

**MASONRY IN WIGAN:  
BEING A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
LODGE OF ANTIQUITY, NO.  
178, ORIGINALLY NO. 235**

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Masonry in Wigan: Being a Brief History of Lodge of Antiquity, No. 178, Originally No. 235 by  
J. Brown

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Masonry in Wigan,

BEING A BRIEF

HISTORY

OF

Lodge of Antiquity,

No. 178, originally No. 235.

WITH REFERENCES TO OTHER LODGES IN THE BOROUGH  
AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST AND BEGINNING  
OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.

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COMPILED BY

*Bro. J. BROWN, Secretary.*



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WIGAN:

PRINTED BY BRO. R. PLATT, STANDISHGATE AND MILLGATE,  
1882.



### *INTRODUCTORY.*

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The following brief history of *Lodge of Antiquity, No. 178*, was read before the *Lodge*, on September 21st of this year, and with some additional matter is now published at the request of the Brethren present.

The proceeds, after paying the expenses of publishing, will be devoted to the Funds of the *West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution*.

J. B.

WIGAN,  
DECEMBER, 1881.



(COPY OF WARRANT).

No. 235 "Ancients;" No. 294 A.D. 1814; No. 207 A.D. 1832;  
and No. 178 from A.D. 1863.

Antrim, Grand Master.

[Seal]

Laurence Dermott, D.G.M.

John Feakins, S.G.W.

Thomas Harper, J.G.W.

To all whom it may concern.

**W**e, the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (according to the Old Constitutions granted by His Royal Highness Prince Edwin, at York, Anno Domini nine hundred twenty and six, and in the year of Masonry four thousand nine hundred twenty and six), and these in ample form assembled, namely, the Right Worshipful and most Potent and Puissant Lord the Right Honourable Randal William Mac Donnell, Earl and Baron of Antrim, Lord Viscount Dunlace, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Antrim in the Province of Ulster, and Kingdom of Ireland, Knight of the Most Military Order of the Bath, one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council in the Kingdom of Ireland and in that part of Great Britain called England, and Masonical Jurisdiction thereunto belonging, Grand Master of Masons; the Right Worshipful Laurence Dermott, Esquire, Deputy Grand Master; the Right Worshipful John Feakins, Esquire, Senior Grand Warden; and the Right Worshipful Thomas Harper, Esquire, Junior Grand Warden (with the approbation and consent of the Warranted Lodges held within the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster), do hereby authorise and empower our trusty and well-beloved brother, namely, No. 235 the Worshipful Thomas Doncaster, Esq., one of our Master Masons, the Worshipful Mr. Wm. Rogers his Senior Warden, and the Worshipful Mr. William Bradley his Junior Warden, to form and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons aforesaid, at the sign of the Queen's Head (or elsewhere), in the Borough of Wiggin and county of Lancaster, upon the next

Wednesday on, or before, Full Moon of every Calendar Month, and on all seasonable times and lawful occasions. And in the said Lodge (when duly congregated) to admit and make Free Masons according to the most Ancient and Honourable Custom of the Royal Craft in all ages and nations throughout the known world. And we do hereby further authorise and empower our said trusty and well-beloved brethren, Thomas Doncaster, Esquire; Mr. William Rogers, and Mr. William Bradley (with the consent of the members of your Lodge), to nominate, chuse, and instal their Successors, to whom they shall deliver this Warrant and invest them with their powers and dignities as Free Masons, &c. And such Successors shall in like manner nominate, chuse, and instal their successors, &c., &c., &c. Such installations to be upon (or near) every St. John's Day, during the continuance of this Lodge, for ever. Providing the above-named brethren and all their Successors always pay due respect to this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, otherwise this Warrant to be of no force nor virtue.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of our Grand Lodge in London, this 26th day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty and Six, and in the year of Masonry Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty and Six.

JOHN MCCORMICK,  
Grand Secretary.

[Seal]



*Note.—This Warrant is Registered in the Grand Lodge, Volume 8,  
Letter H.*



Bro. John Hardman, No. 39, Manr.		
„ James Ashton,	121,	„
„ Jas. Higginson	39,	„
„ Jas. Ashlay,	„	„
„ Jno. Beswick,	„	„
„ Jas. Butterworth	„	„
„ Jas. Wilcock,	„	„
„ Jos. Waddington,	„	„
„ James Greenhalgh	„	„
„ Thos. Clarke, Senr. Warden,	196, Bolton.	
„ Peter Bottomley, J.W.,	196, Bolton.	
„ Chas. Aldcroft, Secy.	„	„
„ Nicholas Thomason,	„	„
„ James Robinson,	„	„
„ Jonathan Platt,	„	„
„ Hugh Wood,	„	„
„ Willm. Morris,	„	„
„ John Thornley,	„	„
„ Wm. Lythgo,	„	„
„ Isaac Pendlebury	„	„

“After the Lodge was duly opened, the Right Worshipful Grand Master and the rest of the Right Worshipful Officers and members then proceeded to the Installation of Lodge No. 235, which was performed with the greatest solemnity, regularity and decorum, and Bro. William Rogers of No. 53, Liverpool, named as Senior Warden in the Warrant, in the absence of Bro. Thos. Doncaster, Esqr., of No. 39, Manchester, named as Master therein, who is at Buxton Bath for the benefit of his health, was installed Master; Bro. William Bradley, of 39, Manchester, therein named as Junior Warden, was installed Senior Warden; Bro. Thos. Walker, of 33, Scotland, was installed Junior Warden, and Bro. Richard Holmes, 196, Bolton, as Treasurer, who were directed to chose their own Deacons and other officers when convenient to themselves and then which was absent.

“At one o'clock the Lodge was called to Refreshment and continued while ye Grand Lodge of Antiquity of England was toasted and then called to work again, and continued open until the hour of threa, when the same was closed in

the greatest Harmony in pursuance of the Grand Lodge Instructions; and it was ordered by the officers and members present upon motion of Bro. Aldcroft, that their thanks should be transmitted to the Grand Lodge for the Honor conferred upon them by the Grand in empowering them to open and hold this Grand Lodge.

1786.

June 24.—A copy of this transaction was sent to the Grand Secretary, enclosed in a letter of which the following is a copy:—

Bolton, 23rd June, 1786. 5786.

“Sir,—On the other half you have a copy of the transactions which I took at ye Grand Lodge at Wigan, on Wednesday last on their Installation, Bro. Barlow of No. 39 was G.S. whose minutes I suppose you’ve received, but as a part of our Body, namely: Bro. J. B. and others attended to assist them, and without wch. assistance they themselves cou’d not have gone regularly through the business of the day. I took these transactions as acting Secretary of our own Lodge who are not well pleased at the treatment they have met with respecting the Installation of the Wigan Lodge.

“In the first place they were ordered to us by you to recommend em, and I myself had the trouble of drawing up a petition for them, and doing their other business, as to obtaining ye warrant tho’ I advis’d em to get ye sanction of the other Lodges in the neighbourhood, wch. was accordingly done, and wch. was the cause of No. 39 and 171 appearing to ye petition or being concern’d at all, how 39 were after wds. order’d to install em we can’t imagine, and sho’d wish to be inform’d, as we are not genteley us’d after having done all the previous business not to be directed to do that part, and tho’ 39 had the preferance given them it was not in their power to have executed the business without our assistance.

Joined by our Worshipful Master, Wardens, and the rest of ye Brethren in Best wishes to you and for the Welfare, Honor, and Harmony of ye Craft.

I remain,

Your affectionate Bro.,

CHS. ALDCROFT,

Secy., 196.

N.B.—We shall not forget to carry our festival to-morrow in such a manner as becomes every respectable Bro. of ye ancient fraternity and to toast our superiors with every mark of gratitude.

These extracts from the "Antiquity," Bolton, are all referring to that Lodge of any interest.

The First Minute in our own Lodge Book is as follows:—

"Grand Lodge held at the Queen's Head, in Wigan, Lancashire, on Wednesday, the 21st day of June, 1786. 5786.

The Right Worshipful Bro. John Watson, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester, Grand Master appointed in pursuance of a Deputation sent to him for that purpose from the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, and the Masonical Jurisdiction thereof, with Bro. Gilbert Robinson, of Lodge No. 196, Bolton, his Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Bro. John Parker, of 39, his Right Worshipful Senr. Warden, Bro. William Macovey, his Right Worshipful Junr. Warden, and Bro. John Barlow, of 39, his Grand Secretary, opened a Grand Lodge in due form upon the Third Step of Masonry according to the Ancient usage of the Craft of Free and accepted Masons in all ages used and approved of, at twelve o'clock at noon, in the presence of and join'd by the several Brethren of the several Lodges hereafter mentioned, viz.:—

- Bro. John Hardman, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester.
- „ James Ashton, of Lodge No. 171, Salford.
- „ James Higginson, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester.
- „ James Ashley, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester.
- „ John Beswick, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester.
- „ James Butterworth, of Lodge No. 39, Manchester.