

Dalhousie Lodge F. & A. M.

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1860-1910



History of the Lodge

BY

BROTHER LEWIS E. BINNEY



JUNE THE FIRST, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TEN

NEWTONVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

INTRODUCTION

OUR INDEBTEDNESS TO THE PAST

Perhaps no previous period in the history of this country has enjoyed greater national prosperity, or been marked by larger progress in the fields of science, invention, arts, and learning than the half century just passed; and as we rejoice to-day in the successful completion of half a century of the life of Dalhousie Lodge, let us very briefly review some of the notable events and wonderful changes which have occurred, and more than incidentally reflect upon our obligations to this past age.

Fifty years ago the black shadow of an impending civil strife with all its attendant horrors was spreading over our land. A foreign war, happily of short duration, like the passing of a cloud athwart the sky, has since darkened the horizon. The cruel hand of the assassin has stricken from the roll of the living three of the nation's beloved and honored rulers. While earthquake, conflagration, and flood, disasters, incident to all times, have devastated property and destroyed life, yet despite these calamities the bright sunlight of peace and prosperity has dispelled the gloom and cleared away the darkness of the era's dawn and sheds its radiance over our fair land to-day.

The telephone, wireless telegraph, development of light and power, and innumerable other inventions in electrical science bordering on the marvelous; triumphs of engineering skill, stupendous in magnitude, surpassing the pyramids of ancient times; wonders in architectural construction rivaling even the magnificent Temple of Solomon; the conquest of the air and the depths of the sea; the discovery of radium, the X-ray, and other notable revelations in chemistry; the extension of countless miles of railways, and the multiplication of ingenious and powerful machinery far beyond the dreams or conception of previous times are but a few of the material achievements of this great age of invention and progress.

A race of slaves emancipated; vast wealth expended for the advancement of knowledge in arts and sciences; immense fortunes applied to the endowment of schools, colleges, and libraries; numberless churches and institutions founded for religious, charitable, humane, and beneficent purposes mark the higher advancement of this remarkable time.

Freemasonry, pursuing the quiet, even tenor of its way, fulfilling its high missions of the attainment of nobler manhood, the diffusing of charity and the strengthening of the mystic ties of fraternal brotherhood, has shared in this great progress. Our Order has increased manifold in numbers; the simple lodge-room of fifty years ago is superseded to-day by the beautiful temple with its splendid furnishings. The possibilities of electricity and the charms of music are utilized as never before as accessories to enhance the beauty and impressiveness of our forms and ceremonies. A deeper interest, an increased earnestness, and a more ardent devotion to the principles of our institution pervade the craft; while the establishment of homes for the aged and infirm marks an advanced step in the noble work of charity and humanity.

As we contemplate this theme, do we fully realize or appreciate the important truth that we live not for ourselves alone? That the accumulated wealth of thought and invention of one age becomes the heritage of the next? That the achievements of the lives of this past generation are ours to possess and enjoy to-day? That the firm foundations upon which this lodge is builded were laid by faithful brethren of the past? That those noble lives sacrificed upon the battlefield have preserved the unity and integrity of our nation for future generations? So may the fruits of our lives and the works of our hands be transmitted to posterity in the world's onward march of civilization and progress. And our hearts instinctively turn at this time in a spirit of gratitude to that God from whom all blessings flow; that Supreme Being, the Giver of every good gift, before whom we humbly and reverently bow and acknowledge our dependence. For unto Him is all the praise.

DALHOUSIE LODGE OF NEWTON

Fifty years ago the Masonic Brethren in the town of Newton, inspired by an ardent devotion to the fraternal principles of Freemasonry and actuated by a laudable ambition to establish a Masonic lodge in the town, decided to hold a meeting for that purpose on St. John's day; as the 24th of June, however, was Sunday that year, the meeting occurred on the 25th of June, 1860.

After several preliminary gatherings, of which Right Worshipful Brother William D. Coolidge, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, was chairman, and Brother Adin B. Underwood, secretary, and of which we have no records of the proceedings, the following call was issued:

ST. JOHN'S DAY

The Masonic Brethren of Newton are requested to meet at Tremont Hall, Newtonville, on Monday, the 25th inst., at 4.30 o'clock, P.M., for an appropriate recognition of the day.

Brethren will be called from "Labor to Refreshment" at 6 o'clock P.M.

A meeting for business will be held at the same place at 7.30 o'clock P.M.

- 1. To adopt and sign a code of by-laws.*
- 2. To choose officers.*
- 3. To hear reports of committees on Masonic Hall, etc., and any other business that may come before the meeting.*

Your attendance is particularly requested.

By order of the chairman, A. B. UNDERWOOD, Secretary. Newton, June 21, 1860

Pursuant to this call a meeting was held, Right Worshipful Brother William D. Coolidge serving as chairman.

The record of the proceedings does not give the names or the number of brethren present at this meeting, but the following thirty-eight brothers are those whose names were signed to the petition to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for a dispensation:

W. D. Coolidge	Allen Jordan
A. A. Kendall	Geo. Mills
S. H. Munson	T. M. Weston
Isaac Cary	John Whitney
H. F. Allen	E. W. Dennison
A. B. Underwood	D. K. Hitchcock
C. H. Graves	H. R. Wetherell
G. E. Bridges	Philemon Stacy
O. S. Sanford	F. D. Hall
W. D. Thayer	Adam Beck
J. B. Lovett	W. H. Stearns
N. G. Allen	Asahel Wheeler
C. E. Hutchins	Moses Garfield
Abram Thomas	Jesse Winslow
Holmes Nash	J. H. Fellows
Rufus Moulton	Joseph Barney
H. P. Eaton	L. E. Leland
Amariah Leland	J. L. Roberts
J. W. Lyon	A.B. Ely

These brethren whose memories honor and whose work we praise to-day were the original members of the Lodge.

It was voted that the Lodge be called "Dalhousie Lodge of Newton."

The following officers were chosen:

Right Worshipful	Brother Wm. D. Coolidge	Worshipful Master
	Brother Albert A. Kendall	Senior Warden
	Brother Silas H. Munson	Junior Warden
	Brother Isaac Cary	Treasurer
	Brother Horatio F. Allen	Secretary

And the following appointed:

Brother Adin B. Underwood	Senior Deacon
Brother Chester H. Graves	Junior Deacon
Brother George E. Bridges	Senior Steward
Brother O. S. Sanford	Junior Steward
Brother W. D. Thayer	Marshal

For Sentinel, the youngest member of the Lodge.

At a subsequent meeting Brother J. B. Lovett was appointed Tyler, and Reverend Brother N. G. Allen, Chaplain.

The following tables of fees was adopted:

For conferring the degrees, \$25.00

For membership, \$3.00

For membership for those receiving their degrees in other lodges, \$5.

The conferring of the degrees did not entitle those receiving them to membership in the Lodge, it being requisite afterwards to apply for and be elected to the same. This peculiar regulation continued until August 1876, when it was amended.

In conformity with the prevailing Masonic custom of that time of holding meetings on the full of the moon, a custom which probably originated in the days when gas and electric lights were unknown, it was voted to hold the regular monthly communications of the Lodge on Wednesday evenings on or before the full of the moon.

The next meeting was held September 26, 1860, in a small room over Tremont Hall, twenty-three members, including the officers, and one visitor being present. Worshipful Master Coolidge presented the Lodge with the dispensation from the Grand Master, and in behalf of the officers of the Lodge a set of jewels, and in behalf of Winslow Lewis Lodge of Boston a set of collars, and with them the good wishes of that Lodge for the success and happiness of the new Lodge.

The officers were clothed and inducted into their chairs by Worshipful Brother Peter C. Jones, Past Master of Columbian Lodge of Boston, and later (1862) Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

Six applications for the degrees were received at this meeting, among them being that of our late Brother Dustin Lancey, who is presumably entitled to the distinction of being the first Mason made in Dalhousie Lodge. He was raised a Master Mason April 24, 1861, and elected to membership September 18, 1861.

The record of our late Worshipful Brother Marcus T. Heywood, however, is identically the same, excepting that Brother Lancey's name precedes his in the entries upon the records.

May 8, 1861, the Secretary was authorized to notify the members of the meetings by mail.

The Freemason's Monthly Magazine of October 1860, contained the following:

On the 3d of August last, the Grand Master of Massachusetts granted a dispensation to Rt. Wor. Wm. D. Coolidge, Esqr., and thirty-five other brethren to form a lodge at Newtonville, in the town of Newton, under the name of Dalhousie Lodge.

The brethren residing in this town have long needed a Lodge, and we are happy to learn that, that now established, there promises to flourish and become one of the most influential in the commonwealth.

Indeed this could hardly be otherwise, for its government is entrusted to Brother Coolidge, whose skill in Masonry and devotion to its objects and principles afford the strongest guarantee that all things will be conducted wisely and creditably to the craft; and he will be supported by brethren of experience and fidelity who are associated with him.

At the regular communication December 26, 1860, Worshipful Master Coolidge informed the Lodge that he had been elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for the ensuing year and could no longer act as Worshipful Master for them, and Worshipful Brother Peter C. Jones was chosen his successor.

May 22, 1861, the officers were authorized by the Lodge to apply for a Charter.

June 24, 1861, a special communication was held at 4 o'clock P.M.; the brethren assembled at Masonic Hall formed a procession and marched to the residence of Most Worshipful Grand Master William D. Coolidge, and escorted the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge to the Masonic apartments; the hall was then formally dedicated, and Lodge duly constituted and consecrated; at the conclusion of these ceremonies a banquet was served in Tremont Hall.

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In the evening a public installation was held, the ladies being present, and the following brethren were duly installed into office by Most Worshipful Grand Master Coolidge:

Worshipful Master Albert A. Kendall, M.D.
Senior Warden George E. Bridges
Junior Warden Oliver S. Sanford
Treasurer Chester H. Graves
Secretary Horatio F. Allen
Chaplain Reverend N. G. Allen
Marshal Philemon Stacy
Senior Deacon W. D. Thayer
Junior Deacon Asahel Wheeler
Senior Steward L. E. Leland
Junior Steward F. D. Hall
Sentinel George Mills
Tyler J. B. Lovett

These services were followed by an interesting address by Right Worshipful Winslow Lewis, M.D., of Boston.

The music of the evening was furnished by friends of the Lodge, and the ceremonies closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

The charter which was presented to the Lodge bears the signatures of Wm. D. Coolidge, Grand Master; William North, Senior Grand Warden; Jesse P. Pattee, Junior Grand Warden; and Charles W. Moore, Grand Secretary.

The names upon the charter are:

Albert A. Kendall	Francis D. Hall	Allen Jordan
George E. Bridges	Rufus Moulton	Jesse Winslow
Chester H. Graves	Adam Beck	George Mills
Horatio F. Allen	Henry P. Eaton	Joseph Barney
John L. Roberts	Amariah Leland	John Whitney
Ezra C. Hutchins	Asahel Wheeler	Oliver S. Sanford
Abram Thomas	Silas H. Munson	Luther E. Leland
Holmes Nash	William D. Thayer	Adin B. Underwood
Philemon Stacy	Moses Garfield	Eliphalet W. Dennison

This charter which bears the date of June 24, 1861, with precedence in the Grand Lodge and elsewhere of the same date, was amended by the Grand Lodge, March 8, 1871, so as to give precedence from August 3, 1860 (the date of the dispensation), and still further amended by the Grand Lodge March 9, 1892, by changing the date of the charter to June 12, 1861, the date the charter was granted. During the past fifty years 1,139 brothers have signed the by-laws and become members of the Lodge, the membership of 497 has ceased from various causes; many have been gathered in the harvest of the grim reaper, and it is a lamentable fact that none of the charter members who retained their membership have been spared to participate in this occasion, Brother Francis D. Hall being the last to pass away, two years ago, and of the first one hundred brethren whose names are signed to the by-laws but four are living and members of the Lodge to-day, namely:

Brother Edwin M. Fowle
Brother George P. Clarke
Brother Benjamin S. Wetherbee
Brother James W. Hill

It is a peculiar circumstance that the first name in the list of our honored dead is that of the first Worshipful Master, Albert A. Kendall, who was killed in the civil war, in the second term of his office as Master of the Lodge.

Our oldest living member in years of membership is Brother Edwin M. Fowle, of Newton Center, who was raised a Master Mason June 26, 1861, and admitted a member September 18, 1861.

The Lodge now numbers six hundred and forty-two members. The character of this membership is a matter of just pride, representing as it does the best element of citizenship in the community; men who have filled the highest office in the municipal government of the city of Newton; members of the Senate and House of Representatives in the state government; clergymen and professors who have attained eminence in the religious and educational life of the country; members of the legal and medical professions, and citizens prominent in financial, mercantile, and educational circles in this vicinity.

Thirty-one of the brethren have been honored by election to the office of Worshipful Master; the membership of three of these has ceased, eight have died, and the remaining twenty Past Masters are:

James B. Fuller	Clarence E. Hanscom
Wilfred A. Wetherbee	John A. Fenno
Albert L. Harwood	Mitchel Wing
John W. Fisher	Edward S. Benedict
George P. Whitmore	Samuel F. Brewer
Robert Bennett	Oliver M. Fisher
George A. Gleason	Henry L. Fairbrother

Winfield S. Slocum
Frank R. Moore
Wallace C. Boyden

H. Stewart Bosson
Harry N. Milliken
Charles E. Hatfield

The Senior Past Master being Worshipful Brother James B. Fuller, who also enjoys the honor of being the Senior Past High Priest of Newton Royal Arch Chapter and of the present membership of Gethsemane Commandery, Knights Templar, the Senior Past Commander, and is a charter member of the two latter organizations.

The list of honorary members consists of:

Right Worshipful Brother William D. Coolidge
Right Worshipful Brother Peter C. Jones
Brother Isaac Cary
Worshipful Brother Luther E. Leland
Worshipful Brother George E. Bridges
Worshipful Brother Stephen W. Trowbridge
Brother Chester H. Graves
Worshipful Brother Edwin W. Gay Right
Worshipful Brother Albert L. Harwood
Worshipful Brother George A. Gleason
Brother John B. Turner
Reverend Brother Ozora S. Davis, D.D.

The last four members only are living.

Prominent among the officers who have served the Lodge for extraordinary long terms of service is Brother Edward E. Morgan, the present Secretary, who was elected to that office in August, 1876, and who with the exception of the years 1881 and 1882 has served to the present time, a period of thirty-two years, and appears to have been present at every regular meeting with but three exceptions.

Brother Alexander Chisholm, who died September 1, 1897, at the age of seventy-five years, was elected Tyler in 1872, and served in that office to the time of his death, with the exception of the years 1875 and 1876, a period of twenty-three years.

Brother John B. Turner, elected as Treasurer in 1873, filled that office until his resignation in 1884, a term of eleven years, being succeeded by Worshipful Brother Edwin W. Gay, who served for nine years. The present Treasurer, Worshipful Brother John W. Fisher, has completed eleven years of service.

In 1867 a permanent Charity Fund was established, which has been constantly increased by additions from the fees of candidates until it has reached a substantial amount. Previous to this it was customary to take up collections in the Lodge for all charitable purposes.

In January 1874, the use of the apartments, paraphernalia, etc., was tendered to Meridian Lodge of Natick, whose lodge room had been destroyed by fire.

In March 1876, a liberal sum was donated in aid of the completion of the Washington Monument; and whenever public calamities have occurred the Lodge has responded liberally to the appeals of the sufferers.

The Lodge has participated in public parades but three times in its history; the first occasion was on October 14, 1864, when it attended the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple in Boston; this parade was followed by a banquet in the evening at Cushman's Hotel, West Newton.

The next occasion was that of the dedication of the Masonic Temple in Boston, June 24, 1867, when the President of the United States, Brother Andrew Johnson, presided and assisted at the ceremonies; twelve thousand Masons were in line in the parade.

Dalhousie Lodge, through the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Boston & Worcester Railroad Co., assembled in room No. 2, of their station in Boston, and marched in Division No. 3, seventy brothers participating, carrying the banner presented them by the ladies two evenings previous.

The day was excessively hot, but nearly all of the brothers marched over the entire route, although it took till 5 o'clock P.M. to accomplish it. Among the brethren with the Lodge was Brother Jesse Winslow, of Newton Upper Falls, who was made a Mason in 1823, and Brother Timothy Butterfield of Tyngsboro, Mass., made in 1824, both of these aged brethren were born in 1794, and both appeared as Masons at the laying of the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument, June 17, 1825, at which Brother General Lafayette assisted.

The last public parade of the Lodge was on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple in Newtonville, September 23, 1896, one of the most eventful days in the history of Masonry in Newton.

The parade was under the command of Sir Knight Frank L. Nagle, of Gethsemane Commandery, Knights Templars, Chief Marshall, with representatives upon his staff from Natick, Cambridge, and Mt. Horeb of Concord, N. H., Commanderies. Headed by the Waltham Watch Company Band, Gethsemane Commandery, No. 35, Knights Templars, escorted the following organizations, which composed the procession:

Beth-horon Lodge, Brookline
Isaac Parker Lodge, Waltham
Belmont Lodge, Belmont
Pequossette Lodge, Watertown
Monitor Lodge, Waltham
Bethesda Lodge, Brighton
Newton Royal Arch Chapter

The procession started at 2 o'clock P.M., and marched through the principal streets of Newtonville, the brethren being favored with bright skies and an ideal September day.

At the first meeting, June 25, 1860, Brother Adin B. Underwood proposed the name "Dalhousie," in honor of Lord Dalhousie, of Scotland, and it was voted that the Lodge be called "Dalhousie Lodge of Newton."

The Freemason's Monthly of October 1860, referring to the new Lodge, said:

In the selection of a name the brethren have sought to honor the memory of the Grand Master of Scotland, whose term of office continued from November 30, 1767, to November 30, 1769, and who, on the 30th of May, 1769, granted letters of deputation to General Joseph Warren by which he became Grand Master of Masons in Boston, New England, and within one hundred miles of the same.

George, the eighth Earl of Dalhousie, the Grand Master referred to, was a descendant of the illustrious family of Ramseys, which came from Germany and settled in Scotland as early as the reign of King David I. Sir William Ramsay, in 1295, was the first designated by the title of Dalhousie. George, the eighth Earl, succeeded his brother Charles, the seventh Earl, on the 29th of January 1764, and died in 1787.

[Note: This appears to be the only record or document having reference to the title of the Lodge which has been preserved, and a possible doubt exists as to its correctness. That the Lodge sought to honor the eleventh Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Scotland and Deputy Grand Master of England, at the time the Lodge was established seems probable.]

The following is from the record of October 21, 1863:

Worshipful Brother W. D. Coolidge presented to the lodge a likeness of the present Lord Dalhousie, which he had solicited of him for us.

This portrait of the eleventh Earl of Dalhousie was hung over the Master's chair in the Lodge room for many years, and is still preserved by the Lodge.

At the meeting of the Lodge on October 21, 1874, Right Worshipful Wm. D. Coolidge, Past Grand Master of Masons of Massachusetts, offered the following resolutions:

Whereas, the sad news has reached us as announced by the Acting Grand Master of Freemasons in England, at a meeting of the Grand Lodge in London on the 2d of September, 1874, of the death of the Earl of Dalhousie, late Deputy Grand Master of England, and late Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and whereas:

We hold the name of Dalhousie in the highest reverence and respect for the exemplification of the highest Masonic and manly virtues, Therefore,

Resolved, that the announcement and remarks of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, and also those of Mr. Hugh D. Sandeman, District Deputy Grand Master of Bombay, who seconded the same, be entered at length on the records of Dalhousie Lodge of Newton, Massachusetts, as expressive of our own sentiments and feelings in this great bereavement.

[NOTE: The remarks referred to, however, were not entered upon the records, reference only being noted to the New England Freemason, Vol. I, No. 9 containing a full account of the proceedings.]

Resolved, that the picture hanging in our Lodge room of the late Earl of Dalhousie be draped in mourning for the space of three months.

Resolved, that a copy of these proceedings be sent to the Grand Secretaries of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, with the assurance of our fraternal love and regard.

These resolutions were seconded by Worshipful Brother S. W. Trowbridge, Master of the Lodge, and were adopted by a unanimous vote.

The death of Lord Dalhousie occurred July 6, 1874, and the following newspaper clipping referring to his life and character is inserted in the records:

The Earl of Dalhousie died a few days since, at the age of seventy-three. Most readers will recollect him best as Mr. Fox Maule, or as Lord Panmure, his hereditary title, which he made prominent by his holding the post of War Minister during most of the Russian war, in Lord Palmerston's first ministry. Then it was 'Panmure and gallant Harry,' as the Jacobite song has it; Harry Temple being Palmerston's name.... He became Earl of Dalhousie in 1860, on the death of his cousin, the Marquis of Dalhousie, the famous Governor General of India, whose action precipitated the Sepoy rebellion, and who was one of the ablest and most arrogant of men.

Another account, however, says of this Marquis that he left a name behind him that ranks among the highest in the roll of Indian Viceroys for statesmanship, administrative vigor, and the faculty of inspiring confidence among the millions subjected to his sway.

This Indian Viceroy, the tenth Earl of Dalhousie, was made a Knight of the Scottish Order of the Thistle in 1848; the Marquisate he received in 1849 for his zeal and ability in his administration of British India was in the peerage of England, and non-descendible to the heir presumptive to his Scottish titles, also dying without male issue, his title of "Marquis" became extinct on his death, which accounts for Lord Panmure, his cousin and heir presumptive to the tenth Earl, having become eleventh "Earl" of Dalhousie.

Dalhousie is one of the most eminent of Scottish titles, the earldom dating from 1633 (temp. Car. 1), and the name of Ramsay, which is borne by those who hold the title, is eminent in arts and in arms, in letters and statesmanship and in war.

October 10, 1900, the Lodge was presented with another portrait of the eleventh Earl of Dalhousie, accompanied by a bunch of Scotch heather, in behalf of the widow of our late Brother William Gray Webster, who died at Arbroath, Scotland, August 31, 1900.

[NOTE: This excellent picture in the parlor of our apartments was taken, evidently, at a later period in the Earl's life than that presented to the Lodge in 1863, and a reproduction of this portrait upon the notices of the Lodge is familiar to the brethren.]

The Dalhousie coat of arms of 1769, together with the motto, "Ora et Labora," was adopted June 19, 1861, as the seal of the Lodge, and the banner which was presented to the lodge on the occasion of the public installation of the officers by Right Worshipful William Parkman of Boston, June 22, 1869, has emblazoned upon it this coat of arms displayed in proper colors.

The original seal as adopted bore in the margin of the circle the words, "Dalhousie Lodge, Newton, Mass. Instituted A. L. 5861," but by vote of the Lodge April 23, 1892, the by-laws were amended so that the title and date should read "Dalhousie Lodge F. & A. M. Newton, Mass. Instituted A. L. 5860."

OUR HONORED DEAD

As we, "*summon from the shadowy past, the forms that once have been...*" we recall with admiration the faithful service and devotion of our departed brethren, and are forcibly reminded that the fruitful work inaugurated by them is ours to-day to continue and perpetuate.

In the early days of the Lodge's history the most conspicuous figure is that of Right Worshipful Brother William D. Coolidge, who has been very appropriately called the "Father of Dalhousie Lodge," for it was largely through his exertions that an interest was aroused to form a lodge in Newton; probably the preliminary meetings, of which he was chairman, were held at his home.

He was a native of Boston, and served in the city council in 1847 and 1848, and was elected a member of the General Court in 1849; was Master of Columbian Lodge of Boston in 1850 and 1851, serving Dalhousie Lodge while under dispensation as Worshipful Master, until called to the office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

He presented the Lodge with the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses at the time of its organization, was elected an honorary member October 16, 1861, and was a constant attendant upon its communications and deeply interested in all its affairs.

His residence in Newtonville was at the corner of Walnut Street and Highland Avenue. His occupation of wool buyer called him frequently to the South, and at the opening of the civil war, a time when a Massachusetts man was in grave peril in that section of our country, his high Masonic standing proved of great value to him.

In personal appearance a man of very large stature and commanding presence, but dignified and gentle in manner, his eloquence on all occasions, whether installing the officers, delivering the charge to the candidates, or addressing the Lodge upon matters concerning the good of the Order, never failed to impress his hearers.

His ardent devotion to Freemasonry in Newton continued to the end, and it was his request that the presiding officers of the three Masonic bodies in Newtonville, at the time of his death, with the Master of his own Lodge in Boston, should act as pall bearers at his funeral. His death occurred September 12, 1885, at the age of seventy-seven years. A picture which he presented to the Lodge May 31, 1871, and which hangs upon our walls, shows him as Most Worshipful Grand Master surrounded by officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1861, the year Dalhousie Lodge was chartered. This picture is of especial interest and value, being the oldest extant of a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, taken when surrounded by his suite of Grand Officers; the portraits of Worshipful Brother Peter C. Jones, Worshipful Master under dispensation after the resignation of Worshipful Grand Master Coolidge, and Brother Isaac Cary, Treasurer under dispensation, also appear in this group.

Brother Adin B. Underwood, whose name appears as Secretary on the call for the first meeting, who offered the name of Dalhousie as the title of the Lodge, and who served as Senior Deacon while under dispensation, was a man of excellent qualities. A Christian gentleman, being an officer of Grace Church in Newton. A gallant soldier, serving his country loyally during the civil war, and promoted for valiant service to the rank of General. A faithful public servant in the office of Surveyor of the Port of Boston.

A public-spirited citizen, serving the City of Newton in many official capacities. A sincere and earnest Mason, being a charter member of the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery, and the first Most Excellent High Priest of Newton Royal Arch Chapter. Of erect figure and military bearing, notwithstanding his severe lameness from the serious wound received in the war. An able presiding officer and a strict disciplinarian in the administration of the duties of his office.

[Note: Your historian recalls an incident illustrating this trait in his character while serving as High Priest of the Chapter, annoyed by the tardiness of his subordinate officers in their attendance upon the meetings, he on this occasion opened the Chapter punctually at the time called, and finding several officers had not arrived, including the Secretary with the records, closed the Chapter ordered the lights extinguished and the doors locked, much to the surprise of those arriving later.]

A picture upon the walls of our visitor's room, of the officers of the first organization of Newton Royal Arch Chapter in 1869, shows him as Most Excellent High Priest in the center of the group.

Worshipful Brother Albert Asaph Kendall, M.D., first Worshipful Master of Dalhousie Lodge, was a man honored, respected, and beloved by his brethren, and was chosen by them as a worthy leader and master. He was born in Middletown, Vt., March 3, 1827, but early removed to Gardner, Mass., and was a resident of Newton Lower Falls for seven years preceding his death; received his medical education at the University of New York, from which he graduated in 1852.

He was made a Mason in Meridian Lodge at Natick, August 13, 1856.

In the latter part of the first year of his administration he enlisted as surgeon in the army, but was re-elected Master of the Lodge at the annual communication, June 18, 1862, and installed by proxy. His acceptance was received by letter from the field September 17, 1862, but on that very day he was killed at Sharpsburg, Md. (Antietam).

Right Worshipful Brother Coolidge, who was an ardent friend of Worshipful Brother Kendall, on learning of his death went at once to Maryland and brought his body home.

His loss was deeply felt by his associates, who held him in high esteem, and his untimely death was sincerely mourned by all.

[NOTE: In October 1862, it was voted to have a photograph of Worshipful Brother Kendall taken from a daguerreotype for the Lodge, and a copy presented to his widow. Like other relics of the past this portrait has been lost, but through the courtesy of his son, a copy has been made from the picture in the possession of the widow who is still living in Washington, D. C.]

It is not the intention of your historian to make individual mention of all those brethren who were prominent in the early days of the Lodge, but another portrait upon our walls recalls a brother well known to all of the members of that time.

Brother John L. Roberts was a charter member of the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery, and though not ambitious for preferment yet served the Lodge in the office of Treasurer in 1871 and 1872. Few members could be found as loyal and devoted to Dalhousie Lodge, and as constant in their attendance upon its meetings as Brother Roberts.

[NOTE: Even when the infirmities of age made it almost impossible for him to reach the lodge room, he might be seen on the nights of the meetings climbing the stairs with much difficulty, being obliged to rest repeatedly in his efforts, yet unwilling to be absent from the meetings.]

He was noted for his hospitality, and his home, the famous General Hull Mansion, where he delighted in entertaining the Lodge's Masonic guests, was the scene of many social Masonic gatherings within its spacious halls.

This mansion was rich in historic interest, and it was here that that distinguished brother of our Order, General Lafayette, was entertained when on his visit to this country to assist in laying the cornerstone of Bunker Hill Monument.

This dwelling was originally erected upon the estate afterwards occupied by the late Ex-Governor William Claflin (Newtonville being known at that time as Hull's Crossing); later it was removed to a location bounded by Walnut and Austin Streets and the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks.

After the death of Brother Roberts this mansion became the home of the Newton Club until the erection of their present clubhouse, and later was demolished to erect the modern Roberts Block upon the site.

THE CIVIL WAR

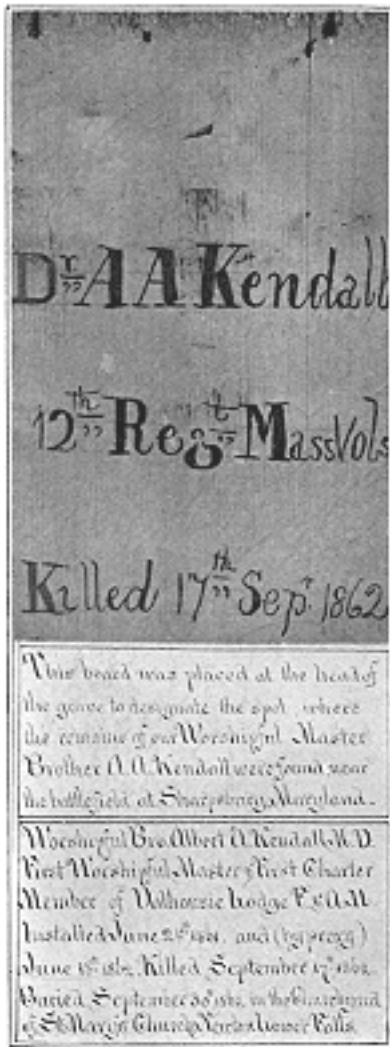
At the time Dalhousie Lodge was entering upon its existence, the nation was passing through those stirring events incident to the opening of the civil war; the brethren were patriotically responding to the country's call for their services, and military titles began to appear upon the records associated with those of the Lodge, dispensations were sought to confer all of the degrees at one meeting upon candidates, usually officers in the army, anxious to be made Masons before their departure to the battlefield.

At the breaking out of the war Right Worshipful Brother Coolidge was at Galveston, Tex., attending a meeting of the Galveston & San Antonio Railroad, of which he was a director, his presence becoming known, a threatening crowd gathered in front of the building where the meeting was being held, with the intention of mobbing him, his friends hurriedly took him out by a rear door and carried him in a close carriage to a steamer about to depart for New Orleans. Upon his arrival at the latter city he was met by Right Worshipful Brother J. Q. A. Fellows, Grand Master of the State of Louisiana, who placed him in the care of three faithful Masonic brothers, who in turn escorted him to Memphis upon a Confederate line steamer to avoid suspicion, and from thence he escaped to the North.

In the latter part of the first year in office our first Worshipful Master, Albert A. Kendall, M.D., enlisted in the army and was mustered in the service of the United States as Assistant Surgeon of the Twelfth Massachusetts Regiment Volunteers, April 30, 1862. Perhaps, like many others at that time, he did not anticipate the magnitude or duration of the war, expecting that it would soon end, when he would return to his home and his Lodge; it was probably with this thought that he accepted the office of Worshipful Master for a second term, although in the army at the time.

At the communication of September 24, 1862, “ Brother Cephas Brigham announced the death of Worshipful Brother A. A. Kendall, who was killed at the battle of Sharpsburg, Md., while attending wounded soldiers.” A committee was appointed to receive the body and make arrangements for the funeral should the body be found; Most Worshipful Grand Master Coolidge having gone to Maryland for the purpose.

The next record is that of September 30, 1862, and is as follows: “ A special communication was held at Wales Hall, Newton Lower Falls, for the purpose of burying the remains of our late Worshipful Master, Brother A. A. Kendall. Opened at 3.40 P.M., waiving ceremony.”



A procession was formed and the Lodge repaired to the house of Mr. R. B. Blaisdell, where it received the body and carried it to St. Mary’s Church; here the funeral service of the Episcopal Church was performed, after which the body was buried in the churchyard under Masonic honors, Most Worshipful Grand Master Wm. D. Coolidge officiating. “ There was a large attendance of the brethren of the Lodge and Masons of the vicinity.”

When Grand Master Coolidge went to Maryland in search of the body, he found at the head of the grave to designate the spot, a rough board, upon which was rudely inscribed with a lead pencil:

**Dr. A. A. Kendall,
12th Regt. Mass. Vols.
Killed 17th Sept. 1862.**

This relic he presented to the Lodge and to-day it hangs upon the walls of our parlor, a memento of the past, treasured for the associations connected with it.

During the absence of Worshipful Master Kendall, Brother Cephas Brigham acted in his stead, but when his office became vacant, Brother George E. Bridges assumed his chair until December 31, 1862, when he was duly elected Master by dispensation.

Brother General A. B. Underwood has left a notable record for heroic service in the civil war, rising from captaincy in the Second Massachusetts Infantry to Brevet Major General, receiving a hideous wound at the storming of Lookout Mountain, being borne from the field on the back of a Newton comrade. When at home on a furlough in June 1862, he addressed the Lodge, giving an interesting account of some of his Masonic experiences in the South.

In December 1863, “ the brethren of Dalhousie Lodge learned with deep regret of the casualty which had happened to their beloved brother and friend, Col. A. B. Underwood,” and resolutions of sympathy were passed and forwarded to him at Nashville, Tenn.

May 23, 1864, Brother E. W. Dennison announced the arrival home of Brother Underwood, who sent his regards to the lodge and expressed the hope of coming to the meetings soon on crutches.

The record of another soldier is that of Brother Major Henry T. Lawson, of the Second Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, who died of yellow fever at Newburn, N. C., October 1, 1864. He was an esteemed member of the Lodge, a brave and efficient officer, and was Provost Marshal for the district of North Carolina at the time of his death.

In the order issued by the commanding officer of the district, General Harland, after alluding to his many virtues, it closes with the following tribute to his memory:

Although he fell not in battle, his sacrifice to his country's cause is nonetheless glorious, and while his noble spirit has passed away to the God who gave it, his mortal remains have found a soldier's grave in the sands of North Carolina.

His body was afterwards brought home and buried with Masonic honors from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Newtonville, March 5, 1865.

Since the close of the war many have joined the Lodge who were engaged in that memorable conflict, Past Masters Fuller, Wetherbee, and Gay being among those who saw active service in the army.

THE LODGE ROOM

The demolition of Tremont Hall a few years ago, made necessary by the work of depressing the railroad tracks through Newtonville, removed a landmark of special interest to the Freemasons of Newton.

This building stood on the west side of Newtonville Square at the corner of Washington Street. It was here that the first gathering was held June 25, 1860, and until the erection of Central Block in 1874, it was constantly used by the Fraternity for all social and public occasions, being the only hall available for the purpose in the village.

At the first meeting under dispensation, September 26, 1860, Pequossette Lodge of Watertown generously offered Dalhousie Lodge the use of their hall until a suitable lodge room could be obtained; this offer was accepted, but at the next meeting it was reported that the Most Worshipful Grand Master could not permit the Lodge to go out of town to confer the degrees, and the Swedenborgian Chapel was then secured, and the communication of December 26, 1860, was held there.

This chapel was a small hall in the second story of a building erected by our late Brother Dustin Lancy on Bowers Street, near the site of the present railroad station. The building which was destroyed by fire a few years later was two stories in height, the lower of which was used for the storage of lumber and the upper story as a place of worship by the Swedenborgian Society of Newtonville on Sundays, and as a schoolroom on week days. This room was entered by a flight of stairs on the outside of the structure and was the first lodge room of Dalhousie Lodge.

Early in the year 1861 the Methodist society in the village having erected a church building at the corner of Washington and Court Streets (the latter now Central Avenue), the Lodge leased the upper floor for ten years for a lodge room and met there for the first time February 20, 1861; these being the apartments which were dedicated June 24, 1861, when the Lodge was chartered. It was later sold to the Central Congregational Society, and is now used as a garage and for other business purposes.

This first Masonic Hall was plainly furnished with a woolen carpet and common wooden settees, in marked contrast with the beautiful apartments occupied by the Lodge to-day, and the total cost of paraphernalia, furniture, frescoing, gas fixtures, etc., was about nine hundred and fifty dollars.

In the cold months a large pyramid stove in one corner made its vicinity uncomfortably hot, while the opposite end of the room was equally uncomfortably cold.

In the warm months the heat was almost intolerable, owing to the proximity of the room to the roof, notwithstanding that a large ventilator was installed to remedy this objectionable feature. There were no facilities for banquets or social gatherings, not even adequate room for the ordinary needs of the Lodge, yet it was here that the Lodge was constituted, as was also Newton Royal Arch Chapter, Cryptic Council, and Gethsemane Commandery Knights Templars.

In 1874 the late Ex-Governor William Claflin built what is known as Central Block, a large wooden structure at the corner of Washington and Walnut Streets, completing the upper portion for the accommodation of the Masons, who had then outgrown their quarters in the church edifice.

These apartments- consisted of a large main hall, handsomely furnished with upholstered black walnut settees, Brussels carpet, and other attractive features (the funds for which were raised by a very successful fair), a smaller hall furnished with the fittings of the old hall, an armory, reception rooms, etc., and seemed adequate to the requirements of the Fraternity for many years.

This hall was dedicated May 12, 1875, to Masonic purposes, by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Charles A. Welch, Grand Master, about three hundred and fifty brethren and guests being present.

In 1895, at the termination of twenty years of occupancy of these premises, the need of still more commodious quarters became apparent. Many plans were considered by the brethren without definite results and it was practically decided to abandon the purpose of making any change of location, provided certain improvements were made by the owner of the building in the matter of heating, ventilation, etc., and especially if additional appliances for safety in the event of fire were constructed.

Negotiations, however, failed, and it was decided by the Fraternity to erect a Masonic Temple in Newtonville suitable for their needs for many years. As the Masonic bodies which were interested in the movement were not incorporated, and could not hold real estate by legal title, it became necessary to form a stock company, and December 24, 1895, the Newton Masonic Hall Association was accordingly incorporated to erect the building, although all details were first submitted to the several Masonic organizations for approval.

This Temple, spacious, convenient, beautiful in all its appointments and finished in perfect taste is an ornament to the city, and is not excelled by any Masonic Temple in New England, and the brethren of Dalhousie Lodge are justly proud of their Masonic home.

The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies September 23, 1896, by Most Worshipful Edwin B. Holmes, Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, who was assisted in spreading the cement by Worshipful Brother George P. Whitmore, President of the Association, Brother Henry E. Cobb, Mayor of Newton, and Right Worshipful Brother Albert L. Harwood.

On October 6, 1897, the Lodge assembled for the last time in their old apartments and marched to the new building, where the ceremony of dedication was performed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Charles C. Hutchinson, Grand Master; the address upon the occasion being delivered by Right Worshipful Brother Albert L. Harwood.

The erection of this Temple was an undertaking of great magnitude and much of the success is due to the able efforts of the President of the Association, Right Worshipful Brother George P. Whitmore, who has filled that office since the incorporation of the Association and who has given his time, his personal attention, and his best energies in the direction of its affairs.

The financing of the enterprise was a very important factor, which has been ably managed by Brother Edward P. Hatch, Treasurer of the Association, and the loyalty of the brethren and the prosperity of the Lodge will undoubtedly care for a debt which was naturally entailed.

The history of the Lodge would be incomplete were mention of the valuable services of these officers, together with those of the Board of Directors, omitted; these brothers having freely given their valuable services in the management of the affairs of the building since its erection, are justly entitled to the gratitude of the Lodge.

CONCLUSION

Half a century of the history of Dalhousie Lodge is completed; fifty years of harmony, prosperity, and usefulness; an honorable past, which is the glory of the brethren, who, with emotions of pride and pleasure in the present high standing and good reputation of their Lodge, enter upon the future with a confidence and determination to preserve and perpetuate this honorable character and increase the luster of this justly esteemed reputation.

Perhaps fifty years hence, when another generation has arisen to occupy our places and stations in life, some historian of the future may recite to other brethren gathered in this hall the proud record of a completed century of faithful duty to the callings of the craft by the brethren of Dalhousie Lodge of Newton.

END

This version has been reproduced by Worshipful Lawrence E. Bethune, Past Master of Dalhousie Lodge (2007 & 2008).