No. 86

THE STORY OF

Lodge "Glittering Star"
No. 322 (Irish)
(1759 - 1966)

AND

The Beginning of Knight Templary in Canada

by

Reginald V. Harris, P.S.G.M. (Can.)

—1545—
The Knight Templar degree or order was undoubtedly conferred for the first time in North America, in Halifax, in Nova Scotia, by a Lodge in the 29th Regiment of Foot of the British Army.

Here is the story:

The 29th Regiment of Foot (now known as the Worcestershire Regiment) was originally raised by Col. Thomas Farrington of the Coldstream Guards under a Royal Warrant dated February 16th, 1694, and was known as “Farrington’s Regiment” in accordance with the existing practice of calling regiments after their Colonel. In 1698 the regiment was disbanded and many of the men were drafted into the 2nd “Queen’s,” and the officers being placed on half-pay.

In March 1702 the Regiment was re-formed under its first Colonel (Farrington) and in August was transferred to Ireland. In 1704, the Regiment landed in Flanders where it formed part of the Army of the Duke of Marlborough, taking part in the great victory of Ramillies, giving to it its first battle honour. From 1711-13 it was stationed at Gibraltar; from 1713-28 the Regiment was again in Ireland and from 1727-45 it was again stationed at Gibraltar.

**Louisbourg and Halifax:**

In October 1745 the Regiment, then known as “Fuller’s was ordered to Louisbourg in Cape Breton for garrison duty. Stormy weather obliged the transports to stop at the Leeward Islands, and afterwards in Virginia, where they were stationed from December 1745 to April, 1746, the Regiment eventually reaching Louisbourg in May. Here it remained until 1749, when Cape Breton was returned to France under the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) and the Regiment was transferred to the new settlement of Halifax, where the men were employed in cutting down trees and clearing the ground. In 1750 the Regiment returned to Ireland.

**In Ireland:**

The Regiment remained in Ireland from 1750 to 1765. During the summer of 1758, the Regiment was encamped with the 10th Foot at Kilkenny, after which it marched to Dublin. In 1759 the 29th returned to Kilkenny, and joined the camp formed at Bennett’s Bridge, after which it took up quarters at Clonmel, Cashel and Athy.

—1546—
Lodge No. 322. (Ireland):

While at Kilkenny, a Warrant, No. 322, from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, dated the 3rd of May, 1759, was issued for a Masonic lodge in the regiment. This Warrant was issued to George Macartney as Master and Alexander Wilson and Joseph Alcock, Wardens, and it is under this same warrant that Freemasonry has continued with one interruption, to work from that date, May 3rd, 1759, to this present date. Between 1759 and April 1763 no less than 54 brethren were registered in the books of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The principal officers of the Lodge, according to the Grand Lodge of Ireland records during this period were:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Master</th>
<th>S. W.</th>
<th>J. W.</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 3, 1759</td>
<td>Alex Wilson</td>
<td>Joseph Alcock</td>
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<td>Geo. Macartney</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24, 1760</td>
<td>Alex Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24, 1762</td>
<td>James Hooton</td>
<td>Thos. Nevill</td>
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<td>June 6, 1762</td>
<td>Wm Clinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24, 1764</td>
<td>Alex Daniel</td>
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In Nova Scotia:

On the 16th of January, 1761, George, Lord Forbes (afterwards the Earl of Granard) was appointed to command the Regiment, vice Major-General Boscawen, transferred to the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers. New colors were that year presented to the 29th. In 1762 the Regiment left Galway for Londonderry and Belfast, and, in the following year, it was quartered at Dublin.

Leaving Dublin in May 1765, the Regiment marched to Cork, where on the 5th of June it embarked on board H. M. S. "Thunderer" (74 guns, Captain Hood) for transfer to Halifax where the headquarters were established, detachments being sent to Annapolis Royal and Fort Cumberland. The regiment was placed on the British establishment from 17th July, 1765, the day after its landing in Nova Scotia, and consisted of nine companies, each of two sergeants, two corporals, one drummer and 47 privates.
To New England:

On account of apprehended disturbances in New England, orders were sent to General Gage, the Commander-in-Chief for North America, to dispatch troops from Halifax to Boston. These reinforcements, which consisted of the 14th and 29th regiments, the grenadier and one company of the 59th, and a company of Artillery, disembarked at the Long Wharf, Boston, on the 5th of October, 1768, and marched with drums beating, fifes playing and colours flying by King Street to the Common, where the 29th, having brought their field equipage with them, encamped with the Artillery, the 14th being lodged for the night in Faneuil Hall. On the 15th, His Excellency General Gage, having arrived from New York, was received by the troops under arms on the Common, and reviewed the 14th and 29th regiments. On the 29th of October the regiment broke up its encampment and took up quarters in a large store by Green’s Lane, belonging to Major Green, distiller, and in a house in New Boston belonging to Mr. Forest. Early in the year 1769, the regiment was quartered at Castle William, at the entrance to the harbour.

14th Regiment:

The first Masonic Lodge formed in the 14th Regiment than known as Herbert’s Foot, was No. 211 (Irish) warranted in 1750. In 1759 the brethren in the Regiment obtained a second warrant No. 58 from the Grand Lodge of England (Ancients).

In June 1766, the Regiment was transferred from England to Halifax, where it remained for the next two years, fraternizing with the three local lodges on the Provincial roll, and the military lodges in the 29th, 59th and other regiments.

64th Regiment:

In Boston these two regiments (the 14th and 29th) were joined by the 64th Regiment, raised in 1756 as a second battalion for the 11th Regiment but formed as a separate corps as the 64th Foot in 1758. While in Guadaloupe from 1759-62, the Grand Lodge of Scotland issued a warrant for a Lodge No. 106, 1763 to 1768, when it was also transferred to Boston, spending a short time in Halifax on the way.

Thus we find all three regiments in Boston at one time: 14th Regiment with two lodges, 211 (Irish) 1750, and No. 58 (Ancients) 1759.
Extract from Minute-book of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Mass.,
28th August, 1769.
Pursuant to this request a commission was granted in May, 1769, by the Grand Master of Scotland appointing Dr. Joseph Warren as Provincial Grand Master, and he was duly installed at a meeting of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge held in Boston, December 27th, 1769, when we find the Master and Wardens of Lodge No. 322 present, also those of Lodge No. 58, (E. Reg.) in the 14th Regiment. At the election which took place on that date, Capt. Jeremiah French of Lodge No. 322, was elected S.G.W. and Capt. Ponsonby Molesworth of the 29th Regiment, J.G.W. At the meetings of Grand Lodge, January 12th and March 2nd, 1770, Chas. Chambers, Master, James Brown, S.W., and Wm. McMullin, J.W., of Lodge No. 322 were recorded as present. At the March meeting we find Bros. French, S.G.W., and Molesworth, J.G.W., being granted letters of recommendation.

The Royal Arch Degree:

This degree was undoubtedly conferred in Halifax in the year 1760 and possibly also within the previous ten years. In 1750, Lascelles' Regiment which apparently had the authority and knowledge of the degree was in Halifax. The date 1760 is that given by Frederick Sterling as the date when he received the degree in Halifax. In the period 1765-68, there was much activity in the Royal Arch degree due principally to the presence here of the military lodges in the 14th, 29th, 59th and 64th Regiments. A considerable number of civilian brethren in Halifax received the degree in these military lodges, including John George Pyke, later Grand Master of Masons.

The Knight Templar degree:

The most interesting and significant fact, however, in connection with the sojourn of these lodges in Boston is the record in the minutes of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge of August 28th, 1769, when it is recorded that William Davis, P. M. of Lodge No. 58 in the 14th Regiment received the four degrees of Excellent, Super-Excellent, Royal Arch and Knight Templar, these being "the four steps of a Royal Arch Mason."

At this meeting, there were present three brethren of Lodge No. 322 in the 29th, two others of Lodge No. 58 in the 14th Regiment, also three others, members of St. Andrew's Lodge and Chapter, Boston, undoubtedly already in possession of these degrees.
These minutes are the first record of the conferring of the Knight Templar degree in North America.

Sir Charles A. Cameron, C. B. expresses the opinion that Lodge No. 322 was by far the most likely source of these degrees. (A.Q.C. XIII p. 156.)

In a letter to the writer the late Philip Crossele, the distinguished Masonic historian and writer of Dublin, said "I am confident that Lodge No. 322 must have worked all the R. A. and K. T. degrees when in Halifax between 1765 and the year it left for Boston as the K. T. and R. A. are known to have been worked in Ireland from about 1740.

It is submitted that the Knight Templar degree having been conferred by these military brethren in Boston in 1769, it is an irresistible inference that the degree was conferred in Halifax in the previous three years, 1765-68, by these Lodges, all of which had come directly to Halifax from Ireland where they all received their warrants and must have conferred the degree.

In a letter from the Recorder of Boston Commandery to the Secretary of Lodge No. 322, he writes:

"According to our earliest records the introduction of "Templar Masonry in this hemisphere and its development to its present form and ritual is traceable to "Glittering Star" Lodge No. 322."

The letter goes on—
"On Oct. 1, 1768, several Regiments of British soldiers arrived in Boston, among them the 14th Regiment in which Army Lodge No. 58 (English-Ancients) was held and the 29th Regiment in which Army Lodge No. 322 (Irish) was held. In the second week of November 1768, the 64th Regiment in which was held Army Lodge No. 106 (Scottish) also arrived. These Army Lodges brought to Boston a knowledge of the Temple. They readily held Masonic intercourse with the Lodge of Saint Andrew of Boston. Aug. 28, 1769, almost a year after the arrival of the British troops, a Royal Arch Lodge was formed and worked under the supposed authority of the charter of the Lodge of Saint Andrew. The record of its first meeting is preserved, and from it we learn that ten Brothers were then present, of whom six were soldiers and four were members of the Lodge of Saint Andrew. British soldiers were chosen as the first three officers of the Lodge which seems to imply that soldiers were its moving spirits and were best enabled to do the work."
The letter states ten brothers were present. The photo-stat copy of the minutes shows eight, plus the candidate—the candidate was a soldier of the Army Lodge No. 58 (Eng. Ancients).

“As the 14th Regt. Army Lodge No. 58 (Ancients) came to Boston from Halifax at the same time as Lodge No. 322, it supports the probability that these Lodges worked the K.T. degree in Halifax and felt they should confer the degree on Bro. Davis, a P.M. of Lodge 58—No doubt it was the intention to confer it before the Lodges left Halifax but they left for Boston in a hurry to deal with a political emergency.”

As it is clear that the two senior officers of the R. A. Chapter—the Master and Senior Warden—were members “Glittering Star” Lodge No. 322 (Irish) which Lodge had been operating in Halifax, N. S. from 1765 to Oct. 1768—they were also Master and Senior Warden of No. 322 in Halifax in 1768 and in Boston in 1769, it is fair to assume that they had worked the K. T. degree in Halifax, for it was the practice in the early days to work all degrees under the same warrant.

The fact that the Royal Arch Chapter of Saint Andrew’s worked under the supposed authority of their craft warrant is further evidence that in Ireland all degrees were worked under the same warrant, for the six soldiers of the Irish Lodges evidently convinced the Boston Masons of the Lodge of Saint Andrew that such was the case—three of the six belonging to Lodge No. 322.

The 29th was again in Halifax with its Masonic Lodge No. 322 from 1802 to July 1807 and in our archives we have a complete record of their proceedings during that period, including their activities in the Royal Arch degree. The Lodge was dormant from 1831 until 1859, when it was revived under the name “Glittering Star” No. 322, and is still active Masonically.

The Regiment and its Lodge served in Canada from 1867 at Montreal, Kingston and London, later in Toronto and finally in Halifax, from which it embarked in October 1868 for Jamaica.

The Regiment has since served with great distinction in various parts of the Empire and Commonwealth. The two Great Wars added imperishable laurels to those already won.
Following that, it was stationed in India, where Lodge No. 322 carried on the glorious traditions of the apron and the sword.

**The Tower of London**

On June 3, 1938, Glittering Star Lodge No. 322 held the first and only Masonic lodge meeting in the Tower of London. The First Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was then in garrison in the Tower. At that time Field Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, G.C.B., was Constable of the Tower and Colonal of the Regiment. He was also a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England, and an Honorary Member of “Glittering Star” Lodge. A special medal was struck to commemorate the lodge meeting. On that occasion Bro. Rt. Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, M.W. Grand Master of Ireland, opened the Lodge, and was supported by the presence of Bro. Rt. Hon. Lord Saltoun, P.G.M.M. of Scotland, and Bro. General Sir Francis Davies, Deputy Grand Master of England.

**Bicentenary**

In June 1959 Lodge “Glittering Star” No. 322 celebrated its Bicentenary at an installation meeting attended by the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and a Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Some 350 Brethren were present.

The Installation meeting was held at Norton Barracks, Worcester, Bro. Capt. T. J. W. Seabrook receiving the benefit of Installation at the hands of Bro. Frank A. Lowe, R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Ireland. The smoothness with which the ceremonies were performed reflected great credit upon the D.C., Bro. Lt. Col. Parkes and the Secretary, Bro. Major Newman, the Master-elect, Capt. Seabrook. To mark the Bicentenary it was resolved to raise a sum of money to endow an Annuity under The Victoria Jubilee Masonic Annuity Fund of Ireland.

From April 1963 to August 1964, Lodge No. 322 was with the Regiment at Minden, Western Germany and during that period was invited by their German brethren to use their lodge room for all meetings.
On one occasion when no Past Master of the Lodge was able to be present due to military duties, a Past Master of the German lodge occupied the Chair and conducted the proceedings in the English language, and thus enabled a degree to be worked. At every meeting German brethren were present to witness some very good work.

The Regiment with its Lodge is at present stationed in Gibraltar and on the 18th February 1966, the Deputy Grand Master of Ireland, Bro. Dr. J. W. Wallace, flew over from Dublin and installed the Master for the year, C.S.M. Gordon Parkin. A total of 105 brethren attended this meeting.

Among those present were:—R. W. Bro. A. Mena, D.G.M. Western Mediterranean (E. C.) R. W. Bro. W. Baker, D.G.M. Western Mediterranean (S.C.) and several British Masons resident in Spain and Morocco.

August 1st, 1966

R.V.H.