

**HISTORY OF THE LODGE
OF TRANQUILLITY, NO.
185, FROM ITS ORIGIN
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649396016

History of the Lodge of tranquillity, No. 185, From its Origin to the Present Time by John Constable

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JOHN CONSTABLE

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HISTORY
OF THE
LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY,

No. 185,

FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

JOHN CONSTABLE,
Worshipful Master;

WITH APPENDICES,

CONTAINING A COMPLETE LIST OF MEMBERS FROM A.D. 1787 TO A.D. 1874,
WITH THE OFFICES HELD BY THEM, RULES AND ORDERS, &c. ;

AND A PREFACE,

BY

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, P.M. 131,
Past Senior Grand Deacon of England, etc., etc.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE LODGE.

LONDON:
CHARLES SKIPPER & EAST, PRINTERS, ST. DUNSTON'S HILL, E.C.

1874.

223. l. 45.

TO THE PAST MASTERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
TRANQUILLITY LODGE,

No. 185, LONDON,

With whom I have enjoyed Masonic Fellowship for upwards of
three years, this short sketch of the Lodge is dedicated,

By their Friend and Brother,

JOHN CONSTABLE.

58, RICHMOND ROAD,
BARNSBURY,

30th November, 1874.

P R E F A C E.

My friend, Brother CONSTABLE, has asked me to write a short preface to his History of the "LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY," knowing the great interest taken by me in all such publications, and I respond to his request with much pleasure.

In order to render a general and exhaustive History of Freemasonry possible, the records of the ancient and modern lodges must be carefully and thoroughly examined, for without such preliminary work the masonic historian cannot do more than present to his readers an incomplete account of the origin, progress, and present position of the Craft.

Palpable as this fact must appear to the masonic archæologist, it has been reserved for the present generation of Freemasons to make known the treasures preserved in old lodge minutes, and to discover the character of the valuable documents so long unheeded in the muniment rooms of private and public libraries.

The paucity and incompleteness of the labours of our historians, are therefore accounted for by the fact that the true sources of information were often neglected, and a preference given by them to the fabulous stories which have so tended to lower the status of the literature of the Craft.

Through the exertions of a few patient investigators, we are now gradually, but surely, accumulating much important information respecting the masonic Assemblies in "ye olden tyme," and particulars of the changes effected in later days; every fresh discovery rendering the links which bind us as a society to the ancient operative Masons all the more firm and steadfast.

In consequence of these researches, we have before us the published excerpts from lodge records dating from the sixteenth century, and the wonderful "printers' art" has multiplied the copies of the old MSS.—from the fourteenth century—a thousandfold.

Seeing then the importance of such researches, and the impossibility for one man, or even a hundred, to accomplish the work, we as masonic students consider it the duty of every brother who has the opportunity and capacity (particularly the Worshipful Masters of Lodges), to contribute their quota towards the general collection of records and other manuscripts relating to the Masonic Craft, and we are pleased to welcome all volunteers and additions to our increasing staff and store of lodge historians and histories.

In this spirit we hold out the right hand of fellowship to Brother CONSTABLE, and thank him for his timely and excellent sketch of the lodge of which he has the honour of being Worshipful Master; and we hope the example thus set will be followed by many ere the expiration of this eventful decade of the second century of "Modern Freemasonry."

The records of the "Tranquillity" Lodge do not differ much from the ordinary minutes of our assemblies during the last century, and, save for two or three especial reasons, their publication will not contribute much to our repertory of facts. Such an interesting account, however, of the Lodge, the statistical information, and the sketch of its truly masonic "Benevolent Fund," cannot fail to be warmly appreciated by every one of its members, by whom the writer and compiler, their Worshipful Master for 1874, will ever be gratefully remembered.

The "Tranquillity" was one of the eight Lodges which represented the "Ancients" (Grand Lodge according to the old Institutions) at the "Lodge of Reconciliation," and which worked, in unison with a similar number of the "Moderns" (regular Grand Lodge), to secure that "uniformity of Ritual" which had unhappily been neglected for many years prior to the blessed "Union of 1813."

This circumstance alone should make the following pages worthy of perusal and preservation, and when united with this we have the sketch of its noble "Benevolent Fund," to which upwards of a thousand pounds are contributed during each decade by the members, surely nothing more need be urged why the history of such a lodge should be rendered accessible to the Craft and the proud possession of the members.

W. J. HUGHAN.

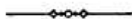
TRURO, CORNWALL,

21st November, 1874.

HISTORY

OF THE

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY.



BELIEVING that the history of the Tranquillity Lodge may prove interesting to its members, I have assumed the responsibility of recording such facts connected with the constitution and progress thereof as I have been able to gather, and also to bring together in a concise form the proceedings of bygone years which have hitherto lain scattered and dormant. Previously, however, to entering upon such history, it may not be out of place to make a few remarks relative to the great institution of Freemasonry.

It is unquestionable that Masonry has existed as a peculiar institution from a very early period of the world. In those remote ages, where we can derive no assistance from written records, we can only form vague ideas of the civilisation which then existed from those grand monuments time has yet spared, the marvellous beauty and symmetrical construction of which prove that Masonry must have then been in a state of great excellence. This can only be explained by the fact that, as far as we can at present judge, the inhabitants of the mighty empires in the ancient world were divided into hereditary castes, from which no human law could liberate them, and these restrictions caused their minds to be devoted to one peculiar study, which was transmitted from father to son, and was thus in constant course of improvement; hence each caste was engaged in pursuits commensurate with its intellectual capacity, and instead of one caste following various occupations, priests, soldiers, craftsmen, peasants, &c., remained each in its normal profession.

That the Masonic Craft reached an extraordinary degree of excellence is evidenced by the grandeur of those monuments which have left their impress on bygone generations, and excite wonder and admiration in the present. This may be accounted for by the nature of their calling, which caused them to mix with craftsmen of other nations,