

A HISTORY OF EARLY FREEMASONRY AND THE IRISH CONSTITUTION IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND (TASMANIA)

by Ron A Cook

Introduction

This paper is presented so that you, the reader, will receive some pleasure and enlightenment and that you may achieve a broader outlook and appreciation of the Craft's Australian history, particularly the early history of Freemasonry in this tiny island state of Tasmania.

Freemasonry in Australia has as much rich history as in any other free nation in the world. It has a thread of controversies woven through the fabric of every Constitution. The richness of its history has also yielded up men who aspired to a state of excellence and at the same time has shown the foibles in their human characters.

The biographical sketches have a bent towards those who distinguished themselves in their attempts to establish Freemasonry and bring success to the lodges that they supported or, as previously stated, became nondescript by their human failings. It is unfortunate that many others remain obscure, in an anonymity that cannot be elucidated, through the lack of records.

It is unfortunate that uncorroborated newspaper reports had to be used for the references to the very early Masonic activities in Hobart Town; for this I apologise.

Early Freemasonry in Hobart Town

The history of the Craft in Tasmania, with its newspaper references and regimental lodges, was very similar to that of New South Wales. The first public reference to Masonic activity was in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of Saturday, 22 February 1817, wherein there is a report on the consecration ceremony of the site of St David's Church:

Wednesday last was a holiday throughout this settlement, being the day appointed by His Honor Lieutenant Governor Davey for the consecration of a site of ground situated in Macquarie Street, Hobart Town; whereupon is intended to stand the New Church—St David. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon the Royal Standard was hoisted at the Battery, and immediately after the Rev Robert Knopwood [*Colonial Chaplain*], and the Civil and Military officers assembled at Government House. *The Lodge of Freemasons being in waiting [my italics]* and the Troops in Garrison under Arms, the Procession moved at 12 o'clock; and on arriving at the ground Mrs and Miss Davey, the Lady and Daughter of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Settlement, amidst a numerous concourse of spectators, honored the occasion with their presence...the Rev Robert Knopwood read from the 3rd chapter of the 1st Epistle of Corinthians,...*after which a neat and appropriate Masonic Oration was delivered by a member of the Society [my italics]*.

The next public occasion where Freemasonry was mentioned was also in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of Saturday, 12 June 1819, wherein it recorded a list of subscribers to the Branch Bible Society with a side heading 'Member of Free and Accepted Masons belonging to the Lodge of St John Hobart T'. In relation to this list of subscribers to the Branch Bible Society, as members of the St John Lodge, Hobart Town, a correlation is found in some of the names mentioned and the names of the known members of the St John Lodge No.1, on Norfolk Island. Two of those so named are William Atkins and Michael Lee. Atkins, Senior Warden on Norfolk Island, was one of the signatories of the letter from St John Lodge No.1 to Capt John Piper on Norfolk Island, dated 18 December 1807. Lee, who

tried to claim for himself the ½ acre of land belonging to St John Lodge No.1, may have been another member on Norfolk, but there is no confirming evidence that he was. The remaining names were all settlers from Norfolk Island and there is definitive evidence available to confirm that they were members on Norfolk Island. It must be considered that the Norfolk Island settlers were spread widely around Tasmania and there would not be sufficient members in the one spot for them to hold a meeting.

The next reference to Freemasonry is an entry in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of 1 January 1820:

On Monday laft, the Freemaſons reſident in this Settlement afſembled and went in proceſſion to lay the foundation ſtone of a new lodge intended to be erected in Melville-ftreet, on a plot of ground which they have occupied in exchange for that originally held by the Lodge at Norfolk Island.

This Melville Street entry in the *Gazette* could be misleading as it appears that the intended lodge was not proceeded with. Research of the land grant and titles records in the Archives Office of Tasmania failed to show any grant or title for a plot of ground in Melville Street being issued to the lodge or anyone connected to it. Another reason for the lodge building in Melville Street not having proceeded any further than a newspaper report is the doubt that St John's Lodge No.1 had in fact received, or was entitled to, a grant of land in place of the ½ acre on Norfolk Island. This is defined by the explicit orders on the mode of removal of settlers from Norfolk Island to the Derwent, which were given in dispatches from Governor Bligh to Capt Piper:

On the ſubject of grants of land that ſhould be made to them, in proportion of four acres for every *one*, [*my italics*] the property of each individual, which he ſhould leave in a ſtate of cultivation; and two acres for every *one* [*my italics*] of waſte or uncultivated land, which he ſhould have in his poſſeſſion.

The above order on allocation of land in Van Diemen's Land makes no reference to a ½ acre block of uncultivated land. Piper's remarks in the shipping list for the *Estrimonia* that Lee's 'claim for half acre of grounds [*sic*] belongs to the Society of Freemasons', can in no way be construed as a guarantee of a suitable ½ acre being granted in Hobart Town. So if St John at Hobart was a Masonic entity (of which there is no evidence) and met at all, it would only be for a Masonic funeral service or the laying of a foundation stone (such as the one claimed to have been laid in Melville Street). In its time-frame of about the late 1790s, St John No.1, NI, would have been a quite legitimate private lodge, but by the 1820s, St John, Hobart, would not have enjoyed that status.

There is another facet to consider and that is the complete lack of any private lodge manuscript certificates. If St John had 'worked', they would not 'make' a Mason without issuing a manuscript certificate. However, due to the lack of any other available references or records to substantiate the foregoing, it must be left to the future in the hope of some researcher finding corroborative evidence to make St John, Hobart, an historical fact.

The Irish Constitution

The Irish Constitution had a faltering start in this tiny colony settlement of Van Diemen's Land, with an unsuccessful bid for a dispensation warrant. It has been stated in some publications that a number of gentlemen from Van Diemen's Land had applied for a dispensation warrant in the early 1820s from No.260 in Sydney. A dispensation charter was issued to No.260 in July 1822, and in February 1823 Mathew Bacon, WM of No.260, wrote to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and in that letter he asks:

... whether 3 brethren in Van Diemen's Land can have dispensation without the lodge being regularly installed, [*sic*] as it would cost at least £100 for a sufficient number of members of No.260 to go there for that purpose.

There is no record extant of an answer to this question, or another query included in Bacon's letter. Correspondence with Ireland was incredibly slow and fraught with the danger of mail being miscarried or lost through shipwreck. If an answer had been forthcoming, it would appear to have been in the negative.

The establishment of a military post in the Settlement of Hobarton, Van Diemen's Land, found the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot and the 21st (Royal North British Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot, popularly known as the Scots Fusiliers, both stationed at Hobart at various periods during the early years of settlement, and they had Irish lodges attached to them. (The 46th and the 48th Regiments had small detachments stationed in Van Diemen's Land before the 40th and 21st Regiments, and of these detachments, spread over various settlements, only the 48th had a small sprinkling of other ranks Freemasons amongst them).

The 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot relieved the 48th Regiment in 1824. The 40th Regiment had two tours in Australia, the first from 1824 until 1829 and the second from 1852 to 1860. The 40th spent most of its first tour in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), with one company in Sydney. This Regiment was first raised in 1717 and became the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot, and it is the first tour of duty that we are concerned with. The Commanding Officer was Lt-Col Henry Thornton. The 40th Regiment had an Irish Constitution Lodge No.284, (travel warrant dated 1821) attached to it. The original warrant issued to this regiment was an Antients Grand Lodge one, No.24, undated. It then held warrant No.204, Irish Constitution, from 1810 to 1813, and was re-issued with warrant No.284, Irish Constitution, in 1821 and this warrant was returned in 1858. During the 40th Regiment's tour of duty in Hobart, Lodge No.284 initiated a number of civilians and granted them dispensation to open a stationary lodge of their own. The following were the senior officers and members of No.284 as at the 16 October 1828 Return of Members:

Officers

Private Michael Dyer*	Master
Private Edmond Kelsall	SW
Civ Maurice Smith	JW

Members

Col/Sgt James Anderson Sgt John Carty Civ Thomas Devine Pte Thomas Dobbyns Pte Thomas Elley Civ William Ford Pte Edward Judge Civ Joseph Lester Civ Michael Mansfield Pte Michael McGovern Pte John Milton Pte James Mulligan Civ Fred Patterson Civ Thomas Stanfield Pte James Wade Pte Thomas Wilson	Civ Francis Barns Pte John Cummins Pte Robert Dixon Pte Andrew Dykes Pte Lawrence Finn Pte James Harrison Civ William Kimberly Civ Daniel Long Civ William Maycock Sgt Hugh McLachlan Civ James Mitchell Pte James Nichols Sgt Joseph Reichenberg** Civ Patrick Thompson Civ Samuel Whittaker Civ George Wise	Col/Sgt George Bull Civ Charles Day Civ Thomas Dixon Civ John Eddington Sgt James Fisher Civ James Holding Civ George Langford Pte Thomas Mansby Cpl Patrick McDonald Pte Robert McNally Civ John Morisby Pte Michael O'Brien Pte John Spriggs Civ Benjamin Toplis Sgt John Wilson
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* A Michael Dwyer (Dyer) of the 40th Regiment was awarded a pension on 8 September 1841, his residence is shown as Hobart Town; and he died on 5 January 1875 at Chester, England (WO 120/69 p178).

** Joseph (also shown as Joshua) Reichenberg was awarded a pension on 8 September 1830, residence, Hobart Town. He died on 31 January 1851 (WO 120/69 p 178). He was the Band Master of the 40th Regiment and had advertised in the *Sydney Gazette* of 28 April 1825:

Mr Reichenberg, Music Master of the 40th Regiment, respectfully informs Ladies and Gentlemen of the Colony, that he has composed a first set of Quadrilles for Australia, with proper figures adapted to it, for the Pianoforte, Flute or Violin, as also, for a full band. The

same may be had in Manuscript, from Mr Reichenberg, at the Military Barracks, or at Mr Campbell's, No.93 George-Street, by giving one day's Notice...Price 6s.

In the above return of members of No 284 of 16 October 1828, the Master, Pte Michael Dyer, writes (*I have not corrected the dearth of any punctuation*):

Hobart Town
16th October, 1828

Sir & Brother

I herewith transmit you the second bill of exchange on account of No.284 we having received no answer to the first which was transmitted by Hugh Crawford

Captain Langan in March 1827 -

£9-15-0 were for certificates and arrears of the lodge and £11-5-0 for a warrant for the civilians with the usual certificate from No.284. The following were to be the officers John Wilson Master - John Eddington Snr Warden & Frans Barns Jnr Warden we trust this letter has reached [*The next word is indecipherable—it could be home?*] as we are waiting anxiously expecting it to be addressed to John Wilson late 40 Regt Hobart Town. The following are a list of officers and members of 284 for the last 6 months [*here are listed the officers and members as detailed above*].

The return ends with:

N B the certificate for the Military as described in our last communication to be addressed to the present Master Bombay India - I have the honour to be

Sir & Brother

Your most obedient
humble Servant
Michl Dyer Master

The Tasmanian Lodge No 313 IC, Hobart

It appears to be somewhat of a mystery as to the whereabouts of the petition (usual certificate) submitted to Dublin in March 1827, some 19 months prior to the date of the 1828 *Return of Members*, and it was not until 6 August 1829 that the Irish Grand Lodge ordered that warrant No.313 should be sent to Bros Col Sgt John Wilson, John Eddington, and Francis Barns in Hobart on the recommendation of lodge No.284 (G.L. Minutes 1828–36, p.42). The warrant was not raised until 3 September 1829, and was not to arrived in Hobart until early 1831, some three and a half years after the petition was submitted.

The October 1828 *Return* is the primary source on the pre-formation of No.313, but has proved quite equivocal on the actual date it was formed. Dyer's *Return* of 1828 gives the impression that the petition and the cost of a warrant had been forwarded in March 1827, and they were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the warrant in October 1828. This implies that Dyer had not considered, and was not considering, the use of a dispensation warrant to consecrate the new stationary civilian lodge before the warrant had arrived from Ireland. If the foregoing was Dyer's intention, then it would explain Robert Murray's claim, in 1841, that he had founded it with a *dispensation* from the military lodge of the 40th Regiment (284) 'from which I formed lodge No.313, then 326 and 345', but he failed to state the date he established No.313.

In an endeavour to establish the actual date of the formation of lodge No.313 a search of the archival documents held by the Archives Office of Tasmania was carried out, but the holdings failed to reveal any references to No 313. However, in the newspaper holdings an entry was found in the weekly newspaper, the *Tasmanian and Austral Asiatic Review* of 3 December 1830 (Vol IV, No 196, Page 786, Col 3), as follows:

Tasmanian and Austral Asiatic Review
Friday Evening, December 3, 1830
Tasmanian Lodge No.313

On Monday the 27th Inst. the Brethren of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free Masons composing the Tasmanian Lodge No.313, will celebrate the Annual Grand Feast of St John in the usual manner.

Stewards

R. L. Murray - J. Wilson

The Lodge will open at High Twelve, when such non-resident Brethren as may wish to be present at the Festival are invited to attend.

Tickets One Pound each, to be had of the Stewards and Secretary.

By Order

M.S. [Maurice Smith, Sec.].

Lodge Room, Dec 2, 1830.

On Friday evening, 31 December 1830, in the same weekly publication (Vol IV, No.200, Page 823, Col 2) there is a report on the festival held at the lodge room, Macquarie Hotel, Macquarie Street, Hobart, which was a short description of the proceedings and the menu. This is the earliest report on No 313 that can be found, so the actual date of its formation still remains an enigma.

The lodge was named 'The Tasmanian Lodge'. The name of the lodge was perhaps a presage of the future name of this tiny island colony of Van Diemen's Land, which was not to be officially named Tasmania until 1855. It is believed that no minute books or records of No.313 are extant. The Tasmanian Lodge, No.313, IC ceased work in 1847. A letter from Bro W. Bales to the Deputy Grand Secretary, dated 14 March, 1860, 're: Return of the warrant of 313 to G.L' was received. It enclosed a copy of a letter from Bales to Thomas Horne, stating Horne was the 'only member remaining of 313 authorized to dispose of the warrant', and Horne's reply that he would communicate with Grand Lodge himself. The 'sent in' warrant was received by Grand Lodge on 18 April 1863, and is recorded as being returned by Bro Charles Toby.

The foundation members of No.313 who were members of No.284 are recorded as follows:

Francis Barns	Charles Day	Thomas Dixon
John Eddington	James Fisher	George Langford
Joseph Lester	David Long	Michael Mansfield
William Maycock	John Morrisby	Frederick Patterson
David Scobey	Maurice Smith	Thomas Stanfield
Samuel Whittaker	George Wise	

All the early lodges in the Australian colonies included in their membership men who became prominent citizens of that colony. The following are biographical sketches of the eminent members of No.313:

John Wilson appears in the Muster/Pay Sheets of the 40th Regiment for 1827–1829, as the paymaster's clerk with the rank of Colour Sergeant. It is recorded in a return of members of No.284 dated the 16th October, 1828 that Bro John Wilson was to be Master of the new lodge (No.313) and the warrant was to be addressed to him late of the 40th Regiment, Hobart Town. Research has yielded some information on him in the State Archives of Tasmania. He is listed as the Clerk in the Brigade Major's (Police) establishment in 1827. It is of some interest to note that Capt John Montagu, who was the Brigade Major, was formerly of the 40th Regiment. It appears also from the archive records that John Wilson may have been the Ordnance and Storekeeper Department's clerk and prisoner searcher in May 1826. His name appears in the Supplement to the *Independent* for Saturday, September, 1831 as having his Publican's License renewed for the *Freemason's Arms Hotel* in Liverpool Street, Hobart Town. From a letter received in Dublin on 26 July 1832, 'among other matters, that Bro Wilson has died'. In the Register of Burials in the Parish of Hobart Town in the County of Buckingham in the year 1832, entry No.1066 shows John Wilson of Hobart Town was buried on 14 March 1832, aged 36 years, Licensed Victualler.

John Eddington was born free in 1795, on Norfolk Island of convict parents, 'a Currency Lad'. His father, Thomas Eddington (also known as Headington), a labourer of Berkshire, was tried at Abington in 1785 for stealing and sentenced to seven years transportation. He arrived on the *Alexander* in the First Fleet in 1788. Thomas Eddington was transferred to Norfolk Island in 1792 and was listed as convict/farmer on the 1794 Norfolk Island muster list. He had two lots of land, Nos.50 and 59, of 12 acres each granted to him. He died some years before John came to Hobart in 1808.

John's mother, Elizabeth Thompson, was ex-*Lady Juliana*, and is believed to have come from Newcastle-on-Tyne, and could have been Irish. He had a sister named Margaret who was also freeborn on Norfolk Island. She was to have a de facto relationship with Lieutenant-Governor David Collins. John became the proprietor of the 'Bird-In-Hand' hotel in Argyle Street, Hobart, and attained some fame by riding a horse called 'Piper' to win a £300 prize in 1816. He also owned a farm in Bagdad. From the records held by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, John became a member of Lodge No.284 attached to the 40th Foot Regiment on 14 August 1827. He was a petitioner and foundation senior warden of Lodge No.313 (warranted 3 September 1829), which he left to assist in setting up Lodge No.326 in March 1833, and then became a foundation member and Senior Warden of No.345. He died in 1869.

Francis Barns was born c 1771. He arrived at Hobart as a convict aboard the *Calcutta*, from the aborted settlement at Port Phillip, with Lieutenant-Governor Collins. Described in the trial papers as a printer, aged 30, of St Brides, London, former soldier, 5'6", dark brown hair, grey eyes, and could read and write. He was tried at Middlesex on 15 April 1801 for stealing bank notes totalling £172 from Nathaniel Swan in a theatre box in the Drury Lane Theatre. He was sentenced to death and was subsequently reprieved and sentenced to transportation for life. Interestingly, he had a previous conviction in 1795 under the name of William Barnes and was sentenced to seven years transportation but was pardoned on the agreement that he join the Army in the 60th Regiment of Foot. He was wounded in 1801 and later discharged. Collins utilised his administrative skills in many ways. He assisted in the printing of Garrison and General Orders. He was granted a free pardon on 25 January 1813 and was given 80 acres at Glenorchy. He was granted a licence for the 'Hope and Anchor' Inn on 3 October 1818. However, it is believed that he was operating this establishment for some years prior to receiving the liquor licence. He appears in the Hobart Town Muster List of 1818 and he was recorded as an annual subscriber of one guinea to the Bible Society in the *Hobart Town Gazette* of 12 June 1819. He died at his property of 600 acres at Ralph's Bay on 26 January 1842, and was buried at St David's on the 29th. Francis Barns was a member of the 40th Foot Regimental Lodge No.284 and foundation Junior Warden of No.313, the first warranted lodge in Tasmania. He was also listed as a foundation member of No.345, Tasmanian Operative Lodge, in 1834.

Maurice Smith was the Junior Warden of No.284, and there are oblique references to him as being the first Secretary of No.313. Although the Junior Warden of the military lodge, he was not a serving member of the 40th Regiment, but one of the civilians who were 'made' in No.284. There is an entry in the 'Blue Book' showing that Maurice Smith was employed as a clerk in the Auditor's Department from 22 October 1828, and it appears he left that employment in 1832. It would also appear that he may have taken up farming, as he was granted land at Bothwell in January 1832. A letter, with enclosures from R.L. Murray, WM of No.313, dated April 1837, advises the Deputy Grand Secretary of Companion Maurice Smith's disapproval of the revival of RAC No.33 and the support given to No.33 by Companion John Stephen. One of the enclosures was a private letter to the Deputy Grand Secretary, Fowler, from Murray, re the dispute with Maurice Smith over the resuscitation of RAC No.33. According to John Stephen, 'Maurice Smith, who had borne the cost of establishing the Chapter, assumed a species of perpetual dictatorship over it', and it was dissatisfaction over this state of affairs which led some of the Companions to form a second RAC in Hobart, attached to lodge No.33. On 28 September 1839 through to 5 January 1844, Maurice Smith was the Worshipful Master of No.313. He appears to have been the last Master of No.313, as he sent the returns of the officers of the lodge to Dublin for 1839-41 and 1844, which had been received there on 5 January 1844. It is believed the lodge went into abeyance some time soon after. The following is only a matter of interest now, that on 7 November 1838 Deputy Grand Secretary John Fowler advised Maurice Smith, Z, of

RAC No.313, in answer to Smith's queries, that 'Military Lodges *do not have the right to Exhalt or Initiate Civilians*' [*my italics*].

Robert William Lathrop Murray—the records of *Old Westminster*, Vol.2, p.678, show that he was the natural son of King George III. He was born 22 December 1780. His mother was Ann née Williams, a lady-in-waiting in the royal court, wife of Robert Lathropp. He was educated at the Westminster School and at Cambridge University. He assumed the additional surname of Murray, and claimed descent from Robert Murray, the son of Sir William Murray, Baronet, of Dynnryne, Scotland, who had married into the Lathropp family in 1630 and had taken their name.

He received a commission in the 2nd Royal Manx Fencibles in 1797, and served in Ireland. Murray assumed the surname of Brown-Clark on 31 March 1802; but the name change was cancelled on 13 April 1802 by command of the King. Robert was referred to as *Sir* Robert Lathropp Murray in the *London Gazette* of 3 April 1802. This title appeared in other periodicals of that time. He became a banker in Portland Place, London, in June 1802. Murray re-entered the Army on 4 February 1807 as a Lieutenant unattached, and was to serve in the 1st Foot Regiment on 12 February 1807. He was promoted Captain on 15 March 1810, and was transferred to the Royal Wagon Train on 15 August 1811. He also served in the Peninsula War.

It was alleged that, although married to Alicia Marshall in Northern Ireland in 1797, he also wedded Catherine Clarke, the only child of Thomas Clarke of Hailsham, Sussex, in 1801. In 1806 there was yet another involvement with Lydia, widow of William Marriott, and daughter of the Rev John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore, Worcester. He was tried in London for bigamy in January, 1815, before the Recorder of London, found guilty, and sentenced to seven years transportation.

The first mention of him in Australia is as a clerk and constable of the Sydney Bench, and an employee of D'Arcy Wentworth, in 1816. He appears to have added the additional Christian name of Felton and dropped one letter 'p' from the name Lathropp at this time. He was granted a parole soon after arrival, and the *Sydney Gazette* shows him as the principal clerk in the police office, and in 1820 as assistant superintendent.

He went to Hobart Town in 1821. Murray was given some large grants of land. He lived first at Dynnryne Distillery in South Hobart and later built Dynnryne House which gave its name to a suburb of Hobart. His country house 'Wentworth' was across the Derwent, a mile beyond Kangaroo Point (Bellerive).

In 1824 a number of letters signed 'A Colonist' began appearing in the press, vehemently criticising the Administration. At a public function held on 7 April 1825, Murray revealed himself as being 'A Colonist'. He became editor of the *Hobart Town Gazette* on 8 July 1825, and of the *Colonial Times* from 19 August 1825 to 4 August 1826. His attacks on Governor Arthur continued, becoming in effect a war for the freedom of the press.

He lost interest in journalism for a while but returned to it in 1828 and had a complete turnabout in his attitude towards Governor Arthur, tending to favour him. Perhaps two things caused this change of attitude: The first was Arthur's acceptance, on moral grounds, of Murray's marriage to Eleanor, the daughter of Thomas (a member of No.284 & No.313) and Sarah Dixon, of Ralph's Bay, on 1 December 1827. The second was that he was tried for a financial irregularity and, after a confused verdict and a long-delayed judgement, was pardoned by Arthur. His marriage to Eleanor Dixon proved to be long lasting and fruitful: they had nine children:

Eleanor, christened at Hobart on 18 February 1828. Eleanor married **James Nicholson** at Clarence on 17 April 1847 at the age of 21 years.

Darcy Wentworth, christened at Clarence on 13 June 1828 and again on 13 January 1829. He married **Martha Mary Goodwin**, daughter of William Lushington Goodwin (member of No.346, St John's) and his wife Sophia Elizabeth, at Launceston on 18 April 1849. There is also a record of the death of a

son, **Robert William Felton Lathrop Murray**, parents Darcy and Martha Murray, at the age of nine months, on 25 January 1863.

Montoliew, christened at Hobart on 30 December 1830.

Wynnne, christened at Hobart on 14 April 1832.

Conway, christened at Clarence on 18 December 1837.

Cecil, christened at Hobart on 5 March 1839, and died, aged 5 years, on 2 August 1844.

Powys, christened at Hobart on 25 April 1841.

Denbigh, christened at Clarence on 9 May 1844.

Pembroke, christened at Clarence on 26 July 1846.

As stated, he returned to journalism in 1828 with the first issue of Murray's *Tasmanian and Austral Asiatic Review*. This *Review* ceased publication on 26 June 1845. When Lieutenant-Governor Arthur left the colony in 1836, he was replaced by Lieutenant-Governor Franklin, and Murray's support for Arthur was to bring him into opposition with the new Lieutenant-Governor. The British law on the validity of Irish marriages was changed in 1842. Because of the change in the British law he was able to return in 1847, albeit in ill health, to West Felton, Shropshire, where he died on 2 November 1850, aged 70.

The records of the Grand Lodge of Ireland fail to show if he had been initiated into an Irish lodge, or the lodge he was Master of prior to his forcible move to Australia. First mention of him occurs in the Irish Grand Lodge records as a member prior to June 1832, when he, and twenty-seven others, are noted as having joined Lodge No.313, Hobart. (There is a record of Murray being a member of No.313 in December 1830, *vide* the *Tasmanian and Austral Asiatic Review*. Once again, the recording clerk has given the joining date as the date he recorded the information from the lodge return which included 'twenty-seven others' as joining No.313 with Murray at the same period).

On 4 March 1833, his name appears as the first Master of Lodge No.326. He subsequently joined Lodge No.345 on 24 June 1835, according to the Irish Grand Lodge Members Register, and became Master of this lodge in 1844. In the minutes of Lodge No.33, formerly attached to the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, of the date of 11 August 1842, it was announced that the warrant had been transferred to Hobart and Bro PM Murray was the first Master of this newly-established stationary lodge. Murray claims in a letter dated 31 August 1841, to the Deputy Grand Secretary (John Fowler):

I need not remind you that I founded the whole of the lodges in this Island commencing with a dispensation from the Military Lodge in the 40th Regiment [284] from which I formed Lodge 313. When members became too numerous for convenience found them Lodge 326 and again from them 345.

The early period of Freemasonry in Van Diemen's Land was dominated by Murray who must be classed as the Father of Freemasonry in that Colony.

Richard Cleburne was born in Ireland c 1799. His parents were Micajah Cleburne and Sarah née Carroll. He arrived in Hobart about 1821. Soon after his arrival he had a number of business interests. He purchased a property named 'Uplands' an estate of 1560 acres near Mount Direction, with a considerable frontage to the Derwent River. Cleburne was a successful business entrepreneur and was quite a wealthy man. He became interested in politics and in October 1851 was elected a member for Houn in the Legislative Council. Cleburne had married twice, his first wife was Margaret née Magill and they were married at Hobart on 4 June 1825. Margaret died in 1837 and on her death certificate it states ironically 'wife of Dealer'. His second wife was Harriet Beavais, a widow, née Miller, the second daughter of Edward Miller. He had five children by his first wife, two sons and three daughters, and five daughters by his second wife. Richard died at Risdon on 29 October 1864, aged 64 years. In 1833 Richard had become a Deacon in No.313. According to the Grand Lodge of Ireland Members' Register, Cleburne is recorded as a member of No.313 prior to 4 June 1832.

James Ross was christened on 4 January 1787 at Aberdeen, Scotland, the third son of Alexander Ross, Writer to the Signet, and Catherine née Morrison. He was educated at Marischal College,

Aberdeen, obtaining his *MA* in 1803 and *LLD* in 1818. He conducted a school at Sevenoaks, Kent. He married Susannah, née Smith. Ross was greatly esteemed as a schoolmaster. In 1822 he was in poor health and was also experiencing financial difficulties. He decided to emigrate to Van Diemen's Land.

He arrived in Hobart Town with his family in December 1822, aboard the *Regalia*. He purchased a property and settled into colonial life. James missed the academic life of teaching and had discussions with Lieutenant-Governor Sorrell about the possibility of establishing a school in Hobart. In 1825 he became tutor of Lieutenant-Governor Arthur's children and his own. About this period he became disheartened with farming through the losses brought about by bushrangers and a fire at his property 'The Heritage', and decided to sell out.

He was appointed jointly with G.T. Howe as Government Printer and editor of the *Hobart Town Gazette* at a salary of £300 pa. in November 1836. Ross was to finally dispose of his printing, bookbinding and stationary business to G.W. Elliston for £12,000. James Ross died of 'apoplexy' at Carrington on 1 August 1838 and was buried in St Luke's Cemetery at Richmond, Van Diemen's Land. Ross had been recorded as a member of No.313 prior to 21 November 1831 and could have been a foundation member.

Hugh Murray was born at Edinburgh in 1789. His parents were Hugh Murray and Anne née Young. He married Jean née Carmichael. They had eight children. Murray was one of a party which chartered the Brig *Urania* which left Leith in June 1822 and arrived at Hobart on 14 January 1823. He was accompanied by his wife and five children, a smith, a ploughman and a female servant. He was granted 1760 acres which he selected on the Macquarie river near Campbell Town, and named the estate "St Leonard's". He improved the property with a dwelling house, outbuildings, fencing and cultivation. He had 1800 sheep and 25 cattle grazing on the property. He sold this property in 1831 and moved to Hobart and became a wine and spirit merchant. Hugh was active in the Presbyterian Church, and was one of the first trustees of the Hobart Savings Bank. He died at his home in Colville Street, Hobart, on 21 December 1845 and was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery. Hugh was the 41st member of the Tasmania Lodge No.313 prior to 4 June 1832.

John Lee Archer was born on 26 April 1791 in Ireland. His father was John Archer, engineer, of County Tipperary and Dublin, Ireland. His mother was Charlotte née Lee from Kent, England. John Lee Archer was trained in the office of Charles Beazley, a London architect, from 1809 to 1812. Then for five years with John Rennie, who designed the London, Waterloo and Southwark bridges across the river Thames. Archer returned to Ireland and spent eight years on architectural and engineering works, including the Royal Canal in Dublin.

He was appointed as the civil engineer in Van Diemen's Land in 1826. John arrived at Hobart Town aboard the *Lang* in August, 1827. He served in this appointment for eleven years. The buildings he designed were Parliament House (formerly the Customs House), the Public Offices, used by the Treasury and Audit departments at Hobart, the Ordinances Stores, Salamanca Place, several buildings at the Anglesea Barracks, St John's Church, with orphan schools and the parsonage at New Town; the nave of St George's Church at Battery Point, and numerous other churches, also the Gaol and Gaoler's house at Richmond and various bridges. John married Sophia née Mattinson of Hobart on 3 September 1833 and settled at 'Jutland', off Augusta Road, New Town. The issue of the marriage were Charlotte Lee born at Hobart on 27 July 1834, Albert Lee, born at Launceston on 1 September 1840, and John Lee junior, born 9 November 1842 at Horton.

In October 1838, Archer accepted the appointment of police magistrate for the District of Horton and moved to Stanley, where he was to die on 4 December 1852, aged 62 years. He was buried in the Church of England section of the cemetery at Circular Head. He was the 50th member of No.313 prior to 20 September 1833.

Thomas James Lempriere was born on 11 January 1796 at Hamburg, Germany. He was the son of Thomas Lempriere, a British banker and merchant of Norman-Jersey descent, and his wife Harriet née

Allen. In 1822 he emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in the *Regalia*. Lempriere married Charlotte née Smith at Hobart on 28 April 1823. They had twelve children. His parents and sisters arrived in Hobart in 1825 and, with his father, he formed a merchant business, Lempriere and Co; which failed in 1827. Thomas joined the Commissariat Department as a store keeper at the penal settlements on Maria Island and later at Macquarie Harbour. On 25 May 1846 he was appointed as coroner for Van Diemen's Land. He was recalled to England in 1849 for immediate transfer to Hong Kong. He was invalided back to England in 1851, but died on the voyage on 6 January 1852, and was buried at Aden. His widow, Charlotte Lempriere died, aged 87 years, at Clarence on 27 September 1890.

Thomas was known as a diarist and had a journal published. He was also a well known painter of landscapes, and his portraits of many prominent settlers are still extant in Tasmania. He was a member of No.313 prior to 4 June 1832.

Henry Saxeby Melville Wintle, known as **Henry Melville**, is recorded as being a member of No.313 prior to 16 February 1835. Melville was born in England c 1800. He arrived at Hobart in February 1828. He married Eliza Romney née Fisher, late of Philadelphia, USA, at New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land, on 4 February 1832. There is no record of any issue.

His former literary experience is unknown, but from 1831 to 1838 he was the proprietor of the Hobart *Tasmanian*, except in 1833, and from January to September, 1837, when he went into partnership with Robert Lathrop Murray. The ownership was transferred to Maurice Smith in February 1838. During the period that he was owner of the *Tasmanian*, he was also the owner of the *Colonial Times* (formerly the *Hobart Town Gazette*) and because of this he was accused as being a 'Newspaper Monopolist'. Melville produced a third paper, a weekly called the *Trumpeter*, which was issued free, relying on advertisements to cover costs and some profit. He transferred ownership of the *Trumpeter* in 1838 when he became short of finance.

He was an ardent adherent for the freedom of the press. This attitude was to find him in considerable bother with the Supreme Court over comments published on the trial of R. Bryan on the charge of cattle stealing. He was to find himself imprisoned and fined for contempt of court over these comments. Whilst in prison he wrote *The History of the Isle of Van Diemen's Land from 1824 to 1835*. He added to the previous publication with *A Few Words on Prison Discipline* and printed both in Hobart. Melville had written several publications between 1831–1838. These publications are now highly sought after as collector's items.

Besides his historical and literary works, Melville, who was ranked as an authority on Freemasonry by his contemporaries, published *Ignorant Learned: Proving that Theology, Mythology, Astronomy and Freemasonry are Sciences Unknown to Our Modern Scholars*, by Henricus (pseudonym for Henry Melville), London, W.N. Cranford, Printed for Henricus, Tasmania. Also, *The Lost Mysteries of Freemasonry*, by Henricus, Sands & Kenny, Sydney c 1874, and another which was an exposition of philosophical and mythological theories. It is believed that Melville left Hobart about 1849 and took up various journalistic appointments in a number of colonial capital cities. He later returned to London and spent his time researching into occultism. He died in London on 22 December 1873.

The Tasmanian Lodge No.313 was the first stationary lodge in the settlement of Hobart, Van Diemen's Land, and was in existence for 19 years. Four years passed before the second lodge was formed, so the history of Lodge No 313 was the history of the Craft in this colony. It is unfortunate for history that the minutes have been lost.

Tasmanian Lodge of Brotherly Union No 326 IC, Hobart

The second Irish lodge was formed by dispensation from No.313, on 10 April 1832, and another from the Leinster Committee, No.260, IC, NSW, in July, 1832. The first Master named on the dispensation warrant from No.313 was Robert L. Murray, with Bro Samuel Whittaker as SW and James Lester as JW, all ex-members of No.284 and No.313. In December 1833, before warrant No.326 had arrived in Hobart, Joseph Lester and eleven other proposed members applied for a warrant to form another Irish

Constitution lodge. The warrant No.326 finally arrived in early 1834. The lodge was named the Tasmanian Lodge of Brotherly Union. There were only two returns submitted by *Union*, 1837 and 1840, both being no longer extant. In 1841 the Grand Lodge had been advised by Murray that No.326 was 'rather low in numbers'.

In 1842, the young and enthusiastic Charles Toby was elected as Master. In early 1844, probably at Charles Toby's inducement, the members of No.326 applied to G.R. Nicholls, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, EC, in Sydney for a warrant of dispensation under the English Constitution. This was granted, and they later received warrant No.781 (536), becoming the first English Constitution lodge in Van Diemen's Land. However, Toby was working under the authority of both warrants, which upset Robert Murray considerably. Murray was quick to advise the Grand Lodge of the state of affairs in No.326. Grand Lodge resolved that No.326 must be called upon to make a choice between the two Constitutions. The bond with the Irish Constitution was severed in 1845. Attempts were still being made to make Toby return the warrant No.326 to the Grand Lodge in February 1860. The Grand Lodge recorded the return of the warrant No.326 in the same year. It appears that there are no early minutes extant of No.326.

The Tasmanian Operative Lodge No 345 IC, Hobart

The motivation to form another Irish lodge in December 1833, was brought about by Joseph Lester and eleven others, unhappy about irregularities in the election of Master of No.326 and 'the constant consumption of the lodge funds in suppers', applied to No.313 and No.260 for a dispensation warrant to form a new lodge, the Tasmanian Operative Lodge. This lodge was founded on 26 February 1834 (by No.313's & No.260's dispensation warrants). The application for a warrant was granted on 6 November 1834 (GL Minutes 1828–36, p.281), but it was not until 11 May 1835 that the warrant was raised and dated and it finally arrived in Hobart later the same year.

The first Master of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge No.345 was Joseph Lester, previously a member of No.284, No.313 and petitioning member of No.326. The Senior Warden was John Eddington, late of No.284, No.313 and 326. The Junior Warden Frederick Patterson was also of No.284, No.313 and 326.

In the first five months of the life of No.345 it had three Masters, the first being Joseph Lester, who attended two meetings and unfortunately was forced to resign from office through ill health. A Brother J.C. Stracey became the second Master, and he also resigned from office only after two meetings, but for business reasons. He was to leave the lodge soon after. Little if nothing is known about this Brother; there is an implied reference that he could have been a member of an Irish lodge in Port Jackson, NSW. Judge Thomas Horne was the third Master. MWBro A.C. Lowe, in his *History of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge No.1, Tasmanian Constitution*, states that Horne had been a Master of No.313, but there is no record of his membership in No.313 in the Grand Lodge Membership Register. There is also, in March 1860, a letter from William Bales (Secretary of No.345), to Thomas Horne, 'only remaining member of No.313 authorized to dispose of the Warrant', and Horne's reply that 'he will communicate with Grand Lodge himself'. It would appear that Bales had also made a wrong assumption that Horne had been a member of No.313. Actually, the warrant was finally sent in by Bro Charles Toby, 18 April 1863.

I will not go any further into the history of this lodge as it has been well recorded in Bro Lowe's detailed history of the Tasmanian Operative Lodge No.1, TC, reprinted and updated to the year 1984 and issued under the authority of the committee of management of the lodge. However, there is one very interesting item, which is a short extract of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 1857, and is as follows: 'the lodge being raised to the 4th degree *when several brethren [my italics] were elevated to the degree of PMs*'. This statement intrigued me, as it was the first time that I had actually seen it in writing. This minute prompted an enquiry to be made of the Grand Lodge in Dublin on the existence of a 4th degree under the Irish Constitution, only to be advised that such a degree was never part of the Irish workings and they know nothing about it.

On 22 May 1997 I had received correspondence from RWBro Cdr Keith Cochrane, RD, DL, of Belfast, that he had undertaken an important project of updating and correcting RWBro Peter Crossle's work, *Irish Masonic Records*, and was seeking help on any information on the Irish Constitution in Australia. This led to a lot of correspondence and, as a *quid pro quo*, he supplied information about the 4th degree.

The Fourth Degree, or PM's Degree

Under the Irish Constitution, the Royal Arch degree was worked in Craft lodges. During the time-frame of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, entry to the Royal Arch was only opened to Past Masters or Masters of the Craft. In Ireland, the PM's or the 4th degree was used by the Craft lodges, and later by the Chapters, to qualify (somewhat doubtfully) Master Masons for membership of the Royal Arch or any other degree. This 'ceremony' became a common occurrence, despite countless instructions from the Grand Lodge against the conferment of it on all who wished to receive the Royal Arch degree. The 'passed the Chair' conferral also opened up entry to many other degrees, the only stipulation being 'was there a brother qualified and able to give the degree', and of course, could the candidate come up with the necessary fees payable for each degree. Despite the protestations and warnings from the Grand Lodge, the practice became widespread. Extracts from the minutes of a representation of lodges will give a picture of how widespread the practice became:

Bangor Union Lodge No.746, 29 October 1814: 'Br Robt Ritchey in the chair, when br Jas Kennedy was regularly passed the chair, and made a Excellent And Super Excellent Royal Arch Mason, and also dubbed a Knight of the Temple'.

17 March 1826 'Br Wm Orr in the chair, when Br Thoms Whannell, Jas McConnell, Ross McMurray and Robt Charters were regularly passed the chair and were made Excellent, Super Excellent Royal Arch Masons and dubbed Knights of the Temple.'

This lodge applied for a *Regular Warrant* [*my italics*] in September, 1829, but at a number of meetings up until 1847 they still recorded the 'raised to the Degree of Chair Master'. The 6 March 1849 meeting, they excelled themselves by recording a list of six Brethren who received the High Orders in Masonry, such as the Mediterranean Knights of Malta, Prucian Orders, Knights of the Red Cross, Knights of the Lyecan Shades, Cairns Mark and Knights of St John. The minutes of Lodges No.384, Dunalk; No.678, Markethill; Loughgilly No.394; No.192, Ballibay; No.794, Newbliss; Kinsale Bezaleel No.31; Lodge No.411, Drogheda, and several other lodges have all recorded this 4th degree being worked. This list goes on further; however, the foregoing is a fair representation covering the whole of Ireland.

The minutes of Hiram's Lodge No.93, Londonderry, of 15 December 1842, have a definite Irish flavour: Br Saml Cochrane & Br Thos Cochrane were proposed and seconded to 'pass the Chair and passed the Chair'. There is no mention in any of the minutes of the lodge being called down, and it would appear that the brethren considered that the 4th degree should also be employed for the installation of officers in the Craft lodges. It would seem that old customs were to die hard. It was not until the late-nineteenth century that the Grand Lodge had suppressed this 4th degree and other exotic degrees out of existence.

The Tasmanian Operative Lodge No.345, Hobart, maintained its connection with the Irish Constitution right up until the Grand Lodge of Tasmania was formed in 1890, becoming No.1 under that Constitution.

Tasmanian Operative had members that were to become prominent citizens of the colony of Van Diemen's Land. They were:

Judge Thomas Horne was born c 1800 in London. He was the eldest son of Thomas Horne. Thomas was educated at the Westminster School, Christ Church, Oxford, *BA* in 1822, *MA* in 1825. He entered Lincolns Inn. Called to the Bar in February 1827. Thomas arrived at Hobart Town with his wife Maria

and baby daughter Margaret Sophia. He was admitted to the Supreme Court and had Chambers in Murray Street. Within a year of his arrival at Hobart he became engaged in Colonial politics. His being competent in his judicial office is not in doubt, but as a businessman he totally lacked any business sense. Thomas's reckless speculations forced him to borrow to pay one creditor, creating another creditor. He was to admit that he had lost £20,000 in trading with New Zealand and a further £2000 in other investments. He was forced to accept the post of Solicitor-General in January 1841. He was further in debt in December 1843. He offered his resignation to the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Eardley-Wilmot, in order to claim the benefit of the Insolvency Act.

Horne was elected first to the Legislative Council as the member for Hobart, and then to the House of Assembly in May 1861, where he served until 1866. He died at his home in Collins Street, Hobart on 23 September 1870, aged 70 years. He was buried in St David's. He left no real property. His widow Maria died in Hobart aged 75 years on 27 April 1879. They had two daughters. He was the third Master to be installed within the first five months of the formation of the lodge.

James Alexander Thomson was born c 1805 at Haddington, Scotland. At the age of twenty he was transported to Van Diemen's Land for theft, and arrived at Hobart in December, 1825 aboard the *Medway*. Although married, with a wife and child living in Regent's Park, London, he petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor for permission to marry Eliza Ogilvie, a widow, in June 1830. The marriage took place at Richmond in October 1832. Thomson received a conditional pardon in January 1835 and immediately commenced business in Liverpool Street, Hobart. He maintained this business for most of his working life. He was an architect, engineer, surveyor, valuer, estate agent, map printer and a dealer in machinery. He received his free pardon effective on and from 31 July 1839. Whatever his actual merits were as an architect, they were considered to be relatively minor. However, Thomson was an example of a former convict proving himself as a successful businessman, respected in many circles, and with considerable variety of commercial activities and social interests. James departed for England on 4 February 1860 with the intention of visiting Dublin. One of ten letters from William Bales, Secretary of No.345 to C.T. Walmisley (new DG Secretary) during the period of 22 August to 21 December 1860, contained advice of the death of Bro James Alexander Thomson from Typhus Fever at Helensburgh, Scotland on 15 September 1860, and the formation of a committee 'to prepare some commemorative memorial'. He was a member and senior Past Master of No.33 and a Past Master of No.345, Tasmanian Operative Lodge.

Samuel Augustus Tegg was born in Cheapside, London, youngest son of Thomas Tegg, bookseller and his wife Mary née Holland. Samuel and his eldest brother, James, arrived in Sydney in 1834. In early 1835 they opened a business of retail and wholesale books in George Street. In December, Samuel returned to England to collect stock for Van Diemen's Land. He arrived in Hobart Town aboard the *Wave* in December 1836. In February 1837 he married Caroline, daughter of W. Lewis Wilson of Hobart. He set up as a bookseller and stationer in Elizabeth Street, Hobart in 1839. In 1845 he sold out to James Walch. He had started a new business in Brisbane Street, Launceston, in 1844 and sold this business in October 1847. He returned to London via Sydney where he, as his brother's executor, settled his estate. On leaving Van Diemen's Land, he advertised that he would continue to act as agent for the Launceston business. He also advised that he would handle all orders for books etc personally in London and would have them delivered in Van Diemen's Land at published prices. Samuel was acting Junior Warden of No.345 in December 1840.

St John's Lodge No 346 IC, Launceston

St John's Lodge was the first Irish Constitution lodge to be formed outside Hobart. A warrant of dispensation was granted in December 1842 from No.345, Hobart. A petition for a warrant was submitted on 19 January 1843 by Alexander Rankin (ex-281), William Neale (ex-71, EC.), William Roberts (ex-345) and nine other Masons from various lodges. The petition had been recommended by R.L. Murray, 'Past Master of all the lodges in Van Diemen's Land' and John Eddington, WM No.345. The warrant was granted on 1 June 1843 (GL Minutes 1842-9, p.82) and had reached Hobart about November of the same year. However, Murray was rather chary of delivering the warrant to Launceston, and wrote to the Deputy Grand Secretary, Fowler:

... expressing the hope that I will be excused for the cautious behaviour in the matter of the delivery of the Warrant to St John's Lodge, having particularly the example of Mr Attorney General Welsh and his spurious Warrant recently returned by me to you, before me.

James Henry, the Secretary of St John's, wrote to William Morgan, the Secretary of No.345, thanking him for forwarding the warrant and criticised Murray's caution in withholding the warrant.

In June 1857 the lodge ceased meeting. It would appear that through the result of a lot of animosity by a rival lodge under the English Constitution being formed by certain members of St John's:

... a spirit of opposition on their part [altogether unmasonic and caused by a few would be aristocratic individuals ...] was set up against their Mother Lodge. They refuse to admit all, Masons included, except those of their own supposed class ... Their constant quarrels & back-bitings amongst themselves at last became public, and were even published in the Newspapers ...

The lodge was revived in 1859 and worked until 1865 before a second period of abeyance occurred. In 1874, Harry Conway (later to be the Provincial Grand Master) became Master and revived the lodge, and it became No.2 under the Grand Lodge of Tasmania on 26 June 1890. Biographical notes on Conway are found under the heading of 'The Provincial Grand Lodge'.

William Lushington Goodwin was born c 1798 at Kent, England. He reached Sydney as Master of the convict transport *Kains* in March, 1831. The *Kains* went onto Launceston to convey troops to India, but became becalmed in the *Tamar* river and was wrecked on a submerged rock. In 1832 Goodwin acted as the Honorary Secretary of the Tasmanian Society in Launceston. In 1834 he was editor of the *Independent* newspaper and the owner of the *Cornwall Chronicle* in 1835.

Goodwin, for some unexplained motive, started to make vitriolic attacks on Governor Arthur, the civil service, the Church of England, and the legal profession. His violent abuse of private citizens was the start of many defamatory actions. His vehement attack, in 1838, on the Port Officer, M.C. Friend, created great displeasure from the population of Launceston. His spiteful allegations were blamed for the sudden death of Friend's wife, and Goodwin was forced to pay a £400 fine. In 1841, ill health, and bankruptcy in 1842, forced him to try and dispose of his newspaper. However, he continued as owner until 1862, associated in editorship for periods with his son-in-law, D'Arcy Wentworth Murray, who had married his daughter, Martha Mary, at Launceston on 18 April 1849. He was appointed as a commissioner of peace and became coroner for George Town.

Goodwin was a member of St John's Lodge No.346. On 24 June 1844 he was Junior Warden, and on 24 June 1845 was installed as Master, the office he held until 1849. In June 1847 the lodge made arrangements to meet in Bro W.L. Goodwin's rooms, over the Exchange, Charles Street, Launceston. The brethren of the lodge, in consequence of the long and worthy service given by Bro William L. Goodwin as Master, resolved to present him with a silver snuffbox, which was presented on 17 August. On 31 May 1850 he was again installed as Master, with Bro Rev R.K. Ewing as Senior Warden. Once again Goodwin continued on, into 1851. He accepted the office of Secretary in February 1853, on the resignation of the long-serving secretary, until the next election of officers. He died on 5 August 1862 at the Grove, George Town, aged 64 years. He was survived by his wife, Sophia Elizabeth, and his two daughters.

Robert Kirkwood Ewing came to Van Diemen's Land from Scotland in the early 1840s. On 18 May 1848, the Rev R.K. Ewing, then an ordained minister of the Congregational Church, applied to be received into the Presbyterian Church at Launceston. He was inducted into the Presbyterian Ministry on 6 July 1848, at Scots Church, Launceston. He served for short periods at Stanley and Deloraine, as well as Launceston. St Andrew's Church, Launceston was opened in 1850 during his incumbency. Ewing had several sermons published, and lectured on modern poetry. He was an ambitious man with a strong-willed personality.

He was the Senior Warden of No.346 in 1850. Ewing became Master of the Lodge of Hope No.901 (618) EC. It would appear the Ewing may have been the ringleader of the faction that left St John's Lodge to defect to the English Constitution as mentioned above. Ewing was ambitious to gain high rank in Freemasonry and had suggested to the members of Lodge of Hope that to advance Masonry in Tasmania it would be necessary to petition for the formation of a Provincial Grand Lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England. This was done by the members, who nominated Ewing. The English Grand Lodge approved the request and Ewing was the English Provincial Grand Master. Ewing's rule proved him to be an autocratic administrator and this was the cause of his downfall.

In February 1857, the Tasmanian Union Lodge No.718 (536) EC in Hobart received a communication from London advising of Ewing's appointment. This was their first intimation of any move to appoint a PGM and, being the premier English lodge in the settlement, they felt resentment at the insensibility by completely ignoring them over this matter. To ruffle Tasmanian Union's feathers further, Ewing issued a directive which they declined to accept. The PGM thereupon withdrew their warrant, dissolved the lodge on 18 November 1858, and returned their warrant to England. An appeal on behalf of the members was submitted by Charles Toby, which was successful. The warrant was restored and the PGM was advised that his jurisdiction was limited to the northern half of the province. Ewing would not accept this condition and resigned.

The Fusilier Lodge No 33 IC, Hobart

A brief history of the fourth Irish Constitution Lodge in Hobart merits recording. The 21st (Royal North British Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot (popularly known as the Royal Scots Fusiliers) arrived in Sydney during 1832 and 1833 by detachments. It did not remain in NSW, but used Sydney as a staging barracks before the regiment moved to Van Diemen's Land. The Headquarters Company was stationed in Hobart, with about five other companies stationed around Van Diemen's Land. There was one company at the Swan River Settlement, Western Australia. The Commanding Officer at this period was Lt-Col J.T. Leahy. The 21st Regiment was one of oldest British infantry regiments, being first raised in 1678 as the Earl of Mar's Regiment of Foot. This regiment had Lodge No.33 IC attached to it. The date of the warrant was circa 1734. The lodge was in a dormant state on its arrival in Hobart, with a membership of about three. However, Bro R.L. Murray and other members from 313, 326 and 345 joined it to provide numbers for regular meetings and it held its first meeting in Hobart in May 1836. (The minute book is extant in the Library of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, Hobart.)

On 28 October 1838 the 'civilian' members decided to apply to Dublin for the transfer of the warrant under its original number to remain in the colony at Hobart Town, when the Regiment sailed for India. Bro Murray put this into effect and was able to announce in August 1842 that he had received the warrant No.33 IC. It named himself as Master, Bro A. McLeod as SW and Bro W.A. Mackay, PM, as JW. Lodge No.33 was recognised by 313, 326 and 345 as the senior lodge, even though the stationary civilian warrant was dated 2 December 1841, making it the fourth in seniority of the Irish lodges in Tasmania. No.33 ceased work about 1854 and the warrant appears to have been lost.

Lodge No 347 IC, Midland Pastoral, Oatlands

On 13 July 1872 an application for a warrant was received in Dublin to form a lodge in Oatlands. Warrant No. 347 was granted on 3 October. This lodge started work on 9 December 1873 with furniture and jewels borrowed from a lodge in Hobart. There was no correspondence received from this lodge after 1878 and it had become defunct by 1883, 'the Township having become deserted'.

Lodge No 353 IC, St George's, Beaconsfield

This lodge received warrant No.353 in 1884 and it was returned on 6 May 1885. This lodge was to meet at the Club Hotel, Beaconsfield. It became No.11 Tasmanian Constitution.

Lodge No 354 IC, Meander, Deloraine

The petition to form a lodge was granted on 3 January 1884 and the warrant was issued on 21 July 1884. This lodge held its meetings at Burts Hotel, Deloraine. In 1890 it became No.12 Tasmanian Constitution.

There was a group of seven lodges that were founded under the Irish Constitution in the ten year period prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania in 1890. The two preceding lodges, No.353 and No.354 were the first two and the rest are detailed under the heading of 'Irish lodges warranted from 1829 to 1888'.

Provincial Grand Lodge, Irish Constitution

The first movement for an Irish Provincial Grand Lodge in Van Diemen's Land commenced in July 1832, when the Grand Lodge was advised by letter from J.T. Lempriere, WM; T. Lightfoot, SW; W. MacMichael, JW; and M. Smith, Secretary/Treasurer of No.313, that:

No.313 and the new lodge [No.326] has chosen Bro William Bohan to act as Provincial Grand Master for Van Diemen's Land until the pleasure of the Grand Lodge is known . . . Bro Bohan is an old and learned Mason who has been very kind in instructing and improving his brethren in Masonry.

Bro William Bohan was surgeon to the 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot (This regiment's HQ Company arrived in Sydney on 18 February 1830, where its cargo of convicts was unloaded, then sailed to Hobart, where the remainder of the regiment arrived in March of that year. The 63rd embarked at Hobart for Madras in February 1833. The Commanding Officer at that time was Lt-Col. J. Logan. The 63rd had an Irish travel warrant No.512 granted in 1774, and it was returned in 1814).

A communication from J.H. Westbrook, WM, to the DGS (John Fowler) was received on 18 September 1834, and in part stated: 'As powers of PGL have been granted to certain parties at Sydney [we] hope that Van Diemen's Land will be similarly favored'. A letter dated 13 May 1835, from J. Fowler to No.313, advises that the application for a PGL in Tasmania has been turned down by the Grand Master, and suggested 'that members of Hobart Lodges form a committee to regulate any matter that is of a masonic nature, subject always to the approbation of the Grand Lodge', giving assurance that no Provincial Grand warrant would be issued 'without granting one also for your colony'.

A letter from No.313 received on 7 February 1839, addressed to the GL:

. . . recommends the appointment of R.L. Murray as PGM, otherwise they reluctantly recommend that GL consider transferring Hobart lodges to the charge of the GL of England, or release all those brethren so remotely situated from their Irish allegiance and sanction the proposition of their establishing an independent Constitution . . . a measure which it is feared, will at some future day occur as it did in America.

From the wording of the next letter the recommendations of No.313 to transfer to another constitution was not far off the mark. On 27 February 1839, the Duke of Leinster, GM, sent a letter to his Deputy, William White:

I am decidedly of opinion that it would be better for us not to appoint PGMs out of Ireland and leave that to the GL of England who are better able to control their lodges than we are. I fear if we grant such to foreign lodges it will only create Schisms.

One of three letters, received on 22 November 1839, from R.L. Murray to John Fowler states the need for '*one absolute authority [my italics]* in Tasmania; committee would only increase differences'. Murray was trying to put the point to the Deputy Grand Secretary that the appointment of a committee (such as the Leinster Masonic Committee) would not work in Tasmania.

However, it was about ten years after the death (1874) of the Duke of Leinster that the PGL of Tasmania, under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, was formed with the Tasmanian Operative Lodge at Hobart, combining with the Irish Constitution lodges in the northern part of the island on 14 October

1884, at the Town Hall, Launceston. WBro Harry Conway was installed as the first Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Lodge worked until 1890, when it disbanded upon the formation of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, having only warranted two lodges during that period. The Provincial Grand Master was installed by the District Grand Master of the English Constitution, the Rev R.D. Poulett-Harris, and the Provincial Grand Officers were:

Prov G.M.	Harry Conway
Prov D.G.M.	Brian Webb
Prov G.S.W.	William Stroud
Prov G.J.W.	J.F. Stump
Prov G.Treas.	H. Thompson
Prov G. Sec.	David Scott
Prov G.S.D.	James H. Room
Prov G.J.D.	Alfred Burbury
Prov G.D.of C.	John Lay
Prov G.Swd.B.	William G. Beaumont
Prov G.Org.	Edwin H. Power
Prov G.I.G.	Philip Davis
Prov G.Chap.	Rev J.W. Simmons
Prov G.Supt.Wks.	J.H. McCall
Prov G.Stwd.	Blanchard Thomas.

Harry Conway was born at Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, England, in 1829. Arriving in Victoria when young, he was employed in the building trade. He arrived in Launceston c 1865 as an architect and Clerk of Works for the construction of the Union Bank. On the completion of that project, he practiced as an architect and was Inspector of Public Works and Buildings, Northern Tasmania, 1893–1905. Conway was the architect and designer of the Masonic Hall in Launceston. Appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1887, he was MHA for George Town, July 1886 to December 1893. He was shown as a member of the Lodge of Faith No.992 (691) EC before joining St John's Lodge No.346 IC.

Conway served as Master of St John's in 1867–68 and again in 1874 to 1876, and then as Secretary from 1877 to 1884. Harry Conway was the foundation Master of the South Esk Lodge No.1102 (800) EC at Evandale in 1883. He was the first and only Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in Tasmania, from 1884 to 1890. RWBro Conway died at Launceston on 2 April 1905. Harry Conway's personality dominated Irish Freemasonry from the 1870s to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, as Murray had done in the early days.

Irish lodges warranted from 1829 to 1888

The Tasmanian	No.313	1829	Hobart	ceased 1847.
Tasmanian Lodge of				
Brotherly Union	No.326	1832	Hobart	No.781/536 EC, 1844.
Tasmanian Operative	No.345	1834	Hobart	No.1 TC.
The Fusiliers	No.33	1841	Hobart	Orig warrant c 1734, ceased c 1854.
St John's	No.346	1843	Launceston	No.2 TC.
Midland Pastoral	No.347	1872	Oatlands	ceased 1881.
St George's	No.353	1884	Beaconsfield	No.11 TC.
Meander	No.354	1884	Deloraine	No.12 TC.
Lord Wolseley Temperance	No.358		1884 Launceston	No.13 TC.
Eastern Star	No.359	1884	Ringarooma	No.14 TC.
Mersey	No.360	1885	Formby	No.21 TC.
Lakes	No.361	1887	Longford	in abeyance 1889, reformed 1890 and transferred to TC as No.29.
Lodge Rechab	No.362	1888	Hobart	No.15 TC.

On 26 June 1890 the Irish Constitution in Tasmania was no more. I will close this paper with the words of Bro Harry Conway: 'I express regrets at the severance from our parent Constitution, and would have wished to have ended my masonic career as an officer of the Grand Old Lodge of Ireland.'

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