

### Lodge Grange Visit

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. lead a large Deputation to Lodge Grange on 31st. March and worked an excellent M.M. Degree. The Visitors were warmly welcomed by Bro. Kenneth Martin, R.W.M. and the Brethren of 1073. A Deputation from Lodge Grange No. 1073 will be attending our Regular Meeting on 9th. May. **Mark Masters.** Three Brethren were Advanced to the M.M.M. Degree at the Regular Meeting on 25th. April, Bros. Larry Jones, David Liddell and Mark Mulholland were advanced by Bro. Jim Vasey, R.W.M.M.M. Bro. Tom Davidson, P.G.M. congratulated the Degree workers on their excellent ritual.



## WORK PARTY

The Lodge work party will start on Wednesday 6th. June. Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. requests that Brethren assist with any general work that requires to be done to keep our Masonic Halls in their usual excellent condition.

# THE MAGAZINE OF LODGE ST. BRYDE No. 579

# THE RIGHT ANGLE



# May 2012

## Issue No. 139



## Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

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# May Masonic Diary

**Tues. 1st.** Lodge St. Bryde No. 579. Management Committee at 7.30pm.

**Wed. 9th.** Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. F.C. Degree by Lodge Cambuslang Royal Arch No. 114.

**Thurs. 17th.** Lodge St. Bryde No. 579. Deputation to Lodge Eastmuir No. 1126. E.A. Degree by Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

**Wed. 23rd.** Lodge St. Bryde No. 579. Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. M.M. Degree by Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M.

**Fri. 1st. June.** Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. Regular Communication at 7.30 p.m. Wishaw (31).

## Visit to

### Lodge Biggar Free Operatives No. 167.

An invitation has been received from the above Lodge for a Deputation from Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 to attend a Lecture by The Scottish Masonic Materials Group on Thursday 31st. May at 7.30 p.m.

The Materials Group recently surveyed and catalogued all the artefacts of the Lodge and will present their findings at this important meeting.

If you are interested in attending please place your name on the Notice Board list.

**Friday 11th. May at 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

**with guests**

**GRAHAM ROBERTS**

**and**

**BILL McMurdo**

**Tickets £25 from Norrie Telfer, D.S.M.**



Confederate Memorial Richmond

17th. Virginia Battle flag  
note the Battle Honours



The fraternal regard for yet-living Masons is also noteworthy. Many accounts exist of Masons safeguarding or protecting property of Brothers which would normally be seen as simply the spoils of war. This regard, yet another peculiarity of Masonry, is also seen in the recovery or preservation of Masonic regalia from thieves. These acts received considerable notice in period sources. Some Masonic Lodges were able to avoid destruction by the timely intervention of the Craft.

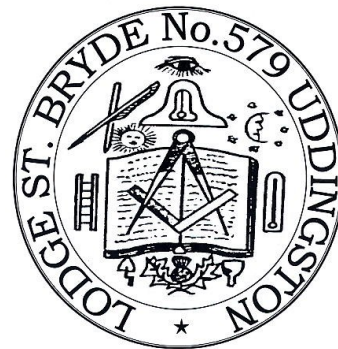
Non-combatant Masons also made a deliberate effort to make known their affiliation with Freemasonry in an attempt to preserve their homes and personal property from being ravaged. In some instances, hostilities were suspended so property could be returned to its rightful owners.

Throughout history, the private property of captured soldiers is ordinarily confiscated in war and reports of prisoners stripped of everything they owned were commonplace. However, there are numerous reports of soldiers being kindly treated by Brother Masons while in captivity. Great lengths were often taken to guard keepsakes and money of dying men which would be sent home to the family.

That Masonry played any role whatsoever in the war is remarkable.

Unlike other fraternal organizations, service clubs, or even religious orders in the nineteenth century, Freemasonry merits attention for the charitable acts ascribed to its members. Unlike random acts of kindness in war, the nature of Masonic aid differs sharply from those

deeds elsewhere in history. Only in Masonry was there a discernible pattern to those actions. That behaviour took on the character of an obligation to fellow members of the fraternity — which in fact is what it was.



### *Lodge St. Bryde News.*

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. welcomed Bro. Tom Davidson, Provincial Grand Master to the Regular Meeting on Wednesday 25th. April. The R.W.M. presented the P.G.M. with a cheque for £500 in support of the Boys Brigade Fundraiser 2012. The P.G.M. expressed his delight at the support given to the Provincial Fund Raiser.



Tom Davidson, PGM was delighted to accept the £500 cheque from David Shaw R.W.M.

### **New Members**

Bro. David Shaw, R.W.M. and the Brethren of the Lodge are delighted to welcome two new Affiliate Members into our Lodge. Bros. Stuart Pell of the Lodge of Walmley St. John No. 6504 and Larry Jones of Yenton Lodge No. 3484 Affiliated on 25th. April and were warmly welcomed by the Brethren of the Lodge. Stuart and Larry join a growing number of Brethren from the Birmingham area who have



Our Lodge is privileged to have in its number six Brethren who are also members of The Civil War Lodge of Research No. 1865, Virginia. This month the Lodge visited the Civil War Battlefield at Franklin, Tennessee and were guests at a special meeting of Hiram Lodge No. 7, Franklin. Printed

below is an extract from the Newsletter which you may find interesting.

Unlike other American wars, the War between the States came at a time of profound popular interest in Freemasonry and many soldiers in each army had Masonic ties. As the secession crisis deepened in 1860, Freemasonry's response was as fractured as that of the country.

Traditionally, the Craft was opposed to rebellion against the government, although the actions of individual members in rebellion would not in and of themselves bring about the sanction of the fraternity. On the eve of war, however, some in the fraternity actively sought conciliation and compromise to avert a national disaster, while others urged that Freemasonry take no side concerning secession. In May of 1861, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee expressed its dismay over the prospect of civil war. The Grand Masters of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana attempted reconciliation through a general conference to diffuse the secession crisis. After the first campaigns of the war, however, the attitudes of the grand jurisdictions began to harden. The first shots exchanged in the Civil War at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbour, on April 12, 1861, were between the Confederate Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard, a Freemason and Knights Templar from Louisiana, and the Federal commander, Major Robert Anderson, a Master Mason from New Jersey.

At the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox four years later, it is claimed that the "last salute" was exchanged between fellow Masons, Major General Joshua Chamberlain from Maine and Major General John B. Gordon from Georgia. During the war, Masons crossed enemy lines to have Lodge meetings. They rendered aid to Brothers in the enemy army and period sources indicate that Masons did actively intervene to protect Brothers in dire peril. They took their oath seriously. Contemporary sources indicate that the historical record is overflowing with examples in burial notices and obituaries of Masonic funerals on the home front. Similarly, it is clear that the comrades of Freemasons who were killed in battle arranged proper burials for their Brethren. What has largely escaped notice, however, are the efforts made to bury Freemasons of the enemy army. There was a deep concern for the obligation of Master Masons regarding the importance of a decent burial for their Brethren.

Masonic pins, jewellery, and diplomas (the nineteenth century equivalent of a dues or membership card) are commonly encountered in period sources. Doubtless these were carried into battle in order that the wearer/ bearer might be identifiable as a member of the fraternity in the chaos and the aftermath of battle. Also, Masonic gestures and signals served as methods of recognition between members of the Order.

It is certainly not unusual to provide a decent burial for soldiers killed in battle and the Masonic fraternity is not alone in burying its dead with special ceremonies. It is, however, somewhat extraordinary to risk death to arrange a burial for a fallen enemy or to suspend hostilities and make every effort to recover the body of a lone fallen comrade behind enemy lines. It is also remarkable that these acts were performed under individual initiative and not in response to orders or any formal organization.

They believed that any Mason on either side was their Brother.