

The Museum Collection

No.2

Minutes and Proceedings
of the Finance Committee
August 1895



Copy of an original handwritten document
found in a scrap box in the
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PREFACE

Brother Stan Stirman, the curator to the R.A.O.B. Museum, has since his appointment undertaken an extensive examination of the manuscripts, documents, files, Minute Books and other non regalia items which have been donated to the Museum.

Amongst the papers that he inherited are a considerable number of manuscripts, many hand-written in pencil, some over one hundred years old, which are now so old and worn that I fear the likelihood of their surviving for much longer is in doubt.

Brother Stan, has transcribed these into computerised copy in an attempt to preserve them for future members of the Order, since they have an important story to tell in the origins of the Order

Progressively these will be published as fundraisers for the Museum under the banner title of "The Museum Collection."

This edition deals with the investigation set up by the Convention of 1895 to look into certain irregularities in the finances of Grand Lodge.

W.A.C. Hartmann
Grand Secretary
February 2000.

*If lost in transit
Please return to
Mr. A. E. Trigg,
26, Tobay Street,
Kentish Town,
London. N. W.*

R.A.O.B., G.L.E.
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
AUGUST 1895

Transcribed in September 1990 from the original handwritten manuscript by
Brother W.A.C. Hartmann, R.O.H., Grand Secretary

R.A.O.B., G.L.E.

MINUTES AND REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY
THE CONVENTION 1895

Primo John Williams – Manchester – Chairman
Primo A.H. Thick – Bournemouth.
Primo E. Bruce – Yorkshire (Huddersfield)
Primo E. Brown K.O.M. – London
Primo A.E. Trigg – London – Secretary

Forensic tests on the paper and ink confirms that the book was
written at or around the date stated.

PREAMBLE

On Tuesday the Grand Secretary was asked to produce the 'Bank Book', he stated, "It was at the Bank, but was not made up." Primo Cordingley, the senior Trustee having in the interim satisfied himself that the book was not at the Bank, raised the question again on the Wednesday morning, in Convention, and having stated that he was informed by a Bank Clerk "That the book was not at the Bank". Sir Thomas Rushton denounced it as a "deliberate lie". This remark Primo Cordingley insisted upon having withdrawn. This having been done, Primo Cordingley said he deprecated any secrecy or want of courtesy to the Delegates, respecting the accounts, and, being a Trustee, he was of the opinion that the accounts should be open to the inspection of all Delegates. He proposed that the Grand Secretary should be instructed to fetch the book forthwith. This was agreed to and the Grand Secretary left at 10.15 and returned at 11 o'clock with the Bankbook. It was inspected during the day and the amount "Banked" disagreeing with the amount on the "Balance Sheet" it was on Thursday resolved that a Committee be formed to investigate the matter, proposed Primo T.W. Boden, seconded Sir Robert Wilson-Marsh.

The following were elected from among the Delegates to act as the "Finance Committee".

Sir A.E. Trigg, Sir H. Brown and Primo E. Bruce, A.H. Thick, and John Williams.

Instruction – "To go into the financial position of the Order, check the Banking Account, and report to the Convention Delegates.

The Committee assembled in a room adjoining the Convention and elected Primo John Williams, Chairman and Sir A. Trigg, Secretary.

The Chairman at 10.15 a.m. on August 8th 1895 duly opened the proceedings, and called upon Primo Charles Cordingley to state why, as a Trustee, he did not see the funds properly banked, he informed the Committee that he had carried a resolution in Grand Lodge "That all monies should be banked forthwith" and that Grand Lodge was not acting in accordance therewith; he coveted, personally, as a Trustee the fullest enquiry".

The Grand Secretary, Sir Thomas Rushton, thereupon made a rambling sort of statement, respecting the Funds, which the Committee could make nothing of. He, inter alia stated that the Grand Treasurer, Sir Francis Webster had given him (Rushton) a cheque dated May, 19th 1895 for £119, which he had kept by him until June, 5th 1895, instead of banking it “because he had no Bank Book”, he also stated that the amount in the Balance Sheet (£278 1s. 5d.) he paid to the Treasurer.

£ s d

May, 3rd. 1895	148	11	5
June, 5th. 1895	119	0	0
	267	11	5

Treasurer holds per Balance Sheet December 1894

	278	1	5
Cheque as above	119	0	0
	159	1	5

Treasurer should hold

After a brief discussion by the Committee, the Chairman asked the Grand Secretary the following questions:-

Chairman:- Do you keep a Cask Book showing Dr. & Cr. account of Monies received by you and paid by you?

Secretary:- Oh, Yes!

Chairman:- Can you produce it for the inspection of the Committee?

Secretary:- Certainly!

The Committee agreeing that the production of this book could settle the matter as far as the Grand Secretary was concerned, the Chairman instructed the Grand Secretary to take a cab and fetch the book from his residence in Walworth.

At 11 o’clock Sir Thomas Rushton left to get the book as instructed by the Chairman. Sir Herbert Case, one of the Auditors for 1894 and co Trustee arriving at this period, he endeavoured to explain how the discrepancy might have arisen and tried to exculpate the Grand Secretary from any blame respecting the apparent deficiency between the amount on the Balance Sheet as “Banked” and the figures in the Bank Book. He stated that the Secretary had prepared the Balance Sheet

to June 30th 1895 and, therefore the items could be seen by the Committee and this could, he thought, enable them to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the questions on the finances – both he and Sir John Wheeler had partly checked the current Balance Sheet. Sir Herbert also stated that on the previous day he had signed an open cheque in the Convention room. Primo Cordingley – the co Trustee – at once replied that he was asked to do so, and refused.

The Chairman expressed the opinion that it was a most injudicious act, especially after our past experiences generally and that of Liverpool particularly – The Committee agreed that it was not expedient for a Brother to act in the dual capacity of Auditor and Trustee, and the Chairman intimated this to Sir Herbert.

Sir Herbert Case admitted this, and said it really had not occurred to him to resign the Auditorship on being appointed a Trustee. Sir Herbert was asked “If he personally satisfied himself (as stated at the foot of the Balance Sheet) that the amount giving in the Balance Sheet (£278/1/5) as banked by the Treasurer was actually in hand? – his reply was – “That he had taken the Grand Secretary’s word that the accounts as between himself and the Grand Treasurer were correct, as the Secretary had told him that he had seen the Treasurer and it was alright”, and he had certainly accepted that the statement was correct.

The meeting having waited until 12.25 for the return of the Grand Secretary stood adjourned.

The Committee resumed at 2.15 p.m. and a telegram handed in at Walworth – from the Grand Secretary was read stating that he had gone to see the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee expressed considerable surprise thereat as Sir Thomas Rushton had promised to return in half an hour, being told simply to fetch his cash-book.

The unauthorised action of Sir Thomas Rushton necessitated a further adjournment and after a short discussion on the peculiar situation, the Committee rose at 3.30 p.m.

Signed *John Williams* Chairman.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

August 8		August 9			August 20	August 21		August 22	Committee
10.25	2.15	12.55	2.15	9.00	Evening	4.20	Eve.	10.30	
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pr. J. Williams Chairman
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pr. E. Bruce
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Pr. H. Brown
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pr. A.H. Thick
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pr. A.E. Trigg Secretary
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Late	-	-	Pr. C. Cordingley Trustee
Y	-	-	Y	Y	-	Late	Y	Y	Pr. H.W. Case Auditor
-	-	-	-	-	-	Late	-	-	Pr. J. Wheeler Auditor
-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	Pr. Coatsworth Grand Primo
-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-	Pr. Webster Grand Treasurer

Friday August, 9th 1895

The Committee sat at 12.55 p.m., the Grand Secretary being still absent, without leave, or instruction.

Sir Arthur Trigg reported that the Grand Primo had wired, at 10.15 p.m. to the Grand Treasurer, also the Grand Secretary, the following message

“Convention demand your attendance at once”.

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been read it was proposed by Primo Thick, seconded by Primo Bruce that they be passed as correctly read, and be confirmed. Carried unan.

The Secretary then reported that the following resolution had been unanimously agreed to in the “Convention” at 4.35 p.m. the previous afternoon:-

“That the Committee appointed re the ‘Bank Book and financial position of the G.L.E. continue and complete their investigation (and if not complete before the rising of the “Convention”, the Committee to be paid a half guinea (52.5p.) per day from the rising of the “Convention”) and cause a report to be sent to every Delegate forthwith.” (On a proposition of Sir R. Wilson-Marsh, seconded by Sir John Archdeacon).

Two telegrams were read from the Grand Secretary:-

Gracechurch St. 10.35 a.m. “Found Webster, Southend. Going to Bow for particulars”.

Bow 11.30 a.m. “Webster left early train to bring coach from Southend”.

Complete surprise was now expressed by the Committee generally at the non-return, and wasting of valuable time by Sir Thomas Rushton, such proceedings being calculated to cause considerable uneasiness and excite suspicion, under the circumstances.

It being impossible to proceed in the absence of Rushton the meeting again adjourned at 1.05 p.m.

The Committee resumed their task at 2.55 p.m. the Grand Secretary having returned after an unaccountable and utterly useless absence from 1.00 p.m. on the previous day.

Instead of producing the Account Books as requested, he now desired the Chairman, or some of the Committee to accompany him to Bow, there to meet the Grand Treasurer, at 5 o'clock. He was sure the whole matter could then be satisfactorily explained and the Committee could rest assured that the accounts were correct. After discussion regarding the action of the Grand Secretary it was decided adopt any suggestion that would probably lead to a solution of the apparently grave discrepancy in the accounts, and it was eventually resolved:- "That the Chairman do accompany to Bow for the purpose of an interview with Grand Treasurer and that the Committee do meet at 8 p.m. at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, Strand to receive and act upon the Chairman's report".

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

The Committee resumed their sittings at 9.00 p.m. on the arrival at the Bedford Head Hotel of the Chairman, accompanied by the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary.

The Chairman reported that he had with Sir Thomas Rushton, interviewed Sir Francis Webster at Bow and had received from him the following particulars of monies paid by him.

Rausden £7/6/0. Greenslade £40/16/0. Ellery £3/4/0. Bow Children's dinner Fund £5/5/0

	£	s	d
Total	56	11	0
These together with a Cheque given by Grand Secretary and by him.	119	0	0
	175	11	0
showed a total	0	17	3
expenditure of £175/11/0	176	8	3

and this together with an amount of 17/3 the Grand Treasurer admitted having in hand accounted for £176 8s. 3d. leaving an amount of £101 13s 2d. to be accounted for, according to the amount of £278 1s. 5d. shown on the Balance Sheet for the half year ending December 1894 as “Banked by the Treasurer”.

Sir Francis Webster personally corroborated the Chairman’s remarks as to the amount of cash he had paid as Grand Treasurer, and he assured the Committee that his accounts were accurate. Sir Francis stating that Messrs. Greenslade’s a/c, for emblems was always sent direct to him, and not through the proper channel, and he sent on a cheque for payment entirely on his own responsibility and without consulting the Delegates in Grand Lodge.

A lively discussion having taken place, it became evident that no definite conclusion could be arrived at this night, for the Grand Secretary had not brought the Cash Book he left on Thursday to fetch, and moreover his previous statement was now found to be erroneous for he now actually admitted that he did not keep a cash book as he informed the Committee he did. This painful admission came as a great surprise to the Committee after Rushton’s previous statements. Sir Harry Brown suggested the adjournment of the meeting for a fortnight, but Sir Arthur Trigg suggested the desirability of a meeting the next day and going into the matter by the aid of the current Balance Sheet (June 30th 1895) (as he knew from experience that money was sometimes paid to the Treasurer after the Balance Sheet had been passed, owing to the inability of the Grand Secretary to find the Grand Treasurer) and perhaps the discrepancy might at once be found.

The Grand Secretary again astonished the Committee by stating absolutely that he should have to sit up all night to get the Balance Sheet ready, and this was said after Sir Herbert Case had openly stated that the June Balance Sheet was ready and he had partly checked it with his co-auditor – To an unbiased Committee it seemed nothing but shuffle from beginning to end – This new development caused another lively discussion and it was found that Primo Bruce was staying in London for another week and eventually it was agreed; (Primo Bruce and Sir Thomas Rushton consenting) that Primo Bruce meets Sir Thomas Rushton on the 14th inst. To carefully check the current Balance Sheet and that the Committee meet on the 21st inst. At 4.00 p.m. at the Bedford Head Hotel to receive the report of Primo Bruce and there and then endeavour to come to some decision regarding the large deficiency in the accounts between the Bank a/c and the Balance Sheet for December 1894.

This meeting was adjourned at 10.20 p.m. until the 21st inst. At 4.00 o'clock p.m.

Signed *John Williams* Chairman

Tuesday August 20th 1895

The Committee met at 10.00 p.m. at Sir Harry Brown's, 10 Derby St, Kings Cross to meet Primo Bruce and receive his report.

He, Primo Bruce, stated that everything was most unsatisfactory and he decided to come to London again instead of making a report thereon. The meeting therefore adjourned until the meeting as arranged (on August 21st 1895)

Space left for Primo Bruce to make any comment he thinks fit.

I met the Grand Secretary at the Bedford Hotel, Strand on Wednesday August 14th 1895 The Grand Primo being present. On attempting to check the current Balance Sheet, I found not at all properly prepared, nor had the Grand Secretary any vouchers for the numerous payments, the Grand Secretary saying that all the vouchers were in the hands of the Auditors (although he promised the Committee a week previous to be prepared with a correct Balance Sheet and all necessary vouchers) who he expected having finished with them.

During the previous week I at once saw that it was merely a continuance of the Grand Secretary's tactics, as exhibited by him, during the whole of this annoying business. I intimated to the Grand Secretary the uselessness of a further waste of time, he therefore promised to send me per post the vouchers and Balance Sheet to investigate and check. I promised to do so, and also to write to the Chairman of the Committee and also the Grand Primo reporting my success. The Grand Secretary never sent either Balance Sheet or vouchers as promised, therefore I again journeyed to London and met the Committee on the 21st August as arranged.

Signed *E. Bruce*

Wednesday August 21st 1895

The Committee sat at 4.20 p.m. at the Bedford Head Hotel.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, Sir Thomas Rushton took exception to the paragraphs referring to his absence and declared that someone told him to see the Grand Treasurer. The Chairman told him distinctly that he was not authorised to do so by the Committee and that the Grand Treasurer's name was not even mentioned by them and the action he took he did solely on his own responsibility. It was thereupon proposed by Sir Harry Brown and seconded by Primo Bruce that the minutes be passed as correctly read, and be confirmed. Carried unan.

The Grand Treasurer, Sir Francis Webster, now made his statement to the Committee and produced his Cash Book for inspection.

He stated that the balance in his hands of £80 7s. 4d. in December 1893 was correct. On the first opportunity that afforded he objected, in Grand Lodge, to the Balance Sheet of June 1894 and said that his account as stated thereon was not correct, but no notice was taken of his objection, therefore, he could not be held responsible for any error.

He also said that he always gave the Grand Secretary a receipt for all monies received from him, and if he could produce a receipt, or any part of his signature, he would at once give a cheque for any amount he had given his receipt for.

The net result being that the cash in hand of Grand Treasurer should be 17s. 3d. instead of £75 15s. 5d. that of Grand Secretary should be £119 17s. 3d. instead of £44 19s. 1d.

The Grand Secretary admitted that he always had a receipt for monies he paid to the Grand Treasurer, and he stated that the receipts were in his possession but he could not find them although he had searched everywhere for seventeen hours.

The Chairman reminded the Grand Secretary that he had been allowed a fortnight to prepare his account for the Committee, as he promised he would do.

Chairman:- “Is there any possibility of your being able to produce the necessary receipts in any given time?”

Rushton:- “No possibility unless the papers can be found”.

Chairman:- “Are you prepared to accept the responsibility of the Balance Sheet to the amount of £119 17s. 3d. in hand?”

Rushton:- “I will give my word subject to finding the necessary papers”.

The Chairman then drew Sir Herbert Case’s attention to the printed remarks at the foot of the Balance Sheet and desired to know if that was correct? Sir Herbert Case admitted that he had not seen the Account as between the Treasurer and Secretary was correctly recorded and said it was not exactly the thing but, the fact was, he had taken the Secretary’s figures for granted. The Chairman then asked what mode of procedure the Auditor’s took to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the amount paid to the Treasurer? Sir Herbert answered “By seeing the vouchers!”

Sir Francis Webster stated that he never signed the Balance Sheet and they were issued without his authority or sanction.

The Chairman now said that it was perfectly useless to waste any more time, the Committee had listened most patiently to the various officers and having gone fully into the matter must now decide upon their report; they could only accept the facts and figures laid before them, and had the Grand Secretary assisted them in the first place instead of uselessly running all over London the matter could have been settled in a very short time, as it would now. The Treasurer’s book seemed perfectly correct, and in order, and in the absence of any legitimate proof to the contrary they (the Committee) must accept it as it stood, therefore, the Grand Secretary being unable to produce any evidence of payment, during the fortnight given to him for the purpose, he must be held responsible for the deficit and must give a guarantee that he will pay the amount deficient into the Bank within 3 calendar months unless he produces in the meantime evidence of payment to the Grand Treasurer.

Sir Thomas Rushton distinctly refused to sign any document at first, but on finding the Committee were determined and the Chairman inexorable he reluctantly consented sign the document.

At this stage the Committee adjourned for tea refreshment.

On resuming at 8 o'clock the following document was drawn up and was signed by the Grand Secretary, and a copy was given to him. The original was stamped at Somerset House on August 22nd 1895

“Bedford House Hotel”
Maiden Lane,
Strand,
London W.C.

I the undersigned, Thomas Rushton, of 120 Thrush Street, Walworth, in the County of Surrey, do hereby declare that I did on the thirtieth day of June, 1895 hold the sum of One hundred and nineteen pounds, Seventeen shillings and Three pence in hand, belonging to the Grand Lodge of England of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes which I undertake to pay into the Birkbeck Bank within Three Calendar Months from the date hereof, should I in the interim be unable to produce proof of payment to the Grand Treasurer.

Dated this Twenty-first day of August, One thousand Eight hundred and Ninety five

Signed *Thomas Rushton*

Signed

Witnesses
John Williams
Arthur Trigg

It was resolved:- that the above document shall be placed in the hands of Primo C. Cordingley, the Senior Trustee, to take any action that may be necessary to secure payment of the cash into the Bank.

The Committee then considered their draft report and it was resolved that 500 copies of the report be printed and circulated.

Sir Francis Webster tendered a vote of thanks to the Committee for their efforts in endeavouring to discover the whereabouts of the deficiency.

The Chairman thanked Sir Francis and the Committee were dismissed to visit Grand Lodge at 10.15 p.m.

Signed *John Williams* Chairman

At this meeting Sir John Webster, the Auditor for the half year ending June 1895 reported that he had discovered a deficiency between the Treasurer and Secretary's a/c's on the previous Balance Sheet. He had discovered an amount of £26 15s. 0d. credited to the Treasurer but actually paid to Rushton, and yet he credited the Treasurer, this was an instance of the careful way the accounts are dealt with.

Thursday August 22nd 1895

The Committee met at 26 Torbay St. at 10.30 a.m. to consider and amend their report which was finally agreed to and ordered to be printed.

Proposed Primo Bruce, seconded Primo Thick that the minutes of the previous meeting be passed as correctly read and confirmed. Carried unan.

The Committee was then adjourned sine die

Signed *John Williams* Chairman

MEMO October 17th 1895

The Delegates in Grand Lodge were informed on October 16th 1895 that the Grand Treasurer having submitted his bank account for an independent audit, an amount had been discovered making the Treasurer in hand June, 30th 1895 £21/19/1 instead of 17/3

These minutes having been submitted to us for our personal inspection we, the undersigned, are perfectly satisfied as to the accuracy thereof and should they be disputed, we are of the opinion that they should be printed for the information of the Brothers of the G.L.E.

Signed	<i>John Williams</i>	Chairman
	<i>A. H. Thick</i>	K.O.M.
	<i>Earnest Bruce</i>	P.G.P. Yorkshire, S.D.W.R.
	<i>Hy Brown</i>	K.O.M.
	<i>Arthur E. Trigg</i>	K.O.M., Secretary.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE

Dear Arthur,

It has given me great pleasure to read this very minute account of our investigation respecting the finance of G.L. and trust it may seem advisable to the G.L. to have them printed and distributed amongst the Provincial Grand Lodges, especially after such a report as is now in circulation from the Committee appointed by G.L. to consider this our work.

You have my permission to make what use you may deem necessary of this.

I am yours fraternally

A.H. Thick, P.P.G.P., K.O.M. of Bournemouth & District

To A.E. Trigg

My Dear Sir A.E. Trigg,

I am most certainly of the opinion that the minutes and report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee as herein compiled should be printed and distributed amongst the members of the Order, and I earnestly trust that the Grand Executive Council will, in their wisdom, see their way to take this in hand, and have the same published forthwith.

*With kind regards
Sincerely yours*

E.B. Bruce

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT WAS PRESENTED TO GRAND LODGE

			£	s.	d.
Primo Thick	3 days £1/11/6	Fare 18/-	2	9	6
Sir H. Brown	3 days £1/11/6		1	11	6
Primo Bruce	3 days £1/11/6	Fare £1/15/-	3	6	6
Sir A. Trigg	4 days £2/2/-	Incidentals 5/6	2	7	6
Sir F.G. Coatsworth	2 days		1	1	0
Primo Williams	3 days £1/11/6	Fare £1/11/-	3	2	6
			£13	18	6

This account was strenuously opposed, especially by Sir Herbert Case, but having the Grand Primo on the list, who by the bye altered his amount during the discussion to 10/6, and when passed altered it back again to £1/1/-. The account was passed *eventually*.

Report of the Finance Committee
APPOINTED BY
CONVENTION
IN CONCLAVE ASSEMBLED AT
THE WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL, LONDON

AUGUST 8th 1895

Committee

Primo John Williams	Manchester, Chairman
Primo A.H. Thick	Bournemouth
Primo H. Brown, K.O.M.	London
Primo E. Bruce	Yorkshire
Primo A.E. Trigg, K.O.M.	London, Secretary

Brother Delegates,

Your Committee have to report that a grave discrepancy was discovered in the Grand Lodge Accounts.

A settlement has now been arrived at, the Grand Secretary having signed and placed in the hands of Primo Cordingley, your senior Trustee, a document to the effect that he holds himself responsible for the deficiency, and should he fail to locate the error he will pay the *amount deficient* into Birbeck Bank within three months.

Your Committee regret having to condemn the lax system of book-keeping hitherto adopted by the Grand Secretary, and urgently point out the necessity of a proper set of account books being at once obtained and efficiently kept, that all monies be paid into the Bank immediately on receipt thereof, that all payments be made by cheque *without exception*, and that the services of a Chartered Accountant be retained to certify the accounts.

Your Committee are of the opinion that if your Auditors, during the year 1894 had properly performed their duties this unfortunate discrepancy could not have arisen.

Your Committee were informed by your Grand Treasurer that the Balance Sheets were issued and his name appended *without his authority*.

Your Committee are also of the opinion that it is unwise for one Brother to act in the dual capacity of Auditor and Trustee, and cannot too strongly mark their disapproval of such action.

Your Committee are pleased to place on record their high appreciation of the service rendered to the Order generally by Primo Charles Cordingley in so efficiently carrying out the duties of his office as one of your Trustees.

Finally, your Committee venture to hope that you will consider their report satisfactory, and that acting upon the instruction you gave them, and the onerous task you imposed upon them, they have, assisted by the present Auditors and Trustees, been enabled to come to a unanimous agreement.

We are, Brother Delegates,
Fraternally yours

John Williams, Chairman.

Arthur E. Frigg, Secretary.

*Provincial Grand Lodge
Of the Fylde District.
5, Edward Street,
Blackpool
19th. October 1895*

*Dear Sir and Brother,
The report of the Finance Committee appointed by the Convention was duly
laid before the above Lodge and the following resolution was passed:-*

*“That the hearty thanks of this Lodge be accorded to the members of the said
Committee for their valuable service.”*

*If you should have opportunity of conveying this resolution to your colleagues
I shall esteem it a great favour if you will do so.*

Yours fraternally,

Fredk. Sheard.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WALSALL AND SOUTH
STAFFORDSHIRE

Headquarters: New Inn Hotel
Park Street, Walsall

September, 7th 1895

*Dear Sir and Brother,
Your report of the Finance Committee was read in Grand Lodge last
Thursday and I am requested to convey to the Committee our best thanks
and that we was thoroughly satisfied with your investigations and
consider the report to be very satisfactory.*

Yours fraternally,

L.E. Aukoll

*43 William Street,
Walsall.*

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND
DURHAM

*Nags Head Hotel,
18, Nunn Street,
Newcastle.*

Dear Sir and Brother

I am instructed by motion of our P. G. L. to thank you for your communication re the doings of the Finance Committee, and to ask you if you could supply me with a copy of the new rules, if any, as altered by the Convention or if you could inform me who are the officials of G. L. or where the headquarters are.

The reason I am troubling you for the above information is 1st. we had not a delegate at Convention. 2nd. the Grand Secretary has not answered my last communication, and 3rd. we do not now know where to address our correspondence.

I will remit money for Rule Book if it is possible for you to get me one.

Asking for your forgiveness for troubling you on this matter and thanking you again for the circular.

*I beg to remain
Dear Sir and Brother
Yours very fraternally,*

Thomas Barthorpe

P. G. Secretary.

