

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

A HISTORY
OF THE EARLY YEARS



By Peter Essex-Clark and Justin van den Berg



Worshipful Brother Dave Moss,

the first Master of the Prosperity Lodge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the following people for their assistance:

- Wor. Bro. Jon Paul and Ingrid Paul for agreeing to take charge of the layout and production of this booklet.
 - The many Brethren and Past Masters of Prosperity Lodge who submitted anecdotes.
 - Wor. Bro. Rodney Grosskopf of Doornfontein Lodge for his invaluable assistance with the historical research.
 - Ms Kathy Brookes, Curator at MuseumAfrica in Johannesburg, for facilitating our access to the museum's splendid photographic library.
 - Mrs. Sandra Hayes of Who's of Who of Southern Africa, for her help in the task of conducting research about the Past Masters of the Lodge.
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FOREWORD

"What does Freemasonry mean to you?" . This was the seemingly simple question asked by the co-author of this book, Bro Peter Essex-Clark, at a meeting of past masters, whilst he was compiling material for this fascinating history of the Prosperity Lodge. Simple the question may seem, simple it is not to answer.

This conundrum was summed-up in part, by a District Grand Master of a differing constitution who once said "when the doors of a lodge are closed, we meet in absolute peace and perfect harmony. The trials, vexations and tribulations of everyday life are excluded and an aura of wonderful peace, tranquillity and fraternity prevails". This assertion is not escapism nor a retreat from reality; it epitomises the coming together of dedicated persons of vastly differing origins, cultures and backgrounds who may gather in unanimity of purpose,



safe in the knowledge that they are amongst kindred spirit and brotherly love. The woes of everyday life are excluded and the soul may thus be rejuvenated.

There is more obviously. I personally gain satisfaction by helping my fellow creature in whatever manner, no matter how large or small that contribution may be. I do not need to belong to an organisation which emblazons its achievements upon inanimate objects. I am happy that anonymously I may "do my bit" for society and the less fortunate.

If this answers the question at the beginning of this introduction, so mote it be.

I must sincerely congratulate and thank Bros Peter Essex-Clark and

Justin van den Berg on this superb publication which must take it place amongst the annals of masonic study as a most informative and well researched document.

To the members of The Prosperity Lodge and its many stalwarts, my thanks go to you to all for your continued support and encouragement by allowing me to be your Master during this, our centenary. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless one and all and guide us in the paths of virtue.

The lodge now enters the first year of our second century and may this be as rewarding and successful as the first.

Wor. Bro. BR (Dick) Glanville,
Master

A VIEW OF JOHANNESBURG CIRCA 1896.



It is said that the area around Johannesburg has been inhabited by humans for 250 000 years. The region's prehistoric heritage includes many Stone Age relics and evidence of the presence of hunters and gatherers. A thousand years ago there were Iron Age villages not far from present day Johannesburg. Circular kraals and stone walls speak of cattle herding, and there is evidence of metal being procured from rock and charcoal being used as fuel. These early settlers were later conquered by Mzilikazi's warriors and subjected by the advancing Voortrekkers, who

carved the Transvaal Highveld into large farms whose perimeters were determined by the distance a farmer could cover on horseback in one hour.

The agrarian tranquillity of the Transvaal, or the South African Republic as it was known then, came to an abrupt end in 1886, when George Harrison, an experienced Australian gold digger, discovered a "payable goldfield" - the famous Main Reef of the Witwatersrand.

In September 1886 President Paul Kruger's government announced the proclamation of

the farms Driefontein, Elandsfontein, the southern portion of Doornfontein, Turffontein, the government farm Randjeslaagte, Langlaagte, Paardekraal, Vogelstruisfontein and Roodepoort as public diggings. This proclamation set in motion the development of the world's greatest goldfields, and lay the foundation for the establishment of Johannesburg - the city of gold.

But our purpose here is not to examine the early history of Johannesburg. Our story begins some ten years later, on 20 May 1896.

It is rare for an endeavour begun one hundred years ago not to have died over the intervening years. History has a way of crushing man's endeavours, no matter how well they were conceived or fervent

their cause. Yet the ravages of a full century have not in any way destroyed what was begun at 100, cor Bree and Delvers Streets, Johannesburg, by a few good men on the night of the 20th of May 1896. The resolve

of these men is still with us. Their energy is still with us. And so, in a way, they are still with us. It is right for us to honour them. Their names were,

Present Wor Bro Dave Moss (who was voted to the Chair)
Bros J. Horwicz, M. Zeffert S. Savine P. M. Patlausk
J. Jolly M. Patlausk J. Bloom, A. W. S. Goldberg
~~and~~ J. Schlimmer + B. Lazarus.

and their purpose, simply put, was thus written:

Wor Bro D. Moss then stated for what purpose the meeting was called, with the desire to form a Lodge under the I. O. O. F. and to petition the Grand Lodge for a charter, and it was resolved to name the Lodge 'Prosperity'

The Brethren present - signed the petition and subsequently by the following Brethren, A. Appel
P. J. Lucas J. J. Sheppard & W. Patterson.

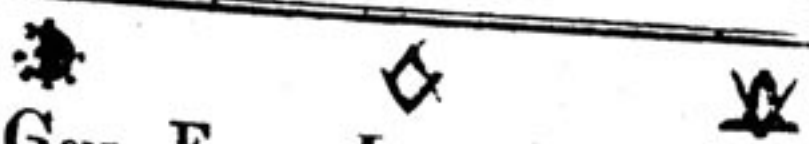
"I prognosticate that, so far as Johannesburg is concerned, the sun of prosperity still shines behind the clouds that will ere long burst forth in all its glory."

Barney Barnato, the famous uncle of Solly Joel, an early member of Prosperity Lodge.

Their labour was rewarded. The foundation they laid was as solid as only a Mason can make it. Prosperity Lodge was started. It stayed the course and prospered.

The men who make it prosper today, you see in place in the North, South, East and West. They are today's keystones upon which tomorrow's Masons must rely in order to continue the work.

These advertisements appeared in 'The Star' on 4 November 1896.


GOLD FIELDS LODGE No. 2478.
A. N. S. GOLDBERG, W.M.

B.B. ARE requested to attend the Ceremony of the
Consecration of Prosperity Lodge, No 2607,
at the Freemasons' Hall, Jeppe-street, on Wednesday next,
4th inst., at 7.30 p.m. sharp. Also the laying of the Founda-
tion Stone of the New Masonic Temple on THURSDAY, 5th
inst., the procession to which will start from the Freemason's
Hall, Jeppe street, at 8 p.m.

By command of the W.M.:
R. MOSS, Acting Secretary.

PROSPERITY LODGE 2607, E.C.

THE Consecration of above Lodge and Installation of the
Wor. Master and Officers will take place at the Free-
masons' Hall, Jeppes street, on WEDNESDAY, November 4th
inst.

Ceremony will commence at 7 sharp.

S. LAVINE,
Acting Secretary.

October 31, 1896. [367]

A hundred years have passed, and the labour goes on. In another hundred years it will not have ceased. For as long as charity and relief have a place on this earth, there will be work to be done for men of the character of our founders and their followers; the present members of Prosperity Lodge.

In order to see where you stand today it is necessary to examine the events that caused this position. The chain of events that began one hundred years ago has had a myriad of consequences; but because it is conventional to celebrate the passage of certain segments of time, here we stand next to a milestone that is the last of a hundred. But more than a celebration of mere time; it is a human celebration. And each milestone is significant in human terms. Consider the man who brought you into Masonry; your proposer. He also had to have a proposer; and likewise this man was brought to the doors of the Lodge by another. And if this process is considered logically then it is clear that the cause of your membership to your Lodge is an absolute sequel to the events that took place at 100, cor Bree and Delves so long ago. In this sense then we are truly related to our founders.

One is only able to judge one's

work and achievements if one is able to perceive accurately what has been done and what has been achieved. What has been done by Prosperity Lodge is for one hundred years, on two occasions every month, to bring together a body of men dedicated to the ideals of charity and relief. What this has achieved in monetary terms is impossible to gauge. But what we can readily perceive is that the Community of Need has been well served by this sustained effort.

But the reward gained for this work is not only in giving, but in receiving. And what was received in abundance while engaged in this work is that most wonderful of all emotions: the sense of brotherhood. This is the bond that unites. And is acknowledged for many as being the most satisfying aspect of Masonry. The anecdotes of our Past Masters confirm this to be so.

In the early days of Prosperity Lodge initiates presented themselves at such a rate that it was necessary to hold up to three emergency meetings a month in order to cope with the numbers. In the first year there were thirty-eight initiations and twenty-one joinings. At most meetings two degrees were worked, with several candidates being put

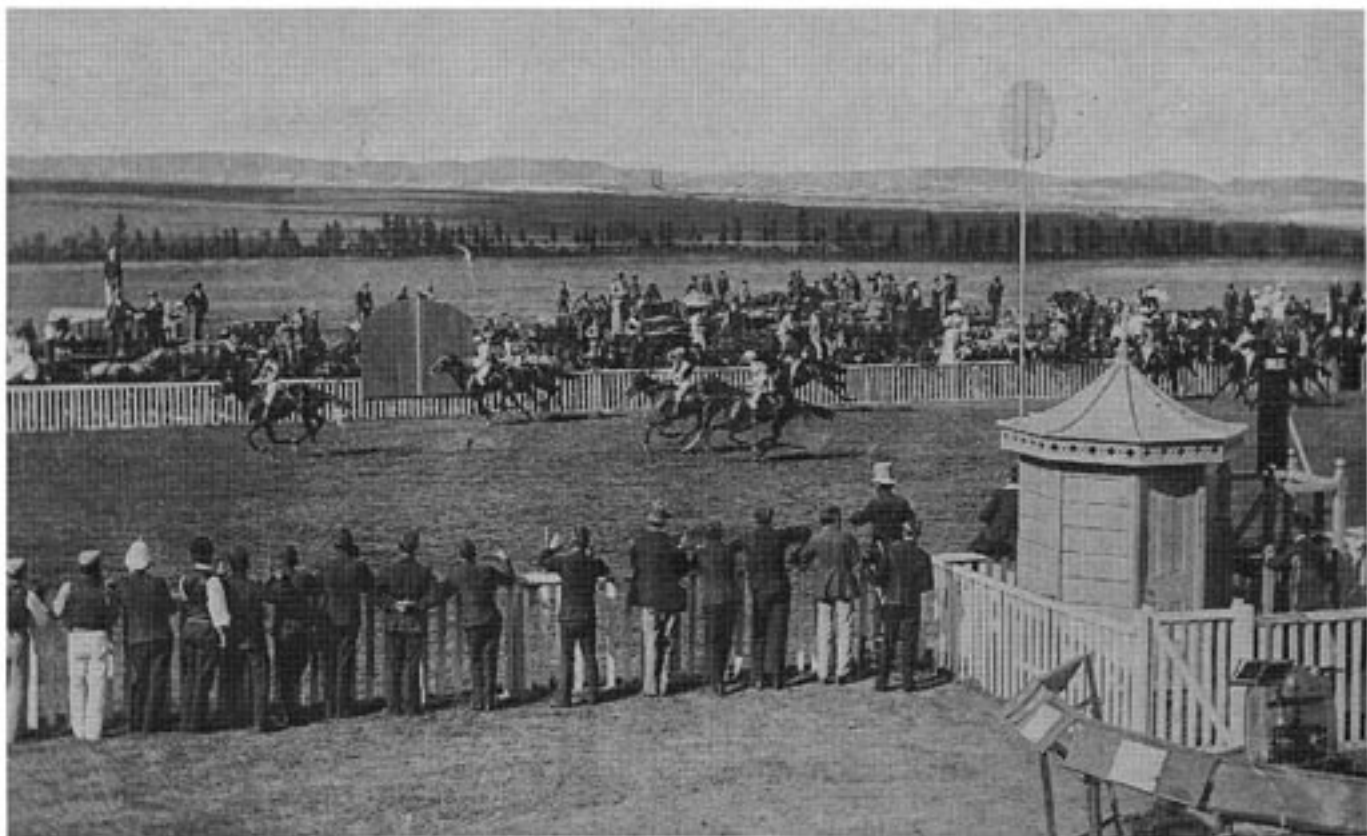
through simultaneously. Sometimes, due to relocation of Brethren - 'About to leave the state' - dispensations were granted to pass or raise members at a highly accelerated rate. Clearly, in those days, translocation from one state to another was regarded as something of an ordeal, which could be lightened by Masonic seniority. Membership was seen as a potent form of social accreditation by the relocated brother. In August of this year the worshipful master Wor Bro D Moss presented the Lodge with its banner, and in the same month a ball was held to celebrate the Lodge's consecration. On that occasion permission was granted to wear Masonic Regalia.

This busy state of affairs continued into the last decade of the 19th Century with substantial amounts of money being collected in the process. It wasn't unusual for a member to make a donation of twenty-five guineas, or for a collection to exceed eleven pounds. The average collection amounted to about £2,10,0. At a regular meeting in May 1897 the sum of 400 guineas was donated to the Transvaal Masonic Educational Fund. Clearly there were brethren of rank and opulence amongst the Freemasons of Prosperity Lodge in those early days.

It will interest our present and most venerable secretary to know that at the end of year one, the princely sum of 20 guineas was voted for his predecessor in recognition of a job well done. Bearing in mind that with 20 guineas in those days you could have purchased

change, it's quite obvious that modern-day secretaries are under-valued. Viva! Senior Warden at the inaugural meeting was Mr Charles Aburrow, Deputy Grand Master of the Transvaal; doyen of architects, and prominent member of the Johannesburg Turf Club. In fact a surprisingly

Accountants. Horse racing was an extremely well patronised weekly event, bringing together people from all walks of life - the opulent and the poverty struck, diggers and dignitaries in a confluence of sweat and cologne - and money. The lowest acceptable wager that one could make was



Racing at Turffontein in 1895.

a virgin stand on the corner of Eloff and Commissioner and still have come away with some

large number of those joining Prosperity in those days gave their occupations as Turf

'copper to the value of one penny'. Though it is known that inventive bets were the



The office of our first Worshipful Master, Dave Moss.

order of the day, and part of the regular equipment of every turf accountant was a portable set of scales for the weighing of nuggets of gold. And betting was frantic.

The most renowned turf

accountant of the era, however, was none other than our founding Worshipful Master Dave Moss. Dave, from his offices in Jeppestown, ran games of chance at various venues on the Reef. Especially

in demand were tickets for his sweepstake. In celebration of his popularity, a street was named after him. Moss Street in Jeppestown. It's still there today, off Jules Street near the fire station.

At a regular meeting on 8th December 1897 held at the Freemasons Hall, Jeppe Street, with a credit balance in the bank of three hundred and eighty-five pounds, two shillings and two pence, having

seen through the inaugural year, W. Bro. David Moss was presented with his PM's jewel and some valuable pieces of silver plate. He was succeeded by the then Junior Warden Bro Benjamin Lazarus.

Alas, W Bro Benjy Lazarus's name no longer appears on the Roll of Past Masters as published on the monthly Lodge summons. We see the name Lazarus on the list up to the year 1926, whereafter it

The Star often carried advertisements for Worshipful Brother Dave Moss's Sweepstakes. Even in this seemingly mercenary endeavour of gambling on the horses, our Worshipful Master's Masonic principles were evident. This advertisement for his English Derby Sweep contains the following line: "TAKE NOTICE.-One-quarter of the nett profits of this Sweep will be given to the Johannesburg Hospital."

WHY PAY 20s. WHEN 10s. GIVES YOU THE SAME CHANCE?

SHORT NOTICE! **DAVE MOSS'S** **SHORT NOTICE**
ENGLISH DERBY SWEEP

OF
More or Less—£10,000—More or Less.

Run June 3rd, 1896; Drawn June 2nd at 8 p.m. Divided as follows:—

20 First Horse Prizes at £250	·	·	£5,000
20 Second Horses Prizes at £25	·	·	2,500
20 Third Horse Prizes at £50	·	·	1,000
Divided amongst actual Starters	·	·	1,500
TICKETS 10s. EACH			£10,000

**Winners and Runners will be Cabled
And Sweep paid out next day.**

TAKE NOTICE.—One-quarter of the nett profits of this Sweep will be given to the Johannesburg Hospital.

Address: **DAVE MOSS**, Exchange Buildings, or Box 636, Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG WINTER HANDICAP SWEEPS
2698) *Special and Ordinary now open: Tickets 10s. each.*

becomes Benjy Hansford. He changed his name. Whether or not he changed convictions in the process we do not know. What we do know is that just prior to the change he was engaged in a fistfight at the

Theatre Royale with one of Johannesburg's leading citizens; Abe Bailey. Abe, who later became a belted baronet had the reputation of being a great sparrer. Benjy had the reputation of being an excellent

bookmaker - an audacious dice player - a good judge of diamonds and a bad judge of women. It was no contest. Abe Bailey knocked our WM into his H Q, senseless.

During the Boer War, theatrical companies from abroad could not be invited to perform in Johannesburg. But local entertainment remained popular, with enthusiastic audiences attending concerts and film shows. The Masonic Hall was a favourite entertainment venue and, in 1903, presented a cinematographic display of pictures taken during the Boer War. Other entertainment venues included the Standard Theatre, the Empire and the Gaiety. At Fillis's Circus, a man called Tom Burrows broke the world record for club swinging when he whirled some Indian clubs at fifty revolutions per minute for 41 hours and 10 minutes.



The Theatre Royale was Johannesburg's first theatre - 'an ugly, tin, one-storied building' that served as a venue for varied entertainments. Boxing; opera; chorus-girl chasing. A good time was guaranteed for the patrons.

At any rate, from a Masonic point of view W Bro Benjy was an indisputable success. He attended during his term in office no fewer than twenty-six regular and emergency meetings and initiated many candidates. A sturdy effort. Remember that most people in those days hadn't ever heard of Henry Ford, and got to Lodge literally by means of pedal power.

The Masonic Hall was a regular entertainment venue in early Johannesburg. This advertisement in The Star announced a "Grand Smoking Concert" which would be held at the Masonic Hall on 28 March 1896 under the patronage of the Caledonian Society in aid of the bagpipe band. The advertisement goes on to state that "A Monster Programme is being arranged including some of the finest talent in Johannesburg."

GRAND SMOKING CONCERT.

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT to be held under the patronage of

THE CALEDONIAN SOCIETY,

IN AID OF:

THE BAGPIPE BAND

(now being organised),

AT THE

MASONIC HALL,
JEPPE STREET,

ON

SATURDAY,
MARCH 28th, 1896.

A Monster Programme is being arranged including some of the finest talent in Johannesburg.

Concert to Commence at 8 p.m.

ADMISSION - 2s. 6d.

Tickets to be had from the Secretary Caledonian Society, and the undersigned.

JAMES M. BOSS,
President,
Pipe Band Committee.

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Cycling was very popular in Johannesburg and by 1895 it was estimated that there were close on four thousand bicycles on the road. Even prominent business people were known to ride bicycles and the exclusive Rand Club had a bicycle stand erected in its yard.

After the turn of the century, many city dwellers travelled in small horse-drawn trams until, finally, in February 1906, the electric tram was introduced to Johannesburg. By 1902 motorcycles had become a common sight on the Rand. In one of the many races which were organised, the winner covered 34 miles in 5 hours and 55 minutes – an average speed of

5 3/4 miles per hour.

It was only in about 1905 that motor cars began to appear on the streets of Johannesburg. Town council regulations stipulated that "no vehicle could proceed at a pace greater than seven miles per hour". It was considered a major achievement to drive from Johannesburg to Cape Town within a fortnight. G.S. Burt Andrews, who later became District Grand Master of the Transvaal, needed only seven days to complete the journey from Johannesburg to Durban and back in a six horsepower De Dion. Within a few years, there were so many motor cars in Johannesburg that it became necessary to ban mule teams of

more than six animals from the central area during the daytime. Officials could fine cyclists who rode at excessive speed or horse cart drivers who allowed their horses to bolt.

According to a transport census conducted in August 1909, Johannesburg had 52 horse buses, 364 cabs, 288 market trolleys, 389 rickshaws, 22 522 bicycles, 393 motor cars, 308 motor cycles, 3 621 traps and carriages and 22 motor taxis. Whilst some of our brethren may have made their way to lodge by car, these statistics indicate that the bicycle remained the most likely mode of transport for a resident of Johannesburg.



In 1904, during the term of office of W Bro the Reverend William Woolf, Benjy Lazarus presented the Lodge with its first Past Master's Banner.

Succeeding W Bro Benjy Hansford / Lazarus was Bro Harold Fairbrother Strange, an ex-member of the ill-starred Reform Committee. A most intriguing man who was installed in December 1898; made a 'sudden departure to England to attend to urgent private affairs' six months later, and wasn't seen in the SAR again for some considerable time. He wasn't exaggerating about the urgency of his affairs, though. W Bro Harold, together with his fellow reformers had already done time in Pretoria Central, after the fiasco of the Jameson Raid, and didn't fancy a second stretch.



Mr Charles Patlansky, doyen of the Patlansky family who were founding members of Prosperity Lodge.



Oom Paul Kruger

It was during this decade that the Anglo Boer War was fought and British loyalists such as he (and W Bro Solly Joel - also holding dual membership of the Reform Committee and Prosperity Lodge) felt the need to keep a healthy distance between themselves and Oom Paul's Staats Polisie. In fact H F Strange didn't go to England, but served out the war as an adviser to Lord Milner, in Cape Town. A great exodus of Uitlanders took place from the Rand in August when it became obvious that war between the Boer Republics and Great Britain was inevitable. Shops and businesses were boarded

up. The Lodges of the Freemasons went hastily into recess, and stayed in recess until Lord Roberts' columns marched into Johannesburg at the end of May 1902. Close on Robert's heels was W Bro Strange.



Lord Milner



Cecil John Rhodes

LORD MILNER'S RDP AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DRIVE.

On 28 February 1901, Lord Milner was appointed governor of the newly annexed Transvaal. Milner established his headquarters in Parktown and started an efficient new, British orientated civil service. Many of the bright young Englishmen who were imported (mainly from Oxford) were eager to join lodges in the city, and the exiled Uitlanders started returning to Johannesburg. So when lodge meetings started again in 1902, they did so with renewed vigour - and under British rule. The war had wrought a great

deal of destruction, and Lord Milner's government initiated a number of "reconstruction and development programmes". The courts of law, the police, education and the railways were all revamped. The new Department of Agriculture started building the Transvaal's own food production capacity, making it less reliant on costly imports. The Transvaal Technical Institute was established as a school of mines, which eventually developed into Witwatersrand University.

One bizarre consequence of the wartime recess was that a candidate for initiation, duly elected on the 12th of September 1898 had to dwell on his ambition of becoming a Mason for thirty long months before being admitted and initiated. His name was Isaac Levy; surely the most stoic Masonic candidate of all time.

After the war, W Bro Strange returned to the Reef, and once

more took up his position as general manager of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. Neither did he neglect his Masonic duties. He was elected to the chair of King Solomon for a second term, and was crucial to the re-establishment of the Lodge.

W Bro Strange was very active in public life, chairing commissions and committees too numerous to mention, and

was largely responsible for the establishment of a sanitarium for phthisis sufferers on the Rand. However, he is probably best remembered for his collection of historical and rare books. He was a frequent donor to the Johannesburg Public Library, and his name is commemorated today in its Strange Africana Collection. It is regarded as a vital part of our national heritage.



*Worshipful Brother
Harold Fairbrother
Strange.*

From 1902 to 1903, the Lodge was chaired by Hyam Goldstein, an upholsterer, about whom little is known, other than that he was initiated into Prosperity in November 1896 at the Consecration of the Lodge, was passed to the degree of FC at an emergency meeting in January 1897, and raised to the 3rd degree a month later. He is believed to have made his mark, not in upholstering but in speculating. Interestingly, during his period of office a rather unusual rule was instituted. In April 1903 it was proposed in Open Lodge that candidates for initiation be balloted for en bloc. The motion was carried. That evening no fewer than seven new candidates were approved. At the same meeting a further six applications were tabled. And so it went on. W Bro Hyam Goldstein was clearly a man of inexhaustable energy, presiding over no fewer than twenty-eight regular and emergency meetings during his term. Such was the urgency to enlist into the Craft in those days.

At his last meeting in the chair, application for joining was received from one Benjamin Lighthouse; a broker from Commissioner Street, who six years later was to become Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

MASONIC HALL CINDERELLAS.

THE first of the series of the above Dances will be held in the FREEHOLD HALL, JEFFREY-STREET, on TUESDAY, 29th MAY.

Tickets to be obtained from the undermentioned members of the Committee:—

E. Hüner	S. Lavine	J. J. Henschberg
M. Maraden	J. Bloom	A. Apfel
B. Alexander	G. W. Dight	J. J. Shepperd
F. Schlemmer, and		

4485) S. HERSHFIELD, Hon. Secretary.

For many of the Transvaal farmers who were financially ruined by the Boer War, relief came in the form of jobs on public works projects such as the construction of Emmarentia Dam. In 1902, the Rand Aid Association was established for the "relief of distress in the Witwatersrand District". The organisation distributed food, clothing, medical comforts and monetary aid amongst the widows, orphans and the aged, as well as amongst the very poor families. But there was distress and poverty long before the war, and the men who founded Prosperity Lodge had been making a tangible contribution to the community even before the Lodge was founded. As early as 1896, members of Prosperity Lodge and its mother lodge, Gold Fields Lodge, were organising social events in aid of charity. One example is the Masonic Hall Cinderellas, a dance troupe which performed at the Masonic Hall, presumably to raise funds for Masonic charities. Of the eleven members of the committee selling tickets for the performances by the Masonic Hall Cinderellas, five were founding members of Prosperity Lodge. They were Brothers A. Apfel, J. J. Shepperd, S. Lavine, J. Bloom, F. Schlemmer.

'Black Cat' peanut butter! Show me the South African who hasn't heard of the name. Show me the kid who hasn't dumped an entire lunch box of Cat sammies down the tubes. Yech! Well it was a Freemason who was to blame for it: one Morris Patlansky. A member, nogaal, of Prosperity Lodge.

Morris came to Johannesburg in about 1887. He already had family there, and he and his nephews opened several bars. One - the Violet Bar in Jeppe Street - enjoyed a great reputation as an all-night venue where a lot of shoving and punching might be expected to occur. He was also licensee of

the Moonlight Bar in Commissioner Street; an altogether more up-market establishment frequented by Jo'burg's *fille de joie*. No wonder Oom Paul frowned on the Uitlanders. They really were a feverishly recreationally-minded lot.

Morris and his brother, Joseph (also a member of Prosperity) opened the first specialist oilman's store in Johannesburg. On a stand adjacent to the Violet Bar in Joubert Street (bordering, can you believe it, on open veldt) they built a brick building from which to trade. A single-storey building, the stable where they kept their horses and a delivery cart was at the back, as was Morris' sleeping quarters. It was the only brick building in that part of town. Morris also ran an aerated mineral water factory at the back of the Moonlight Bar, but this venture soon folded.

Morris, who spent the greater part of the war in the Jewish Ambulance Corps, then went on to acquire the Great Eastern Hotel on the corner of Loveday and Plein, but by now the family's main commerce was in wholesale oil trading. This venture went from strength to strength, until in 1922 Patlansky Bros brought out Black Cat Oil and Peanut Butter, which was sold to Tiger Oats in 1948.

The revelry in Johannesburg attracted the attention of the International Order of Good Templars, which established the earliest temperance society on the Witwatersrand. The Main Reef Lodge Number 16, Johannesburg was instituted on

12 February 1887 and held weekly meetings at venues ranging from private dining rooms to an unfurnished store to a studio to a blacksmith's shop. No evidence could be found of fraternal relations between this lodge and Prosperity Lodge.



A branch of Patlansky Brothers.

Two brethren who were more successful than Morris in the aerated mineral water business were A N S Goldberg and M Zeffert - both petitioners for Prosperity's Charter. They used champion Clydesdale horses to transport their product around and about Johannesburg. The horses, apparently, were so well acquainted with their daily routine that they scarcely required control and would pull up in front of customers' shops without the slightest help from the driver. Goldberg and Zeffert's 'Cool Fresh Colddrinks' must have been a huge boon in that hot and dusty dorp.

Bro Goldberg, though never attaining the chair, acted as WM



*Reverend William Woolf,
Worshipful Master of Prosperity
Lodge in 1903-04 and again in
1916-17.*

on more than one occasion, and was very active in charitable activities.

On Wednesday the 13th of July 1898, at a regular meeting of Prosperity Lodge, the following application for joining was read:

Bro Rev William Woolf M M of Lodge No. 918 EC.

His proposer was Benjy Lazarus. In August ballot was taken and William Woolf was admitted into the Lodge.

William Woolf came to South Africa from his native Poland in 1889, and became a minister of the Old Hebrew Congregation in 1896. In December 1903, after having delivered outstanding service to the Craft, he was installed as WM of the Lodge. In his time he was District Grand Chaplain both in the Craft and Mark, as well as District Grand Second Principle

in the Royal Arch.

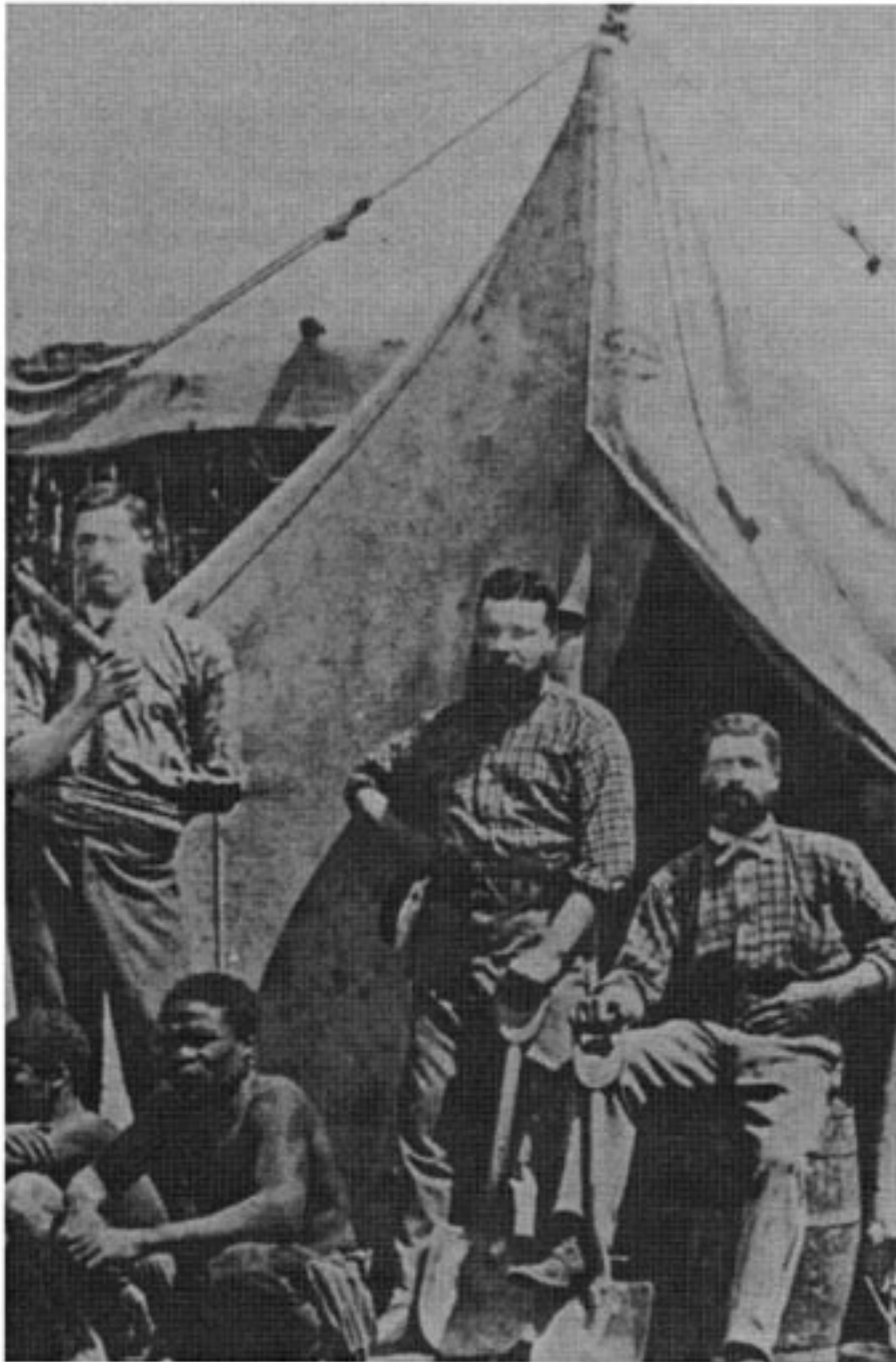
William Woolf had tenure of the Chair of King Solomon in 1903 and again in 1916. He was noted for his erudition, compassion and willingness to serve his community both in a spiritual and secular role.

His membership of Prosperity Lodge enriches us to this day.

The Johannesburg of Dave Moss, of Benjy Lazarus, Harold Strange, Solly Joel and the Patlansky brothers was a bumptious, hustling, bare-knuckled city, filled with three thousand dusty, lusty diggers, with one collective obsession. To get rich in the quickest possible time. No holds barred. The rest of the white population - some twenty-seven thousand souls, wouldn't have been there but for the diggers. They were the men who sweated blood to bring up the gold: gold

When gold was discovered at the Witwatersrand, about four thousand people started descending on the Reef from all corners of the earth: financiers, adventurers, gamblers and other fortune seekers from numerous nationalities and religions made their way to the Transvaal to exploit the riches it promised. Prospectors arrived by ox wagon,

horse wagon and mule wagon, set up camp and started exploring the reef. They lived in wagons, tents, mud houses, and shacks made of wood and tin in a rapidly expanding village that had no water supply, no sanitation, no lighting and no tarred roads. The staple food was meat and vegetables boiled together in iron pots.



to the value of about four million Pounds Sterling per annum. A huge amount of money.

So there were two distinct social strata: the riff-raff - Cornish 'Jackies', Aussie bucko's, shovel stiffs from the four quarters of the globe - men whose aspirations certainly were not contingent upon membership of a Masonic Lodge. And the elite. In the late Victorian period for a professional man to be a Freemason was almost *de rigueur*. And for the *nouveaux riches* of Johannesburg, membership to a Lodge was as good as a call to court. They had to join, or be seen as lesser men, and so applications from Jo'burg's rich and famous and would-be rich and famous poured in. Pressure on London to sanction new Lodges was irresistible.

But not all of our founding brethren wore haloes. There were those who weren't averse to a good punch-up when the need arose. Solly Joel was a very wealthy man; a leading philanthropist and a member of the Jewish School Board. He was into show biz too, and brought out a burlesque company from England to play at the newly constructed Globe Theatre. The season ran into difficulties, however, and Solly bailed out. This earned him 'The Cake' award from *The Critic*: first prize for abject behaviour in theatrical

terms. But despite this, Solly took up his seat with Barney Barnato's wife in his box at the Globe the next night. Jenny Dawson - star of the show had already instituted an action against Solly Joel for salary arrears. That evening she was unable to restrain herself, and passed some pointedly vulgar remarks in Solly's direction. Solly took exception, and at the next show packed the dress circle with his cronies. Poor Jenny Dawson was jeered every time she opened her

mouth. She sent for reinforcements. Three dozen Cornish Jackies answered the call, and an energetic evening ensued. It was reported in the 'Standard and Diggers News' that the show went on.

Solly Jolly had a winning smile that got him clear of most trouble. But he had a weakness for large, flamboyant buttonholes, which must have endeared him no end to the poxy lot down at Ferreira's Camp.



Solomon Barnato Joel.

Benjy Lazarus was another who could be relied upon to now and then take a poke at his antagonists, and once saved a journalist friend from being beaten up by taking on several thugs who were after his blood.

The Patlansky boys were reputed to be useful with their fists, and kept the peace in their own establishments. But it wasn't unheard of in those days for ordinary, normally inoffensive businessmen to step into the ring, bare-knuckled, in order to settle some trivial argument. There were rules of course - London Prize Ring rules; which, simply put, meant that the winner was the one still standing when the other one was not. Clearly it was very important not to give offence in those days; especially not to someone who had a longer reach than you. A favourite venue for boxing matches was at Willow Grove (Orange Grove); 'a rural spot of some tranquillity, just outside Johannesburg'.

But if Willow Grove was rural, Johannesburg centre was anything but. It was decidedly urban; boasting broad streets, gas-lamps, and shops with plateglass windows in which were displayed the latest in haute couture, millinery and gracious footwear: anything that a civilised soul could wish for, from silverplate to Cuban cigars.

For would-be pioneers there were wagon-makers and gunsmiths, and purveyors of the most up-to-date maps of the untamed hinterland from Delagoa Bay to Gorongosa.

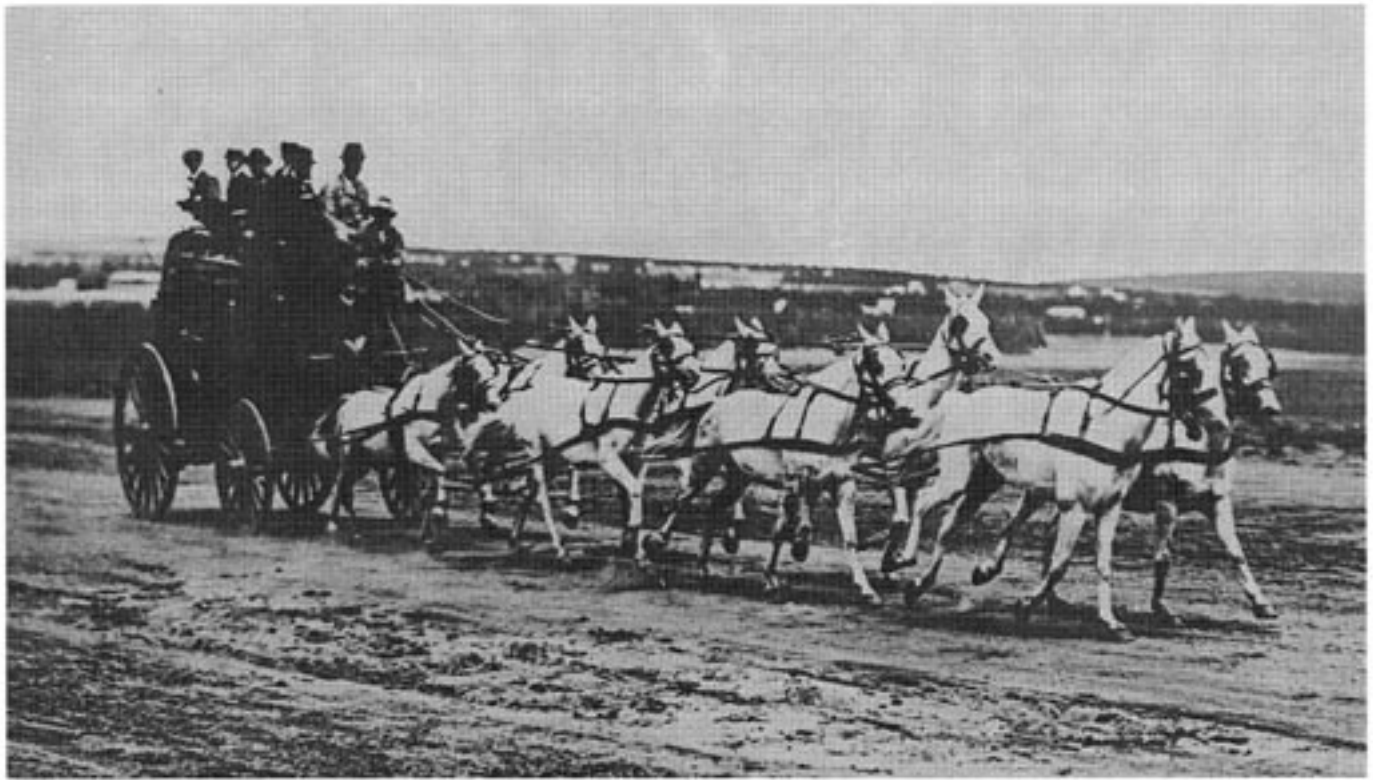
Many of the first fortune seekers who came to

Johannesburg, travelled by horse-drawn coach. Travelling was most uncomfortable and one had to muster considerable strength to withstand the swaying of the coach and the clouds of dust which came in through the open windows. If, for example, one intended to

venture north to Bulawayo in 1896, one had to be prepared for a journey of at least 12 days in a so-called "fast mule passenger wagon." At night the passengers travelling on top of the coach were strapped down to prevent them from rolling off during their sleep.

The ladies of Johannesburg have always been extremely fashion conscious. Even before the turn of the century it was regarded as essential to have just the right taps, curtains and furniture, and to follow the dress fashions of the period with diligence. There were prescribed standards for jewellery: gold brooch bangles, muff chains, gold pendants, lockets and bracelets were in vogue. It was also important to look after one's figure and ladies who wished to develop their busts were advised to take up all manner of exercises and to "use cold water judiciously" on the upper part of the body.





By 1895 the railway line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay was running at full capacity, and one was able to quickly import whatever new commodity in vogue in Europe, into the Transvaal Republic; and not only things inanimate. The railway was blamed for the influx of pimps and prostitutes thronging into Johannesburg. Cheap fares were being offered by the German African Shipping Line to prospective immigrants from Europe, regardless of moral outlook. And with the flood of English adventurers from the

Cape Colony, and indeed from all over the world into the goldfields, the demand for merchandise of any kind was high. By now the Uitlanders outnumbered the Burgher population, and mining activity was frenetic. But the concessions belonged to the Burghers. These

mining concessions ran along the Reef for about forty miles from Krugersdorp in the west, to Benoni in the east, with Johannesburg plumb in the middle.



Early map of concessions

Though the Uitlanders were making money, they were embittered by the actions of the concessionaires who were imposing punitive duties on all imported items: machinery, textiles, even food and water. It was natural for the English-speaking Uitlanders, who up to then had shown scant interest in politics, to tribalise and unite in order to try and influence Paul Kruger's government to introduce reforms, and let them have a say in local politics. So the British came together in a patriotic swarm that made a lot of noise, but not enough to scare Oom Paul into letting them have their way. Kruger wasn't moved. Discontent amongst the Uitlanders intensified. The Reform Committee began smuggling arms into Johannesburg, and a rebellion was planned. A little war broke out - financed by Cecil John Rhodes, and led by Leander Starr Jameson. It failed dismally to achieve a single objective. The Uitlanders were still punitively taxed, and were still denied a political voice. With the would-be revolutionaries of the Reform Committee all behind bars, the Uitlanders' cause had suffered a humiliating setback. Publicly they had to lump it, but in private their resentment was huge. Harold F Strange was in prison, as was Solly Joel. And keeping them company was no

less a personage than their District Grand Master, George Richards. Barney Barnato collected from the public to meet the stiff fines imposed by the court. It was a popular appeal, and the money was soon raised. There could not have existed a more favourable climate for the recruitment of men into Freemasonry than during the turbulent months following the trial of the Reformers.

Jameson's force was defeated at Doornkop on the 2nd of January 1896. Four months later our founder members got together and petitioned London for a Charter. In this momentous undertaking Prosperity Lodge derived its major strength from thirteen members of Gold Fields Lodge. Gold Fields, though only three years in existence itself, was the sponsor of Prosperity. The majority of the officers were ex-Gold Fields brethren, but other Lodges were supportive as well. There were joining members from Southern Cross, Euphrates, and Prince Alfred. The Patlanskys came from Gold Fields, as did Solly Joel, who came originally from Lodge Barnato in London. So with this formidable support, success and longevity must have been seen as a natural consequence for this Lodge. But time has a way of sapping the strength of even

the most well-rooted venture; and a hundred years is a long time, even by Masonic reckoning. So though it is the actions of our pioneers we are celebrating, it is the equal effort put in by the subsequent Past Masters and stalwarts of this Lodge that has borne us through this turbulent century.

To these latter stalwarts of Prosperity Lodge, we owe a debt of gratitude that cannot possibly be expressed in this limited publication. We believe with good reason that every Mason who ever held office in this Lodge, did his job, and did it well; and of the multitude of members of Prosperity Lodge who were content to be part of the mainstream, their collective strength has been an unstoppable force. So that in latter years Prosperity Lodge was capable of sponsoring two new Lodges. On the 29th of March 1950 there was CLARENDON LODGE. The Charter Master of this Lodge was W Bro Charles Eliasov of Prosperity - and his son David was the first of Clarendon's initiates. A lesser known fact is that in mid 1938 when certain unresolvable differences threatened the tranquillity of Gold Fields Lodge, Prosperity was at hand to bring amity. TRAVELLERS LODGE was sponsored by Prosperity in reaction to this division.

In Adam Alexander, the eighth of Prosperity's Worshipful Masters, is represented the last of the Lodge's 'golden' pioneers. By the time he took office in 1906 the dusty, bare-knuckled mining camp of his predecessors had settled into a more sedate and business-orientated roll. Earlier - Charles Aburrow - District Grand Master had been elected to the post of Town Engineer and had energetically set about converting old Johannesburg into a hygienic, orderly town with over a hundred miles of road with macadamised

crossings and water carts to deal with the dust. A cemetery had been laid out. An embryo mass-transit system had been set up comprising several horse-drawn trams and six miles of rail. Another Freemason who was to become DGM, GS Burt Andrews had gone on to complete Aburrow's money-thwarted plans, and was building bridges and reservoirs and sewerage disposal plants. And an electric tramway was on the drawing board.

So this was the town of Adam

Alexander, solicitor and Notary Public of the Supreme Court of the Transvaal; senior member of the well known legal firm Messrs Adam and B Alexander. A man, we hear, of exceptional talent and generosity. Adam was a member of the Old Hebrew Congregation Board of Officers, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange - and the Golf Club.

A Johannesburg Golf Club! Surely the diggers in Aburrow's cemetery were a-turning in their graves.



THE MASTER'S VOICE

By way of a tribute to the Past Masters of Prosperity Lodge, we have compiled the following "quotable quotes", taken either from valedictory reports or contributed specially for this centenary booklet.

On Working Towards Perfection

"The work throughout has been quite good, considering that the emulation working, which, although only slightly different, is not what we have been accustomed to for a number of years. The success of the work, I say without hesitation, is due a good deal to willingness of cooperation on the part of the officers and brethren, whom I always found ready to assist."

J Hirson, 1928

"A man is enriched in every respect by the experience of taking the Chair of King Solomon and I once again wish to thank the Brethren of Prosperity Lodge for allowing me the privilege of presiding over them in the capacity of Master for two years in succession. I trust that I have served well and apologise for

some things forgotten in error."

Jon Paul, 1978

"It is neither fair to the Lodge or, even more important, to the Candidate or Brethren to take part in a ceremony for which they are not properly prepared and this can only lead to a deterioration in the workings of the Lodge."

Chris Webber, 1980

"Delivering a valedictory report is a sad occasion, being a farewell. After years of hard work you find yourself in the Chair of King Solomon and realise with a shock how ignorant you are Masonically. As soon as you start finding your feet, you get kicked out."

WF van Niekerk, 1990

On the Spirit of Brotherhood

"Now Brethren let me implore you to continue the fostering of

that fine spirit of brotherhood, sympathy and understanding, so prevalent among our numbers, and which is rapidly becoming a tradition of Prosperity Lodge.

"Such a solid foundation will never crumble and will convince new Brethren joining us, of the value of Freemasonry, and give them a living model of its ideals, more easily discernible to the learner than all our words and rituals."

WM Todd, 1931

"I would like, particularly, to express my thanks to the Past Masters of this Lodge, who attended so regularly and gave me that security which a Master feels is so desirable during his year of office."

H Miller, 1936

"Brethren our ritual teaches us to practice outside the Lodge

what we are taught within these walls and it is my firm conviction that it has become more imperative today than at any other time in the history of mankind to spread the forces of brotherly love, relief and truth."

JS Menkin, 1946

"My term of office has been a period in my life which shall never be forgotten. I lay down my gavel with a measure of pride of achievement not in the sense of personal or material matters but in the knowledge that our fraternal associations both between the Brethren of this Lodge themselves, and between Prosperity Lodge and other Lodges have been strengthened and enlarged."

Ronnie Norwitz, 1966

"May the Brethren of Prosperity Lodge dedicate themselves anew to the practising of brotherly love, relief and truth, and to the quest: to unravel some of the hidden mysteries of nature and science."

Eli Reef, 1967

"The Craft provides the cement for the bonding of men."

Reg Asbburner, 1989

"With trepidation I took the Chair of King Solomon. I could not have guessed that my fears were identical to those of the Past Masters who had preceded me. But they knew it, and they steadied me. It was as though I had entered a whole new family where no one was ever on his own."

Des van Schalkwyk, 1995

On Wear and Tear

"Brethren, as you are well aware, our Lodge was constituted in 1896. Our honoured Masters Badge has, during all these ensuing years, suffered great wear and tear. Hence, especially in visiting Lodges, one has become aware of its frayed and rather shaggy appearance. I therefore put it upon myself to have it renovated as, I feel, complete replacement will lose to us the aura of age. I trust my successor's pleasure in wearing it, will thus be slightly enhanced."

DA Muskat, 1963

On Humility and Devotion

"It should be the ambition of every Mason to occupy the chair of his Lodge, and it is only by making himself capable of holding that office that he can obtain the confidence of the Brethren and achieve that object."

F Williamson, 1933

"There seems to have been so much to do and so little done. I do not appear to have achieved anything of outstanding merit within the Lodge; yet I may perhaps solace myself with the thought that, if I have not achieved, I have at all events not destroyed, and I trust that I transmit the direction of the Lodge to my successor in no worse shape than it was when handed to my care by my predecessor."

AA Menkin, 1948

"In 1896, Prosperity Lodge was one of a small number of Lodges which carried the banner of Freemasonry in the early days of the city of Johannesburg and in celebrating its diamond jubilee this year, Prosperity Lodge finds itself a

senior lodge in the largest Masonic District in English Freemasonry in the world."

Marcus Ackerman, 1956

"The Master's Chair, all powerful in the Lodge in theory, is, I feel, and it should be, a humble one. After all, what do we mean by Master? Is it merely the head of an organisation who controls and disposes? Is it a learned man, a master in the arts or sciences? Is it one who has disciples or followers, a leader, or is it one, who is familiar with all the details of an art, profession, a science or a trade? Brethren, it is my considered opinion that in the Master's Chair lies all these attributes and responsibilities - indeed so great that no man filling it, can say - I have filled this chair adequately."

DA Muskat, 1963

"It is with deep pride that I have occupied the Chair of King Solomon during this year. My feelings are not only moved by the honour of being Master of this Lodge, which in itself is a privilege, as this Lodge is one of the oldest in the District, and

has a fine Masonic tradition behind it, but by the fact that this marks the eightieth year of its existence."

Raymond Coben, 1976

"The brethren of Prosperity Lodge will no doubt realise that W. Bros. Eli and Ronnie have been filling their respective positions for a number of years. There is no doubt that the success of a Lodge can be measured by the support and the secure foundation stone of having a solid secretary and treasurer."

Spencer Tarr, 1991

"I must again thank our retiring Secretary, W. Bro. Ronnie Norwitz, for the manner in which he has conscientiously and professionally conducted his duties in that office for 17 years."

Richard Lurie, 1993

"My year as Master has been a highlight of my life."

Nigel Orbell, 1994

On Outside Influence

"My year of office has been a particularly happy one, but was marred by the enforced resignations of three Brethren, Wor. Bro. Fernandez, Wor. Bro. Freitas and Bro. Brasch, all of whom were compelled to resign owing to the edict of the Portuguese Government."

S Harrisburg, 1935

On Driving Over the Limit (after partaking of the Festive Board)?

"It was with deep concern that the members of this Lodge learned of the motor accident in which Rt. Wor. Brother C. Maple-Polemear and Wor. Bros. W.H. Hulbert and A.E. Oliver were recently involved, and we are thankful to know that no serious consequences have resulted to them."

PS Driman, 1938

On Visiting

"If you want to have visitors at your meetings you must in turn do a certain amount of visiting yourselves, and so earn a measure of reciprocity."

JS Menkin, 1946

"I should like here to make a brief reference to the Travellers Lodge, which we had the honour of sponsoring just over a year ago. That Lodge has been steadily growing from strength to strength, and may I say, Brethren, that as sponsors we can be very proud of our protégé. The Prosperity Lodge has thus far been represented at every one of the meetings of the Travellers Lodge, and I can personally testify to the esteem and affection which that Lodge always entertains towards Prosperity. Long may the cordial relations between the Lodges continue!"

JS Menkin, 1940

"This lodge was asked to sponsor a new lodge, which they were happy to do, and I am pleased to say that the lodge - 'The Clarendon' - was consecrated only two weeks ago and we sincerely trust that it will be a source of strength to the District and a pleasure to its sponsor."

L Spira, 1950

"During the past year I have visited several Lodges and am happy to report that I never

had to visit a Lodge alone. For this I must thank all those Brethren who supported me when visiting, in particular my Senior Warden Bro Reg Ashburner."

Gordon Martin, 1988

On the Horror of War

"One of your Brethren - Brother Lewison - lost his life on Active Service. All trace of another who became a Prisoner of War, about three years ago, has been lost."

D Sturman, 1944

"I am very happy to say that this year has seen the victorious termination of the war both in Europe and the Far East. But though the war is over, the world is still in a state of disequilibrium. This, of course is to be expected seeing that it was a global war and not confined to a small portion of the earth's surface. This has been a strenuous war and upheaval, leaving chaotic conditions in the minds of humanity. There is a special call on Freemasonry at this stage to assist in warding off that cold draught of modern doubt which

brings dread into the human heart regarding the supernatural and hereafter. It is our special object to combat that cold draught and tendency."

D Sturman, 1945

On Past Masters of the Lodge

"The Lodge was privileged to have as Mayor of the City of Johannesburg for the past year one of its Past Masters in the person of Wor. Bro. Hymie Miller. It is a source of great pride to us to know that he proved to be amongst the most popular mayors of Johannesburg."

M Moubshon, 1952

"It is very important in an old Lodge to maintain the support and interest of the Past Masters. In this respect we are very fortunate; it is no uncommon event to have fourteen or fifteen Past Masters present at a meeting. It has been a wonderful experience for me to serve such a happy and harmonious lodge, the eager co-operation and loyalty which has been extended at all times has made me feel very humble."

PM Todd, 1964

The last Past Master's quotation was taken from the 1964 valedictory report of Wor. Bro. Paul Todd. It was at a point in time when he must have been in a deeply introspective mood for his roots in Prosperity Lodge ran generations deep. William A Todd, his father, was initiated into Prosperity way back in 1922, while Archibald, his grandfather, had tenancy of the chair of King Solomon in 1929. You see, father stood back to allow grandfather to reach the chair ahead of him. So when Billy reached the chair of King

Solomon, it was his father who installed him. Eight years later it was Billy Todd's turn to install his son, Paul in the chair of King Solomon, and the unbroken tradition continued. Paul Todd recognised in the Craft a model for man's conduct in life, and proceeded through the ranks of district to the offices of Deacon and Assistant Director of Ceremonies in the Craft Lodge, and District Director of Ceremonies in the Mark. He completed service as District Grand Junior Warden in the

Mark Degree. But, happily, the seventy-four years old relationship of this remarkable family with Prosperity Lodge is not about to end.

"This story of four successive generations of the family Todd, illustrates a point which we would do well to remember as we commemorate the centenary of our lodge. As we are direct, Masonic descendants of the founders of this Lodge, so our successors in the lodge will be our Masonic descendants. As we look back and celebrate a hundred years of Masonic work, so we should look forward, mindful of the fact that the work we do now, and the heritage we bequeath to our descendants, forms the foundation upon which they will build the future of Prosperity Lodge."

W. Bro. B.R. Glanville



The Masonic Temple at Park Lane, Johannesburg. District Grand Lodge Headquarters and the home of Prosperity Lodge since 1957.

PAST MASTERS OF THE PROSPERITY LODGE

† 1896-97	D Moss, PDGSwd Br PZ	† 1932-33	F Williamson, PDGD PZ	1963-64	P M Todd, PDAGDC PZ
* 1897-98	B Hansford, PDGDC PZ	* 1933-34	M Freitas	1964-65	H D Menkin, PDG St Br
† 1898-1902	H F Strange, PDGW PZ	† 1934-35	S Harrisburg, PGDGD PZ	1965-66	R Norwitz, PDSGW
* 1902-03	H Goldstein, PDGSwd Br PZ	† 1935-36	C Eliasov, PDGW PZ	1966-67	E H Reef, PDJGW PZ
† 1903-04	Rev Wm Woolf, PAGDC (Eng) PZ	† 1936-37	H Miller, PDGW PZ	* 1967-68	S Gluckman, PDAGDC PZ
† 1904-05	M Goldstein, PDGStd Br PZ	† 1937-38	P S Driman, PADG Sec PZ	† 1968-69	L Treiwis, PDSGW
† 1905-06	C de Pinna	† 1938-39	N F Lovasz, PDGW	1969-70	B Joseph, PDJGW PZ
* 1906-07	A Alexander, PDGStd Br PZ	† 1939-40	J S Menkin, PAGDC (Eng) PDGW PDG Reg PZ	† 1970-71	R S Firth, PDAGDC PZ
* 1907-08	P Abrahams, PDGW PZ	† 1940-41	H Towb, PDGD PZ	1971-72	G G Heath, PDSGD
† 1908-09	B Lighthome, PAGDC (Eng) PZ	† 1941-42	A M Spirs, PGDG	* 1972-73	P R Tredoux, DAG Reg
† 1909-10	I Belcher, PDGW PZ	† 1942-43	S I Dyne, PGDG PZ	† 1973-74	R B Bloom, PDSGD
† 1910-11	M Myers, PADGP PZ	† 1943-45	D Sturman	* 1974-75	W J Sachs, PDG St Br
† 1911-12	T A Goldberg, PDGW PZ	† 1945-46	J S Menkin, PAGDC (Eng) PDGW PDG Reg PZ	† 1975-76	R Cohen, PDJGW
† 1912-13	I Bloomfield, PADGDC PZ PDGSwd Br PZ	† 1946-47	C I Belcher, PDSGW PZ	† 1976-77	R G M Lister, DSGD
† 1913-15	J Keir, PDG (Eng) PDG Treas PZ	† 1947-48	A A Menkin, PDGSt PZ	1977-78	J N Paul, PDSGD PZ
† 1915-16	J C Newman, PDGW PZ	† 1948-49	I Kleirot, PDG Asst St Br	1978-79	J N Paul, PDSGD PZ
† 1916-17	Rev Wm Woolf, PAGDC (Eng) PZ	† 1949-50	L Spira, PDGD PZ	1979-80	C E Webber, PDJGW
† 1917-18	C L Greenberg, PPDGD PZ	† 1950-51	S R Spira, PDGD PZ	1980-81	C E Webber, PDJGW
† 1918-19	S Barnett, PDGStd Br PZ	* 1951-52	F A Joseph	† 1981-82	R G M Lister, DSGD
† 1919-20	J S Edgar	* 1952-53	M Movshon, PGDG	† 1982-83	T E Saffer, PAG Supt Wks (Eng)
* 1920-21	M Lucas, PZ	† 1953-54	Maurice Ackermann, PDGG St Br	1983-84	AM G van Belkum, DJGD
† 1921-22	E H Philips, PDGW PZ	† 1954-55	J Cohen, PDGD PZ	* 1984-85	K G Taylor, PDG St Br
† 1922-23	J C Newman, PDGW PZ	1955-56	Marcus Ackermann, DDGR PDSGW PZ Cert of Ser	1985-86	D C Fell, PDG St Br
† 1923-24	F Adams			* 1986-87	C Greathead, PDAGDC
* 1924-25	J M Fernandes, PDGD PZ	* 1956-57	C Jose, PDGW PZ	1987-88	G M Martin, PDSGD
* 1925-26	M Miller	† 1957-58	M Jacks, PDJGW	1988-89	R J Ashburner, PDAGDC
† 1926-27	L E Joseph, PDGW PZ	† 1958-59	S Powell, PDGD	† 1989-90	W F van N.ekerk
* 1927-28	J Hirson	* 1959-60	G L Greenberg, PDGJD	1990-91	S J Tarr, PDAGDC
† 1928-29	L Yatt, PDGW PZ	† 1960-61	K Rosenberger, PGDG PZ	1991-92	M I Miller, PDG St Br
† 1929-30	A M Todd, PZ	* 1961-62	E Rischbeitir	1992-93	R C Lurie
† 1930-32	W M Todd, PDGW PZ	† 1962-63	D A Muskat, PDJGW PZ	1993-94	N G Orbell
				1994-95	D G van Schalkwyk

† Deceased * Ceased to be a member

WHEN IS A MAN A MASON?

"When he can look out over rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage - which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellow-man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

"When he loves the flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and

feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When star-crowned trees, and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters, subdue him like the thought of a much loved one and long dead. When no voice of the distressed reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he sees good in every faith and helps any man to lay hold of divine things and see majestic meaning in life, what ever the name of that faith may

be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond the mud, and into the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope.

"When he has kept faith with himself, with his fellow-man, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song - glad to live, not afraid to die: Such a man has found the only secret of Masonry, and one which it is trying to give to all the world."

*From "The Builders"
by Joseph Fort Newton*

