

CONSECRATED

18th APRIL, 1923



PETERSHAM LODGE

No. 4514

1923 - 2023





CONTENTS

Chapter 1	...	Page 1
Chapter 2	...	Page 5
Chapter 3	...	Page 9
Chapter 4	...	Page 13
Chapter 5	...	Page 17
Chapter 6	...	Page 20
Chapter 7	...	Page 35
Chapter 8	...	Page 44
Chapter 9	...	Page 49
Past Masters of the Lodge	...	Page 50
Past Officers of the Lodge	...	Page 51
Visiting Record	...	Page 54
Facts of the Lodge	...	Page 55



The first Initiate's breast jewel, presented to Bro. Lewis James Yates.

PETERSHAM LODGE

1923 - 2023

This history is
dedicated to the
memory and foresight of
the Founding Members of
Petersham Lodge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr John Cloake, President of the Richmond Local History Society for allowing his notes on the Petersham Hotel to be freely used in the compilation of this history.

W Bros Mike Allen and Peter Jones, PPJGW, for their diligent research and recording of the first seventy five years of the history of Petersham Lodge.

W Bro Ken Beattie, PPDepGReg, for the compilation of the last 25years of the history of Petersham.

Museum of Richmond; The History Centre, Surrey; Daniel Brown, Hotel Administrator at the Petersham Hotel for their valuable assistance.

(A comprehensive history of the Petersham Hotel can be found online by searching 'The Petersham Hotel Richmond' and scrolling down to 'History of The Petersham').

CONSECRATION

OF THE

Petersham Lodge, No. 4514

AT THE

NEW STAR and GARTER HOTEL,
PETERSHAM ROAD, RICHMOND, SURREY.

On Wednesday, 18th April, 1923, at 5.30 p.m.,

BY

V. W. Bro. P. COLVILLE SMITH,
GRAND SECRETARY,

ASSISTED BY

W.Bro. A.C. TURNER, J.G.D.	. . . . .	as S.W.
W.Bro. JAMES E. TERRY, P.G.D.	. . . . .	as J.W.
W.Bro. Rev. GEORGE IRWIN, B.D., M.A., P.A.G.	Chaplain	as Chaplain
W.Bro. Lt.Col. H. HAMILTON-WEDDERBURN, O.B.E., Dep.G.D.C.		as D.C.
W.Bro. GEORGE V.A. SCHOFIELD, P.A.G.D.C.	. . . . .	as I.G.

W.Bro. JOHN D. FIRMSTON, L.R.	. . . . .	W.M. Designate
W.Bro. EDWIN SKILTON, P.M.	. . . . .	S.W. Designate
W.Bro. ARTHUR MOORE, P.M.	. . . . .	J.W. Designate

W.Bro. MARSH, Grand Tyler.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Under the direction of

W.Bro. H. WHARTON WELLS, Mus.Bac., P.D.G.Org.

assisted by

W.Bro. GEO. MAY and Bros. HAROLD WILDE and GEO. WEBBER.

Ampthill Bro G. M.

To all and every our Right Worshipful Worshipful and Loving Brethren

We

Arthur William Patrick Albert
Duke of Connaught and Strathearn
Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

&

Grand Master
of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England

Send Greeting

Know Ye That We by the authority and under the sanction of the United Grand Lodge of England bested in us for that purpose and at the humble Petition of our Right Trusty and Well Beloved Brethren John Daniel Firmston, Edwin Skilton, Arthur Moore, Henry Almond, Henry Charles Almond, Alfred Allom, Ernest Michael Sebern and others

Do hereby constitute the said Brethren into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under the Title or Denomination of

No 4514

The Petersham Lodge

The said Lodge to meet at the Tudor Restaurant, Petersham Road, Richmond in the London Masonic District on the Second Saturday in January, February, March, April, October and November empowering them in the said Lodge when duly congregated to make pass and raise Free Masons according to the Ancient Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations throughout the known world. And further at their said Petition and

The Mystery of the Original Meeting Place

The Consecration Summons dated 18th April 1923 shows the meeting place as the New Star and Garter Hotel, Petersham Road, Richmond. However, the Warrant of the Lodge which is displayed before every meeting, clearly shows The Tudor Restaurant, Petersham Road, Richmond as the venue.

W Bro Richard Gray, PPGReg, has devoted many hours researching the local history of the area and the various guises of what is now the Petersham Hotel in order to clarify the reason for the variance between the two documents.

An hotel named the Richmond Hill Hotel was built in 1865 and in 1877 it was renamed 'The Mansion', becoming 'The Mansion Hotel' in 1889. It took on the name of the 'New Star and Garter Hotel' in 1922, the 'New' being dropped some years later and in 1978 became the Petersham Hotel.

An examination of two sales brochures for the auction of The Mansion Hotel revealed that the dimensions of the restaurant would have enabled 70 persons to dine which was approximately the number of attendees at the Consecration Meeting. The conclusion therefore, although no definitive records exist, is that the restaurant within the New Star and Garter Hotel was named The Tudor Restaurant.

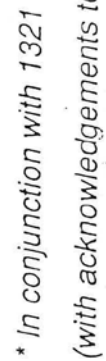


The Mansion Hotel, Richmond Hill



Star and Garter Hotel

255 LODGE OF HARMONY (1785)



Masonic Province, owes its formation to the love of home and old associations. Many efforts have been made in the past to establish such a Lodge—in fact, I believe the late brother of our S.W. took an active part in a movement some sixteen years ago, and which he was obliged to abandon through ill health. But, undaunted by previous non-success, Bro. Derrick and a few of our Founders returned to the attack, and in January, 1922, it was my privilege to receive from him a letter asking for assistance in organising a new movement. Immediately sympathising with the project, I was pleased to take an active part, and on placing the matter before the committee of the Cabot Lodge, the members were unanimous in their support, and I have gratefully to acknowledge the assistance received. The Masters' roll of that Lodge numbers five, four of whom are Founders of the Bristol Lodge, and the other is also present with us this evening. I shall now refer to one particular danger to which we are exposed, and that is in the admission of undesirable candidates. It is a very simple matter for any newly constituted Lodge to err in this respect, but especially so for this Lodge, which is certain to receive applications for membership from men of whom little is known in London. It is essential, therefore, there should be the closest possible co-operation with Bristol, and each Lodge in that Province should be aware of the names of candidates before us. To this end it would facilitate matters if a summons of each of our meetings were sent to the respective Lodge Secretaries, and it would also assist if each Founder resident in Bristol made it his especial care to prevent any undesirable person becoming a member. As a further precaution we have entered into an understanding with Grand Lodge, and also Prov. Grand Lodge, that we will not consider as a candidate for initiation anyone who, by residence, is eligible to make application for membership of a Bristol Lodge. It is indeed gratifying to see such a large number of visitors from the old city, including a number of reigning Masters of the Province, and to know they take such a keen interest in this Lodge, which is undoubtedly destined to become a most important Masonic link between London and Bristol. In conclusion, Brethren, I will once more thank you for your reception of this toast, and again assure the Founders of my earnest endeavour to merit your confidence, and to prove myself worthy of the high Masonic honour conferred upon me this evening.

The toast of The Visitors was acknowledged by Bros. Dr. Knight, Croom Johnson, and Morgan Fletcher, and The Officers by Bros. W. R. Powell, S.W., and C. W. Derrick, Secretary, the latter of whom had contributed such excellent service in the formation of the Lodge and the success of the evening.

PETERSHAM LODGE, No. 4514.

CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION.

Freemasonry in Richmond and the surrounding district has for many years found active supporters, and it is not surprising, therefore, that a petition should have been sent to Grand Lodge asking for a Charter for a Lodge to be named the Petersham. The signatures included several well-known enthusiasts of the Edward Terry Lodge of Instruction. A Warrant having been granted, the consecration ceremony duly took place at the New Star and Garter Hotel, Petersham Road, Richmond, on the 18th ult., the hostelry being almost on the edge of the Surrey Province, but within the recognised London District. A late start somewhat marred the proceedings, but a successful and interesting evening rewarded the numerous Brethren for their attendance.

Bro. P. Colville Smith, Grand Secretary, was the Consecrating Officer, assisted by Bros. A. C. Turner, J.G.D., as S.W.; James E. Terry, P.G.D., J.W.; the Rev. George Irwin, P.A.G.C., Chaplain; Lt.-Col. H. Hamilton-Wedderburn, D.G.D.C., D.C.; and George V. A. Schofield, P.A.G.D.C., I.G. The ceremonies of dedication and constitution were carried out with the customary dignity and solemnity usual on such occasions, the musical portions

being rendered under the direction of Bro. Wharton Wells, P.D.G.Org. The W.M.-designate, Bro. J. D. Firmston, L.R., was installed, and the usual addresses were delivered by the assisting Grand Officers.

The following were invested as the first officers of the Lodge: Bros. Leonard T. Yates, as I.P.M.; Edwin Skilton, P.P.G.P., S.W.; Arthur Moore, J.W.; Henry E. Pannell, P.P.G.St.B., Treasurer; Henry Almond, L.R., P.P.G.St.B., Secretary; Henry A. Darch, L.R., D.C.; Alfred Allum, S.D.; Ernest M. Severn, J.D.; Joseph W. J. Samels, A.D.C.; C. W. Watson, Org.; William Vaughan, Asst.Sec.; Henry King, I.G.; William H. Skeet, John W. Scott, and Frank C. Linegar, Stewards; H. Barton, Tyler.

The Consecrating Officers were heartily thanked for their services, elected Honorary Members, and presented with Founder's jewels, and four candidates were proposed for initiation.

In the usual toasts following the banquet, Bro. James E. Terry, P.G.D., replied for the toast of "The Grand Officers," and said it would be a sorry return for their kindness and hospitality if he were to weary them with lengthy remarks on their duties and responsibilities. The members of that body were only pleased to render any service to Freemasonry, and it had been a red-letter day to assist in the consecration of the Lodge, which they wished every prosperity in the future, and hoped to visit again on many occasions.

In giving the health of the Consecrating Officers, the W.M. expressed the sincere and grateful thanks of the Founders for the beautiful ceremony they had witnessed. They thanked the distinguished Brethren for coming so far out of town, and assured them of their deep appreciation for all they had done. It particularly pleased him to see the Chaplain, with whom he was in association in Mortlake many years ago, and who was held in kind remembrance by many. They were indebted to all the Consecrating Officers. He was also pleased to see Bro. Schofield, for had the Lodge been situated only a short distance further from London they would have met him in the Province of Surrey.

The Grand Secretary, in his reply, said that if the Lodge had been in Surrey, he should not have had the privilege of consecrating it. They were glad to think they had done some good for Freemasonry by starting a Lodge which they believed would be a credit to the Craft and worthily uphold the principles of the Order. He would not give them advice, for they already knew that only good candidates should be brought in. On behalf of his colleagues he thanked the members for receiving them so heartily, and for the presents made to them. Freemasonry in the past few years had made great strides, and the membership in the past fifty years had increased fourfold, showing what a power for good it could be if they took their Freemasonry seriously, not only in their Lodges but also in the outside world.

Bro. Stanley Sparkes briefly proposed the toast of the W.M., referring to the fact that Bro. Firmston had been a sound Mason for many years, a good citizen, and was respected by all who knew him. In their particular district their W.M. had always been ready to give assistance in Freemasonry, and spared no pains in instructing the Brethren in the ritual and in the way they should conduct themselves. The wishes of all the Brethren were that he would be spared in good health during the next twelve months, and then he would be assured of a successful and happy year of office.

Bro. J. D. Firmston, L.R., W.M., thanked the proposer for his kind references. It was true he had associated himself with Freemasonry for many years, and had endeavoured to live up to it. He had resided in Mortlake for sixty-four years, where he followed his honoured father, whose good name was still remembered. As a Preceptor of two Lodges of Instruction, and P.M. of three Lodges, he felt it a great honour to be the first Master of the Petersham Lodge.

Other toasts were honoured, and an excellent musical programme successfully carried out.

9 Broadway Avenue
St Margaret's on Thames.
Middlessex
October 17th 1922.

Wor. Bro. S. T. Schofield Esq.
F.S. Secty. Surrey.

Dear Sir & Wor. Bro.

Enclosed please find
Petition and Clearance Certificates of the Petitioners for
a New Lodge in Petersham, in the Province of Surrey, which
has been supported, and signed by the No. 1 Lodge N^o 2444,
which is our nearest neighbouring Lodge, and has a member-
-ship of about 180, and although latterly a relief Lodge,
called the Turner Lodge N^o 4131. was formed which has
already 80 members.

Petersham is a populous district, and we
consider it is worthy of a Lodge, also the prayer of
our Petition for a new Lodge, is that some of the
Petitioner's Lodges are at Eastleigh, Colchester, Slough,
Liverpool, Jersey & Thurmes, and for the convenience of
their dwellings and suitable months and evenings for
the meetings, we beg the favour of the Provincial Grand
Master, or the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to support
the prayer of our Petition to the Most Worship^{ful} Grand Master.

Trusting the prayer of our Petition will be granted, and
we promise strict obedience to the regulations in Freemasonry,
as we have done in the past.

Yours faithfully & fraternally.

Henry Almond. L.R. P. M. 2622 & 3797

Edwin Skilton. P.P.S.P. Hants & S.O.W.

John Daniel Farnsworth. 2722, 3014 L.R.

CHAPTER 1

THE IDEA AND ITS FULFILMENT

In commencing this history there can be no better introduction than the below reproduced letter:

9 Broadway Avenue
St Margarets-on-Thames
Middlesex

October 17th 1922

Wor: Bro. G. V. Schofield Esq.
P. G. Sect - Surrey.

Dear Sir and Wor. Bro.,

Enclosed please find Petition and Clearance Certificates of the Petition for a New Lodge in Petersham in the Province of Surrey, which has been supported, and signed by the Noel Lodge No. 2444. which is our nearest neighbouring lodge and has a membership of about 180, and although latterly a relief Lodge, called the Turner Lodge No. 4181 was formed which already has 80 members.

Petersham is a populous district, and we consider it is worthy of a Lodge, also the prayer of our petition for a new Lodge, is that some of the Petitioner's Lodges are at Eastleigh, Colchester, Slough, Liverpool, Jersey & Sheerness, and for the convenience of their dwellings and suitable months and evenings for the meeting, we beg the favour of the Provincial Grand Master, or the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to support the Prayer of our Petition to the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Trusting that the prayer of our Petition will be granted, and we promise strict obedience to the regulations in Freemasonry, as we have done in the past.

yours faithfully and fraternally,

Henry Almond L.R. P.M. 2622 & 3797
Edwin Skilton P.P.G.P. Hants & I.o.W.
John Daniel Firmston 2722, 3014 L.R.

Thus the fundamental questions of, Why?, When?, Where?, and by Whom?, are answered.

The production of this History indicates the success of the petition, but the fact that Petersham lies within a 10 mile radius of Grand Lodge meant that the resultant Lodge was a London Lodge and did not come under the auspices of the Province of Surrey until much later.

The minutes from the first meeting of Petersham Lodge are as follows:

The Consecration of the Petersham Lodge No. 4514 was held at the New Star and Garter Hotel, Petersham Rd, Richmond on Wednesday 18th April 1923.

Founders present, as signed the petition:

W.Bro. J. D. Firmston,	W.Bro. E. Skilton
W.Bro. E Moore,	W.Bro. H. Almond,
Bro. A. Allum	Bro. E. M. Severn,
Bro. W. Vaughan,	Bro. J. W. J. Samels
Bro. H. King,	Bro. W. H. Skeet,
Bro. E. J. Glue,	W.Bro. H. J. Keyzar,
Bro. F. C. Linegar,	W.Bro. L. T. Yates
Bro. J. W. Scott,	W.Bro. H. A. Darch,
W.Bro. H. E. Pannell,	Bro. W. H. Farrell.

[Note: 18 names are recorded in the minutes but 19 Brethren, the number of Founders, signed the book, Bro. H. C. Almond being the missing name.]

There follows a list of 51 visitors' names, as recorded in the Visitors' book.

The Consecrating Officer, V.W.Bro. P. Colville Smith G.S., entered the lodge in the procession with the Grand Lodge Officer and took the Chair and appointed his officers.

W.Bro. A. C. Turner, J.G.D.	as S.W.
W.Bro. James E. Terry, P.G.D.	as J.W.
W.Bro. Rev. George Irwin, B.D., M.A., P.A.G.Chap.	as Chaplain
W.Bro. Lt-Col. H. Hamilton-Wedderburn, O.B.E., Dep.G.D.C.	as D.C.
W.Bro. George V.A Schofield, P.A.G.D.C.	as I.G.

The Lodge was opened in the three degrees. V.W.Bro. Colville Smith gave an address to the brethren on the nature of the meeting.

The Founders were then arranged in order by the Director of Ceremonies and the D.C. read the Warrant of the Lodge.

V.W.Bro. P. Colville Smith then enquired of the Founders if they approved of the Officer Named on the Warrant.

The Founders signified their approval in due Masonic Form.

W.Bro. Rev. G. Irwin, Chaplain, gave an eloquent oration on the principles of Freemasonry and explained the nature of the ceremony / being much appreciated / and the excellent assistance of W.Bro. Lt-Col. H. Hamilton-Wedderburn D.C. lent additional dignity to the ceremony.

W.Bro. John D. Firmston was then installed as Worshipful Master in a very able manner by V.W.Bro. P. Colville Smith.

W.Bro. Henry E. Pannell was unanimously elected as Treasurer.

Proposed by Bro. E. Skilton, seconded by W.Bro. A. Moore and carried that W.Bro. H. Barton should be Tyler of the Lodge.

The appointment and investiture of Officers were.....

W.Bro. Leonard T. Yates	Acting I.P.M.
W.Bro. Edwin Skilton	S.W.
W.Bro. Arthur Moore	J.W.
W.Bro. Henry E. Pannell	Treasurer.
W.Bro. Henry Almond	Secretary
W.Bro. Henry A. Darch	D.C.
Bro. Alfred Allum	S.D.
Bro. Ernest M. Severn	J.D.
Bro. Joseph W. J. Samels	A.D.C.
Bro. William Vaughan	Ass. Secty.
Bro. Henry King	I.G.
Bro. William H. Skeet	Steward.
Bro. John W. Scott	Ass. Steward.
Bro. Frank C. Linegar	Ass. Steward.
W.Bro. H. Barton	Tyler.

Election of Committee to frame By-Laws, Proposed by W.Bro. H. Almond 'That the W.M., S.W., J.W., Secty, Treas. and D.C., with two Master Masons, total 8, serve'. Proposed by W.Bro. E. Skilton, seconded by W.Bro. Yates, 'That Bros. C. W. Watson and H. King should be the two Master Masons for the Bye Law Committee'. Carried.

[Bro. C. W. Watson withdrew his name as founder of the Petersham Lodge on 2nd May 1923.]

Wor. Master rose for the first time.

Wor. Master rose for the second time.

Candidates proposed for initiation:

- Mr Lewis James Yates, aged 23 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by W.Bro. L.T. Yates, seconded by W.Bro. H. Almond, Secty.
- Mr Charles David Warren, aged 51 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by Bro. A. Allum, seconded by W.Bro. H. Almond.
- Mr Ernest Edward Mills, aged 37 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by Bro. W. Vaughan, seconded by Bo. Arthur Moore.
- Mr Harold Gare, aged 33 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by W.Bro. H. Almond, seconded by Bro. Arthur Moore.
- Mr William Victor Quinney, aged 46 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by W.Bro. J. D. Firmston, seconded by Bro. J. W. Samels.
- Mr Frederick Dudau Quinney, aged 28 years, [*Occupation and address*], proposed by W.Bro. J. D. Firmston, seconded by Bro. J. W. Samels.

The Wor. Master rose for the third time. W.Bro. J. D. Firmston proposed a vote of thanks to V. Wor.Bro. P. Colville Smith and the Consecrating Officers for the very excellent manner in which

the Consecrating ceremony had been conducted and that the Founders were deeply grateful to these worthy Brethren for their services. W.Bro. J. D. Firmston proposed 'That the Consecrating Officers should be elected Honorary Members of the Petersham Lodge No. 4514.' Seconded by W.Bro. Edwin Skilton and carried unanimously.

V.W.Bro. P. Colville Smith expressed the pleasure of himself and his colleagues at assisting that day in the Consecration of the Petersham Lodge and extended their good wishes for the future.

W.Bro. J. D. Firmston presented the Consecrating Officers, on behalf of the founders, with a gold ceremonial pencil each, in remembrance of the occasion.

There being nothing further to propose for the good of Freemasonry the Lodge was closed in due form with prayer.

The minutes are signed by WM W.Bro. J. D. Firmston.

An article in 'The Freemason', dated 12th May 1923, reports on the consecration ceremony and after proceedings at the festive board in some detail. Two matters of interest perhaps:

- 'A late start somewhat marred the proceedings', no explanation given as to why the start was delayed; might it have some connection with the fact that some of the brethren were employed in the railway industry?

- 'The W.M., W.Bro. J. D. Firmston, being preceptor of two Lodges of Instruction and Past Master of three Lodges, said it was a great honour to be the first Master of Petersham Lodge.'

CHAPTER 2

THE EARLY YEARS

The Lodge held an emergency meeting on 19th May, when a ballot was taken for four candidates, Lewis James Yates, Charles David Warren, Ernest Edward Mills and Harold Frederick T. Gare. The ballot was unanimous and all candidates duly elected, but, as Messrs Warren and Mills had written to tender their apologies for absence, only L.J. Yates and H.T. Gare were initiated. The jewel presented on this occasion is reproduced on the frontispiece.

At the time of writing Lewis is residing in a home from where W.Bro. S.F. Smith and W.Bro. P. Smith spirit him to a local hostelry for lunch from time to time. It would be wonderful if he were able to join us for our 75th meeting.

At the next meeting in October two candidates were Initiated and two candidates were Passed, both ceremonies being conducted by W.Bro. Firmston. The tone of the year was clearly set. In November, the last meeting at The New Star and Garter Hotel, the WM went one better and conducted all ceremonies involved in Raising two candidates, Passing two candidates and Initiating two candidates. One month later, at a further emergency meeting at the new venue of the Masonic Hall, The Greyhound Hotel, High St, Richmond, two more candidates were Raised by the WM, who then allowed the SW, W.Bro. Edwin Skilton, PPGP Hants and I. of W., to Pass two candidates before resuming the chair to finish the evening off by Initiating two more candidates.

The same format was applied to the January 1924 Meeting. The theme of timekeeping reared its head again when a note on the summons requested brethren for Raising and Passing to be punctual.

The 7th meeting, in March 1924, the Installation of W.Bro. Skilton, was preceded by a double Initiation and the presentation of Grand Lodge Certificates to six Brethren. Bro. L.J. Yates presented the WM with an umbrella and walking stick on behalf of all the brethren initiated that year and later, after he had installed his successor, the first Past Master's Breast Jewel was presented by the Lodge. There can be few masters who have been more deserving of such an award, or indeed who have performed as many ceremonies during their year of office.

The building depicted on the Breast Jewel, reproduced on page 22 / 23, presented to Masters in appreciation of their year in the chair, is the New Star and Garter Hotel where the Lodge was consecrated, but where it met for only the first four meetings. This hotel was built on land which was once part of Petersham and Richmond's Hill Commons. These commons were once contiguous and grazing animals would stray across the boundaries. In 1639 a strip of land on the Richmond side was granted to one Francis Barnard on the condition that he made and maintained a sufficient fence and style between the two commons. This strip of land was later split into three.

A cottage built on the middle portion in 1650 was replaced by one of greater substance in the 1770s, which got the name of Nightingale Cottage from the nightingales which sang on Richmond Hill. Nightingale Lane, originally a straight path down the hillside, acquired its present alignment in 1810 when Richmond Vestry leased the lower part of the Hill Common to