



The Operative Mason Lodge of Dundee No. 47

FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW CHURCH - 19TH MAY 1842
AT DUNDEE THE 19TH DAY OF MAY 1842



At a meeting of the brethren of the Operative Lodge held in the Hall this day at half past twelve o' clock, assembled on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the New Church.

The RWM preses (presides)

After opening the Lodge Bro James Barnett was admitted a member.

The brethren were then marshalled and proceeded to the Thistle Operative Lodge, the rendezvous, where the Provincial Grand Lodge was formed. Provost A Lawson, acting Grand Master under Lord Panmure's special appointment

The Lodges having again been marshalled in proper order walked in procession to St Andrew's Church, where an appropriate and eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev Mr Arnott from these words – Psalm 127 verse 1. "Except the Lord build the house they labour in, vain that built it; except the Lord keep the City the watchmen walketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early; to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows, for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

A collection was made on behalf of the unemployed, which with a donation of £..... from Lord Panmure amounted to £.... (figures not entered in minutes)

After divine service, the brethren proceeded to the site of the Church accompanied by the Magistrates, Town Council, Guildry, Nine Trades, Seamans Fraternity and all the other incorporated bodies in town, where the foundation stone was laid by Provost Lawson with the assistance of his office bearers agreeable to the general orders of Masonry.

The Grand Lodge having been shut. A number of brethren principally of this Lodge, dined in the British Hotel and spent a happy evening, congratulating each other on the auspicious conclusion of the days' proceedings.





The Operative Mason Lodge of Dundee No. 47

Minutes of Meetings prior to the event and the arrangements

12th May 1842

At a meeting of the R.W. Masters of the Lodges in Dundee, held in the Operative Lodge Hall on Thursday 12th May 1842 at 8 o'clock evening, called for the purpose of considering what arrangements should be made by the Lodges in conducting, so far as they are concerned, the procession at the laying of the foundation stone of the new parish church on Thursday next the 19th Inst.

Present

Andrew Anderson, RWM Operative Lodge

P.D. Ritchie, RWM, Ancient Lodge

John Allan, RWM, Thistle Operative Lodge

Thos Robertson, RWM Forfar & Kincardine Lodge

Robert Maxwell, P.M, Lodge Caledonian

James Sime, Depute Master, Caledonian Lodge

John Harris, Depute Master, Camperdown Lodge.

It was resolved to order the secretary to the Operative Lodge to write to Lord Panmure, Provincial Grand Master, requesting his attendance or that of a Depute on the occasion and with reference to this resolution it was agreed that on receipt of his Lordship's answer, he or his Depute should be requested to write the Lodges in the Province to attend the ceremony. It was further resolved the master of the respective Lodges shall inform their brethren to meet in the Thistle Hall, Union Street at 12 o'clock noon on the day of the laying of the foundation stone for the purposes of arranging as to walking in procession

The meeting unanimously approved of the suggestion to Lord Panmure to appoint Provost Lawson as his Depute should his Lordship find it inconvenient to attend.

12th May 1842

Rt Hon Lord Panmure

Provincial Grand Master of Forfarshire

I beg to acquaint your Lordship as Provincial Grand Master of Forfarshire that it has been resolved to lay the foundation stone of the New Parish Church of Dundee with Masonic Honours on Thursday 19th Inst. The Lodges in Dundee humbly solicit the honour of your Lordship to preside on the occasion, but should it not be convenient for your Lordship to attend they would respectfully suggest that the appointment of Provost Lawson who is a Free Master Mason as your Lordship's Depute on the occasion would be very agreeable to the Lodges here.

I may add that there is to be sermon preached on the occasion by the Rev David Arrot and a collection made in aid of the unemployed, who are still very numerous and very ill off.

I have the honour, to be your

Signed – Walker Raitt, Secretary

In reply to the above the following note was received from his Lordship.

“Lord Panmure presents his compliments to Mr Raitt and is sorry his present state of health will prevent him officiating in his capacity as Provincial Grand Master at the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the New Church in Dundee on Thursday next, but he has requested Provost Lawson to do him the honour to represent him on that occasion.

Brechin Castle, 16th May 1842.