

Brethren let me welcome you here this afternoon and thank you for coming to my installation as Worshipful Master of Lodge 200.

I would like to take this opportunity to read a short paper giving an outline of the history of Glandore Masonic Lodge 551 my mother Lodge.

The warrant for Lodge 551 dates back to December 1777 when it was first issued to Orange and Blue Lodge Templepatrick. they held the warrant until it was cancelled in July 1826.

It was reissued in Templepatrick in March 1828 and held until it was cancelled in February 1845.

The warrant was reissued in December 1923 and on Wednesday, 6th February, 1924 twenty three Brethren assembled in Brookville Masonic Hall, Antrim Road Belfast for the Constitution and Dedication of Glandore Masonic Lodge No 551. The ceremony was conducted by the then Provincial Grand Master of the R. W. Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, R. W. Bro. J. H. Sterling who installed W. Bro. Rev. Samuel Cochrane, B.A., R.N. (Hon.), as the first Worshipful Master.

Foundation Members

The 23 Foundation Officers and Members for 1924

Officers

Worshipful Master

W. Bro. Rev. Samuel Cochrane

Senior Warden

Bro. John Beggs

Junior Warden

Bro. James H. Fisher

Treasurer

W. Bro. Robert J. Leslie

Secretary

Bro. Benjamin Thomson

Senior Deacon
Bro. John W. Tong

Junior Deacon
Bro. Samuel G. Donaldson

Inner Guard
Bro. George Chalmers

Director of Ceremonies
W. Bro. Hugh Spence

Senior Stewart
Bro James Crothers

Junior Stewart
John Melville

Members

Bro. Llewellyn Moore
Bro John H Hanks
Bro. William J Heathwood
Bro. James Bruce
Bro. Henry Heathwood
Bro. R. J. Greenfield
Bro. J. Stafford O'Neill
Bro. Oswald D. Mahood
Bro. John Gault
Bro. H. J. Stephens
Bro. Ernest Crowe
Bro. Hugh McKenzie

The first Candidates to be initiated in the Lodge were Bro. John Archer, Bro. George A. Dawson, and Bro. Gabriele W. C. Porte, all initiated 14th April 1924. The fourth initiate was W. Bro. George N. Chalmers, 19 June 1924, who became the first initiated member to reach the office of Worshipful Master in 1931 and who also served as Director of Ceremonies. The fifth was W. Bro F. B. McMordie, initiated 19 June 1924, who later served for ten years as Treasurer.

The initiation fee in 1924 was £7 7 0 and the dues 7/6 per quarter.

Membership

After 3 years, membership of Glandore had risen to forty-six and records show that after ten years membership had risen to a total of sixty-nine. By the time of the Lodges Silver jubilee in 1949, the membership had risen to one hundred and ten. It peaked in 1962 at one hundred and nineteen and has since through the related influences of the troubles and demographic changes, fell to 48 by 2004 and now stands at 37. The Brethren however continue to support the Lodge both at our regular communications and the Board meetings which are held one week prior to Lodge meeting.

Meeting Place

Glandore first sat in Brookvale Masonic hall, later moving to the Provincial Masonic Hall, Rosemary Street. In 2007 when the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim decided to close the Rosemary Street Hall, Glandore again moved to Arthur Square. Our first communication in this hall taking place on the 13th December 2007, when W. Bro. Hugh Rodgers was in the chair.

In the year 1949 – the silver jubilee year of the Lodge, Glandore Royal Arch Chapter No 551 was born. Here we must record our gratitude to Excellent Companion Joseph Thompson McKee who joined Glandore Lodge in 1931 and served as Master of the Lodge in 1945. He was the Companion who worked untiringly to promote the idea of a Royal Arch Chapter attached to the Lodge. His wish was finally granted in 1949, and he became the first Registrar of the Chapter, an office he would retain for twenty years until his untimely death in 1969. His outstanding work for Royal Arch Masonry was rewarded by District Grand Chapter in 1955 when he was appointed Janitor to the District Grand Chapter.

Companion McKee's vision for our Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 1949 was for the Constitution of a new Chapter whose first Excellent King would be our Foundation Master Rt Excellent Companion the Rev Samuel Cochrane Past First Principal of the District Grand Chapter of Antrim. Rt Ex Companion Cochrane accepted this honour from his Lodge, but sadly was called to the Grand Lodge Above, before he could be installed. In the event, the Most Excellent Supreme Grand King installed Excellent Companion George Chalmers as the first Excellent King of Glandore Chapter No 551.

Retired Brethren Fund

In 1970 Glandore Lodge with the permission of The Grand Lodge of Ireland set up a 'Retired Brethren' fund, the sole purpose of which is to insure that no Brother of Glandore need resign when he retires from employment because of limited means. The fund was devised and set up by the then Treasurer W. Bro. J. L. Brown and today it still enables all retired Brethren with at least 10 years qualifying membership to enjoy a lower rate of dues.

80th Anniversary

On Saturday 7th February 2004 W. Bro. S. Madill welcomed the Provincial Assistant Grand Master

R. W. James Stark to Glandore. W. Bro. M. Hewitt was installed in the chair and the Brethren afterwards retired to the Festive Board, enjoying what was to be our last significant anniversary celebration in the large dining room in the Rosemary Street Hall.

90th Anniversary

At an emergency communication on Saturday, 1st February 2014, In Arthur Square Masonic Hall, the outgoing W. Master, W. Bro. R. Mayne, welcomed Rt. W. Bro. Robert J. Thomson P.P.G.M. on the occasion of the Lodge's Installation and 90 Anniversary. Rt. W. Bro. Thompson had previously visited Glandore whilst serving as Provincial Grand Master but had also served PGL as Provincial Grand Inspector for Glandore Lodge.

On the Thursday 22nd May 2014, W. Bro. H. Thompson welcomed to Glandore Lodge The Deputy Grand Master D. T. Grey. At the festive board following the communication the Deputy Grand Master announced that the current Grand Master M.W.Bro. George Dunlop, would be standing down due to ill health.

Distinguished Brethren

A number of brethren of Glandore have received provincial honours who listed below are,

W. Bro. James S. Fisher PPSGD

In 1935 W. Bro. James S. Fisher became the first member of Glandore to receive Provincial Grand Lodge Honors when he was invested Senior Grand Deacon.

R. W. Bro. J. Stafford O' Neill PPJGW

Described as one of this centuries greatest ritualists, R. W. Bro. J. Stafford O' Neill occupied the chair in Glandore in 1932 and the minutes record that in September 1933 he conferred the first Degree on F. N. McTier. In 1938 R. W. Bro. O'Neill was appointed to represent the Lodge at the committee of inspection and in 1945 he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden. In 1949, the Lodges silver jubilee year, Stafford became a Grand Lodge of Ireland Inspector and in 1954, Chairman of the Inspection Committee for Antrim and in the same year he was appointed to the grand Lodge of Ireland as representative to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Finally in 1959 he became Assistant Secretary of the Committee of Inspection for the province of Antrim.

V. W. Bro. Cecil Adrain PPSGW

Initiated in Glandore Lodge on 20th May 1948 V. W. Bro. Adrain was peerless in his dedication to Freemasonry. He became W. Master of Glandore in 1971. Having already served as assistant secretary since 1964, Cecil became Secretary of the Lodge in 1973. He had a passion and a real talent for degree work and many of our current Brethren received one or all of their degrees from this skilled workman. In 1980 Brother Adrain was installed Provincial Senior Grand Warden. V. W. Bro. Adrian resigned as secretary in 1987.

V. W. Bro. Henry Madill PPSGW

The task of succeeding the V. W. Bro. Cecil Adrain as secretary fell to V. W. Bro. Henry Madill. To follow a good secretary is a difficult task, but time has shown Glandore to be extremely fortunate in having replaced one exceptionally good secretary with another. In 1989 W. Bro. Madill was elected Chairman of the Antrim Committee of Inspection, and in 1990 was appointed P.G.I. In 1993 W. Bro. Madill was elected Provincial Senior Grand Warden. Unfortunately V. W. Bro. Madill was the first (and last!) Secretary of Glandore to be forced to give up his office due to the 'Ten Year Rule'.

W. Bro. John Brown PPGMSB

Lodge records show that on the 17th November 1938, John Logan Brown of 45 Haddington Gardens, Belfast, received the First or E.A. Degree at the hands of Brothers O'Neill, Burns and Steenson, the second of two first degrees given on that evening. From that day to this he has shown absolute commitment in the application of his considerable talents for the benefit of Glandore Lodge and Freemasonry in general.

Having received his F.C. degree on the 15th December 1938 and his M.M. degree on the 16th February 1939 he was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate on the 16th March 1939. A Masonic career had commenced that has to date spanned 60 years.

Bro. Brown was elected Worshipful Master of Glandore in 1959 and in 1965 he became Lodge Treasurer. During his term as treasurer he set-up the

Retired Brethren fund thus ensuring that no Brother need give up membership of the Lodge when he retires from gainful employment. In the mid-seventies W. Bro. Brown was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with an O.B.E. for his service in public life, and in 1978 provincial honours were bestowed on W. Bro. Brown when he, at the request of the Provincial Grand Master, became the provincial Grand Masters Standard bearer. In 1980 W. Bro. Brown Resigned as treasurer after 17 years in the post. Glandore had the honour and privilege to present W. Bro Jack Brown with a second bar for his 50 year jewel, representing 70 years of exceptional service to Glandore Lodge.

W. Bro. Michael Brown PPDGI

The name of Michael Brown has for many years been synonymous with the toast to the Worshipful Master but his work in the Lodge as Director of Ceremonies for ten years was equally impressive. Michael was initiated on 29th December 1975 and became W. Master in 1985. He also served as Provincial Grand Inspector. When the Lodge found itself in difficulty in finding someone to give the Worshipful Master degree Michael vowed that Glandore would never again find itself in that position again. The following year he gave the W.M. degree and done so for many years.

V. W. Bro. James Caddoo PPSGW

Initiated into Glandore on 30th December 1974 and became Worshipful Master in 1984, Jim right from the outset showed a enthusiasm for Masonic Ritual and has for years preformed most of the E.A., F.C. and M.M. degrees, in Glandore. In 2000, when W. Bro. Brown was forced by the ten year rule to stand down as Director of ceremonies, W. Bro. Caddoo was elected to succeed him. In 2003, in recognition for the fine work and service that Jim has given the order and Glandore in particular, the Lodge proposed him as Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

W. Bro. James Henry Thompson PPJGD

Proposed a member of the Lodge by W. Bro. Roy Davidson, W. Bro Thompson was Initiated into Glandore on 27th December 1984, passed on the 28th March 1985 and raised on the 29th April of the same year. Even with conscientious attendance the strength of the Lodge at this time meant that it was 1996 before Harry was unanimously elected Worshipful Master. On leaving the chair Harry continued to play an active part in the Lodge and in 1997 Harry took on the roll of Lodge Stewart of Charities. In 2008 the Brethren proposed W. Bro. Thompson for Provincial honours. He was elected Provincial Grand Junior Deacon and Invested on 28th February 2009 by Rt. W. Bro. John Dunlop at ceremony in Rosemary Street, Belfast.

Affiliated

W. Bro Mathew Jenkins PPGLSt.B

Initiated into Alexandraville Masonic Lodge No. 649 on 6th December 1973 and became W.M. in 1985. He assumed the mantle of Treasurer in 1986 and served in that office until displaced by the 10 year rule. In 1999 he was elected to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim as Standard bearer. Sadly in the year 2000, Alexandraville Lodge returned it's warrant to Dublin and W. Bro. Jenkins, who had been a visitor on many occasions over the proceeding 20 years, decided to affiliate to Glandore 551. In 2008 W. Bro. Jenkins served as W.M. of Glandore Lodge.

The latest name to be added to that list will be none other than myself who on the 25th February will be installed Provincial Grand senior warden of the Provincial grand lodge of Antrim.

Role of Past Masters in Continuous Succession 1924-2016

- 1924 R. W. Bro. S. Cochrane
- 1925 W.Bro. J. Beggs
- 1926 W.Bro. J. H. Fisher
- 1927 W.Bro. S. D. Donaldson
- 1928 W.Bro. H. Spence
- 1929 W.Bro. H. Heathwood
- 1930 W.Bro. O. D. Mahood
- 1931 W.Bro. G. H. Chalmers
- 1932 R.W.Bro. J. S. O'Neill
- 1933 W.Bro. J. Gault
- 1934 W.Bro. F. B. McMordie
- 1935 W.Bro. H. Crothers
- 1936 W.Bro. T. Clarke
- 1937 W.Bro. T. Braden
- 1938 W.Bro. A. E. Thompson
- 1939 W.Bro. J. Kerr
- 1940 W.Bro. J. Kennedy
- 1941 W.Bro. S. Wright
- 1942 W.Bro. J. McClenaghan
- 1943 W.Bro. W. Burns
- 1944 W.Bro. J. Steenson
- 1945 W.Bro. J. T. McKee
- 1946 W.Bro. D. B. Allen
- 1947 W.Bro. S. Beattie
- 1948 W.Bro. E. S. White
- 1949 W.Bro. S. C. Buchanan
- 1950 W.Bro. S. McCormick
- 1951 W.Bro. J. Gibson
- 1952 W.Bro. F. N. McTier

1953 W.Bro. A. Jackson
1954 W.Bro. W. Powell
1955 W.Bro. D. Gibson
1956 W.Bro. R. W. Jamison
1957 W.Bro. C. S. Frost
1958 W.Bro. J. Killen
1959 W.Bro. J. L. Brown
1960 W.Bro. W. E. Warren
1961 W.Bro. J. Gallagher
1962 W.Bro. A. McCarey
1963 W.Bro. A. Burns
1964 W.Bro. N. Carnaghan JP
1965 W.Bro. T. Middleton
1966 W.Bro. J. Turkington
1967 W.Bro. J. Curtis
1968 W.Bro. A. S. Freeman
1969 W.Bro. W. H. Ferguson
1970 W.Bro. N. Shrage
1971 V.W.Bro C. Adrain
1972 W.Bro. J. Shaw
1973 W.Bro. L. Kay
1974 W.Bro. D. M. Johnston
1975 W.Bro. W. D. McClurg
1976 W.Bro. J. McKee
1977 W.Bro. W. H. McCluney
1978 W.Bro. J. McCallum
1979 V.W.Bro. H. Madill
1980 W.Bro. J. Burleigh
1981 W.Bro. M. A. Hanula
1982 W.Bro. R. Davison
1983 W.Bro. T. Andrews
1984 V.W.Bro. J. Caddoo
1985 W.Bro. M. Brown
1986 W.Bro. J. Millen
1987 W.Bro. L. Agar
1988 W.Bro. J. Elder
1989 W.Bro. J. Walsh
1990 W.Bro. J. C. Pritchard
1991 W.Bro. J. Watterson
1992 W.Bro. R. Mayne
1993 W.Bro. W. Patterson
1994 W.Bro. J. Moody
1995 W.Bro. G. Saunders
1996 W.Bro. H. Thompson
1997 W.Bro. A. Watson

1998 W.Bro. T.W.B. Mayes
1999 W.Bro. F. N. Elliott
2000 W.Bro. M. Montgomery
2001 W.Bro. F. Lee
2002 W.Bro. G. Lee
2003 W.Bro. S. Madill
2004 W.Bro. M. Hewitt
2005 W.Bro. D. Savage
2006 W.Bro. M. Erwin
2007 W.Bro. H. Rodgers
2008 W. Bro. M. Jenkins PPGLSt.B
2009 W. Bro. Jim Pavis
2010 W. Bro. J. Houston
2011 W. Bro. G.J.A. Lavin
2012 W. Bro. J. Walsh (2nd Term)
2013 W. Bro. R. Mayne (2nd Term)
2014 W. Bro. H. Thompson (2nd Term)
2015 W Bro M Hewitt (2nd Term)
2016 W Bro. F Lee (2nd Term)

It is worth noting that from 1924 until 2012 no Brother served a second term as Worshipful Master, and in the history of the lodge only five have had this privilege myself being the Fifth.

The Oldest Initiate

Extract from an article by George Power published in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim Gazette 1991

Possibly the oldest Initiate into freemasonry was Voltaire the great philosopher, who was made a mason at the age of 84 on 7th April 1778. The ceremony took place in Paris at the Lodge of "Les Neuf Soeurs", and was conducted by the celebrated French astronomer Joseph Lalande, who had as his Wardens, the Comte de Stroganoff, Court Chamberlain to the Empress Catherine of Russia, and Colonel Laroche. Voltaire entered the Lodge, escorted by Benjamin Franklin and Count de Gebelin, and it was recorded that "the scene was one of unusual brilliance". Owing to the age of the candidate, together with his distinction (and disability), the usual preparations were dispensed with. Voltaire was invested with the apron which had formally belonged to another great philosopher, Claude Helvetius.

It appears that due to the initiation of William McAlpine into Glandore Masonic Lodge on the 27th April 1995, Voltaire must now be demoted to at least the second oldest initiate into Freemasonry as Bro. McAlpine was then 85 years old. Unless of course, you know of an older initiate?

A little trivia.

One of the shortest serving members of Glandore must have been Bro. Albert V McKee who joined the Lodge on 24th April 1939, passed as a fellow craft 21st September 1939 and raised to the sublime degree 19th October.

Bro McKee's Masonic career was short lived as he was killed in action with the Royal Air Force on 16th November 1939.

In the following year in September 1940 one of the best excuses for non attendance was received from Bro P G Keri.

In his letter to the secretary he gave his apologies for non attendance as he was at sea serving with the Royal Navy and his ship was hit by a bomb and sank as a result of enemy action.

Brethren with that I would like to thank you for your attention and hop eyou have enjoyed this short paper.