



St Quintin's Lodge No.1822

Warranted : 28 April 1879

Consecrated : 21 August 1879

Met at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Erased : 5 September 1923

The driving force behind the formation of St Quintin's Lodge No.1822 was undoubtedly Titus Lewis. He had been Initiated into Cambrian Lodge No.364, Neath, and was a Member of Kennard Lodge No.1258, Pontypool. Born in Llanelly in March 1822, Titus had married Catherine Davies, of Carmarthen, eleven years his senior, in 1842. By 1851, they were living at Picton Terrace, Carmarthen, and were the proprietors of a drapery shop in the town. The business failed and, by 1861, the family had moved to Llanstephan, and Titus had embarked on a career as a Commercial Traveller, representing S & J Watts and Company, Portland Street, Manchester. Between 1851 and 1856, this Manchester Company built a spectacular warehouse, from which was run the largest wholesale drapery business in the city. The building is now the grade II listed Britannia Hotel. By the middle of the 1860s, Titus Lewis had moved St Quintin's House, Llanblethian, Cowbridge, with his family of three sons and three daughters. He soon acquired a reputation as an antiquary and an authority on Welsh literature. He translated a great number of English hymns into Welsh and wrote several poems, the best known being 'The Soldier's Wife, a Tale of Inkerman', published in 1855. The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, holds a large collection of his work. He was also responsible for the English words of Joseph Parry's composition, 'Mynyddog', 1877, and for English translations of several poems by David Evans (Dewi Haran), in a selection of his work, edited by Glanffrwd, under the title of 'Telyn Haran', in 1878. His literary accomplishments resulted in him being elected a Fellow of the Society of Arts (FSA).

The Petition to form St Quintin's Lodge was signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Merlin Lodge No.1578, the Sponsoring Lodge. The Petition was also recommended by Bute Lodge No.960, Windsor Lodge No.1754, and the ProvGM, WBro Sir George Elliot, Bart. Titus Lewis, FSA, was nominated to be the first Master on the Petition, which states that the Lodge is to meet at *'The Bear Inn, Cowbridge on the first Friday of every month'*. The name of the Lodge is stated to be 'St Quintin's', no doubt chosen from the WM Designate's home address, 'St Quintin's House', opposite St Quintin's Castle, Llanblethian. The Petition was signed on 15 March 1879 and the Warrant granted on 28 April 1879. The first that VWBro Marmaduke Tennant, DepProvGM, knew that a Warrant had been granted was on reading the following announcement in the Western Mail on Monday, 26 May 1879: *'Warrants have been granted for 17 lodges, including one at Cowbridge, since the last quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of English Freemasons in March.'*

Clearly annoyed at not having been informed officially, he immediately wrote a curt note to the Grand Secretary, John Hervey, as follows:

'Dear Sir & Bro.

In the Western Mail (a local paper) of to-day, it is stated that a Charter had been granted for St. Quintin's, Cowbridge – may I ask you if this is true.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,'

St Quintin's Lodge was Consecrated at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge at 12.30 pm on Thursday, 21 August 1879. The Lodge was opened by Worshipful Brother John Jones, WM of Merlin Lodge, assisted by Officers of that Lodge. Musical arrangements were conducted by Bro David Williams, ProvGOrg, assisted by several Members of Afan Lodge No.833. The Consecrating Officer was VWBro Marmaduke Tennant, DepProvGM, who also Installed Bro Titus Lewis as the first WM. The DepProvGM and WBro John Edwards Price, PProvSGW, PM Merlin Lodge, were later Elected Honorary Members.

John Watkin Phillips, Physician, SW Designate, was duly Invested as SW. Born in Wrington, Somerset, he had been Initiated in Afan Lodge. In 1881, aged 50, he was living at 'The Cross', Llanblethian, with his wife Mary and their nine-year-old son, Arthur. Dr Phillips used a pony and trap to visit patients and employed a groom, named Stephen Hitchcock, and four general domestic servants. He was in partnership with Dr Thomas Dawson Stanistreet, Founder Member, and first Lodge Secretary and Organist. Only two years after the Consecration of the Lodge, during a heavy snowstorm in 1881, Dr Stanistreet attended an inquest at Llanharry. He missed the last train to Llantrisant, where he had a surgery, and so decided to walk home along the railway line, when he was knocked down and killed by a train.

Returning to the Consecration Meeting, Oscar Hurford, JW Designate, was duly Invested as JW. Born in 1851, at Gurney Slade, Somerset, he lived at Taff Row, Cowbridge, and had been Initiated into Bute Lodge. He was the Station Master of Cowbridge Station, on the Llantrisant and Cowbridge branch of the Taff Vale line. On 11 October 1882, he was Installed as WM of the Lodge.

The first Treasurer, also named on the Petition, was John Thomas, Auctioneer. He too had been Initiated into Bute Lodge and had become a Joining Member of Glamorgan Lodge No.36 on 8 July 1867. Residing at Eastfield House, Cowbridge, he was the Borough Treasurer and a Partner in the firm of Thomas and Alexander - Auctioneers and Valuers. His Partner, David Thomas Alexander, Auctioneer, of 1 Rectory Rd, Penarth, named on the Petition, had been Initiated into Glamorgan Lodge on 13 October 1876.

The Inner Guard was Petitioner, Thomas Whapham, MRVCS, Veterinary Surgeon, age 40. Born in 1838 in St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan, he resided at 'The Poplars', Llanblethian.

Included among the 13 Petitioners were George Montgomery Traherne, JP, Deputy Mayor of Cowbridge (1880), an ancestor of the late Sir Cenydd Traherne, former Lord Lieutenant; and John Whitlock Stradling - Carne, Doctor of Civil Law (Barrister) of St Donat's Castle. The latter was granted the freedom of Cowbridge in 1867 as *'a slight acknowledgement of his exertion in obtaining the Cowbridge Railway.'* He was Chairman of the Cowbridge Railway Company, which was later taken over by the Taff Vale Railway in 1876, and had been Initiated into Glamorgan Lodge on 26 February 1856.

Following the Consecration and Installation, a banquet was held at the Bear Hotel at 5.00 pm, presided over by the Worshipful Master. *'Tickets , to include Dessert and Waiters, Six Shillings and Sixpence each.'* The Lodge notice for the Consecration Meeting stated: *'A Train will leave Cowbridge at 7.30 in time to meet the up Mail, which will stop at Llantrisant specially.*

For the convenience of visiting Brethren from the West, Omnibuses and Brakes will leave Bridgend on the arrival of the up express train, and return on time for the down express in the evening. Fare to-and -fro Bridgend, 2/6 each.'

The annual subscription was set at £1.50. Lodges of Instruction were held twice monthly, sometimes three a month, and in June 1880, four Lodges of Instruction and one Regular Lodge Meeting were held. Lodge suppers were held quarterly in the Bear Hotel. As a Logo, the Lodge adopted the Crest of the former Cowbridge Borough Council in use until 1888. It depicts a cow, crossing from left to right, a three arch bridge.

The first Regular Meeting of the Lodge after the Consecration was held on 5 September 1879, when Mr Morgan Morgan, Boot and Shoemaker, was Initiated.

In 1880, WBro John Jones, PPGReg, PM Merlin Lodge, and a Cardiff Solicitor, who had opened the Lodge for the Consecration Meeting, became a Joining Member. In October of the following year, he succeeded WBro Titus Lewis to become the second WM of the Lodge.

It appears that the Lodge worked well for over ten years. The last Annual Return was received by Grand Lodge at the end of 1891 and the final registration of Candidates was in April 1892. In due course, the Grand Secretary wrote to the Lodge, which resulted in a reply, dated 13 February 1895, from Bro Sidney Gibson, Secretary, stating: *'that the Lodge had almost ceased to exist and owing to the non-attendance of members the meetings could not be held. On very many nights not more than three or perhaps four with the Tyler would attend. As a result it was thought desirable to adjourn for a time. Since then those that did not attend and take an interest in the Lodge are either dead or left the town.'* He further stated that, since the Consecration of the Lodge, no Almoner had been appointed and he (the Secretary) had paid out of his own pocket several pounds towards distressed Bethren and he could not see his way clear to pay the quarterly dues as well. The Lodge lapsed, then in 1909, the Provincial Grand Secretary raised the matter, finally writing to the Grand Secretary stating that he had been in correspondence with a Brother of the Cowbridge Lodge, who was unable to find the Lodge Charter. The first St Quintin's Lodge Charter was never found, despite extensive enquiries locally made by several Founders of St Quentin's Lodge No.4778, Consecrated on Friday, 30 October 1925. (Note the different spellings *Quintin's* and *Quentin's*).

No trace of further correspondence exists and the Lodge was Erased from the Register of Grand Lodge on 5 September 1923.

The loss of interest in St Quintin's Lodge may be attributable to the demise of WBro Titus Lewis. He retired as a Commercial Agent for S & J Watts, Manchester in 1887, with a good pension. A few weeks later, while staying with family in Llanstephan, he passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 10 September 1897. The Western Mail, of 12 September, published a fulsome Obituary, which included the following:

'The immediate cause of Mr Lewis's death was a serious attack of bronchitis, but his constitution had been seriously affected by blood poisoning arising from the bite of a rat some ten years ago, since which time Mr Lewis had never enjoyed such vigorous health as he did before.'

Compiled by WBro Peter M Davies, ProvJGW, with partial references from 'Freemasonry in Cowbridge, 1754 to 2000', by the late WBro Hubert Thomas, PPrJGW.