



America Lodge no 3368

100th ANNIVERSARY

Centenary

Grand Temple, Freemasons Hall

Great Queen Street

London

Thursday 4TH JUNE 2009

Worshipful Brother

T. Smith - - Master

"The History of the Lodge, up to the 50th Anniversary, was written by author, "unknown", though from the minutes, It can be safely assumed that, W.Bro J.G. Laurie, who was the Secretary at the time, compiled such a magnificent document on the first fifty years of America Lodge "

W.Bro David Bailey LGR. PProvJGD, Secretary

As the original copy of the Lodge history was stolen, it is with thanks to the Librarian at Freemasons Hall that we were able to obtain a copy, which was forwarded to me upon request and without delay

Thank You

In continuance with the splendid first fifty years as explained by the then Secretary W.Bro J.G. Laurie, the successive fifty years have been added to the bottom of the first Fifty years



America Lodge no 3368

50th

ANNIVERSARY

AND

INSTALLATION

CONNAUGHT ROOMS

MONDAY 8TH JUNE 1959

Worshipful Brother

V.W.Warren Pearl - - Master

Anniversary and Installation

Programme

Menu and Toast List

. . Menu. .

Cocktail aux Fruits de Mer

Tortue Vert aux Xeres

Coq au Vin

Haircots Verts Frais

Pommes Parisiennes

Fraises a La Crème

Biscuits Cuilliers

Café

Durkhelmer Klosterberg 1955

Chateau Lynch Bages 1953

Cognac

. . Toasts . .

The Queen and the Craft

The president and the Craft in America

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master

The Rt.Hon. Earl of Scarborough K.G.,

G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., T.D

The RT Hon Worshipful Deputy Grand Master

The RT Hon the Earl of Derby MC

The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master

Major General Sir Allan Adair, BT,

CB. C.V.O., M.C., D.L.

And the Rest of the Grand Officers Present and past

The Worshipful Master

The Founders of the Lodge

Brethren of London and Provincial Grand Rank

The Immediate Past and Installing Master

Our Guests

Past Masters and Officers of the Lodge

The Tyler's toast

Founders

Frederick Conklin Van Duzer

Robert Newton Crane

W. Ralston Balch

George A. Mower

J. Morgan Richards

James McDonald

Robert W. Blackwell

Thomas L. Feild

Fred M. Fisk

Horace F. Parshall

R. Johnson Davis

G. Allen Crane.

Seller R. Van Duzer

Henry S. Downe

George H. Short

Charles I. Kiralfy

W. Luther Croll

Oscar H. Baldwin

Robert N. Fairbanks

Frances J. Horn

R Bulwer Fagnani

Edward G. Noblblock
Samuel G. McCormick
Charles H. Mower
E. Radnor White

America Lodge no 3368

(1909 – 1959)

At the beginning of the century, the expansion of commerce between Great Britain and the United States brought to the American colony in London an increasing number of business and professional men.

The two countries were beginning to know each other, to cultivate cordial friendliness, and to find that the two peoples were interested in much the same things.

Americans had been joining English of lodges, taking on official responsibilities, and continued to do so to a marked extent. Two lodges had, in a special way, endeavoured to attract Americans interested in Freemasonry: Anglo American Lodge no 2191 and Colombia Lodge no 2397. In the latter Lodge they was an arrangement that offices were to go alternately to British and American aspirates to promotion and the plan was a successful one for some years. Face-to-face several Americans but only became Masters of Columbia Lodge, but were active in Colombia chapter as well. The P.M.Jewel of Columbia Lodge bears the British and American flags.

As time went on he became obvious that with the increasing numbers of Americans coming two residing in England, and a further fact that the visiting Americans are desirous of finding a "home broad", a purely American Lodge must sooner or later be formed". The Americans were being reminded that the Germans, French and Italian brethren had their home lodges which were prospering, and there seemed to be no good reason why they should wait any longer. And so, conferences began to take place early in 1909 to discuss the proposition.

The moving spirit in this project was Frederick Conkling Duzer, who had come from Newburgh New York in the 80s, was initiated into Canterbury Lodge no 1635 in 1889, and who had in 1909 already been honoured with the rank of P.A.G.D.C. in the United Grand Lodge of England.

There are few men, least of all foreigners, whose life has been so enriched with Masonic activities as that of Frederick C. van Duzer. He was the first American to wear a collar of Grand Office in England. He was a founder of five lodges, three Royal arch chapter is, two lodges of Mark master Masons, two Preceptories of Knights Templar and Chapter of Rose Croix, (ancient and accepted rite), and a Chapter of Improvement. He was also a member of the Grand Lodge National pour La France and a founder of a Lodge under that Grand jurisdiction; a member of the Arc Mariners, Red Cross of Constantine, of the Allied degrees, Royal and select Masters, Royal order of Scotland, and of the Society of Rosicrucian's in England. He was an honorary member of nine lodges, four lodges of Mark Master Masons and three Preceptories. It should also be added that he was the representative near the Grand Lodge of England

of four American Grand Lodges, and representative from seven Grand Councils of Royal and select Masters in America to that of England. He was a patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and that for the Boys, the benevolent institution and of the Mark Benevolent fund. In November 1929 it became known that the highest degree in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, that of Grand Inspector General 33°, had been conferred upon W. Bro Frederick C. Van Duzer. He was the first American to attain that distinction in England.

Associated with W. Bro van Duzer was W. Bro R. Newton Crane, a distinguished lawyer, subsequently Master of the bench in Middle Temple and King's Council, the first American to attain that high distinction. He had also been honoured by Grand Lodge with the rank of Past Grand Deacon

There were 25 Founders (whose names are given on another page) from 17 lodges. And all things being ready, America Lodge no 368 was consecrated on Thursday, on June 3, 1909, at Freemasons Hall. The consecrating officers were Most Worshipful Brother the Rt Hon Lord Amphill G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Pro Grand Master; Right Worshipful Brother the Rt Hon Lord Athlummey, PGW.: Very Worshipful Brother R. Horton-Smith, K. C., PG Reg., Right Worshipful the Hon Very Rev the Dean of Hereford, D.D., Provincial Grand Master, Herefordshire; Worshipful Brother Rev J. Farrington Downs, M.A., Past Assistant Grand Chaplain.; The Very Worshipful Brother Frank Richardson, P. Dep. G. Reg., Grand Director of Ceremonies, and Very Worshipful Brother Thomas Fraser, PG Treasurer

The infant Lodge did not believe in doing things except on a grand scale. Besides the consecrating officers, there were in attendance 55 present and past Grand Officers of English and foreign jurisdictions, including the right worshipful Brother the Rt Hon T. Frederick Halsey, Dep Grand Master: Right Worshipful Brother Lt Gen J. Wimborne Laurie, C.B., Pro Grand Master, Sir Wells (W.D); Wright Worshipful Brother George W. Guthrie Deputy Grand Master of Pennsylvania; Very Worshipful Brother John Strachan, KC, Grand Registrar; Very Worshipful Brother Edmund A. Smith President of the Board of General Purposes: Very Worshipful Brother Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary; Worshipful Brother Dr C. Harrer, S.G.D., and Worshipful brother Henry Sadler, grand Tyler. There were 20 founder members present with 70 for the visiting brethren. All of the consecrating officers were made honorary members of the Lodge. Following the ceremonies at banquet crowned the day at the Savoy hotel. The following table was read:

"To Master designate,

I congratulate and greet you and your brethren of America Lodge on the day of your Consecration and saluted take your Lodge on its peculiar creation as an additional evidence of British good feeling towards the United States and additional bond between the English and American Masons and Nation

William Howard Taft."

A month later President Taft became an honorary member of the Lodge and was presented with an honorary members jewel. Brother Taft wrote a charming letter expressing his appreciation of the honour the Lodge had done him, and the hope that he might someday attend its meetings. It does not appear that the Lodge it ever had the pleasure of entertaining him.

On the same day as the consecration, Lord and Lady Amptill were blessed with a daughter and this happy coincidence was subsequently recognised by America Lodge in making the presentation of a silver gilt bowl to the child as a christening gift, with the good wishes for a long life and happiness from all the members of the new Lodge

The Lodge did not waste any time getting to work. Four days later a meeting was held at the Savoy hotel and the Officers installed at the consecration took their stations:

W. Bro Frederick C. van Duzer PAGDC	Master
W. Bro RJ Davis	acting IPM
W. Bro R. Newton crane PGD	SW
W. Bro W. Ralston Balch	JW
Bro J. Morgan Richards	treasurer
W. Bro seller R van Duzer	Secretary
W. Bro Thomas L. Feild	D. C.
Bro George A. Mower	SD
W. Bro Robert W. Blackwell	JD
Bro Robert N. Fairbanks	IG
Bro Oscar H. Baldwin	Steward
W. Bro G. Allen crane	Steward
Bro Bulwer Fagnani	Steward
W. Bro FJ Stinson Tyler	

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate two candidates

W. Bro Van Duzer applied his genius for organisation to the formation of an association of Anglo foreign lodges; the first festival of this association was held on March 10, 1910, only nine months after the founding of America Lodge.

These festivals and then interchange visits between the Masters of the Anglo foreign lodges continued until 1914 when world War one cause them to be postponed; they were resumed in 1932 and continued to 1939; I have not been revived since the Second World War.

One of the questions the discussion they came up in the early days, was one to give the retiring Masters each year. Where it was because some of our founders have sufficient jewels, or whether it was because America Lodge wanted to do something different, it is not clear; but at any rate, instead of the customary large a past Masters jewel, it was decided to present a miniature jewel and scale replica of a silver gilt cup given to Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1470 by Dr Richard Sokborn who was elected a fellow of that College in the same year. Inscribed on the band around the top is the dedication in Anglo-Saxon which being transcribed, reads "Saint Denis it is very dear to me: for her love, drink and

make good cheer". Whilst Denis does not enter perceptibly into the Masonic working, all past Masters used to bring their cups to the annual installation ceremonies and tried to carry out the injunction so far as it relates to good cheer. The lower part of the cup is battlemented, with a scalloped fringe below. On the stem in a band are engraved the words quotes God help at Ned". And above the band are the initials, V.M., believed to represent the original name of the College "Valance Marie". Presentation of cups, which had become exceedingly costly, was discontinued in 1934

In 1911 Selah R Van Duzer, the first secretary of the Lodge had the distinction of being the first of our members to receive the collar on London rank.

In 1912 occurred the first break in our membership. Bro Howard Brown case, who was initiated at the first meeting, lost his life in the sinking of the Titanic, April 12th.

The years of world War one brought their problems to America Lodge as they did to every other institution. With the exception of one candidate in November 1915 and one in March, 1918, the Lodge did no ritualistic work; although the Lodge's financial condition at that time was far from a state of affluence, it not only supported the charity's generously, but as one of the four lodges constituting the Anglo-foreign lodges Association in 1915 were voted to present a motor ambulance to the British Red Cross. Of the £422 13 shillings and 06p raised for this purpose, America Lodge gave £108. In November 1918 the Lodge held a meeting in honour of the representatives of twenty American Grand jurisdiction in London on business relating to war work.

On the evening of November 1, 1915, Malcolm C. Dizer was a candidate for initiation. He was the first candidate since July 1911 and it is probably a reflection of the difficult times through which the Lodge was passing, that only ten officers and brethren and two visiting brethren were present. W. Bro Dizer was installed Master of America Lodge in 1923 and was the first initiate to attain that rank in the Lodge. A few years later he was honoured with the collar of London Rank. He served that most efficiently as Lodge Treasurer from 1925 to 1931

In July 1916 a distinguished American Freemasons, Very Worshipful Brother J. Fort Newton, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, visited the Lodge. He was not only widely known as the pastor of an important church in London for some years, but had contributed much too Masonic knowledge in the editorship of The Builder when he returned to America.

After the end of the war, the Lodge resumed its growth and development, and, notwithstanding many difficulties, determined to show itself to be very much alive. In February 1919 it undertook to receive the new American ambassador, his Excellency Bro John W. Davies, for which purpose an Emergency Meeting was held in the Grand Temple, Freemasons Hall. Not since the consecration ceremonies had such a gathering been held in America Lodge. There was not only a near complete attendance of all members, but there were eighty visitors, some of whom were amongst the most distinguished members of the craft.

The meeting in March, 1920, brought great encouragement for it was notable for the reading of six applications for initiation. This year and the next were happy and prosperous ones. In October the Lodge moved to the hotel Cecil. In 1922 Bro Warren G. Harding, President of the United States became an Honorary Member

In November 1923 was inaugurated the happy custom joint meetings with Columbia Lodge no 2397. America-lodge has always considered Columbia to be its Mother Lodge in so much as fifteen of the twenty five founders were members of Columbia and our petition was recommended by them. Although these joint meetings with discontinued on the outbreak of World War II, our close association with Columbia has continued strongly. In 1930 Columbia chapter was adopted as the official chapter of America Lodge and several of our members are currently taking an active part in its affairs.

In a very difficult period after the war, particularly during the years 1947-1950, the Past Masters of Columbia Lodge unstintingly helped out by acting in the various offices at our Lodge meetings and we shall for all time be extremely grateful for this assistance from our "Mother" Lodge at a time when we were very hard pressed, in 1949 "Gould's " history of Freemasonry throughout the world" was presented to Columbia Lodge who had recently opened a library for the benefit of their brethren and in that same year the privilege was accorded to all members of America Lodge to use this library. It is a matter of interest that in 1923 and America-lodge supported the petition for a new Lodge, Wayfarers no 4600. We have not proved to be such a "good parent" as Columbia for there appears to be no records of particularly close attachment to Wayfarers Lodge.

The Lodge was honoured in November, 1924 by a visit from another Ambassador to the Court of St James's, His Excellency Bro Frank Billings Kellogg, on his becoming an honorary member. At his request, as he was not able to stay for dinner, there were no unusual preparations for his reception and beyond the ordinary business of the Lodge; there was only the presentation to him of the badge of Mason by the Master.

The Lodge experience the unusual sorrow in 1925 of losing its Master W. Bro Percy F. Storrs, during his term of office, a brother tireless in the devotion to its affairs. It was also the occasion of the first Masonic funeral performed by America-lodge for any of its members.

It was during that year the project of the Masonic Memorial fund was brought to the attention of the brethren. The Grand Masters appeal was received with the media approval and subsequently the entire quota was provided, and America Lodge became entitled to Hallstone jewel which each successive Master wears with sincere pride.

As the restriction of membership in America Lodge to American citizens at times proved a hardship. With conspicuous exceptions of foreign colony in any locality is more or less of fluctuating and during much of existence the Lodge's growth has been affected by its members returning to the homeland, or transferring their domicile for business reasons to some other parts of the world. At the present time more than a third of his membership resides outside England, as was the case 25 years ago. Restrictions led in 1915 to the necessary for a member to resign on becoming a British subject and it was not until March 1937 that the bylaws would change to admit candidates with American family relationships or who, by reason of their American affiliations, are deemed worthy of admission.

There was an added problem, which partially exists, of a number of the American Grand Lodge not allowing dual membership, with the resultant necessary for a brother who has wished to remain masonically active on return to his native country, having to demit from the Lodge; happily, dual membership is now permissible in most of the American Grand Lodges. This led to some peculiar situations such as that applied to W. Bro E. J. Colberg, LGR. Who was initiated in 1917 in America Lodge on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, but was not able eventually to join America-lodge as a

member until 1924. During the intervening seven years he was a regular visitor and subsequently did sterling work for America Lodge as Treasurer and Secretary during the early days of the Second World War.

He has continued a most active Masonic career on his retirement to America where he is now a member of the 33rd degree, we have on several occasions performed ceremonies for American Grand Lodge is, the earliest recorded being in 1913 when we passed a brother on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.

In 1947 we initiated, passed and raised brother on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida. This must have been one of the last occasions on which the United Grand Lodge of England allowed a Brother to be initiated on behalf of the Mother Grand Lodge. This is no longer permissible though we are still allowed to pass and raise Brethren should be requested to do so and should there be good reason for it. There is only one record of reverse lend lease one in 1937, a passing was carried out on our behalf by Ophir Lodge, East Orange New Jersey.

In 1928 the Lodge returned to Freemasons Hall for its meetings

The Lodge reached a majority with appropriate ceremonies, attended by the Most Worshipful the Pro Grand Master; W. Bro the Rev T. L. Bullock, Assistant Grand Chaplain; W. Bro J. Russell but Karen PGD.; W. Bro A. W. Dentith a GDC, and seven other Grand Officers, and by forty seven brethren representing thirty two English lodges and fifteen America lodges, including the Master of Colombia Lodge and the Masters of the Anglo foreign lodges. W. Bro a Leon Sikkinga was on this occasion installed as Master. Felicitations were telegraphed to the Daughter of Lord Ampthill whose 21st birthday and that of America Lodge occurred on the same date.

Through theses short notes reference had been made to the places of meeting and dining off the Lodge. It was a general practice before the two world wars for the major lodges in London to meet in full evening dress. During the war all meetings were held in uniform or ordinary business dress. We are at present one of the few lodges who meet in dinner jackets, having decided to do so in 1950. In 1938 there were some controversy as to whether or America Lodge should become that dining Lodge and this was hotly debated. We are today, as we have always been, non-dining Lodge but expect to dine together and in fact no joining member can be elected unless he had not only attended the meeting but dined with the members of the Lodge.

In 1939 war again threatened the very existence of the Lodge. It is recorded that at the General Purposes Committee meeting in that year a decision was taken to keep the Lodge alive as an entity and not to amalgamate with the any other Lodge. The October meeting in 1939 was cancelled; meetings were suspended through 1940 and not resumed until 1941. In 1940 original Tyler died, after having served the Lodge faithfully for thirty two years and 157 meetings. It was not possible during the war to dine at the Connaught rooms. From 1942 and until we returned to the Connaught rooms in 1946 dinners were held at the American club and on one particular occasion in October 1946, when hotel staffs were on strike, dinner was enjoyed at the hospitality of W. Bro G. H. Carr PAGDC, at the Allies Club. In 1940, W Bro E. J. Colberg LGR had to undertake the office of both Treasurer and Secretary and in 1945 he passed both these and to W. Bro G. S. Knight LGR. It was not until 1949 that we had available to us enough resident past Masters following the Second World War to appoint a separate Treasurer. Special dispensation was of course necessary one brother to hold both offices. Through all

our difficulties we have enjoyed the utmost help from members of the Grand Secretary's staff at Freemasons Hall, help which is readily given today.

Some reference has already been made to the charitable activities of our Lodge. Lists were taken up from the beginning as might be expected. In 1933 the first payment to an individual member of the Lodge was made and in 1937 to the son of a former member. It was not however, until 1952 that an Almoner was appointed for the first time; he took his new post as seriously and in 1954 the America Lodge 3368 Masonic charities Association was formed. This made it possible for brethren to covenant to the association. With the result will in addition of monies recovered from the tax authorities: the Lodge built up an annual record of donations to Charities which it can be extremely proud. Since 1948 each Master has taken up a list annually. In 1955 the Lodge qualified as a patron Lodge of the Royal Masonic hospital and in 1956 the brethren agreed to raise £2000 for the extension to the Royal Masonic hospital, which was opened by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in December 1958. In 1958 for the first time an application was made to the Board of Benevolence on behalf of the widow of a former member and we were glad to recall that the application was successful.

This brief resume of the first half-century of America Lodge would be incomplete without some reference to the generous, and indeed, affectionate interest that at all times has been shown by members and their friends. In 1930 a gavel made of the old timber of the Independents Hall, Philadelphia was presented by Right Worshipful Brother Robert I. Clegg, past the historian of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, An Old English glass loving cup, a cherished and regularly used possession of the Lodge was given in 1931 by W. Bro D. Campbell I. P.A.G. reg., P.G.S., In 1953 Major-General JD McLachlan C.B., C.M.G., and PDG.Sw.B made a presentation on a small replica of the picture W. Bro George Washington

In its 50 years of existence the Lodge has held 227 meetings, has initiated 79 candidates, and there have been 57 joining members, exclusive of the twenty five Founders. Death has taken its toll: many have returned to America or transfer their residence elsewhere. Today there are 53 subscribing members of whom 19 overseas.

On this, the Golden Anniversary of America Lodge, it is sincerely hoped that the fraternal goodwill enjoyed by its members may continue and that it will loyally maintained the object for which it was founded.

PAST MASTERS

W.Bro	Frederick Corklin Van Duzer	1909-1910
W.Bro	Robert Newton Crane	1910-1911
W.Bro	William Ralston Balch	1911-1912
W.Bro	Tomas Littlejohn Feild	1912-1913
W.Bro	Selah Rebe Van Duzer	1913-1914
W.Bro	Henry Puliver Fagnani	1914-1915
W.Bro	Elmer Bradnor White	1915-1916
W.Bro	Harley Alvin Stone	1916-1917
W.Bro	George Hart Short	1917-1918
W.Bro	George Hart Short	1918-1919
W.Bro	Gerard Allan Crane	1919-1920
W.Bro	John Hanford Ryley	1920-1921
W.Bro	Elmer Bradnor White	1921-1922
W.Bro	Duncan Campbell Lee	1922-1923
W.Bro	Malcolm Curtis Dizer	1923-1924
W.Bro	Percy Fitch Storrs	1924-1925
W.Bro	Phillip Franklin	1925-1926
W.Bro	Charles Thompson Snow	1926-1927
W.Bro	Major Walter Henry Ward	1927-1928
W.Bro	Edwin Joseph Colberg	1928-1929
W.Bro	Robert Brainard Mosely	1929-1930
W.Bro	Albert Leon Sikkinga	1930-1931
W.Bro	Rodney Prizer	1931-1932
W.Bro	Ira Wright Fowler	1932-1933
W.Bro	Gilbert Harry Carr	1933-1934
W.Bro	Edwin Joseph Colberg	1934-1935
W.Bro	Major Walter Henry Ward	1935-1936
W.Bro	Gilbert Harry Carr	1936-1937
W.Bro	Harry Stewart Goldey	1937-1938
W.Bro	Harry Stewart Goldey	1938-1939
W.Bro	Paul Spangler Fowler	1939-1940
W.Bro	Paul Spangler Fowler	1940-1941
W.Bro	Stuart Duncan Pearl	1941-1942
W.Bro	Stuart Duncan Pearl	1942-1943

W.Bro	George Francis Knight	1943-1944
W.Bro	Thomas William Rayner	1944-1945
W.Bro	Thomas William Rayner	1945-1946
W.Bro	Harry Stewart Goldey	1946-1947
W.Bro	Stuart Duncan Pearl	1947-1948
W.Bro	James Guthrie Laurie	1948-1949
W.Bro	James Guthrie Laurie	1949-1950
W.Bro	George Stewart McConnell	1950-1951
W.Bro	George Stewart McConnell	1951-1952
W.Bro	Frederick Charles Mason	1952-1953
W.Bro	George Edward Boon	1953-1954
W.Bro	Joseph Gordon Hopkins	1954-1955
W.Bro	Harry Willson	1955-1956
W.Bro	Thomas Robert Keating	1956-1957
W.Bro	Vivian Warren Pearl	1957-1958
W.Bro	Leslie Clinton Haines	1958-1959

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

1959 – 1960

W.Bro	V.W. Warren Pearl	Worshipful Master
W.Bro	L.C. Haines	Immediate Past Master
Bro	H.E. Rickman	Senior Warden
W.Bro	T.R. Keating	Junior Warden
W.Bro	G.E. Boon	Treasurer
W.Bro	J.G. Laurie	Secretary & Almoner
W.Bro	S.D.D. Pearl LGR	Director of Ceremonies
Bro	J.F. Widman	Senior Deacon
Bro	K. M. King	Junior Deacon
W.Bro	T. W. Rayner	Asst. Director of Ceremonies
Bro	J. H. Huntingdon	Inner Guard
Bro	H. D. Anderson	Steward
Bro	W.G. Hollis	Steward
Bro	P.H. Galgey	Steward
Bro	J.B. Stainland	Steward
W.Bro	H.J. Coates L.G.R	Tyler

The Next Fifty Years

At the 50th anniversary meeting, the Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge, W. Bro D. White presented to the Worshipful Master a Gold past Masters cup of Columbia Lodge, to be used at after proceedings by the reigning Master of America Lodge in perpetuity.

This was a token of esteem and affection from all the brethren of Columbia Lodge, our Mother Lodge to Mark the 50th anniversary of the consecration of America Lodge.

At the March 1961 meeting, the Secretary reported a donation to the Lodge of the Leeds Ware jug by W. Bro J. C. Wirral LR, it had been presented to his Grandfather when he was raised in 1796, for safe keeping and to ensure that as many brethren as possible should enjoy seeing this jug, it had, with W. Bro Major J. C. Wirral's approval been given to the Grand Lodge Museum.

W. Bro Keating, representative member on the committee of the Anglo Foreign Lodges, reported on the forthcoming re union meeting on April 9th 1964

W. Bro JG Laurie was promoted to the office of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies of April 29th 1964, an honour well deserved and applauded by the Brethren of the Lodge

The Secretary reported that the next meeting of the Anglo Foreign Lodges would take place on the 24th of May 1965 under the banner of Lodge La France.

In 1965

After the proceedings of Grand Lodge had been reported, there was a full discussion or whether to adopt the alternative form of words in the obligation, most of the members present spoke and the Secretary reported on letters he had received, finally a ballot was taken which showed eight in favour of having the permissive change and three against, we shall therefore adopted the alternative form for a period of at least five years.

The Secretary gave notice of motion that in view of his valuable services to the Lodge, W. Bro E. J. Colberg LGR be made an honorary member from June 1967

1966

The following notice of motion, W. Bro JG Laurie PAGDC, Almoner, proposed that in respect of the appeal of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Grand Lodge of England, the Lodge advance £56, the amount of the quota suggested at the rate of one pound for each subscribing member, and that this amount be subsequently collected from each member of the Lodge, seconded by W. Bro J. H. Huntington, discussed, then unanimously agreed.

1967

Right Worshipful Brother Charles M. Balms, Past Deputy District Grand Master of district 16 of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana attended the meeting of America Lodge and present a scroll to W. Bro Marks, IPM from the Master of New Orleans, conferring on him honorary Citizenship of that City and presented keys to the City of New Orleans to him and W. Bro Stainland

W. Bro E. Baileux of Entente Cordiale presented the Bernhard Cup to the Worshipful Master, the signing Master of the last Lodge making use of this last Anglo Foreign Lodges Association meeting on May 2nd 1968 when eighteen members and four hundred and sixty eight guests attended, whose names are recorded.

The Lodge received the RW Bro Major Sir Allan Adair, BX., KCVO. C, B, DSO, MC, DL, Assistant Grand Master and his retinue.

The Assistant Grand Master was saluted by the brethren.

The lodge was called off.

The Worshipful Master announced that the members of the Lodge of St Andrew Boston Massachusetts would give a demonstration of their third degree working, in Scottish rite

The following Officers of the Lodge of St Andrew took part in the demonstration.

Rt.W	Bro	Benjamin A.G.Thorndike	Master
W	Bro	Samuel Hoar	Senior Warden
W	Bro	Edward H.Osgood	Junior Warden
W	Bro	John Huntingdon	Treasurer
	Bro	John Hoar	Secretary
W	Bro	Winthrop Weatherbee	Chaplain
W	Bro	J Armory Jefferson	Marshal
W	Bro	Augustus P. Loring	Senior Deacon
	Bro	William B.Osgood	Junior Deacon
	Bro	Robert B. Albany Jnr	Senior Steward
	Bro	Nathaniel T.Dexter	Junior Steward
	Bro	H.Inman Nicols	Inside Sentinal
	Bro	F.Whippler	Organist
	Bro	Edward H.Osgood	South Gate
	Bro	H.Inman Nicols Jnr	West Gate
	Bro	WilliamA.Thorndyke	East Gate

Brother Gareth M.Green, M.D., who was raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, at a special meeting in the Lodge room of Lodge Connaught Killwinnining No.2 on Monday April 29th 1968, acted as the candidate for this demonstration.

The Brethren from America having performed a splendid and exhilarating working of their unique degree to the delight of all the brethren present, the Lodge was called on and resumed in the First degree.

June 10th 1968

There was a ballot to admit as an honorary member W. Bro Major General Sir Allan Ayden Beat C., KCVO, CBE, DSO, M.C., D. L., etc etc Assistant Grand Master, it proved unanimous.

W. Bro Sir John Craig p G. D., of Columbia Lodge no 2397 gracefully presented to Bro J. M. Clapp, his Grand Lodge Certificate.

The Worshipful Master announced the death of W. Bro D. R. Keating, PM LGR, and Treasurer, on June 13, 1968 he also announced the recent death of W. Bro George Roberts AGDC P. (Herts), and D.C. of Columbia Lodge no 2397, "our Mother Lodge", a frequent visitor to America Lodge of the many years, the brethren stood to order in their memory

May 1971

because of the illness of W. Bro J. H. Volcker, the re-elected Treasurer, at his doctor's orders to relinquish all extra work, it was necessary to elect a new Treasurer for the ensuing year, W. Bro George Wainwright SD was elected Treasurer, by secret ballot which proved unanimous, the Master also paid tribute to W. Bro Volcker on his excellence of his work, he having taken over this office originally at a very trying time in the lodges history when W. Bro Thomas Keating LG ,the then Treasurer, had died during his year of office as The lodge Treasurer.

The Worshipful Master informed the brethren of the death of the oldest regular member Justin R. Weddle in Florida on May 24, 1971 I called upon the Secretary for a few words, the brethren then stood in reverent silence to his memory

1972

W. Bro Pat Galgey was brought before the chair Laurie, by the acting D.C., and presented to him an engraved cup given by the members of America Lodge, the Master expressed the anger felt, by the members of the Lodge, that W. Bro Pat should be denied his 50 year pin, he congratulated him on 50 years of devoted service to Masonry and expressed the hope that this might remind him of the appreciation and feelings of the brethren of America Lodge, W. Bro Galgey thanked the brethren wholeheartedly,

Bro Swanson assured that approaches would be made through the good offices of Grand Lodge, he was assured by W. Bro Laurie our Secretary taken every possible action in every quarter to try to obtain W. Bro Pat's, 50 year pin and that he has already pressured UGLE and would continue to do so, there is no evidence that a satisfactory conclusion ever happened.

1973

the Worshipful Master informed the brethren of the death of W. Bro P. Galgey, most faithful and regular member of the Lodge, who had been in the craft over 50 years, had died on November 5th 1972, he had been Master of the Lodge during the year 1963-64 and had been eager to take any office as the Master requested. He had been Inner Guard last year and was the present Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

1973

W. Bro J. H. Huntingdon ,LG, proposed that dinner jackets for all brethren attending Lodge be dispensed with , except for the installation meeting, this was seconded by W. Bro Warren Pearl LGR acting Director of Ceremonies, Bro Ryerson however made a strong plea to keep our tradition of dressing for the meetings and several other of the brethren were of the same opinion, the Worshipful Master then

announced that he would not vote on such an important matter that evening, that would, if necessary ascertain the wishes of all the brethren at home and abroad by letter.

1974

the Secretary announced that Pilgrim Lodge no 238 the Senior member of the Anglo Foreign Lodges Association, had been honoured as sponsors for this year's Prestonian lecture, it will be held at Freemasons Hall on Thursday, May 2nd the usual day for the annual meeting of the Association and that all brethren are invited to attend, the lecturer is to be given by W. Bro the Rev N. Barker MA PA G. Chap, and Provincial Grand Master (Surrey), this drama is based upon the craft, the relationships of the mediaeval history and other dramas to the practice of masonry.

1976

W. Bro John Huntingdon LGR stated that as the costs of the Connaught rooms had increased so much, better value might be had for the Lodge to meet at the American club 95 Piccadilly, 20 minutes distance from Freemasons Hall, he was instructed by the Master to investigate this further and to report to him at the next GP meeting January 23

the Secretary read out a letter of retirement from our Tyler W. Bro Harley Coates LGR who had been our faithful and loyal Tyler was 17 years, having missed only one meeting in all those years, our last meeting in January when he had flu, on the very strong recommendations of W. Bro Harry and of W. Bro Gordon Pugsley

W. Bro H. Lindley Lawrence PPA GDC, was by show of hands elected Tyler of the Lodge, having been proposed by W. Bro Huntingdon LGR and seconded by W. Bro Roy McFarland

1979

The Lodge discussed a notice of motion which was on the agenda, proposing, that the venue of the Lodge meeting be changed to Mark Masons Hall 86 St James Street London, SW1. And the number of meetings to be increased to five, a motion for approval was made by W. Bro Eric Mason, seconded by W. Bro Elmer Swanson and passed unanimously by the brethren

1981

W. Bro Gordon Pugsley LGR Treasurer proposed that W. Bro James G. Laurie PAGDC be elected an Honorary member of the Lodge, W. Bro Eric Masons seconded, the brethren were assured following query from Grand Lodge as to whether or not W. Bro Laurie would realise therefore he would be excluded from the privileges of an active member, that W. Bro Laurie was amenable and able to enjoy the privileges as a joining member of another Lodge, the proposal was put to the brethren and passed unanimously

1982

the following notice of motion by W. Bro Pugsley who proposed that W. Bro Dwight Lear, Grand representative from the Grand Lodge of the state of Oregon USA, to the United grand Lodge of ancient free and accepted Masons of England be elected an Honorary member of the Lodge, this motion was seconded by W. Bro Buklin, a ballot was taken, and W. Bro Dwight Lear was unanimously elected as an Honorary member of the Lodge

The W.M. requested W. Bro Pugsley informed the Lodge about the Anglo foreign ceremony to be given by America Lodge, we were informed that the plans are well underway for North view Lodge no 113 USA to present to the third degree ceremony as practised by US lodges, the North view Lodge participants will depart the US on the 28th of April and return the seventh of May, a letter from the Secretary of North view Lodge was read expressing their pleasure to being chosen to do the ceremony,

May 83

The Worshipful Master announced that members of North view Lodge number 113 Norfolk, Virginia USA would give a demonstration working of their third degree working as done under the Grand Lodge of Virginia USA

The following members of North view Lodge of Norfolk, Virginia took part in the demonstration

John H. Deans, Clyde R. Dixon, Prince A. Edwards, Thomas J. Forman, Elmer Half-year, B Stillson, Howard B. Stillson, H. Stubbs, Eisenach Harris, Wolfgang W Kneperfell, Jeffrey Osmoff, D Peters, Robert E Ratcliffe and Goodwin B Spencer.

the letter from W. Bro E. L. Baileux deputy Grand master, congratulate in America Lodge on the organisation of the Anglo foreign lodges reunion was read out, some of the pertinent comments work," the sincere thanks for the kindness and hospitality extended to me, it was most enjoyable and happy occasion, I should be grateful if you would convey to all concerned with the arrangements, my heartiest congratulations, and I much enjoyed meeting your W. M. and having the opportunity of discussing many subjects at dinner.

A letter from the Secretary of North view Lodge, whose members performed the third degree ceremony at the Anglo foreign lodges reunion, was read expressing their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality they received from the Lodge with the comets that," it will be remembered and talked about three years to come" they also sent lapel pins worn by 3° master Masons in the USA and the chart of the steps leading to the 33rd degree in America, Bro Homer Fox our first member on the roster and probably the oldest in years (90) sent fraternal greetings from South Carolina, and said he looked forward to the regular Lodge notices, W. Bro Laurie, who managed to attend the Anglo foreign re union, sent fraternal greetings and best wishes to the new W. M., he just managed to escape hospitalisation due to the exertions of the attending the reunion, greetings were read out from W. Bro Rt-weir with observation that Bro Noel Warner will be a worthy successor to W. Bro Chambers,

1986

The Secretary remarked to the brethren that W. Bro Dickenson had included in the ritual the new form regarding the penalties in the obligation in accord with the resolution adopted by Grand Lodge, he also complimented W. Bro Dickenson on behalf the brethren present on his masterly and practically flawless third degree ceremony

The Secretary read the pertinent parts of a letter from Bro Torchen concerning his gift to the Lodge of

He painted and is being considered by the US Postal services for a stamp commemorating Georgia 200th anniversary on attendance in the union

The Lodge stood in silence in remembrance of W. Bro Frederick C. Mason LGR who died seventh of August 1986, W. Bro Buklin and W. Bro Pugsley gave Memorial address is to the Lodge, recalling Eric's long faithful and effective service to America Lodge

the Secretary drew the brethren's attention to Bro Fox is intended 50 years as a subscribing member and suggested that he be elected an Honorary member, the brethren present were in favour, pending its acceptance

Concerns about the health of our Honorary member W. Bro Harry Coates, and America lodges Tyler for 15 years until his retirement in 1976 there was concern about the news that although hospitalise for a while he was now at home and in reasonably good health considering his 84 years, Bro subsequently passed away the following year.

The Lodge stood in silence in remembrance of W. Bro Harry J. Coates LGR who died 16th of October 1987; W. Bro Harry was made an honorary member at the September 1976 meeting on the occasion of his retirement as America Lodge is Tyler to 15 years

The death of John Huntingdon on the 16th of October was announced, there were many present who knew W. Bro John well who were greatly saddened by the news, he joined the Lodge as a joining member in 1954, his mother Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts USA and he served as Secretary from 1964 to 1976, W. Bro John retired from all active pursuits including America Lodge in 1983, he became progressively more unwell and disabled by blindness

1988

The members then rose from a silence in memory of W. Bro Edwin J. Colberg, who died sixth of May 1988, W. Bro Colberg retired to the US many years ago after having been master of America Lodge in 1928 and honoured with LGR a few years later

1989

Mr Baron Paul Mendelssohn our Organist is a descendent of Mendelssohn the composer

1989

Members rose for a minutes silence in memory of W. Bro Homer S. Fox who died September 4, 1984, while serving in England as a US foreign services officer, he joined America Lodge in January 1938 which made him a member of the Lodge 51 years, W. Bro Homer returned to the US in the 1940s when he retired

1990

W. Bro Buklin then proposed a notice of motion, that the amend the bylaws of America Lodge no 3368 be adopted for submission to the Grand secretary for approval of the Grand Master, these 1990 amendments, it was explained, being together all the amendments on file with Grand Lodge And

incorporates all the practical provisions that we need and want for our Lodge 80 years after its consecration.

The Grand Lodge Modified by laws were used almost exclusively in the interests of comprehensiveness, clarity, levity and flexibility, copies of the proposed revisions were distributed to the members of the general purposes committee and a copy will be sent to every member before the next general meeting

1991

The Secretary announced that the minutes had been read aloud in the Lodge for the last time, at the least for the tenure of the present Secretary, an explanation would be given on the first rising

The Secretary stood to acquaint the brethren with three items with immediate effect on the Lodge, they have already been broadcast in the Grand Lodge Letters (sent to every member) or in the G. L. Quarterly communications notices. First item: in accordance with the amendment to rule 10 for the November summons will place the almoner and charity steward above the senior Deacon in precedence, also the almoners name and address will be included on the annual return, second item: copies of the new proposal form (form L.) were circulated in the lodges so that the brethren could examine the list of disclosures and commitments that must be made not only by the candidate the proposer and the second, any member who applies to the Lodge Secretary and a copy of the statements and questions before requesting an application form (the registration form L.) will be sent one. Third item: with a view to shorten and improve Lodge meeting is the Grand Secretary has long recommended that printing and circulation of the minutes of the Lodge meetings prior to the meeting at which they are to be approved at the Lodge committee meeting just before his regular meeting the Secretary proposed that this be done so that the sum of the benefits cited by the Grand Secretary, W. Bro Hyam. The benefits will be sure to shorten the meetings which could mean a 5:30 start, errors and omissions to be reported to the Secretary before the meeting dates so that the minutes presented to the Master for his signature will be corrected fair copy. The brethren, especially country members will appreciate reading the minutes rather than read the occasional newsletter which is no longer being necessary.

1997

The Worshipful Master referred to the great loss that free Mason in general and America Lodge in particular had suffered by the sad death of W. Bro James Laurie PAGDC 9th December 1996, the brethren stood in silent tribute to his memory

1997

The W. Bro the Assistant Grand Master the Most Honourable the Marquee of Northampton demanded admittance to the Lodge and was admitted in due form by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

The Lodge was called off

The Worshipful Master then announced that the members of North view Lodge no 103 Norfolk, Virginia USA would give a demonstration of the third degree working as done in the Grand Lodge of Virginia

The following members of North view Lodge took part in the demonstration

W. Bro P. Coakley, W. Bro RW. Lee Holliday, G. W. of Virginia, SW be helped, JW Bro M. White, Treasurer, W. Bro Goodwin Spencer, the secretary Bro D. Collins, S. D. Bro Sebastian, W. Bro T. Miners Past DDGM SW, W. Bro T. McGowan Steward, Bro Kirchhoff Chaplain, W. Bro J. Russo, Junior Martial.

The brethren from Virginia Lodge having performed a splendid and exhilarating working of their Third degree to the delight of the brethren present, the Lodge was called on and resumed in the first degree

There have been Ninety Masters of the Lodge since its Consecration in 1909

Secretaries, and *****

And Treasurers

The lodge has like most London Lodges, had its difficult times, the main causes being bad press for Freemasonry, the ever rising costs and the spread of its members over many Counties in the UK and the re settling of our American Brethren to their native land.

We have overcome the bad press by virtue of the openness portrayed by the United Grand Lodge of England and the willingness to allow non Masons a glimpse of our Ceremonies'.

America Lodge is currently enjoying growth with the lodge and is motivated by enthusiasm of the brethren

The Brethren are of a mix of young Master Masons, not in years, more in experience, and the remainder by skilled Masons who understand the Masonic Ritual.

During the latter years we have had the privilege of having as members of the Lodge, W.Bro Gordon Pugsley. PAGDC, who was our Treasurer for many years and the Secretary for the Anglo Foreign Lodges Association,

W.Bro Frank Baber PPrGD SLGR, who was the Secretary of the lodge in the latter years, to whom I have the pleasure of succeeding.

Not forgetting W.Bro James G. Laurie, and W.Bro John Huntingdon and W.Bro D.D. Pearl who continued to build upon the foundations laid by W.Bro Selah Van Duzer, the first Secretary of the Lodge and his successor Frederick Conklin Van Duzer.

Without doubt there are many other to whom you could make mention of, to leave them out of the history is not an error, it would take too much room, however a task undertaken by the current Lodge Secretary

W.Bro David Bailey LGR PProvJGD, was to transcribe the whole of the recorded minutes, inclusive of errors, this has now been completed and compiled, the result is a CD ROM, packed with all the information as written by the Secretaries over time, which represents a true record of the complete lodge history

Officers of the Lodge 2008 - 2009

W.	Bro	Tom Smith	PM	PPDGM	Master
W.	Bro	Henry Price	PM		IPM
W.	Bro	Doug Collet	PM	LGR	Senior Warden
	Bro	Peter Jaycock			Junior Warden
W.	Bro	David McKenna	PM	LGR	Chaplain
W.	Bro	Roger Thatcher	PM		Treasurer
W.	Bro	David Bailey		LGR PProvJGD	Secretary
W.	Bro	Michael Smith	PM	LGR	Director of Ceremonies
W.	Bro	Bob Osbourne	PM		Almoner
W.	Bro	Doug Collet	PM	LGR	Charity Steward
	Bro	D A Cotgrave			Senior Deacon
	Bro	David Street			Junior Deacon
W.	Bro	Rod Dalley	PM		Assistant Director of Ceremonies
W.	Bro	Rod Dalley	PM		Lodge Mentor
	Bro	Peter Manley			Organist
W.	Bro	Peter Scribens	PM		Inner Guard
	Bro	Bob Brooks			Steward
	Bro	F. Lindsay Morgan			Steward
	Bro	Anthony Phillips			Steward
W.	Bro	William Barclay		PPrGReg	Tyler

The Celebration of our Centenary meeting coincides with the Anglo Foreign Lodges Association meeting, of which America Lodge no 3368 have the honour of being the banner lodge.

Every second year a Lodge member of the Association has the opportunity of hosting the re-union meeting, America Lodge accepted the honour to represent the Association, whose roots were set down in 1910, the idea originated with Lodge La France, and America Lodge, aided by the enthusiasm of W.Bro Frederick C Van Duzer, who's' masterly skill for organising help shape the formation by four lodges, Pilger, Deutschland, La France and America Lodge.

The Association was interrupted during both World Wars and after the Second World War did no revive until the start of the sixties.

During the preparation of the Centenary meeting we found that we had encountered a difficulty insofar as the current rules of Metgl do not permit the combining of the Centenary meeting with any other work.

Bitterly disappointed the lodge continued to plan for two meetings, the Anglo Foreign Lodges meeting for June 4th 2009, to be held in the Grand Temple Great Queen Street, the Centenary meeting to be held on the 8th June at Mark Masons Hall, 86 St James Street, in the Grand Temple.

All arrangements were in place and the organising of two events was well under way, when we entered The World economic recession, the support for both meetings was placed in turmoil, at the suggestion of W.Bro Peter Ribl, SLGR, Secretary of Helvetica Lodge, at one of the committee meetings, he agreed to solicit the help and advice of the then Metropolitan Deputy Grand Master, who exclaimed that he could only act upon a letter of petition from the Secretary of America Lodge, the petition was written and sent,

After what seem an internal wait, the Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro.Russell Race, JP, DL, PJGW, granted out petition, without president, for which the lodge is very grateful, now the plans changed, the meeting has been combined and I am pleased to report that the Combined Anglo Foreign Lodges Association meeting and the Centenary meeting are to be held on Thursday 4th June 2009, in the Grand Temple Great Queen Street.

A delegation led by our current Worshipful Master, W.Bro Tom Smith PPDGM (Texas) who is leading a team of Masons from Panther City, Texas USA, who on the day are to give a demonstration of the third degree.

On this occasion we have a white table festive board, and have encouraged non Masons to join our festivities.

Dining arrangements have been made and will be in the Grand Ballroom, Connaught Rooms Great Queen Street.

Centenary Celebration

Menu

Minestrone Soup

Lamb Shank

Seasonable Vegetables

Fruits of the Loom

Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints