



History  
of the Lodge of Bawtry,  
No. 5174.

31st OCTOBER, 1933.

HISTORY OF THE LODGE  
OF BAWTRY, No. 5174

*Compiled in honour of  
the Dedication of the  
New Masonic Temple  
on 31st October, 1933*

by  
F. W. TAYLOR





R.W.BRO. THE EARL OF HAREWOOD, K.G., P.G.W.  
*Provincial Grand Master.*



W.BRO. JOHN STOKES, P.G.D.  
*Deputy Provincial Grand Master,*





W.BRO. ANTHONY GADIE, J.P., P.D.G.Sw.B.  
*Assistant Provincial Grand Master,*



W.BRO. CHAS. E. FROBISHER, P.A.G.D.C.  
*Provincial Grand Secretary.*





Group taken at the Consecration, 17th March, 1930.



W.BRO. J. T. WALKER, P.P.G.D.

*Master, 1930-31.*





W.BRO. W. DANBY LEADLEY.

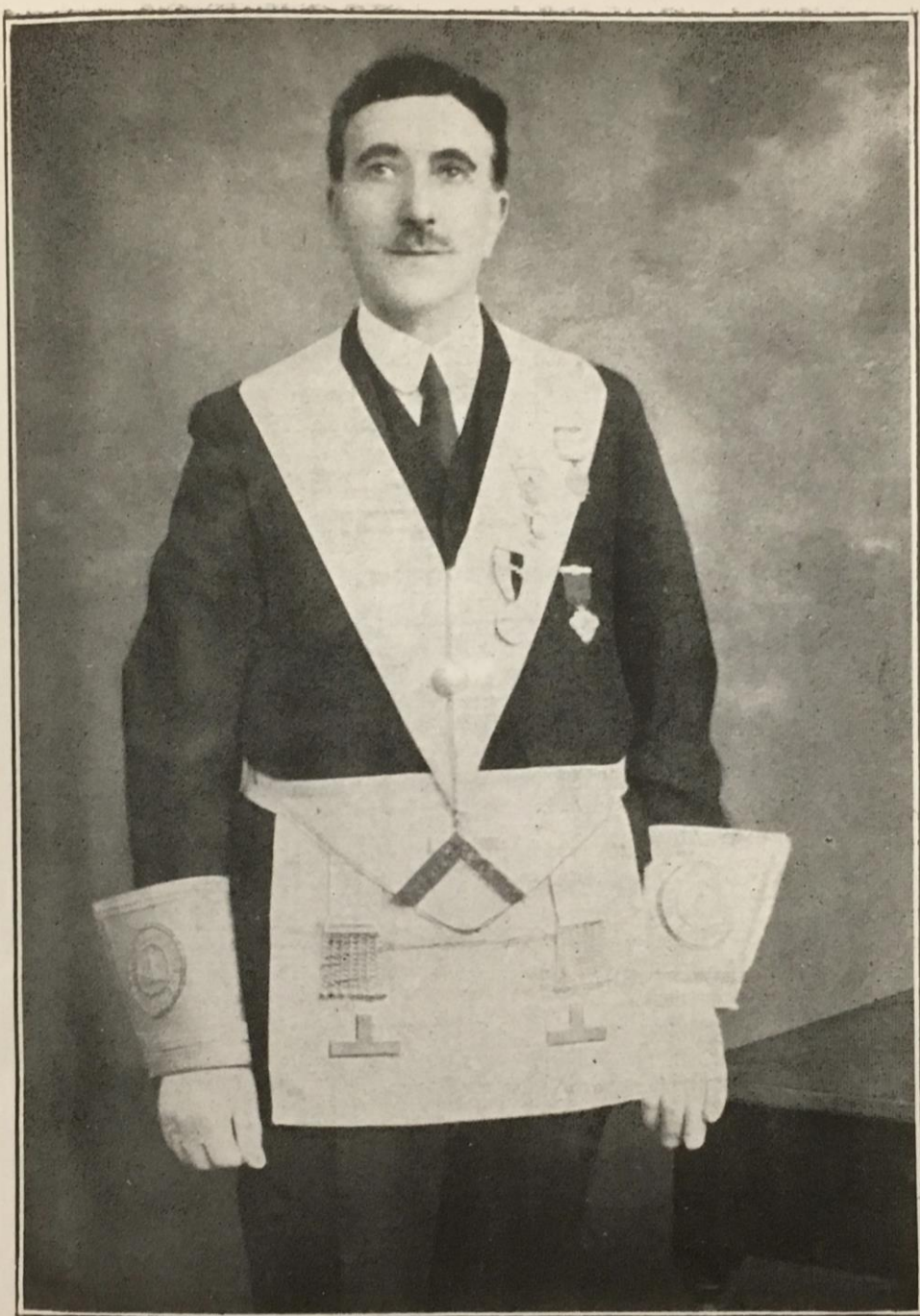
*Master, 1931-32.*



W.BRO. J. CLAYTON.

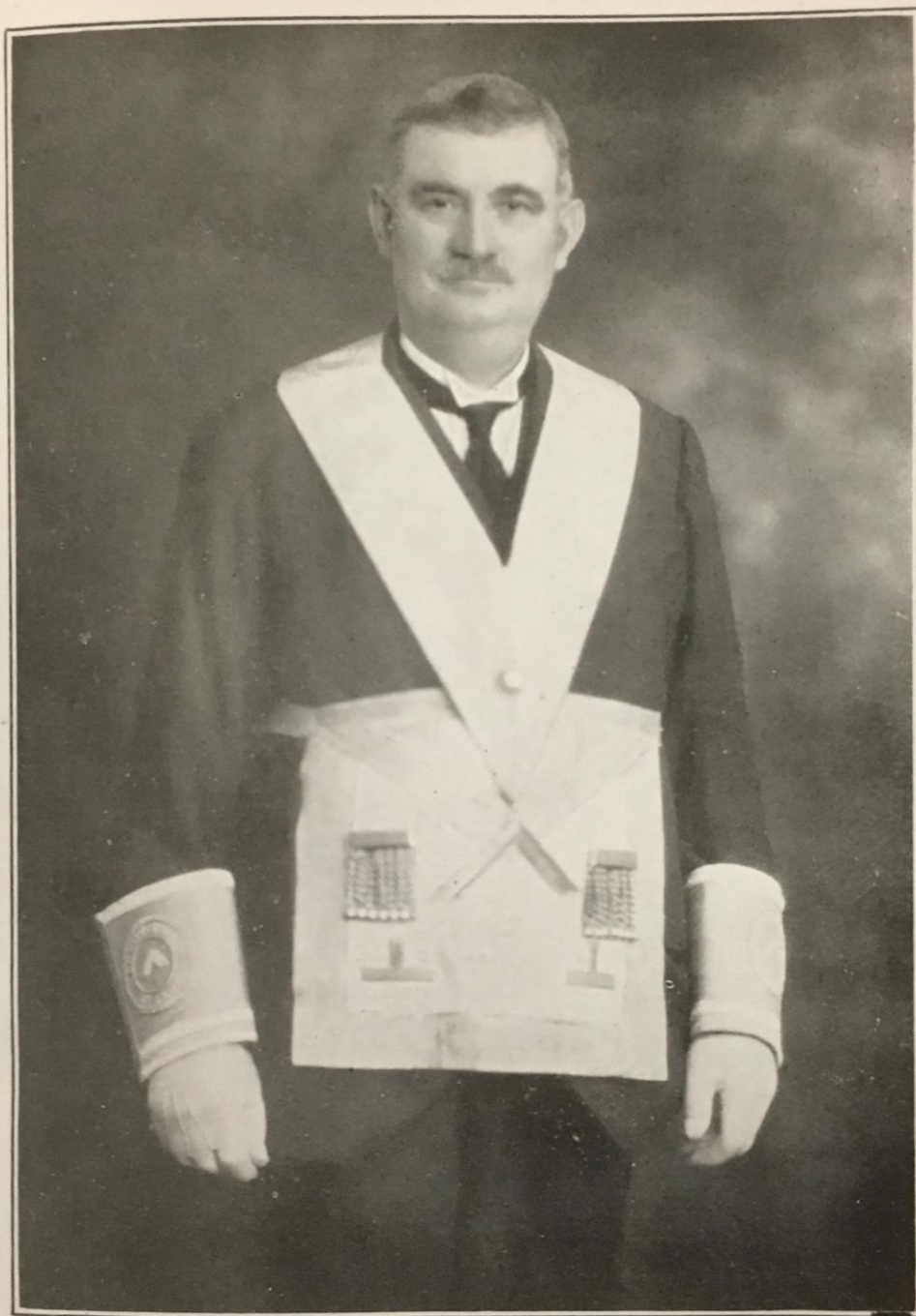
*Master, 1932-33.*





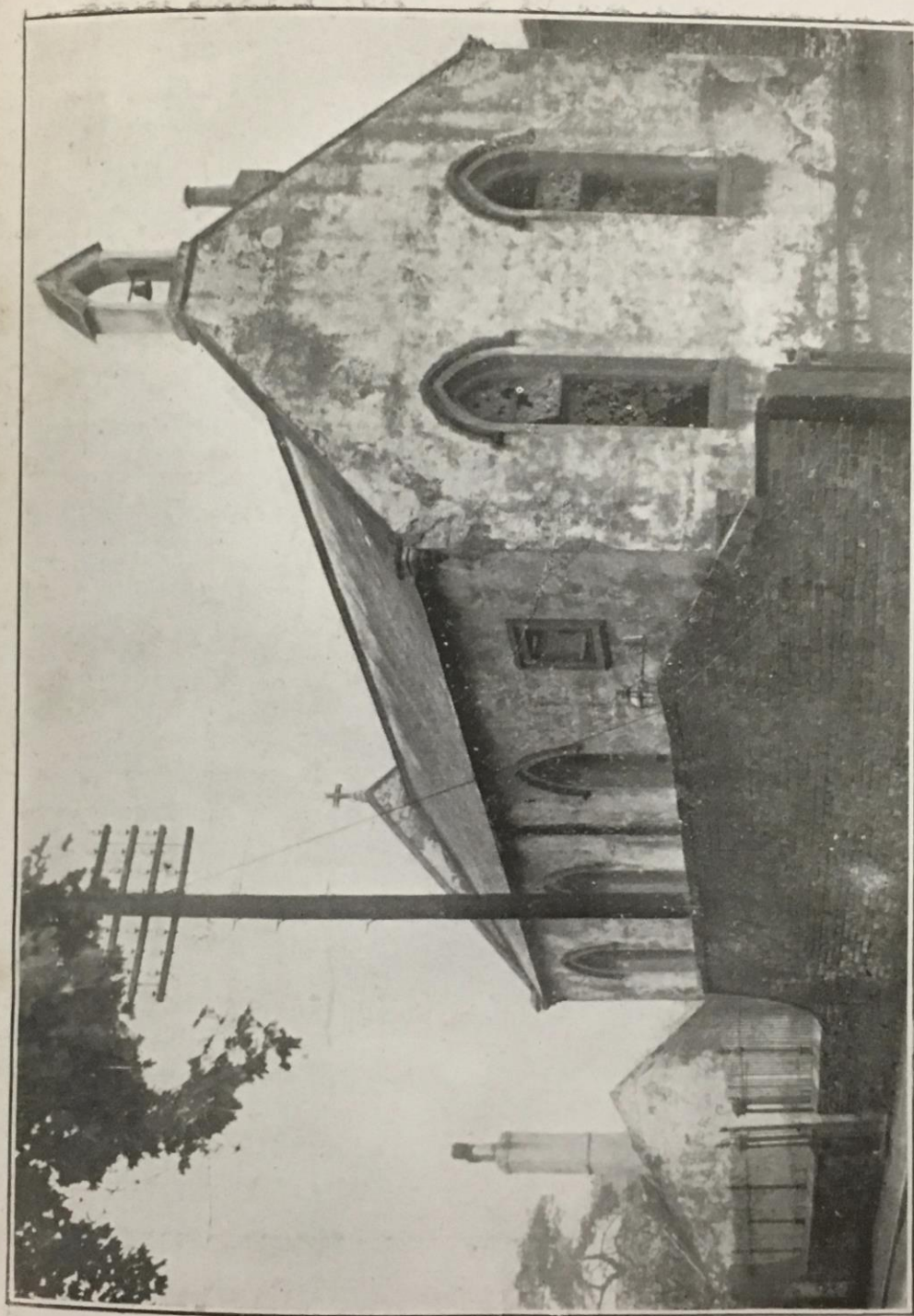
W.BRO. RICHARD MARTIN.

*Master, 1933-34.*



W. BRO. F. W. TAYLOR.



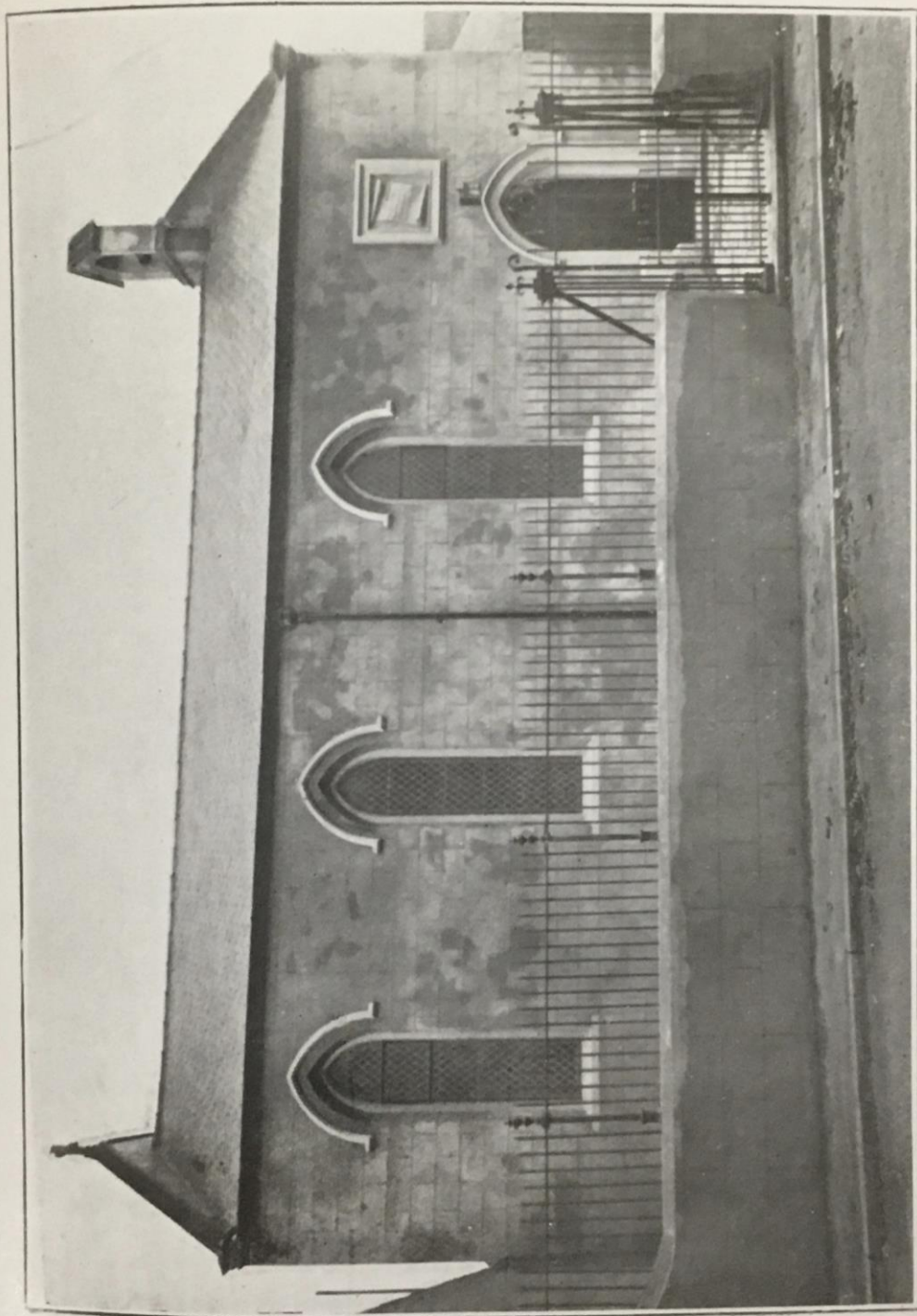


CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,  
when purchased by the Bawtry Lodge, No. 5174.  
Before restoration



CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE.  
Interior—before restoration.





THE MASONIC HALL, TICKHILL ROAD, BAWTRY.  
As it is now.

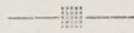
# Founders



W. Bro. J. T. Walker, P.P.G.D.	...	...	1482
Bro. W. D. Leadley	...	...	4843
Bro. J. Clayton	...	...	1482
W. Bro. N. B. Howard	...	...	1482
W. Bro. J. R. Youdan, P.P.G.S. of Wks. (Lincs.)	...	...	1482
W. Bro. F. W. Taylor	...	...	1802
Bro. J. Wilson	...	...	3890
Bro. F. J. Molloy	...	...	2259
W. Bro. H. Johnson	...	...	1482
Bro. W. V. Marshall	...	...	1482
Bro. M. R. Boulter	...	...	1482
Bro. C. Wright	...	...	1482
Bro. A. H. E. Taylor	...	...	3957
Bro. D. Palmer	...	...	3890
Bro. R. Martin	...	...	3219
Bro. W. L. Jones	...	...	3890
Bro. P. L. Hardy	...	...	4012
W. Bro. A. G. Phillipps	...	...	3570
W. Bro. G. O. Faulkner	...	...	1482
Bro. F. A. Sanders	...	...	4154

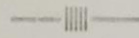


# Masters of the Lodge

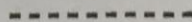


1930-31	...	...				W. Bro. J. T. WALKER, P.P.G.D.
1931-32	...	...	...	...		W. Bro. W. DANBY LEADLEY
1932-33	...	...	...	...	...	W. Bro. JAMES CLAYTON
1933-34	...	...	...	...	...	W. Bro. RICHARD MARTIN

# Officers for 1933-34



<i>Master</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. R. MARTIN
<i>I.P.M.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. JAMES CLAYTON
<i>S.W.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. F. A. SANDERS
<i>J.W.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. M. R. BOULTER
<i>Chaplain</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. F. W. TAYLOR
<i>Treasurer</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. J. R. YODAN, P.P.G.S. OF WKS. (LINCS.)
<i>Secretary</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. P. L. HARDY
<i>D. of C.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. J. T. WALKER, P.P.G.D.
<i>S.D.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. L. EBDAL
<i>J.D.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. T. BROWN
<i>Asst. D. of C.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. W. DANBY LEADLEY
<i>Almoner</i>	...	...	...	...	...	W. BRO. W. V. MARSHALL
<i>Organist</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. J. T. LUMB
<i>Asst. Secretary</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. R. LIVERSIDGE
<i>I.G.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. A. WARWICK
<i>Steward</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. C. DALBY
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. J. G. WHITTINGTON
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. A. E. NEEDHAM
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. A. REYNOLDS
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. A. H. LOCKWOOD
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. E. HANSON
"	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. E. T. BROWN
<i>Tyler</i>	...	...	...	...	...	BRO. W. FELLOWS



*Charity Representative* ... .. W. BRO. H. JOHNSON



## FOREWORD

THE Bawtry Lodge of Freemasons, No. 5174, was consecrated by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. The Earl of Harewood, K.G., P.G.W., on the 17th March, 1930, and has since held its meetings in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on the Great North Road.

Its foundation was due principally to the enthusiasm of a number of the brethren, members of the Isle of Axholme, No. 1482 (Crowle) Lodge, resident in the district who found ready support from other brethren associated with neighbouring lodges namely Vernon, 1802, Retford, Don Valley, Doncaster, etc., No. 3890.

It was sponsored by the Doncastre Lodge No. 4843, Doncaster.

Wor. Bro. J. T. Walker, P.P.G.St.B.(Lincs.) was the first Master and Wor. Bro. N. B. Howard the first Secretary.

The purchase of the ancient Hospital Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, in Tickhill Road, its establishment and dedication as the new home of Bawtry Masonry is an event of unique importance and in consequence it is thought fitting that some permanent record should be made. This record is not intended altogether as a history of a building which dated back through the ages to the 13th century, breathes romance and a record of service fascinating to all students. Until five years ago it was regularly utilised for Divine service and Freemasons count it a privilege that its usefulness in the future will be ensured by its dedication to the tenets upon which Freemasonry rests.

Reference to individuals who have made this unique occasion possible would be invidious but tribute must be paid to the officers, of the lodge who have laboured to this end, and to Wor. Bro. F. W. Taylor in particular. He has spared neither time nor energy in the accomplishment of what to him and to every brother is of noteworthy importance.

## BAWTRY

**T**HIS old and interesting town is partly in the Wapentake of Bassetlaw in the county of Nottingham and partly in the Lower Division of the Wapentake of Strafford and Tickhill in the West Riding of the county of York. It is situated on the Great North Road 44 miles south by east from York, 153½ miles north by west from London.

Bawtry is not noticed in the Domesday Book, forming at that time a part of the great lordship of Hexthorpe, held before the Conquest by Earl Tostig, brother of King Harold. The earliest memorandum we are able to discover in which Bawtry is specifically mentioned is in the reign of King John for that monarch granted the town its first charter to hold four fair days in Whit Week for a present of four palfreys. Another fair was also held on old Martinmas Day chiefly for horses, cows, sheep, merchandise, etc. At what period the town was built cannot now be ascertained, but it was presumably founded soon after the Conquest, judging from the appearance of the old part of the Parish Church. One interesting association with national history is that at the period of the Wars of the Roses the Manor of Bawtry passed by marriage to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, the "King Maker." After his death at the battle of Barnet, and as a result of his attainder for high treason, the Manor reverted to the Crown.

When Leland took his survey of England before the 37th year of the reign of Henry the Eighth, he thus described the town :—" Bawtre, a bare poor market town standing in Yorkshire as the inhabitants tould me."

David Defoe, in his well-known "Tour" two centuries later, was much more appreciative in his references to Bawtry. It was, he says, "blessed with two great conveniences which assists to its support, and makes it a very well frequented place ; (1) That it stands upon the great post highway, or road from London to Scotland ; and this makes it to be full of very good inns and houses of entertainment. (2) That the little but pleasant river of Idle runs through,



or rather just by the side of it, which, contrary to the import of its name, is a full and quick, though not rapid and unsafe stream, with a deep channel, which carries hoys, lighters, barges, or flat bottomed vessels out of its channel into the Trent, which comes within seven miles of it, to a place called Stockwith, and from thence to Burton, in fair weather, quite to Hull, but if not, 'tis sufficient to go to Stockwith, where vessels of 200 ton burthen may come up to the town laden as well as empty."

"By this navigation," Defoe goes on, "this town of Bautry becomes the center of all the exportation of this part of the country, especially for heavy goods, which they bring down hither from all the adjacent countries, such as lead from the lead mines and smelting houses in Derbyshire, wrought iron and edge-tools, of all sorts from the forges at Sheffield, and from the county called Hallamshire, being adjacent to the towns of Sheffield and Rotherham. Also millstones and grindstones, in very great quantities, are brought down and shipped off here, and so carry'd by sea to Hull, and to London, and even to Holland also. This makes Bautry Wharf be famous all over the south part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, for it is the place whither all their heavy goods are carried to be embarked and shipped off."

Bawtry's river trade however, gradually declined following the opening of the Chesterfield canal, the erection of Gainsborough bridge and the 4 tension of the railway.

Situated as already mentioned on the Great North Road on the borders of Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, many strange scenes must have been witnessed in the old days, for here was the meeting place of the native Celt, where punishment was meted out in the border fashion. How the Great North Road is haunted by the phantoms of successive ages is only told in scraps in various accounts of events and happenings at different periods, and much has necessarily been left unrecorded. Deserted lonely highway in those days. What tragedies has it not witnessed. Was it not upon this very same highway that the second Richard was hurried secretly down from London after Bolingbroke had stripped him of his crown. Poor, friendless monarch, travelling to an end so doubtful that as he lay in state no more than his face could be exposed. Why, there is scarcely a King in our history whom this road has not seen riding, some of whom with feelings of great uncertainty, for here in the ancient days of

Royal progress the sheriff and gentlemen of the great county of Yorkshire used to meet their sovereign, greeting him with loyal salutation on the very border.

Many a gallant troop of courtiers rode down this broad street, not all of whom, as we may well surmise, were pleased to see their monarch, for history tells us strange things went on amongst the baronage north of the Trent. There were those among them who cared little for the authority of any king and were for shaking off his yoke whenever he showed a tendency to disagree with them. There were also others of less strength whose loyalty was worth no more.

Many interesting stories are told of travellers whose rank did not bring them into the society of barons or courtiers. Among them is the case of the saddler who lost his life because he did not drink his ale.

A traveller passing along the North Road called at the Crown Inn for refreshment and to have some alteration made to his horse's saddle. The local saddler quickly attended to his requirements, but while making payment the traveller disclosed that he was carrying a large sum of money, a fact which did not escape the saddler's avaricious eyes. The traveller was later way-laid near to King's Wood and robbed of his cash, but instead of proceeding on to Doncaster he retraced his steps to Bawtry and making at once to the house of the saddler discovered a full tankard of ale which he had bestowed on the fellow to cement good feeling prior to setting out on his journey. The saddler could not be found but that any man in Bawtry should leave his ale to go flat was strange and suspicious. The hue and cry was raised, the country was scoured, the saddler was caught, and soon after was hanged at York.

Another version of the story is that the proverbial saddler of Bawtry was on his way to execution when a pitying bystander offered him a draught of ale. The condemned man, having at that moment other emotions in the ascendant than the liking for good liquor, pushed the tankard aside, and the melancholy procession went on its way. Hardly had the hangman performed his task when a messenger rode up at a gallop with a reprieve in his hand.

One writer has described Bawtry as a town of Inns. Some of the Inns served other purposes than being just places in which men met for drinking, for apart from their former importance as coaching and



posting houses on the Great North Road, we have record of a Classical Society being held at the Crown Inn where meetings were held three times a week "consisting of gentlemen and people of education for the purpose of reading the news and discoursing on philosophical subjects."

Religion and classical literature were the principal topics, while on the 18th March, 1818 there was held, presumably at the Crown Inn, a Freemasons Lodge of Instruction, authorized by the St. George's Lodge, Doncaster.

Among the honoured names associated with the old town and district are those of Viscount Galway, who in 1803 raised two companies of Volunteers (afterwards increased to three) which carried on until 1812, when by order of the Government they were disbanded. Richard Monckton Milnes, Lord Houghton, a famous figure in Victorian literary, political and social circles, who inherited the Bawtry estate from his father, Robert Pemberton Milnes, for many years M.P. for Pontefract, and his son, the first and present Lord Crewe, a former Cabinet minister and Ambassador in Paris, who sold the estate many years ago.

Bawtry is still of some importance as a stopping place on the Great North Road for the ever increasing rush of motor traffic just as it was in the old days when coach and four carried the mails and passengers. In those far off days the stage coaches halted at Bawtry to change their horses. The mails from the north and south met at the Crown Inn, which also served as the Post Office.

To-day, though the traffic in type and speed has mightily changed, almost any day in the summer time one may see motor cars and coaches, general service buses, and petrol lorries, drawn up on the old Market Hill.

The religious life of the town has been well provided for. The Parish Church was built in the 13th century and is still strongly supported by a large congregation at all its services. The Methodists too have wielded a great influence in the town for over 100 years. Bawtry too likes to reflect in the fame the district still enjoys because of its close associations with the Pilgrim Fathers, some of whom it may be taken as certain, came from the town itself.

Our new temple, the Chapel and Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene in which Divine worship was conducted until five years ago, has stood since 1298, its history being marked by contentious periods both legal and religious. May we hope, now that it has passed into the care of the local lodge of Freemasons No. 5174, that its future will always be one of peace, love, and harmony.





## ST. MARY MAGDALENE

**A**LTHOUGH it may be impossible to trace the early history of our new Masonic home it is safe to assume that the Hospital Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene was in existence as far back as the early part of the 13th century, in the reign of Edward the 1st, for we find a list of Masters, or chaplains, so far as it has been preserved, begins with the name of Thomas de Langtoft who was appointed in 1289.

According to one authority the chapel was built by the Morton family but it is probable that a hospital existed previously. Its purpose would seem to be to serve as a place of rest, or in present day language a hostel, an assumption which its geographical position apparently bears out, situated as it is astride the Great North Road and other highways leading to the great Priory of Blyth and the important castle of Tickhill, very important centres in those far off days.

It is situate within the hamlet of Martin in the parish of Harworth, and is therefore just within the county of Nottingham.

The records of the building go back to one Robert Morton, a member of a distinguished and evidently wealthy family, who resided in the neighbourhood, and as one writer says, a corruption of whose name survives to this day in that of Martin Grange. It was formerly supposed that Robert de Morton, who held the office of escheator for the county of Nottingham, and who was Knight of the Shire under Edward the Third, and Richard the 2nd, founded the hospital, but Dr. Hunter, in his Deanery of Doncaster, explains that the catalogue of Masters of the Hospital preserved in the records of the See of York dates from 1289 a hundred years before Robert de Morton's time.

Hunter further asserts that it is quite as probable that the hospital was the gift of Idonea de Busli, who was Lady of the Manor of Bawtry from 1264 to 1334, or of her father, John de Busli, who appears to have founded the Parish Church, as that it sprang from the generosity of the Mortons or any other private family.

But whatever the foundation of the hospital, or whether a chapel existed in close proximity, it is certain that Robert de Morton enlarged its foundation, for it was his grant of £240 (a pretty large amount in those days) in 1390, that caused the first of many contentions in its chequered history. He made the grant to the Prior and convent of Nostell, one of the most important Augustinian houses in the country, on condition that they should settle an annual pension of eight marks on Robert Birkhouse, the chaplain, and his successors "to pray for the salutary state of Robert Morton and Joan, his wife, while they live, and for their souls when they shall be removed from this life, also for the souls of their fathers and mothers and benefactors."

This money was to be applied towards the cost of getting the church of Winwick appropriated to the Priory, and to other things by which it would be enabled to support the annual pension charge.

But according to one writer the Prior at that time was one Adam de Bilton, said to be unpopular among the canons because "he cut down wood without the common consent" and that "he also enriched his kindred out of the goods of the monastery." Whether the gift made by Robert de Morton was diverted in some way or other or not, the fact remains that at the end of two years it had disappeared, that no progress had been made to securing the living of Winwick, and that the Priory was in debt. Later Bilton resigned but the eight marks per year continued to be regularly paid to the Master of the Hospital until the suppression of the monasteries in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The Bawtry district in those days must have been of some importance. We find another writer assuming the possibility of the establishment of the hospital by de Morton as a thankoffering after returning safely from the wars in France which culminated in the great victory of Crecy in 1346. But unfortunately so far no monuments, or tombs, or stone coffins have been found to support the idea of a burial place having existed, though there is evidence later of the spoliation of the chapel and for a long period during which it was absolutely neglected. It may of course be that monuments, if any, would be removed and perhaps used for building other places as in the case of the old Priory at Worksop, the stones of which have recently been found in other later buildings close by.



One has to remember, too, that during the Commonwealth period, when the Parish Church tower collapsed, the work of repair was carried out by utilising some of the stone work of the desecrated Roche Abbey.

Referring to the troublous times through which the Hospital passed, one is reminded by history of the fact that Peter de Sandal, a subsequent Master, was deprived of his office for dilapidation, which certainly implies that he failed to keep the building in a proper state of repair.

The Morton family were among those in the north who remained faithful to the Roman Catholic religion throughout those troublous periods and one Nicholas, a priest, became a prominent figure in the events of the country in those days, and it is not at all unlikely that it was through his efforts and influence, and the fact of the charitable element in its foundation, that it was able to survive suppression meted out to most other chantry chapels. At all events the Crown took over the responsibility for the payment of the Master's stipend.

It was some 70 years after the dissolution of the Monasteries that Bawtry stepped high into the limelight with the district's connection with the Pilgrim Fathers.

The appointment of a new Master, however, when the office became vacant, remained after the Reformation in the hands of the Archbishop of York, who had a Manor House at Scrooby, and the exercise of this right brought the old Hospital into the centre of a controversy which was the subject of much comment owing to its association with a family destined to become famous at home and abroad.

The Archbishop, one Sandys, appointed James Brewster as Master of the Chapel. It has not been definitely determined whether this same Brewster was one of the famous family associated with the Pilgrim Fathers or not, but it is known that William Brewster, father or uncle of the famous leader, was appointed bailiff of the Manor of Scrooby, and that another of the family, Henry, was Vicar of Sutton-cum-Scrooby from 1565.

The late Lady Galway, in her book on "Scrooby in the 16th Century," assumes that William Brewster the younger and James Brewster were both sons of Henry, and if this is so then it is of more than passing interest that the Mastership of the old hospital was held by a brother of the first Elder of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

James Brewster, however, was the centre of considerable controversy concerning his oversight of the Chapel. Against him it was alleged that he caused the hospital to be "passed as a concealment and given to Hugh Miller, a footman to the late Queen Elizabeth, of famous memory, and so passed under the Great Seal." In other words, an effort to make the Crown believe that the old hospital was illicitly preserved from suppression as a chantry, and so to confiscate the building and deal with its possessions as other church lands had been dealt with.

According to other documents put in by John Cooper, who claimed the Mastership in opposition to Brewster, the latter had entered into a corrupt bargain with three other men by which, having obtained possession of the hospital, he absented himself from Bawtry and "voluntarily and wilfully suffered the said hospital to fall into utter ruin and decay for want of reparations." The three laymen were alleged to have "utterly profaned the said chapel, defaced and carried away all, or a great part of the ornaments therein, and altered and changed the same from a chapel to be a stable or a room for their horses and cattle, to the great offence of the inhabitants near thereabouts adjoining and contrary to all law and equity and good conscience."

In fact the three men were said to have "threatened and given out in speeches that they would very shortly pull down and quite deface the said hospital and Chapel and all the houses and buildings to the same appertaining and to commit and employ them to their own uses and utterly to spoil and destroy the same."

The case came before a Chancery Court presided over by Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, and the result was that Brewster was deprived of his claim to the Mastership and damages were granted against those who had defaced the Chapel.

John Slack, who prepared a report for the Archbishop, appears to have succeeded Cooper in the Mastership and to have had some further trouble with the three laymen, who persisted in their claim to an interest in the revenues of the Hospital, but he won through and afterwards "builded up the decayed chapel, repaired the windows with stone, iron and glass, made new seats, and a pulpit, and bought a bell,"



In his report of the affair Slack mentions that there was a free rent of a pound of pepper to be paid out of the hospital yearly to the Mortons "whose ancestors were founders of this Hospital."

The seventeenth century was noteworthy for the association with the Chapel of the Rev. John Lake, D.D., who was appointed Master in 1674 and later became Bishop of Chichester. He was the son of a Halifax tradesman and attended the Halifax Grammar School. He was a fervent King's man, fought as a volunteer in the royal army for four years, and was in the garrison at Wallingford, one of the last to hold out for King Charles. He afterwards became Vicar of Leeds, and later was appointed to the living of St. Botolphs, Bishopsgate. He returned to York as a Prebendary in 1671 where he accomplished fearless and valuable work, was later Bishop of Sodor and Man and of Bristol before proceeding to Chichester.

While he disagreed with the ecclesiastical policy of James the Second and was one of the famous seven bishops whose trial preluded the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688, he was no less fearless in his attitude to William of Orange. He was in his old age one of the "non-juring" Bishops in the last historic contention between Church and Crown in this country.

The Chapel of St. Mary afterwards fell into disuse for many years, no services were held and the buildings fell into a state of decay. Indeed in 1834 it is recorded it was being used as a carpenter's shop. Soon afterwards, however, Mr. Henry Marwood Graves, of Hesley Hall, restored it at his own cost and he and his successors for many years contributed largely to the support of the minister. In recent times the Chapel suffered similar structural neglect, but until overtaken by old age the Rev. Henry Kendall conducted regular services though very often unfortunately there was no congregation. With his death a few years ago the ancient office of Master of the Hospital Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene came to an end and so was severed an interesting link with pre-Reformation England.

The new temple will accommodate about 100 persons and with the gallery about 120. During the course of the work of reconstruction an interesting discovery was made in the south wall, the workmen in stripping the plaster unveiling an old piscina, a small chamber which in the old days the priests used for the custody of their ornaments and for the holy water.

The architect for the work of re-building has been Bro. Blythe Richardson, of Doncaster, and the contractor Bro. W. Crossley, a member of the Bawtry lodge.

The main temple is 39 feet by 23 feet and is 21 feet high, and the gallery in the west end 23 feet by 8 feet. A good deal of the old masonry with roof supports has been retained.





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