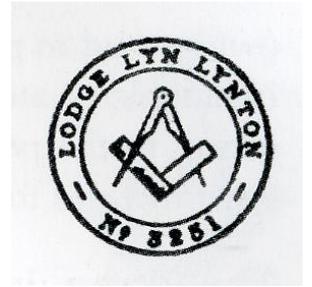




Lyn Lodge No. 3251

Lynton

Warrant 1907



The origins of Lyn Lodge go back to the last decade of the nineteenth century. By this time Freemasonry was well established in North Devon, there being lodges at Barnstaple, Bideford, South Molton, Torrington and Ilfracombe. These towns had of course a great advantage over their smaller neighbour, the Twin Villages, both in size and in the fact that they had railway communication. Representations by two local residents, Bros Tom Jones and Chas Medway, were made to Provincial Grand Lodge, but owing to lack of numbers these were unsuccessful. Times were however changing, and with the opening of the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway several local residents were able to join neighbouring lodges, and it so happened that they were reinforced by freemasons who had come to settle in Lynton. In 1906 representations were again made to the Provincial Grand Master and to Grand Lodge, with the result that permission was given for the formation of a lodge at Lynton to be called Lodge Lyn No. 3251. By coincidence this number was exactly three thousand later than Loyal Lodge Barnstaple No. 251. There was unfortunately no available building suitable for a lodge, and finally an agreement was reached with the Lynton Urban District Council for the use of Council Chamber at the Town Hall at a yearly rent of £5.12s.0d. It was perhaps fortunate that two prominent Councilors and the local Surveyor were founder members. Lodge furniture was purchased for £74.8s.0d. and an organ for £10, and there is a note, that the latter was on occasions hired to the local choral society. Conditions were by no means ideal, as apart from the lack of privacy the furniture had to be cleared away and stored after every meeting. The first entry on 7 November 1907 in the Minute Book reads as follows:- 'By command, and under the instruction of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Devonshire, the first meeting of Lodge Lyn 3251 under the Grand Lodge of England of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons was held at the Town Hall, Lynton, on the seventh day of November 1907 for the purpose of consecrating and constituting the Lodge, the Installation of the Master named in the Warrant and other business.' The

Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by his Deputy and eight senior Provincial Officers, together with twelve founders and sixty-seven visiting brethren then witnessed the Installation of Bro H. Ough into the Master's Chair.

During the years after the Great War much was done in furnishing the lodge and consolidating the building and in 1925 it was decided to purchase the adjoining land and the five cottages for the sum of £450 in view of future possible additions. A feature of the new furnishings was the gift of handsome pillars cut from two trees grown in the grounds of the Royal Castle Hotel, by Bro Tom Jones. In 1935 the question arose as to the desirability of building a supper room on the premises in view of the increasing number of members and the difficulty and inconvenience of obtaining outside catering. At a meeting of the trustees held in May 1936 plans were submitted by Bro Oliver and after several other meetings it was finally decided in December 1938 to agree the sum of £630 for the erection of a new room on the site of the old cottages. The building was duly completed by the end of 1939.



With the completion of the supper room, wartime restrictions put a stop to any developments as regards the festive board and in 1940 arrangements were made with the Devon Education Authority for its use as an overflow school for evacuated children. It was decided to reduce the fees of any serving brother to that of a country member. The war brought many difficulties, and the petrol shortage in particular was having an adverse effect on attendances at meetings. This was partly offset, however, by the number of evacuee brethren who were gladly welcomed. Trouble occurred with the Police in 1941 in respect of lights from the supper room ..J it was decided to remove all bulbs therein. It was proposed to form a fire watching section in conjunction with nearby property owners and to purchase a stirrup pump for one pound. Regular lodge Officers were requested to arrange for a deputy should they be unable to attend, and the lodge Charter was removed to the Bank for safekeeping. By June 1942 the possibility of carrying on owing to the petrol shortage and other wartime matters was seriously considered, and it was

decided to reduce the number of meetings and to hold some in the afternoons.

The Organ. In 1931 Bro Hoerman offered to make a present of a pipe organ. This organ is one of the very few of its type in existence and has since become one of the lodge's most cherished possessions. It is known as a 'Positive Organ', an invention of I Thomas Casson 1842 - 1900. Thomas Casson was a banker from Denbigh, North Wales and the father of Sir Lewis Casson the distinguished actor. Casson was also the publisher of at least four works on organ building. The Positive Organ Co. was founded by I Casson, the actual builder being a Mr W. R. Andrew of Kilburn, London. These instruments as designed and built were intended to replace the harmoniums and American organs in many churches and chapels. The design, of which this organ is a good example, gives a small organ with a few beautifully voiced stops with bass and melody devices to obviate to some degree the need for a small pedal board or a second manual. Two of the stops have the effect of creating the tone of a small two manual organ with pedal board when four-part harmony of hymns or chants is played.

The lodge now meets at The Masonic Hall, The Croft, Lynton on the second Tuesday in every month except July, August and September.