M.) to resurrect the Lodge after a period of abeyance. He guided the Lodge as R.W.M. for a further three years during which time the Lodge re-established its presence and never again had to go into abeyance.

1877 In gratitude of his completion of six years as Master of the Lodge (1871 - 77) retiring R.W.M. Bro. George Watson was presented with a handsome Drawing Room Marble Timepiece. Bro. Watson subsequently chaired every meeting of the Lodge during his year as I.P.M. signing the minute on every occasion as Acting R.W.M. before being re-installed as R.W.M. during the period 1878 - 83. Bro. George Watson served the Lodge as Master for a period of 12 years, albeit one of those years was as "Acting Master".

1896 Two brethren who were going overseas, Bros. Neil Gillies to China and James F. Denovan to South Africa, were presented with Gold Jewels on what was a unique farewell occasion.

- 1901 A presentation was made by the Lodge to Bro. A. McCowan to mark his 25 years as Lodge Treasurer. The presentation was made by Bro. Rev. Andrew Morrison.
- 1902 Bro. I. McIntosh, who had presented the Lodge with Pedestals for the Senior and Junior Wardens six years previously, was presented with a walking stick and silver pencil by the Brethren on the occasion of his leaving the district. An umbrella was also presented to Mrs. McIntosh.
- 1916 A Gold Albert Chain and Seal and a life membership certificate were presented to Bro. George Don who had been the Lodge Tyler for 25 years.
- 1922 A subscription was opened by members to present P.M. medals to Bros. Doctor John Morrison and Henry Postle. These were presented to at the Festival of St. John. This is the first recorded presentation of P.M. medals or Jewels in the Lodge's history.
- 1928 An inscribed Gold Watch was presented to Bro. John Rennie I.P.M. in recognition of services rendered to the Lodge in connection with the building of the Temple.
- 1944 During the Festival of St. John in 1944, the Lodge made a presentation of a desk to the retiring Master Bro. James Wilson in appreciation of his four years' service as R.W.M. The Lodge also presented Bro. Wilson with a Gold wrist watch for Mrs. Wilson.

Bro. Wilson served as Master for a period of four consecutive years from 1940 to 1944. The Lodge Minute of 30th November 1944 records a number of tributes paid by individual Brethren, thereby demonstrating the very high esteem and regard in which Bro. Wilson was held having led the Lodge through the difficult and anxious times of the Second World War.

- 1945 Saw the retiral of Bro. William Wark as Lodge Treasurer. Bro. Wark, who had served as Chaplain for one year, Secretary for six years and latterly as Treasurer through the War years, received a vote of thanks from the Brethren and was subsequently presented with a gift from the Lodge as a token of appreciation.
- 1946 Bro. David Miller, a member of the Lodge for 42 years who had filled many offices with merit and distinction, was presented with life membership. During his years of membership Bro. Miller had opted to pay annual dues rather than take out a life membership.
- 1955 On behalf of the Lodge, R.W.M. Bro. Keith Allan presented an engraved wrist watch to Bro. John McGregor on his retiring from the post of Director of Ceremonies after 20 years in office.
- 1958 Bro. Archibald Swan, who had been Lodge Organist for 10 years, received a presentation from the Brethren of a cigarette case and lighter in appreciation of his services.
- 1972 Bro. John Greer was presented with a Masonic Bible by the Brethren in appreciation of his services on the organ during the meetings. Bro. Greer suitably replied advising the brethren that whilst he affiliated to and eventually became Master of Lodge Buchlyvie No. 1268, he had never lost sight of the fact that Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle was his Mother Lodge and assured the brethren of his services in the coming years.
- 1977 A presentation was made to Bro. Thomas Duchart who had served as Tyler and Hall keeper for 18 years from 1958 to 1976. Bro. Duchart had been an enthusiastic and regular attender since his initiation in 1936. This presentation consisted of an inscribed pewter tankard and a monetary gift. Sadly, Bro. Duchart passed to the Grand Lodge above only four weeks after this presentation.

1998 To mark 20 years as Lodge Treasurer, the Lodge presented an engraved Masonic Mallet to Bro. James G. Duffin P.M. In making the presentation on behalf of the brethren, Bro. James A. Smith P.M. and Secretary expressed the appreciation of the Lodge for the very hard work and commitment given by Bro. Duffin throughout his 35 years membership of '312'. During this period Bro. Duffin had risen through the various offices to become R.W.M. in 1974 and immediately upon retiring from the chair assumed the duties of Secretary for two years before becoming Treasurer in 1978.

During his tenure as Lodge Treasurer, Bro. Duffin had managed the financial affairs of the Lodge in a most professional manner. From an inherited situation of very serious financial difficulties and debt, he had guided the Lodge to a point whereby the funds and income were now in a very healthy state of affairs. In conclusion Bro. Smith wished Bro. Duffin health and prosperity to continue his duties as Lodge Treasurer.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE & THISTLE No. 312

The first record of a Brother from another Lodge being made an Honorary Member of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 was minuted in November 1860.

Since then the minutes record a further sixteen brethren being so honoured.

1860 During the first meeting in the new Lodge Room, in November 1860, Bro. Rev. Thomas Smith was made an Honorary Member. It would be reasonable to assume that Bro. Smith visited the Lodge on that occasion to dedicate the temple and was thereafter made an Honorary Member. The minute does not record Bro. Smith's Mother Lodge.

1899 The second occasion was in March 1899. On that night Bro. James J. Munro of Lodge St. Andrew Denny and Loanhead No. 176 had Honorary Membership bestowed upon him. This was followed one month later by Bro. James Neilson, also from Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead.

Whilst no records exist to indicate any celebration of the Lodge's 75th Anniversary in 1899, it is probable that these two Honorary Memberships conferred upon Brethren from one of our sponsor Lodges were in some way connected with that anniversary.

1926 It was to be a further twenty seven years before such an honour was again conferred, this time on the Provincial Grand Master Bro. Dr. Edmund E. Dyer. Whilst this may have been in recognition of his services as Provincial Grand Master, it may be significant that this was only months after the Lodge had belatedly celebrated its

centenary and that Dr. Dyer was a member of The Lodge of Alloa No. 69, our other sponsor Lodge.

- 1942 The Provincial Grand Master Bro. Daniel Robertson J.P. was admitted into Honorary Membership of the Lodge in appreciation of his service to Freemasonry in general and Stirlingshire in particular.

Two months later, in March 1942, Honorary Membership was also conferred upon Bro. Thomas Pitcairn, the Provincial Grand Secretary, in recognition of his hard work and dedication to the Craft. Bro. Pitcairn was later to become Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire.

- 1945 Honorary Membership was conferred upon Bro. John Blyth, Headmaster of Bannockburn Public School and a member of Lodge St. Ayles No. 95.

This honour was conferred upon Bro. Blyth in recognition of his services and assistance during the War Years when the Lodge met within the School Hall. The R.W.M. stated that Bro. Blyth had "always been most courteous, obliging and helpful, and spared no effort for the comfort and accommodation of the Brethren". Gratitude was also expressed to Bro. Blyth for "his services at the organ so willingly rendered at all the Lodge Meetings".

- 1958 Bro. Alexander Tait, a well-known local singer, was made an Honorary Member in appreciation of all he had done for Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle in both ritual and harmony.

- 1963 Bro. Joseph Whittaker P.M. of Lodge Dalhousie No. 720 had Honorary Membership conferred upon him in recognition of the high esteem in which he was held by the Brethren of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle.

- 1973 Bro. Alexander Stewart of Lodge St. James Doune No. 171 had Honorary Membership conferred upon him by the Lodge in recognition of the good works undertaken by him on behalf of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle. Bro. Stewart, whose Mother Lodge had been invited to confer the Fellow Craft degree on this occasion, was further honoured by being invited to sit in the East.
- 1975 Bro. John H.K. McLean, a Past Master of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 was invested with Honorary Membership. He had been a regular visitor to the Lodge over many years and had proposed the toast to Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle at the 150th Anniversary Dinner in 1974.
- 1983 In November 1983 Honorary Membership was conferred upon Bro. Alex Smith of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 in recognition and appreciation of his services as organist during our meetings.
- 1994 The R.W.M. Bro. Cameron M. Fraser had the great privilege of bestowing Honorary Membership upon his father Bro. John Fraser, a M.M. of Lodge Dolphin No. 911. In accepting this honour, Bro. John expressed his thanks and appreciation to the R.W.M. and all the Brethren of '312', amongst whom he had made many friends over the years.

The Provincial Grand Master Bro. Colin T. Wyse was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle in appreciation of his services to Freemasonry in general and to the Province of Stirlingshire in particular.

- 1995 Honorary Membership was conferred upon Bro. John McKinnon, a M.M. of Lodge Leven St. John No. 170 in Renton, Dunbartonshire. Even though Bro. John was well into his 80's, he rarely missed a meeting at '312'. The R.W.M. Bro. James G. White invited Bro. McKinnon to join him in the East on this special occasion.

- 1996 Bro. Alan Rodger, R.W.M. of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 was awarded Honorary Membership of the Lodge in appreciation of the works he had undertaken on behalf of the Lodge. In response Bro. Rodger thanked the brethren of '312' for the honour bestowed upon him adding that he was a proud man indeed to be made an Honorary Member of '312', the Lodge his grandfather had been Master of in 1937 - 38.
- 1998 Bro. Robert Slaven of Lodge Leven St. John No. 170 had Honorary Membership conferred upon him. This was awarded in appreciation of the many visits to 312 undertaken by Bro. Slaven and for his support and assistance to Bro. John McKinnon, also an Honorary Member of '312', who could not travel to Bannockburn without Bro. Slaven's assistance.



Honorary Members of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle

Alan Rodger P.M. 76

John Fraser M.M. 911

Alex Smith M.M. 76 Hon P.G. Organist Colin T. Wyse P.M. 771 I.P.P.G.M. John McKinnon M.M. 170

BRETHREN OF LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE & THISTLE MADE HONORARY MEMBERS OF SISTER LODGES

The Brethren of '312' have long been recognised for the support given and friendships forged with their Sister Lodges, not only in Stirlingshire, but also in the wider Masonic Community.

On occasion this has been recognised by a brother having Honorary Membership bestowed upon him, thus reflecting honour not only on himself, but also his Mother Lodge.

Honorary Membership is a practice that has gone on for many years with '312' having first conferred such an honour on a visiting brother in 1860. Surprisingly, however, the first recorded minute within our own books referring to a brother from '312' receiving such an accolade appeared in 1958. It is probable that the minute books of other Lodges may record such an honour being conferred on a member of '312' prior to this time. If such information comes to light in the future, we shall be only too pleased to incorporate it into future history books.

1958 The first minute recording a brother from '312' being made an Honorary Member of another Lodge appears in 1958 when the I.P.M. Bro. George Bruce Maver, was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Dalhousie No. 720.

1984 Bro. Alex Buchanan R.W.M. had Honorary Membership conferred upon him by the brethren of The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87. This was in recognition not only of the personal support given by Bro. Alex to The Thistle Lodge but also to mark the 30 year association between our two Lodges.

1989 Bro. John Davidson was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Ben Ledi No. 614 in Callendar in appreciation of his support and service to that Lodge over a period of years.

1991 Bro. John Kinross was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Ben Cleuch No. 782 in appreciation of the assistance and support he had given to the brethren of that Lodge.

Bro. James Dawson was made an Honorary Member of Lodge St. James Doune No. 171 in recognition of his services to Lodge 171.

1994 Past Masters Bro. Dugald G. Bridgeman and Bro. John Wallace were made Honorary Members of The Lodge of Alloa No. 69 in appreciation of their various works on behalf of Lodge No. 69.

The R.W.M. Bro. James G. White, Bro. Richard G. Buchanan P.M. and Chaplain Bro. Gary Williams had Honorary Membership of Lodge St. Servanus No. 771 bestowed upon them by the R.W.M. Bro. William Hall and the Brethren of 771 in appreciation of their support to Lodge St. Servanus.

1995 Bro. John Rankin P.M. was made an Honorary Member of The Thistle Lodge of Glasgow No. 87 in appreciation of the assistance and support he had given to the brethren of that Lodge.

1996 Bro. John Davidson was made an Honorary Member of Lodge St. James Doune No. 171 in recognition of his services to that Lodge. This is unique in the Lodges History in that it is the first time a brother of '312' has received Honorary Membership of two Lodges, both Lodges being in the Province of Perthshire West.

1997 Bro. James Collington P.M. was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76. Although well into his 80s, Bro. Collington rarely missed a meeting at either No. 76 or his own Mother

Lodge. In conferring this honour upon Bro. Collington, the R.W.M. of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch described him as a "shining example and inspiration to all brethren".

**HONORARY GRAND RANK
BESTOWED UPON MEMBERS OF
LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE & THISTLE
No. 312**

There are no minuted instances of brethren of '312' having Honorary Provincial Grand Rank bestowed upon them.

There are however two minutes referring to Brethren of '312' having Honorary Grand Rank bestowed upon them.

1954 In November 1954 Bro. Andrew Millar P.M. had the Honorary Rank of Bible Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Scotland conferred upon him by The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland Bro. Alexander, The 7th Lord Macdonald of Sleat. As well as being a great personal honour for Bro. Miller, this award reflected on Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312.

1994 Forty years later in November 1994 the rank of Honorary Grand Jeweller was bestowed upon Bro. James Collington P.M. by The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bro. The Lord Burton in recognition of his services to the Craft. This was a tremendous accolade which reflected great honour on Bro. Collington, Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle and the Province of Stirlingshire.

Bro. Collington was presented with his Diploma by the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Colin T. Wyse in December 1994 whilst the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White, on behalf of the brethren of '312', presented Bro. Collington with the jewel of his office.

MASTERS OF OTHER LODGES

The minute books of the Lodge only record a few occasions when brethren of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 have, through circumstance or career change, moved from the area, affiliated to other Lodges, and subsequently become Masters of their affiliate Lodge.

It is undoubtedly the case this number could be increased significantly due to these events either not being recorded or perhaps '312' not being informed. It is hoped that future historians will augment this section should additional information become available.

1884 Whilst not in our own minutes, the books of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 record that Bro. James Brown, a M.M. of '312' affiliated to and became Master of '76' in 1884. Bro. Brown was instrumental in reactivating '76' after a dormant period of 12 years and was Master of the Lodge for three years.

He was the first Life Member of '76' and the first Past Master to receive a Past Masters Jewel. The minutes of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch also record that Bro. Brown thereafter became Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

1950 The first such event recorded in our own minutes was in October 1950 when the Lodge received greetings from Bro. Rev. Norman Birnie, who had been installed as R.W.M. of a Lodge in Jamaica. Bro. Birnie expressed the hope that he may have the opportunity to visit his Mother Lodge soon. There is no recorded minute of Bro. Binnie achieving this aim.

1955 In October 1955 the minutes record the remarks of the R.W.M. Bro. Peter Harrower of Lodge Ladywell No. 1474 Tullibody when he said, "it is 18 years since I was initiated into '312' and on this occasion I

feel very proud and honoured in being invited to return to my Mother Lodge and confer a degree as Master of Lodge Ladywell 1474".

- 1971 Bro. John Greer was installed as R.W.M. of Lodge Buchlyvie No. 1268. Bro. Greer, who still attended his own Mother Lodge and played the organ during our meetings, was presented with a Masonic Bible by the Brethren of '312'. Bro Greer, in his reply, stated that he had never lost sight of the fact that Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle was his Mother Lodge and assured the brethren of his services in the coming years.
- 1986 Bro. John Hennessy was installed as R.W.M. of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76. Nine years earlier, in November 1977, Bro. Hennessy made and presented to the Lodge a ceremonial sword for use by the Bro. Sword Bearer. This is the sword carried by the Sword Bearer as he escorts the Master at the opening and closing of each meeting.
- 1995 Bro. Reginald J. Weston was installed as R.W.M. in Lodge Clackmannan No. 1303. Bro. Reginald, who has always retained his link with his Mother Lodge, ensured that Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 was represented at his installation by inviting the R.W.M. of '312' to appear on his toast list.
- 1996 Bro. James B. Dawson was installed as R.W.M. in Lodge St. James Doune No. 171. Bro. James, who also retained close links with his Mother Lodge, was installed into the chair by P.M.s of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312.
- 1998 Bro. John Bell was installed as Master of Lodge St. Andrew Denny & Loanhead No. 176. Bro. John has supported his Mother Lodge throughout the years and has been a regular artiste in our Annual Charity Cabaret evenings. It is particularly pleasing in our 175th year, that a Master Mason of '312' should be invited, in his capacity as

R.W.M. of one of our sponsor Lodges, to write a foreword to our Lodge History.

1999 The latest brother in this section is Robert Smith Gorman, the present R.W.M. of Lodge St. Mark No. 1313 in Kincardineshire. Bro. Robert left Bannockburn some 20 years earlier and was installed as R.W.M. of St. Mark's in January 1999 by Past Masters from his own Mother Lodge.

LODGE & COMMUNITY

The brethren of the Lodge have ever been mindful of the fact that they are part of the greater community and have assisted and supported other organisations wherever possible.

To the present day the Lodge has always made the premises available to any member of the community who wishes to organise an event to raise funds for any charitable cause.

- 1878 The Lodge agreed to give the Lodge Room, free of charge, to young men to hold their Sabbath Morning Meetings.
- 1897 It was agreed to allow the Lodge Premises to be used by The Order of Free Gardeners for their fortnightly meetings.
- 1924 Bannockburn Boys Brigade were granted the use of the third floor.
- 1929 At a meeting in November 1929 it was agreed to allow the United Free Church use of the Temple and the Hall for Church services and Church work respectively.
- 1947 It was agreed to allow Bannockburn Youth Club (Football Section) the use of the third floor hall as a changing room and for indoor training purposes.
- 1999 At the time of writing the Lodge is negotiating the possibility of making the third floor (out of use since 1983) available to Bannockburn Amateur Boxing Club for boxing and physical training.
- 1990's The monies raised on the Annual Charity Cabaret and Inter Lodge Sports Nights have always gone to worthwhile causes within the immediate community whether connected with the Craft or otherwise.

THE '312' SOCIAL CLUB

In common with most other Lodges, Masonic transactions alone do not raise sufficient funds to cover the running costs of a Masonic Hall.

The upkeep and maintenance of the building coupled with ever increasing costs for heating, lighting, insurances and rates has placed a serious financial burden on all Lodges owning their own hall.

For these reasons many Lodges have found it necessary to operate Social Clubs with the specific objective of assisting the Lodge to retain its own premises – Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle being no different.

The origins of the Social Club are unclear with little reference appearing within the Lodge Minutes. The '312 Social Club' appears to have been in operation since the late 1950's. The Club at one time seems to have been run by a Committee and indeed had its own bye-laws.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's several serious disagreements are recorded in the Lodge Minute Books regarding the operation of the Social Club, particularly the line of responsibility for all Social Club financial matters. Provincial Grand Lodge's opinions were sought on various occasions. It appears that these arguments and disputes 'petered out' as opposed to being fully resolved with Votes of Confidence, Motions and Counter Motions being raised both in Open Lodge and at Committee level.

Throughout the 1960's and early 1970's the Social Club appears to have been relatively busy and in so doing generated a significant amount of income to the Lodge in its struggle to make ends meet.

This prosperous position, however, came to an end in the late 1970's with both the Lodge and Social Club being in debt by 1981. To reduce the Rates Bill, the decision was made to close the Lower Hall in 1982.

It was around this time it was determined that the Social Club would be organised by a Social Club Committee consisting of all Office Bearers of the Lodge under the Chairmanship of the Master.

The Social Club continued to utilise the Middle Hall and by 1985 had turned an annual loss into a profit. Whilst a dip in income was experienced in the mid 1990's the Social Club has been consistently profitable since 1985 and has contributed greatly to the upkeep of the building.

As we approach the new millennium the decision has been made to form a 'new' social club entitled 'The Bruce & Thistle 312 Social Club' with its inaugural meeting having taken place in July 1999. This new set up will ensure that the Social Club is run directly by its elected committee and members. Its Constitution is designed to keep abreast of the complex licensing laws with various types of Membership now available. What has not changed is its principal objective of fully supporting Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 in all its activities. The first Chairman is John Rankin with John Davidson as Vice Chairman, both Past Masters of the Lodge.

When the time comes to write up the Lodge History for its 200th Anniversary in 2024 it is hoped that a very profitable and enjoyable account of the first 25 years of The Bruce & Thistle 312 Social Club will form part of that history.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

This section of the book recounts several entries in the minute books which for varying reasons are worthy of recording.

During the 1800's the Lodge was opened for the transaction of all business coming before it and for the Initiation, Passing and Raising of candidates. The Lodge then went from Labour to Refreshment, under the guidance of the Bro. Junior Warden, when Harmony was conducted.

Thereafter at the hour of High Twelve, the Brethren were called from Refreshment to Labour in order that the Lodge could be formally closed in due and ancient order. Given that the hour of High Twelve in Masonic terms is mid-day, this should be construed as a symbolical time and not as the midnight hour.

The above might explain the poetic and lighthearted manner in which the Bro. Secretary recorded the closing of the Festival of St. John meetings in 1866 and 1867. On both occasions the Festival was followed by a Masonic Ball. After the last dance the Brethren returned to Labour to close the Lodge.

1866 It was recorded that "the dancing thereafter commenced and was kept up with great spirit by the Brethren till the Doric Pillar was on its level when the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form".

1867 "The Lodge was put under the care of the Junior Warden when the Brethren enjoyed the balmy influences of the Sunny South and were thereafter called from Refreshment to Labour when the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form".

1870's In the late 1800's through to the 1920's, an annual inventory of the Lodge's possessions was taken, the contents of which are very interesting and portray the times in which the brethren lived. Included

within the various inventories were 38 Toddy Ladles, 34 Toddy Tumblers, 43 Dram Glasses and 3 Spittoons!!

- 1874 With the approach of the Lodge's 50th Anniversary, the Lodge Committee deemed it inadvisable to have any public demonstration such as a torchlight procession or parade. Instead, it was agreed that any celebration be held back until the evening of Winter St. John.

On 29th December 1874 the Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary with Bro. George Watson R.W.M. toasting the success and prosperity of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle No. 312. The R.W.M. also gave a short historical sketch of the Lodge to the assembled Brethren. In closing he stated that "The Lodge has had its years of adversity as well as its years of prosperity, but the latter had fairly predominated, and he hoped that its career in the future would show an equally fair balance on the prosperous side when summed up at the expiry of another fifty years"

- 1877 The proposal by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to raise fees was discussed within the Lodge at which time it was agreed that if carried "it would virtually prevent any candidates coming forward, the present fee being already sufficiently high".

- 1902 A telegram was sent to Her Majesty Queen Alexandria at Buckingham Palace expressing that "We, the Brethren of Bruce & Thistle Lodge No. 312 tender our heartfelt sympathy to you in the present illness of our Beloved Patron of Scottish Masonry". This was a reference to King Edward VII, whose portrait to this day still hangs within the Lodge. A subsequent reply was received from Buckingham Palace that "The Queen thanks the Brethren of the Bruce and Thistle Lodge No. 312 for their kind sympathy". Whilst the minute does not record the illness sustained by King Edward VII, his biography records he had an appendix operation in that year.

1926 Reports were received that Bro. G. Gillespie, a member of '312', had been visiting Lodge's abroad and passing himself off as a Past Master of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle. The Bro. Secretary had received the addresses of the Secretaries of the Lodges Bro. Gillespie had visited and was instructed to write to all of them advising that Bro. Gillespie was not a Past Master of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle and furthermore that he is not free of Masonic censure.

1942 The Lodge Secretary Bro. John G. Wilson P.M. was called up for active service in the Royal Air Force. Bro. Wilson was thanked for his long service to the Lodge as an Office-Bearer, Master, Past Master and Secretary.

On Christmas Eve Bro. James Wilson R.W.M. expressed the hope that "before the next Christmas season came round, the present Great World War would be brought to a successful finish by a glorious victory for us and our Allies and that our brethren presently serving in the forces would return safely home again and join with us in the celebrations of victory and a lasting and permanent peace".

1943 Bro. James Wilson was installed as R.W.M. for the fourth successive year.

1946 Bro. Pentland F.C. Black, Chaplain of the Lodge and Minister of Cowie Church, was thanked for services rendered to the Lodge upon his leaving to take up a new charge in Arbroath.

1947 Two Past Masters of the Lodge, Bros. James Wilson and James Plank conferred the Entered Apprentice degree on their sons Bros. George M. Wilson and James Plank Jnr.

1972 Bro. James S. Gardner was installed as Master - a ceremony observed by his father Bro. William Gardner, a member for 50 years.

1973 It was proposed that the Re-dedication Service be held in the Masonic Hall on Friday 1st November 1974 and the 150th Anniversary Ball in Dunblane Hydro on 8th November 1974.

The R.W.M. Bro. James S. Gardner presented Fifty Year Membership Diplomas to twelve Brethren, one of whom was his father Bro. William Gardner. The other brethren 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 Diploma from his son, Bro. P. Martin, a Past Master of the Lodge.

In December 1973 Bro. James Alexander Smith was installed as R.W.M. of the Lodge and became the reigning Master for the 150th Anniversary Year.

1981 Bro. Andrew Lindsay Cuthill was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason, following in the footsteps of his father, four brothers and two brothers in law. Four of these Brethren progressed to become R.W.M. of the Lodge, namely Bros. William Cuthill (1986-87); Harold Bedborough (1987-88); Andrew L. Cuthill (1990-91) and Richard G. Buchanan (1992-93)

1984 The R.W.M. Bro. Alex Buchanan composed a song entitled 'My Father Was A Mason' in honour of Freemasonry in general and Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle in particular. The words of this song are printed at the beginning of this book.

1986 In August 1986 the R.W.M. Bro. Alexander Buchanan held a Reigning Masters Degree, the first time such a meeting is recorded in the Lodge Minutes. The Masters who assisted Bro. Buchanan were

from Lodges Ancient Stirling No. 30; Stirling Royal Arch No. 76; Abercromby No. 531; St. John Tulliallan No. 598 and Buchlyvie No. 1268.

- 1987 In May 1987, the I.P.M. Bro. Alexander Buchanan passed to the Grand Lodge above at the very young age of 44 years.
- 1990 Bro. William A. Smith was presented with his 50 year Diploma by the R.W.M. Bro. Gilbert Clarke.
- 1994 In December 1994 the Lodge held a Reigning Masters Degree with the Masters of Lodges Ancient Stirling No. 30; Alloa No. 69; Stirling Royal Arch No. 76; Zetland No. 391; Abercromby No. 531; St. Servanus No. 771; Ben Cleuch No. 782; Craiginnan No. 850; Clackmannan No. 1303 and Camelon No. 1456 all assisting the R.W.M. of Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle to confer the E.A. degree on one candidate. This is only the second recorded such meeting in the Minutes of the Lodge.

During this meeting the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Colin T. Wyse presented Bro. James Collington P.M. with his Diploma on his appointment as Honorary Grand jeweller of The Grand Lodge of Scotland. On behalf of the brethren of the Lodge, the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White invested Bro. Collington with an inscribed collar and jewel which Bro. Collington stated he would wear with pride.

- 1995 Bro. Alex Smith, an Honorary Member of '312', had the rank of Honorary Provincial Grand Organist bestowed upon him by the Provincial Grand Master Bro. Colin T. Wyse. This was a well-earned honour conferred upon a brother who had assisted many Lodges over several years.

The Lodge was greatly honoured when in June 1995 the R.W.M. Bro. James G. White was invited to reply to the toast "The Daughter

Lodges" delivered by Bro. David D. Laing W.S.P.G.M. at the Dinner following the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master Bro. John McLeod Sneddon.

Six months later in November the Lodge and the Province were further honoured when the Bro. White was invited to reply to the toast "The Daughter Lodges" delivered by Bro. Arthur O. Hazel at the Festival of St. Andrew following the re-installation of Bro. The Right Honourable The Lord Burton, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason. The Festival was held in The Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh with some 400 brethren in attendance.

1996 On March 14th, 1996, the Lodge observed one minutes silence in memory of the 16 infant school children and their teacher who were killed by a gunman at Dunblane Primary School the previous day.

In September 1996 the R.W.M. Bro. Thomas McGown Cochrane presented 50 year diplomas to Bros. James Collington P.M.; Robert Barr P.M.; A. Scott; A. Beattie; W. McPherson and A. McAughtrie. In presenting the diplomas the R.W.M. thanked these brethren for their support over the previous 50 years and expressed the hope that they would all be with us for many years to come.

1997 In September 1997 the Lodge observed one minute's silence in memory of Diana Princess of Wales who had been killed in a car accident in Paris. The R.W.M. Bro. Alan D. Buchan visited the offices of Stirling District Council where he signed the Book of Condolence on behalf of the Brethren.

1998 In December 1998 Bro. Alexander Don was installed as R.W.M. of the Lodge and became the reigning Master for the 175th Anniversary Year.

1999 In March 1999 the Lodge visited The Royal Scottish Masonic Home at Ault Wharrie, Dunblane. A demonstration of the E.A. degree was worked by the R.W.M. Bro. Alexander Don and his Office Bearers. This visit was greatly appreciated by our Senior Brethren and the desire was expressed that this visit would be repeated in the future.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STIRLINGSHIRE OFFICE BEARERS

This section of the Lodge History records the brethren who, having served their tenure as R.W.M. of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312, were subsequently elected to office within the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

This section is probably incomplete in that it only records entries made within the Minute Books. It is likely that brethren will be omitted who should by right receive a mention due to their election to The Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire not having been recorded.

Whilst the Lodge is fortunate to have two current serving Office Bearers in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, this was not always the case.

1884 Whilst not recorded in our own minutes, the records of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 show that Bro. James Brown, a M.M. of '312' who affiliated to and became Master of '76' in 1884, became the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

Until the above information came to light, it was believed and recorded that it was not until the Lodge had achieved the milestone of its 100th year in existence that the first member of '312' was elected to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

1925 In February 1925 Bro. David Miller P.M. was appointed President of Provincial Grand Stewards. In later years Bro. Miller was to progress to the office of Senior Provincial Grand Warden.

1941 Sixteen years later, the minute of 30th January 1941 records the appreciation of the Lodge for services rendered by Bro. David Miller P.M. who had passed through the various offices of Provincial Grand

Lodge of Stirlingshire and had now retired as Senior Provincial Grand Warden.

During the same meeting it was agreed to record in the Lodge minutes that two Past Masters of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle in the persons of Bro. David Miller and Bro. Peter Simpson had occupied the Wardens chairs that night as Provincial Grand Lodge Office-Bearers, this being unique in the history of the Lodge.

- 1920's Whilst not recorded in the Lodge minutes, it would appear that Bro. Simpson (R.W.M. 1924-25) joined Bro. Miller as an office bearer of Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire sometime in the latter half of the 1920's.
- 1930's Although no mention exists within the minute books of his being elected to The Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, the 1976 obituary for Bro. John Morrison (R.W.M. 1933-34), records that he was a Past Senior Provincial Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire
- 1940's Again, whilst no mention exists within the minute books of his being elected to The Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire, the 1953 Installation Programme lists one of the Installing Masters, Bro. John G. Wilson, as the current Senior Provincial Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.
- 1949 The Lodge was honoured when our Chaplain Bro. Henry Geddes McCall was installed as Junior Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.
- 1976 Bro. Dixon P. Vallance P.M. was elected to the office of President of Provincial Grand Stewards of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

- 1988 Bro. James G. Duffin P.M. and Treasurer was elected to the office of President of Provincial Grand Stewards of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. Bro. Duffin is currently Senior Provincial Grand Deacon.
- 1997 Bro. James G. White P.M. was elected to the office of Standard Bearer of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. Bro. White is currently Provincial Grand Organist.



Provincial Grand Lodge Representatives of '312'

Bro. James G. White - Provincial Grand Organist
&
Bro. James G. Duffin - Provincial Grand Senior Deacon

PASSING TO THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE

It is not customary for the minute book to record in depth the tributes made to brethren on their passing to the Grand Lodge above. On occasion however a brother whose contribution to the Lodge, or perhaps some unique circumstance, is such that a special minute is recorded for posterity.

Whilst this section records some of these minutes, it is dedicated to all the brethren of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle No. 312 who have passed this way before us.

- 1867 The first minuted tribute to a late brother was in June 1867 when the passing to the Grand Lodge above of one of the Lodge's founder members Bro. James Dobbie was recorded. The reference to Bro. Dobbie recorded him as "the man who with true Masonic principal gave the impulse to the erection of Lodge No. 312".
- 1870 Three years later the passing to the Grand Lodge above of founder member Bro. David McQue (McQew on charter) was intimated to the Brethren.
- 1874 The passing to the Grand Lodge above is recorded of Bro. Archibald Stevenson of the 42nd Regt (Black Watch). Bro. Black succumbed to fever on his return voyage from the Ashante Wars.
- 1875 In December the minute records "the deep sense of loss sustained by the Lodge in the strikingly sudden death of Bro. James Stevenson who had, for about half a century or more, been a consistent and active working member of the Lodge".
- 1907 The death was intimated of Bro. John Buchanan as a result of the riots in San Francisco. The Lodge wrote to his parents to convey the sympathy of the Brethren.

- 1922 As a result of the Plean Pit explosion, the Lodge lost three members, namely Bros. John Barlow, John Hunter and W.S.W. William Lennie.
- 1943 The R.W.M. informed the brethren of the loss of Bro. Hugh Sloan, Flight Sergeant, Royal Air Force who was killed while engaged in action over Sicily. The Lodge expressed regrets that our Brother had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The sudden death occurred of the Provincial Grand Master and Honorary Member of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Bro. Daniel Robertson J.P. causing all Lodges within the Province to observe a three month period of mourning. The Lodge Minute of that date records a moving and appreciative tribute paid by the R.W.M. Bro. James Wilson.

- 1952 In February, the death of His Majesty King George VI, a Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, was intimated to the Brethren. Two minutes silence was observed followed by the singing of Abide With Me, a favourite hymn of His Majesty.
- 1971 The Lodge was informed of the death of Bro. James Plank P.M. Bro. Plank served the Lodge as Master in 1931 - 1932 and was also a former Provost of the Royal Burgh of Stirling.
- 1976 The passing to the Grand Lodge above of Bro. John Morrison P.M. was intimated to the Brethren. Bro. Morrison, who served the Lodge as Master in 1933 - 1934, was also a Past Senior Provincial Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. He was also a very prominent personality in the community, having spent his working life in his Chemist shop in Main Street.
- 1991 The passing to the Grand Lodge above of Bro. Frankie Jones was intimated to the brethren. Bro. Frankie was a past British Empire Bantam Weight Boxing Champion.

- 1993 The brethren were saddened to learn of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of the Tyler, Bro. Robert Hamilton. He had been a great servant to the Lodge, having held the office of Tyler for 20 years. He was also the hall-keeper and had served for many years as the Social Club Convener.
- 1999 In January 1999, the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Bro. James Collington P.M. was intimated to the brethren. Up until his final illness, even though 87 years of age, Bro. Collington was a regular attender of his Mother Lodge, Sister Lodges and The Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. He rarely missed a quarterly communication of The Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. Bro. Collington was an Honorary Member of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 and Honorary Grand Jeweller of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Both honours, which came late in his life, were very special to him. His passing, in the Lodge's 175th year, was particularly sad as he had been looking forward to the event with great anticipation, having been the principal organiser of the 150th celebrations in 1974.

THE 150th RE-DEDICATION & DINNER

In May 1974 a deputation from the Lodge consisting of Bro. James Smith R.W.M., Bro. James Gardner I.P.M. and Bro. James Collington Secretary met in Edinburgh with the Grand Secretary to finalise details of the Lodge's 150th Re-dedication Service to be held on Friday 1st November in the Lodge with a Dinner to follow in the Albert Hall.

In October 1974 the Lodge purchased a complete set of Office-Bearers regalia, the cost being £1,113.80.

At the regular meeting on Thursday 31st October 1974, the night before the 150th Celebrations, Bro. David Ferrier conveyed the warm and fraternal greetings of his affiliate Lodge, Ponsonby No. 708 Scottish Constitution in New Zealand and presented greetings from Bro. Adam, the District Grand Master of North Island. Bro. Ferrier had returned to his own Mother Lodge in Bannockburn to join with the Brethren in the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

THE 150th ANNIVERSARY

1824 - 1974

Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle celebrated its 150th Anniversary by holding a Re-dedication Service followed by an Anniversary Dinner on Friday 1st November and a Divine Service in the Allan Church, Bannockburn on Sunday 3rd November.

The Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Bro. David Liddell Grainger of Ayton, O St.J., D.L., F.S.A. (Scot.), officiated at the Service of Re-dedication. Two Past Grand Masters Masons, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, D.L., J.P., M.A., and Sir Ronald Orr Ewing, Bt., D.L., J.P., were also at the ceremony which packed the Lodge Room.

To mark the 150th anniversary occasion, the Lodge donated £50 to the Grand Lodge of Scotland Benevolent Fund; £50 to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire Benevolent Fund; £50 to the Royal Scottish Masonic Home; and £50 to the Brucefield Children's Home at Balquidderock, Bannockburn.

The Grand Master Mason, Bro. David Liddell Grainger stated that the Brethren who had founded the Lodge and carried it on through the 150 years of their history had been men of vision who had upheld the principles of Freemasonry, with pride in their Lodge.

Thanking the R.W.M. Bro. James A. Smith for the contributions to the Benevolent Funds, the Grand Master Mason also commended the Lodge's help in several ways to the community.

A deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire also attended the ceremonies. It was headed by Bro. Dr. Hector C. Campbell, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.G.P. who presented £300 to Grand Lodge Benevolent Funds from Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Celebration Dinner was held in the Albert Hall, Stirling with some 300 Brethren in attendance. Toasts and replies given were:

"The Queen and the Craft"	Bro. James A. Smith R.W.M.
"The Grand Lodge of Scotland"	Bro. Ian Chalmers P.M. 312
Reply	The Grand Master Mason
"Provincial G.L. of Stirlingshire"	Bro. Dixon P. Vallance P.M. 312
Reply	Provincial Grand Master
"Absent Brethren"	Bro. James S. Gardner I.P.M. 312

"Bannockburn"	Earl of Elgin & Kincardine
Reply	Bro. Dr. James R. Boyd No. 39
"Lodge Bannockburn Bruce & Thistle"	Bro. John H. McLean P.M. No. 30
Reply	Bro. Ronald Kemp P.M. 312
"Visiting Brethren"	Bro. Dugald G. Bridgeman P.M. 312
Reply	Bro. George Malcolm P.M. No. 87
"Artistes"	Bro. James G. Duffin W.S.W. 312
Reply	Bro. James Fletcher M.M. 312

The Director of Ceremonies was Bro. Richard Todd.

The Artistes were Bro. Elliott Dobbie who was a member of the Grand Lodge Deputation; Entertainers Bro. James and Mrs. Fletcher; Bro. Alexander G. Smith M.M. No. 76 (Organist) and Bro. Ronald Kemp P.M.

Later in the proceedings, Mrs. Agnes Smith, wife of the R.W.M. presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Fletcher.

On Sunday 3rd November a joint Divine Service was held with the Masters of Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30; Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No. 76 and Lodge Abercromby No. 531 in attendance.

A deputation was received into the Lodge from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire headed by the Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Depute Bro. Angus Campbell.

The Lodge was adjourned at which time the Brethren assembled outside under the direction of Bro. Richard Todd, Acting Director of Ceremonies and Bro. Stewart Thompson, Marshal.

The assembled Brethren, led by local boy piper Master Young, paraded to the Allan Church where a most impressive service was conducted by Bro. Rev. George Gillon, Provincial Grand Chaplain.

On their return to the Lodge, the Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Depute Bro. Angus Campbell congratulated the Lodge on an excellent Divine Service, paying tribute to Bro. Rev. George Gillon, the piper Master Young and the excellent turn out of Brethren.

At the next Regular Meeting on 11th November 1974 letters were read from the Grand Master Mason Bro. David Liddell Grainger of Ayton and from the Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire expressing their gratitude for the warm welcome received and the generous hospitality given them on the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. They further requested that their congratulations should be passed to the organisers on the excellent arrangements.

COPY OF CHARTER GRANTED ON FIRST NOVEMBER 1824

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND

To all and Sundry to whose knowledge these presents shall come, Greeting in God Everlasting. Whereas, upon the First day of November, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four, a Petition was presented to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in name of Thomas Crawford, John Ferguson, William McAllister, John Wilson, James Dobbie, William Denovan, John Franks and others, Praying the said Grand Lodge to grant a Charter of Constitution and Erection, in the usual form, for holding a Lodge under the name and title of **The Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge** and Proposing the persons aftermentioned to be the first Office Bearers thereof; Viz., Thomas Crawford *Master*, John Ferguson *Past Master*, William McAllister *Senior Warden*, John Wilson *Junior Warden*, James Dobbie *Treasurer*, William Denovan *Secretary*, John Banks *Steward*, John McCulloch *Auditor* and David McQew *Tyler*. Which Petition, with the requisite Certificates therewith produced, having been duly considered in Grand Lodge assembled, they were pleased to ordain a Charter to be issued in the terms underwritten: Know ye therefore, that the Most Worshipful the GRAND MASTER MASON of SCOTLAND, and The Grand Lodge thereof have constituted, erected and appointed, likeas they hereby Constitute, erect and appoint the Master, Wardens and Brethren above named to be now, and in all time coming a true and regular Lodge of free and accepted Masons, under the name, stile and title of **The Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle Lodge** and Appoint and Ordain all regular Lodges to hold and respect them as such, Giving, granting, and committing to them, and those to be afterwards admitted members of the said Lodge, full power and authority to meet, assemble and convene as a regular Lodge; And to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise Master Masons, upon payment of such compositions, for the support of their Lodge, as they shall see convenient, but which compositions at their initiation shall not be under the sum of One Pound One Shilling sterling. And with power also annually to elect and choose Masters, Wardens, and other Office Bearers, recommending to the

Brethren of the said Lodge to reverence and obey their Superiors in all things lawful, and honest, as becometh the honour and harmony of Masonry. And the said Brethren becoming bound, on no account to desert their own Lodge; Nor upon any pretext whatever to make any separate or Schismatical meetings, independent of the Master and Wardens for the time, Nor to introduce any other orders of Masonry than those sanctioned by the Grand Lodge; Nor to collect funds separate from the common stock of their Lodge to the prejudice of the Poor thereof; And declaring that the said Lodge and whole constituent members thereof, now and in all time coming, shall by accepting this present CHARTER, be bound in faithful allegiance to the said Grand Lodge as HEAD of the Masonic Body in SCOTLAND, and shall be obliged to obey and pay due regard to all Acts, Statutes, and Regulations of the said GRAND LODGE already made and enacted or hereafter to be made and enacted, for the utility, welfare, and prosperity of Masonry. And generally to pay and perform whatever is required from them for the support and dignity of the Grand Lodge; And particularly to account and pay into the funds of the Grand Lodge at least the sum of Five Shillings Sterling, besides the usual fee of sixpence to the Grand Clerk for each Member initiated in their Lodge from and after the date hereof; which sums they shall cause to be annually remitted to the Grand Secretary at Edinburgh, and at the same time transmit to him a list of the names of the Members initiated, in order that the same may be recorded in the Books of the Grand Lodge; And The Brethren of said Lodge shall be bound to record in the Books of their Lodge (which Books they are hereby authorised and enjoined to keep), this present CHARTER, their own Regulations and bye-laws, and minutes of their whole procedure from time to time, so that the same may be better known and more easily observed by the Brethren, Subject always, nevertheless, to the review and control of the Grand Lodge. And the said Brethren are hereby required to attend the whole general Meetings and Quarterly Communications of the GRAND LODGE by their Representatives, being their Master and Wardens for the time, or by lawful proxies in their names (provided such proxies be Master Masons of some established Lodge holding of the Grand Lodge), so that they, by their said representatives, may act and vote in the Grand Lodge, and be duly certiorated of the proceedings thereof. Declaring the said Lodge's

precedency in the Grand Lodge to be from the date hereof; And for the more effectual preservation of these presents the same are hereby appointed to be recorded in the Books of the Grand Lodge. Given at the GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND, held in Free Masons Hall, in the CITY of EDINBURGH, the First day of November, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four. And of Light, Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four; By the Grace of God and by His Majesty King George the Fourth of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King and Patron of the Ancient Order of St. Johns Masonry for Scotland; His Grace George William Duke of Argyle, Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland; The Right Hon John Lord Viscount Glenorchy Grand Master Elect; William Inglis of Middleton Esq Substitute Grand Master; The Duke of Hamilton Past Grand Master; of Shawfield Esq Senior Grand Warden; William Gibson Craig Esq of Riccarton Junior W.T. Campbell Grand Warden; Sir John Hay Bart Grand Treasurer; And the Seal of the Grand Lodge is hereto appended by and in presence of, Alexander Lawrie Esquire R.W. Grand Secretary and James Bartram R.W. Grand Clerk.

Signed

Argyle

Grand Master

Glenorchy

Grand Master Elect

William Inglis

Substitute Grand Master

William Craig

J.G.W.

John Hay

Grand Treasurer

Alex Lawrie

Secretary Grand Lodge of Scotland

J. Bartram

Clerk Grand Lodge of Scotland

LODGE BYE LAWS - JUNE 1825

We the Brethren of this Lodge bind and oblige ourselves by subscribing to the regulations under written, that we shall observe and fulfil all these Bye Laws, Charges and Regulations with all and sundry others that may or shall be adopted at any other legal meeting of this Society in after times under the respective penalties after mentioned.

- 1st That the Lodge be always called and convened in a Brothers house if not called in their own Lodge Room.
- 2nd That the Lodge always be called by the Master if convenient, if not then by the principal Office Bearers if the Master be absent, at least four times every year and oftener if required.
- 3rd That these quarterly meetings be always held before the quarterly communications of the Grand Lodge of Scotland that proxies may be appointed and other things consulted that may be proper to be presented to the Grand Lodge.
- 4th The Master or any principal Office Bearer, as his proxy, may convene the Lodge upon any urgent occasion and all the Brethren are obliged to attend their summonses as though the Master himself were present.
- 5th That no Brother presume to enter the Lodge without the badge of the Craft and clothed in a proper manner.
- 6th That every Brother for the use of the Society and for prosecuting our laudable institution of Freemasonry and Charity towards our Brethren and every Brother who is a Member of our Lodge, shall pay to the treasurer for the time being the sum of one penny halfpenny upon the day of every quarterly meeting and if any shall neglect to pay by

absence or otherwise at foresaid meeting he shall make good the deficiency the first time he appears in the Lodge.

7th That every Brother when in the Lodge behave in a decent and orderly manner and if any member so forget his respect to the Chair and Brethren, as to behave himself disorderly or contumaciously while in the Lodge he shall be twice admonished by the Master in a formed Lodge but if he persists to offend a third time he shall be punished as the Master shall think and the Lodge determine, always understanding that the delinquent shall be allowed to plead his own cause before the Lodge who are afterwards to judge the validity of his defence and to determine accordingly, but the brother under sentence is to have the liberty of carrying an appeal to the Grand Lodge. No member to be reproached with any fault for which he has been rebuked by the Master and Brethren, the member so doing shall pay a fine of Sixpence Sterling to the Treasurer for the behalf of the Society.

8th That no new member be admitted without being recommended by some Brother the meeting previous to his making, that the Brethren may have it in their power to consider whither the person proposed is qualified for becoming a member at which future meeting the consent of every member present is to be demanded by the Master in a formed Lodge, and given or refused by the prudent method of the Lodge by a vote. The candidate at his entrance is to promise that he will obey not only the general constitutions and regulations but likewise the Bye Laws of the Lodge which are then to be read to him or them as testifying his or their approbation.

9th No candidate whatever to be admitted a member of this Lodge until the Treasurer declare to the Master when asked, that he has received from the candidate all the accustomed dues and holds himself satisfied therewith, and responsible to the Lodge, for such dues which are as follows:

Viz

For an Entered Apprentice	11/-	Eleven shillings
Dues to the Grand Lodge	5/6d	Five Shillings and sixpence
To the Tyler	1/-	One shilling
Treating the Company	2/6d	Two shillings and sixpence
Passing Fellow Craft	2/6d	Two shillings and sixpence
Raising Master	7/6d	Seven shillings and sixpence
Matriculation in the Lodge	5/-	Five shillings

- 10th Every member when he has anything to propose to the Lodge shall direct his discourse to the Chair, and having obtained leave shall then proceed to inform the Lodge of his proposal. That no member of this Lodge shall be capable of bearing any office whatsoever in the Lodge, as long as he shall stand indebted to the Lodge for any sum whatsoever, but upon discharging the sum his privileges shall be restored to him as formerly.
- 11th That the Master as often as shall be convenient may appoint any member or members of the Lodge under his discretion to visit any neighbouring Lodge in order to preserve, cement and keep up that Brotherly understanding so conspicuous among Freemasons. That after the Lodge is formed and while it continues, a certain portion of time be spent in the instruction of the Royal art in a way not to be expressed in writing and if time permit.
- 12th At the meeting immediately preceding the feast of St. John, the Treasurer shall lay his accounts before the Lodge, and after examination have them approved and discharged accordingly and if upon such examination there shall happen to be in the Treasurers hands a Balance, he shall either instantly pay it or grant his Bill with Security therefore in terms of Law, payable on demand. That the said meeting

for these and the like purposes be held upon the day immediately preceding the Grand Feast of St. John.

- 13th No member of this Lodge shall take upon them on any pretext whatever to make Masons without a special commission or power from the Master and Wardens of the Lodge. For that end, these being granted, the person or persons so deputed shall forthwith become responsible to the Lodge for the accustomed dues for the member or members admitted on the above warrant; that every member if absent from any quarterly meeting and in town shall be obliged to send a letter to the Chair or otherwise to present his excuse to the Lodge for non attendance; and should a committee member neglect his duty by absenting himself from any of the above stated quarterly meetings without a reasonable excuse being given and sustained by the Lodge and other committee members shall subject himself according to the office he holds to the following scale of penalties:

The R.W. Master for each offence the penalty of two shillings.

The R.W. Past Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer, penalty of one shilling and sixpence.

Each of the stewards and any other of the committee members in the penalty of one shilling.

At any committee meeting legally worked for the business of the Lodge each member of committee on absenting himself without a reasonable excuse given and sustained shall be subject to the penalty of one shilling and fourpence; and should any committee member be one half hour behind the hour of meeting at quarterly meetings or one quarter of one hour behind the hour of meeting at committee which are for quarterly meetings 6 O'clock p.m. and for committee meetings 7 O'clock p.m. he shall subject himself to such penalty as the Master and other members may determine upon; all which penalties must be paid upon conviction if convenient, if not by the next quarterly day under forfeiture of their membership.

- 14th That no brother shall go out of the Lodge after it is formed unless upon very urgent business and leave asked and obtained from the Chair. That every Brother shall submit himself to the determination of his Brethren in a formed Lodge with respect to all faults he may commit against the ancient and honourable Craft and Order of Free and Accepted Masons, without or within doors, at our solemn communications or at any other time or times that may be hurtful to the Lodge or good of the Craft in general.
- 15th That after serious business is over and the Lodge near being closed, which is always to be done at ten o' clock at farthest, the Master or one appointed by him, is to escort the Brethren to unity and concord, and to preserve the cement of the Lodge. Thereafter every Brother is requested to behave himself in an orderly manner going out of the Lodge and return his clothing in good order to the Tyler if belonging to the Lodge and every Brother taking away any of the clothing shall pay a fine of one shilling sterling for each offence to the Treasurer for the good of the Lodge.
- 16th That every member of this Lodge shall provide for himself an apron or badge of the Craft which he has in his power to decorate or mount as he pleases at his own expense and such apron to be kept by himself and not given to the charge of the Tyler, the spare clothing always to be for the use of visiting Brethren to this Lodge.
- 17th That all the present members shall subscribe these Bye Laws and acknowledge them for the rule of their conduct as men and as Masons; and that every member entered and admitted hereafter into this Lodge shall in like manner subscribe the same at their admission; and lastly to this intent that all the members may know and understand the foregoing Bye Laws and not pretend ignorance thereof the same are appointed to be read to the Lodge at every quarterly communication as well as the admission of every new member and to be by no means omitted under

a fine of sixpence sterling from the Master to be paid to the Treasurer for the good of the Lodge and Society.

In testimony thereof this last page of the Bye Laws wrote on this and the preceding pages is subscribed by us at Bannockburn the Eighth Day of June One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Five Years and of light 5825.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

LODGE BANNOCKBURN BRUCE & THISTLE No. 312

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 – 1842

No records available from 1842 until 1850

1850 – 1851	James Gillespie
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Another seeming abeyance period till 1856

1856 – 1859	James Garrow, P.M.
1859 – 1860	William Dougall
1860 – 1862	Daniel Currie
1862 – 1866	Alexander Wilson Jnr
1866 – 1868	Alexander Duchart
1868 – 1871	E. L. Wilson
1871 – 1875	George Watson
1875 – 1876	Alexander Duchart, P.M.
1876 – 1877	George Watson, P.M.
1877 – 1878	James Hill
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
1905 – 1906	Dr. John Morrison
1906 – 1909	James Hamilton
1909 – 1911	John Gibson
1911 – 1913	David Miller
1913 – 1915	Robert Paterson
1915 – 1917	John McPherson
1917 – 1919	Alexander Rankine
1919 – 1921	William Still
1921 – 1923	John Pennie
1923 – 1924	Charles Brown
1924 – 1925	Peter Simpson
1925 – 1927	John Rennie
1927 – 1928	Robert Stevenson
1928 – 1929	David Chambers
1929 – 1930	Malcolm Strachan
1930 – 1931	Nathaniel Sharp
1931 – 1932	James Plank
1932 – 1933	John G. Wilson
1933 – 1934	John Morrison
1934 – 1936	Alexander Young
1936 – 1937	John Cuthbertson
1937 – 1938	James Rodger
1938 – 1939	William B. Gibson
1939 – 1940	George H. Gordon
1940 – 1944	James Wilson
1944 – 1945	John Turnbull
1945 – 1946	Robert Inglis

1946 – 1947	Andrew McGilchrist
1947 – 1948	George M. Plank
1948 – 1949	Albert McWilliams
1949 – 1950	John White
1950 – 1951	George Richardson
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
1974 – 1975	James G. Duffin
1975 – 1976	William Wood
1976 – 1977	Robert Barr
1977 – 1978	Alexander Craig

1978 – 1979	John Wallace
1979 – 1980	John Davidson
1980 – 1981	James Wilson
1981 – 1982	Andrew McLeary
1982 – 1983	Andrew Craig
1983 – 1984	Alex Buchanan
1984 – 1985	Grahame J. Smith
1985 – 1986	Alexander Buchanan
1986 – 1987	William Cuthill
1987 – 1988	Harold Bedborough
1988 – 1989	William McMillan
1989 – 1990	Gilbert Clarke
1990 – 1991	Andrew Cuthill
1991 – 1992	John Rankin
1992 – 1993	Richard G. Buchanan
1993 – 1994	Cameron M. Fraser
1994 – 1995	James G. White
1995 – 1996	Thomas McG. Cochrane
1996 – 1997	Alan D. Buchan
1997 – 1998	Thomas W. Thomson
1998 – 1999	Alexander Don