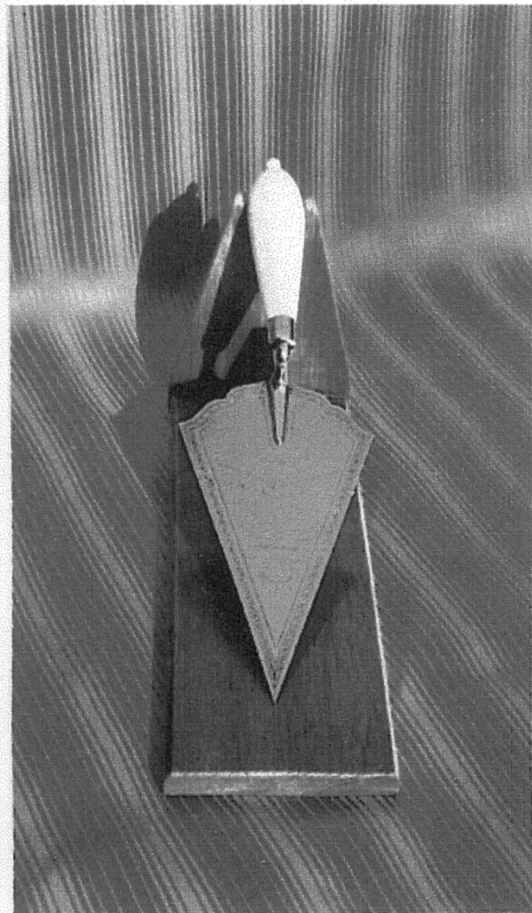PAPER No. 74

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY: D.G. & J.E. Davis

DATE: 24 September 2001

TWO ITEMS FROM THE GRAND LODGE MUSEUM

THE SILVER CUP PRESENTED TO BRO. ROBERT WHITE MOORE
AND
THE SILVER TROWEL USED TO LAY THE FOUNDATION
STONE OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, GORDON.

The Silver Cup, which is 22 inches or 55 cm tall, and the Silver Trowel.

The Silver Cup and picture of Bro. Robert White Moore, and also the Silver Trowel used by Wor. Bro. John Liggins, were kindly loaned for exhibition and photography by Rt. Wor. Bro. Jack Banks, O.A.M., Curator of the Grand Lodge Museum.
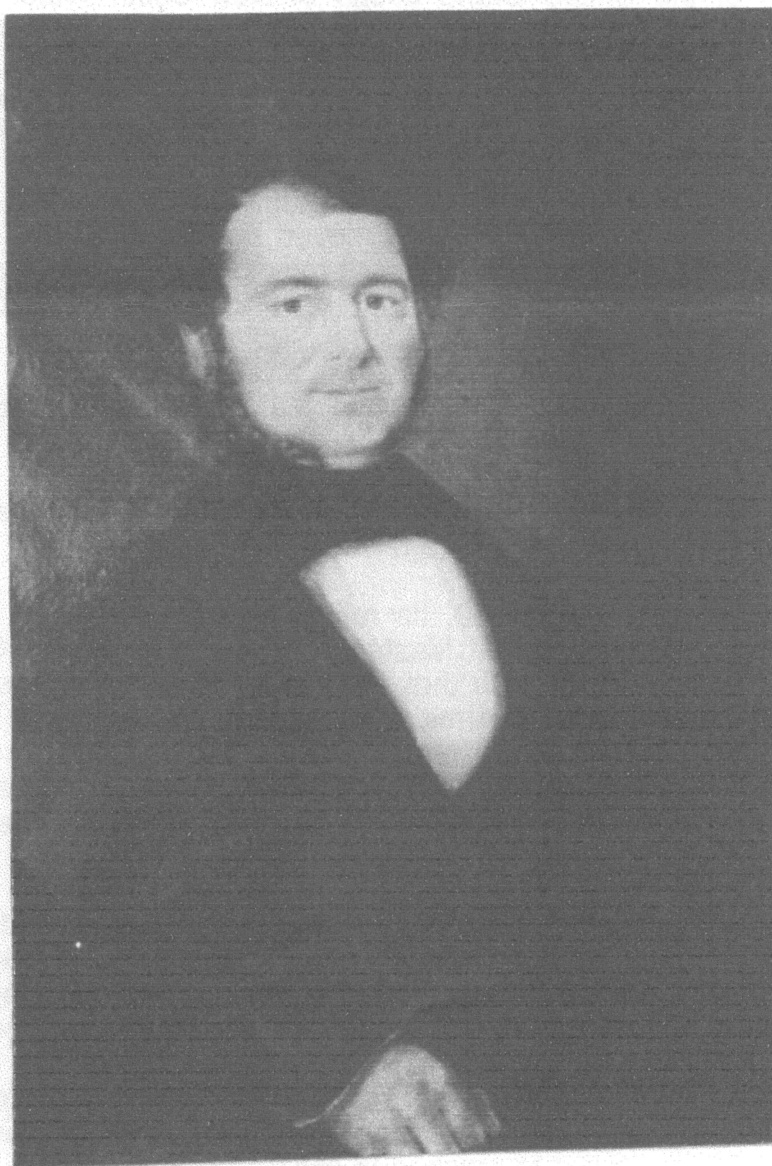
PART 1

Bro. ROBERT WHITE MOORE (1816-1870)

Robert White Moore was born on 18 April 1816, a son of John Bly Moore, a trunkmaker, and his wife, Ann Sherlock in the Parish of St Mary, Newington in south-east London. The family lived at Walworth/Newington.

Robert White Moore came to the Colony of New South Wales in 1836.

He married Margaret Ross on 9 March 1840 at St Philip's Church, Sydney. At that time he was described as a confectioner. Margaret Ross was the daughter of Roderick and Mary Ross and, having been born in Inverness, Scotland, came to Australia with her soldier father, her mother and sister, Christian, in 1838.

The Moores had five sons and four daughters; one son and three of the daughters died before the age of three years and are buried with their parents at Camperdown Cemetery.

Bro. Robert White Moore

Robert White Moore was granted the licence for the "Fortune of War" hotel on 2 June 1840 for the fee of £30, and the family initially lived at the hotel premises in George Street North. In 1842 the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported he was licenced to open till 12 o'clock.

He appears to have been a very astute business man and accrued a vast amount of property during his lifetime in what is now known as the CBD's of Sydney and North Sydney. He also had property at the Shoalhaven, Bowenfels, Hartley and Raymond Terrace.

Robert White Moore was initiated in the Lodge of Australia No. 548, English Constitution, on 24 May 1842.

The Lodge, the first English lodge in Australia, was constituted under Warrant No. 820 from the Grand Lodge of England, dated 21 June 1828 though no meeting was held until 6 April 1829. It was re-numbered No. 548 in 1836 and No. 390 in 1863. At the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales in 1888, the Lodge became No. 3 on the Register of that body.

The Lodge met at several locations in the early 1850's:- The Golden Fleece Inn, corner King and George Streets from its begining to 15 January 1850; then Bro Grocott's house, 486 George Street, Sydney to 2 April,1850. It then moved to the Royal Hotel, George Street, Sydney, until 12 August 1851 when it moved to the lodge rooms, No 6 Bridge Street. It then moved back to the Royal Hotel from 9 September 1891 to 14 February 1854, when it moved to the Freemasons Hall, York Street on 21 February, 1854. The Lodge now meets in the Sydney Masonic Centre.

Robert White Moore was elected Worshipful Master on 4 December 1849 and installed on 27 December that year.

During his term the Lodge held 12 Regular meetings and 15 Emergency meetings and initiated 18 brethren, passed 17 and raised 15.

At the meeting held on 9 April 1850, he relinquished the Chair to the Provincial Grand Master who installed the Wor. Master, Bro Phillip Cohen and Officers of the Armidale Lodge of Unity after which they were given permission and dispensation to open and form the said lodge in Armidale.

On the sudden resignation of his successor, Moore took the chair at 6 more meetings, at the first of these on 13 May 1851, he initiated 3 and passed 2 Brethren.

On 9 December 1851 he was elected Treasurer, an office he held until he was again elected and installed as Worshipful Master for the term 27 December 1852 to 18 December 1853. During this period the Lodge held 12 Regular and 15 Emergency meetings, initiating 37, passing 19 and raising 18 Brethren.

On numerous occasions throughout the minutes, Brethren were initiated, both in the Lodge of Australia, and for other lodges, by dispensation, as the candidates were seafaring men and "were about to proceed to sea".

In the minutes of the Lodge meeting of 17 June 1851 a motion was proposed by Moore, "That in consequence of the distress likely to prevail from families being divided by their parents going to the gold diggings, we do unite the object of relieving that distress by holding a Ball, the proceeds to be given for the above purpose and that other lodges be invited to co-operate".

At the completion of Moore's second term in the chair, the following appears in the minutes of the meeting of 14 April 1854:-

> "Proposed by Bro. Williams D.P.G.M., seconded by Bro. A. Moses, 'That Bros. P.M.'s Simmons, Lipman, Vanderporten, Grocott, the D.P.G.M. and Officers of the Lodge be a committee for the carrying out of the testimonial intended to be presented to our late Wor. Master, Bro. R. W. Moore".

Moore was a very compassionate and feeling man who was always to the forefront regarding charitable endeavours. Reports often appear in the minutes where he had visited sick brethren or those in distress.

When an address from the Provincial Grand Lodge was read at the meeting of 8 August 1854 regarding the expediency of forming a school for the education of children of indigent brethren, he proposed that the sum of 1/- per week be paid by each member towards forming a fund for that purpose. This was the origin of the Freemasons' Orphans Society which is still in operation today, the objects of which are the maintenance and education of the children of deceased and indigent brethren. To inaugurate the fund a Ball was held at the Victoria Theatre which raised over £100. By 1913, the Society had over £30,000 invested in Government securities.

Moore spoke at many lodges promoting the fund, even travelling as far away as Lodge Independent No 904, English Constitution, meeting at Bathurst. The History of that Lodge states that at the meeting on 8 December 1856:-

> "Wor. Bro. Moore from Sydney, addressed the brethren on the subject of 'Our Masonic Institution for the Benefit of Children of Deceased Masons' and suggested a contribution of 1/- each month from the members throughout the Colony. Matter deferred till next meeting. In dealing with the Childrens Institution it was agreed that a Ball be held and that each member would contribute 10/6 per annum".

The minutes of the Lodge of Australia for 7 October 1856 state that a motion was moved by R. W. Moore to the following effect:

> "That a sum of 10 Guineas be voted from the funds of this lodge for the purpose of contributing towards a Masonic Library. The motion was carried unanimously by the Brethren."

Subsequently the lodge established a Masonic Library, which was evidently appreciated by the brethren, in as much as we read of the Wor. Master warning members to return the books they had borrowed.
This was the foundation of the present Grand Lodge Library.

The Minutes of the meeting of 2 December 1856 state:-

"This being an Emergency (meeting) the Officers and Members assembled and opened the Lodge in the First Degree at three o'clock. The Wor. Master, having explained the object of this meeting to be to present Bro R. W. Moore P.M. with a testimonial which was voted by this Lodge in AD 1853 by subscription amongst its members. He called upon the R.W. the Deputy Provincial Grand Master to take the chair whereupon the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro Malcolm, having addressed Bro. Moore in a feeling and appropriate speech presented him with the Cup. Bro. Moore returned thanks expressive of the sincere feelings of thankfulness and regard with which he received the testimonial.
Bro R.W. D.P.G.M. read an address to Bro. Moore to the following effect:-

<div style="text-align: right;">

Freemasons Hall
Sydney, New South Wales
2nd December 1856
</div>

To Bro. R. W. Moore
Dear Sir & Bro.

We the undersigned Members of the Lodge of Australia 548 deeply impressed with the sense of the valuable service rendered to this Lodge by you in your capacity of Master and Past Master for many years have now much pleasure in presenting you with this Silver Cup as a token of our esteem and respect for you as a Mason and a Man and Beg your acceptance hereof.

We are Sir and Brother,
        Dear Sir and Brother,
        Yours fraternally,
for ourselves and other subscribers,

        John Williams DPGM
        J. Malcolm DPGM
        James Malcolm
        John D Matthews
        George Marsden
        H. B. Dobson
        L. Lipman

The Lodge then closed in Peace, Love and Harmony at about 4 o'clock.

(Signed) H. Hoghton, Secretary."

The inscription on the Silver Cup reads:-

> 'Presented by the Masonic Brothers of Lodge No 548 to Bro. Robert White Moore as a tribute of their sincere respect for his upright conduct as a man and his indefatigable exertion in the course of Masonry.
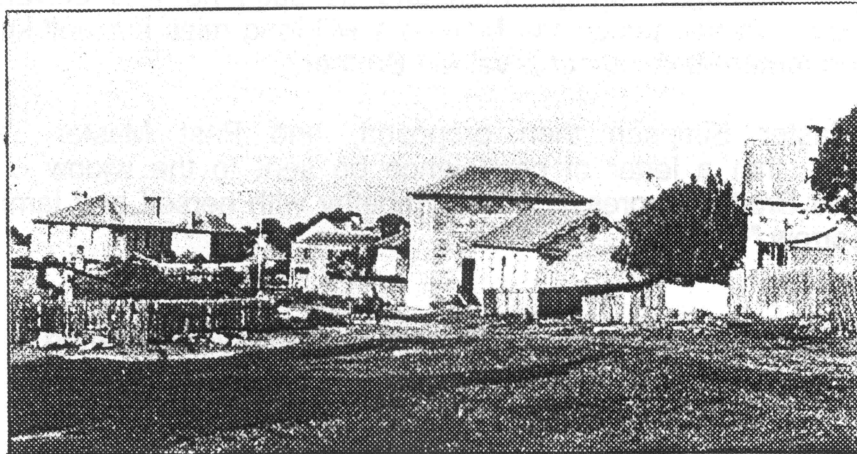
> New South Wales, December 2, 1856.'

The reason for the delay of three years in making the presentation was the absence in England of the jeweller who had been entrusted with the work.

Bro. Moore continued his valuable work for Freemasonry as is evidenced by a short article published in the *Masonic Mirror* of 2 February 1858:-

> "*Australian Masonic Benevolent Widows and Orphans Fund* - This fund has been in existence nearly three years, and is well supported by the various Lodges. The capital has now accumulated to about £700, which is placed at profitable interest; our worthy Brother and old colonist, R.W. Moore, the Prov. G. Treasurer, being one of its principal guardians."

Bro. Robert White Moore died in November, 1870, after an illness lasting two years. He was, at that time living at "Walworth Cottage" on the corner of Berry and Walker Streets, North Sydney. The naming of the cottage apparently reflects some kind of affection for the place of his birth.

Victoria Cross, North Sydney. 1860. Moore's home is on left.

His wife, Margaret died in 1884.

From the minutes of the meeting of the Lodge of Australia for 7 November 1870:-

> "Bro. Past Master Yeoman then took the chair and said he was pleased to find the Lodge in deep mourning for one whom, when in life, he respected so much and whose remains he had that day

followed to the grave. He alluded to Past Master R. W. Moore who had been ill for two years. An honest and steadfast Member of the Lodge and was in every sense of the word a good Mason. Past Master Yeoman who seemed deeply affected spoke in feeling touching terms of the many virtues that adorned our deceased Brother."

"He, in common with many members of the Lodge, regretted that circumstances did not admit of the funeral being properly advertised. The Lodge was in deep mourning. The Brethren then called from labour to refreshment, the Musical Brethren however refrained from indulging in 'sweet minstrelsy,' out of respect to the memory of their departed Brother."

A further tribute was paid following the death of Robert White Moore when the following appeared in the Lodge minutes of the meeting on 5 December 1870:-

"Past Master Simpson in paying a tribute of respect to departed worth said he felt sure that every Member of the Lodge would regret the death of our late respected Bro, Past Master R. W. Moore who had passed to his long home. Bro Moore was the oldest Member of the Lodge. He had been ill for two years and had filled this chair with much benefit to the Lodge and such satisfaction to the Brethren that they presented him with a valuable token of their regard on the expiration of his term of office.

He was also one of the founders of the Masonic Orphans Society and Treasurer to the fund for many years, as well as Treasurer to the District Grand Lodge. His character both in the craft and the city was that of a thoroughly upright man and as such he was universally respected. In this Lodge the Members will long miss his well known form and lament this loss of a valued Brother.

Past Master Simpson then proposed, and Past Master Taylor seconded, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of our deceased Brother expressing our sympathy with herself and family in their sorrow."

Bro. Robert White Moore certainly 'lived respected and died regretted.'

THE ESTATE OF ROBERT WHITE MOORE

Robert White Moore left all his properties to his surviving children, as is stated in his will. Several of these were members of the Lodge of Australia and later, Lodge St Leonards Samaritan. His bequests were as follows:

To be sold to meet expenses:

. Land at Shoalhaven purchased from William Atkins in August 1858;
. Half interest in five acres more or less situate in Randwick purchased from the Government;
. Farm at Lane Cove purchased by me from Mr Bates.

To William Palmer Moore:

. House and premises at the corner of Berry and Walker Sts, North Sydney, known as Walworth Cottage;
. House and premises in Pitt St known as No. 423 at present occupied by Aaron Braunson and purchased from William Pitt-Willsher;
. House and premises situate in Clyde St occupied by one McGrath and left by will to self and Mrs Binning;
. Three houses situate in Union Lane and known as Nos I, 2 and 3 purchased from William Pitt-Willsher;
. Half an acre of land situate in Walker St., St Leonards purchased from Mr Hawkins.

To Robert White Moore (Jnr).:

. House and premises situate in George Street North, aforesaid known as "The Fortune of War";
. My two wooden built cottages and premises with the appurtenances belonging thereto situate in Berry St, St Leonards, aforesaid known as the late James Deans cottages;
. My interest in the farm at Botany leased to one Lobb a market gardener (this would would appear to be the land granted to Roderick Ross after his discharge from the army).

To James Binning Moore:

. All that dwelling house and premises situate in Cambridge St, Sydney and known as my purchase from John Benjamin Tanner;
. House and premises situate in Cumberland St, Sydney aforesaid now in the occupation of one Cutler (hairdresser) purchased from George Moss;
. The house and premises No 318 Pitt St. South Sydney aforesaid now occupied by one Jordan and purchased from Mr Maher.
. Half and acre allotment with iron built houses thereon situate at St Leonards aforesaid purchased by me from Mr Milson;
. Shop and premises situate at North Shore purchased from Arthur Carr in the occupation of G Barnett;
. Land and property at Raymond Terrace purchased by me from the Bishop of Newcastle;

. One fourth interest in the property known as in the Estate of the late Robert Ward and situate in Clarence St, Sydney.

To Margaret Moore:

. Dwelling house and premises situate in Crown St, Surry Hills, Sydney aforesaid No 372 purchased from Mr Slater and in the occupation of Miss Graham;
. Four dwelling houses and premises situate in Charles St off Parramatta St., South Sydney aforesaid numbered I,2,3 and 4 and known as Moore's Cottages purchased from George Cirnbel;
. House and premises situate in Clarence St., Sydney aforesaid purchased from the trustees of the Broughton Estate;
. Dwelling house and premises No 427 Pitt Street South Sydney aforesaid originally the property of W.P. Wilshire together with two dwelling houses at the rear of such property in the occupation of Morland and McLean;
. Two dwelling houses and premises situate in Lower Fort St called Argyle Place occupied by Davis and Gordon with all the appurtenances to the said premises belonging.

To Arthur Malcolm Moore;

. House and premises situate in George St., North Sydney aforesaid known as the "Observer Tavern";
. House and premises situate at the corner of Elizabeth and Goulburn Sts., occupied by Mr Downie grocer;
. House and premises adjoining last mentiioned premises and situate in Elizabeth St., aforesaid occupied by Mrs Scholdock;
. One hundred and fifteen acres of land situate in Bowenfells (sic) in the said colony with the house thereon - now leased to Haywood and Sons, Tanners and Fellmongers.

POSTCRIPT

Robert White Moore bequeathed to his son, William Palmer Moore, "the silver cup presented to me by the Masonic Brethren of No. 548 with the regalia worn by me."

William Palmer Moore, in turn, bequeathed to his son Robert McInnes Moore, "the silver cup bequeathed to me by my late father." It was obviously very much valued as it was the only small item specifically mentioned in his will and he has gone to some length to direct to whom it should go should Robert McInnes Moore not attain the age of 21 years.

This much treasured item of family history has now found a fitting resting place in the Grand Lodge Museum.

FOOTNOTE

Bro. Robert White Moore was the great, great grandfather of the Treasurer of the Masonic Historical Society of New South Wales, Mrs Jill Davis.

NOTES

1. Moore family research undertaken by Ms. Jenny Hawkins.

2. Minute Book (No. 2), The Lodge of Australia No. 548 English Constitution.

3. History of the United Grand Lodge of N.S.W., Cramp & Mackaness, Vol. 1.

4. The *Australian Freemason's Magazine*, December 1870.

5. The *Masonic Mirror*, 2 June 1858, Vol 22.

6. History of Lodge Independent No. 904 E.C., Bathurst, 1856.

PART 2

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH HALL BY THE WOR. MASTER, Wor. Bro. JOHN LIGGINS, AND THE BRETHREN OF LODGE ST LEONARDS SAMARITAN No. 1654 ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

Since 1817 when Bro. Governor Lachlan Macquarie donated the sum of £10 of Government funds towards the construction of a small timber building in the very sparsely settled district of Gordon (then called Lane Cove), the site of St John's Church has been the centre from which education and religion have been disseminated over a long period.

In those days when both these functions were the responsibility of the church, a succession of schoolmasters taught the children of the Ku-ring-gai pioneers and clergymen rode many arduous miles from Parramatta and North Sydney to bring religion to this then remote part of Sydney.

Macquarie's 1817 building was replaced in 1832 by a much larger timber building, also used as a school and church with a teacher's residence of about three rooms attached. This was occupied by the schoolmaster, Robert Anderson.

At the northernmost end of the building was a forked tree with a bell and wheel affixed to it, which called the children to school daily and their parents to church once a month.

In the records of 1838 it is stated that the school was attended by 17 boys and 23 girls.

This building served the residents well for over 30 years until it was engulfed in a bushfire in 1862.
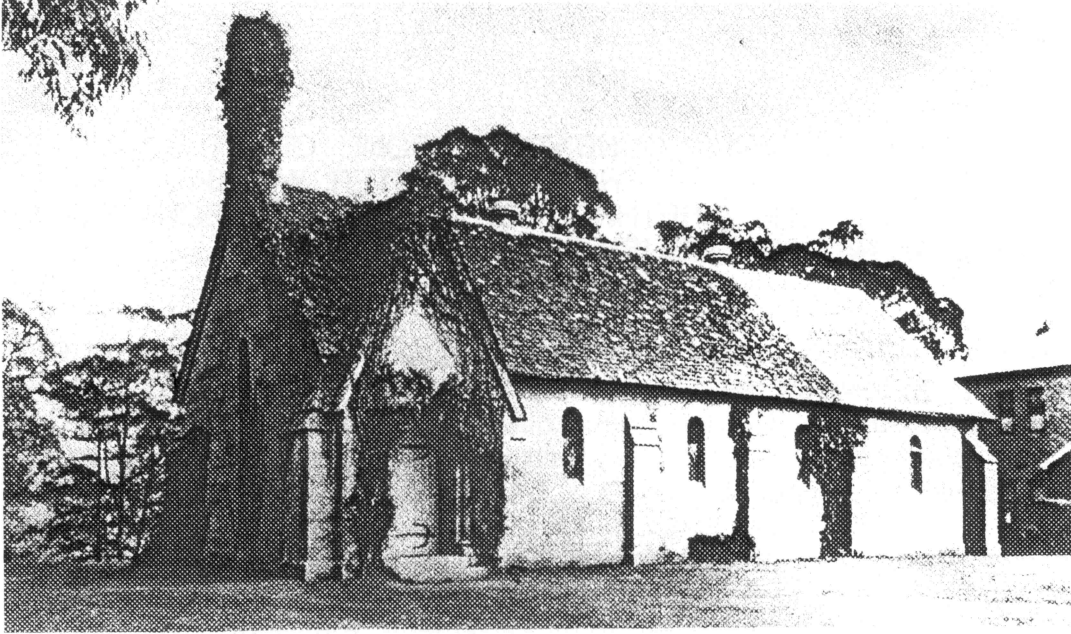
The original Macquarie grant of land was 60 acres and was made to the trustees of the Clergy and School Lands for an annual rental of one peppercorn if demanded.

In 1870, a large portion of the land was returned to the Government because the trustees could not afford to fence it.

The first church on the site was commenced in 1872 and was of stone and designed by Edmund Blackett. The foundation stone was laid on 26 October that year by a Mrs Frances Lord.

This building proved too small for the growing population and was extended in 1899.

The first burial took place at the rear of the church in 1867 and the cemetery was created on this land in 1872. It has become the resting place for many of Ku-ring-gai's pioneers, a lot of whom were Freemasons, including Bro. John James Crew Bradfield, designer of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The original Church showing the 1899 extensions.

While agitation for a railway line from Hornsby to Milson's Point was growing, a horse-coach service operated on the North Shore, but with the increasing population, it sometimes proved inadequate. Tom Watson, the coachman, employed by Mr R. Harnett, started his services in 1879. His fast coach could carry nineteen passengers but from 1881 to 1887, he had a thirty-passenger horse-bus on the run. The coaches plied from Milson's Point to Pymble.

The railway from Hornsby to St Leonards didn't open until the 1 January 1890 and it was extended to Milson's Point on 1 May 1893. Four return train services operated each day except at weekends.

The long projected scheme of building a Parish Hall and Sunday School for St John's Church commenced in 1887 when the stone foundations of the hall were laid. The foundation stone was laid by Wor. Bro. John Liggins, the Worshipful Master of Lodge St Leonards Samaritan No. 1654 English Constitution, and his brethren on 28 April 1888.

John Liggins was a very active Freemason and a good organiser.

In 1883, he formed a Glee Club within the lodge "to encourage brethren to continue their membership and their attendance as the monthly meetings are now much more sociable on this account."

The minutes of Lodge Samaritan of the 4 March 1885 state that "Bro. Liggins, as Hon. Secretary of the Concert Committee, handed in a cheque for £42, the proceeds of a concert held in aid of the new lodge organ and he recommended the purchase of the organ, now on trial, for the amount of £45."

He was installed as Worshipful Master on 1 June, 1887 and served two consecutive terms and on 5 September, 1888 "he informed the Lodge that as from that date the Lodge was now working under dispensation from the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales".

The holding of a Floral Lodge was an institution peculiar to Lodge Samaritan. The credit of the inauguration of this Lodge appears to belong to Wor. Bro. Liggins, as the first event of this kind was held on the 2 November, 1887, when a paper on "Flowers and their teachings in connection with Masonry" was read by this worthy Brother. In the circular issued by Bro. Secretary each Brother was requested to wear a buttonhole and to bring a bouquet of flowers, which would be forwarded to one of the hospitals on the following morning. In the next year (1888) the event was carried out on a larger scale, the Pro. Grand Master and other distinguished Brethren being present. On this occasion Wor. Bro. Liggins delivered a lecture on "Masonic lessons drawn from the Vegetable Kingdom," and the choir rendered a number of musical items. There was a profusion of flowers, which were duly forwarded in the morning to the hospitals.

John Liggins was also the Chairman of the Building Committee of the Masonic Hall built by the Lodge in 1883. He donated the Senior Warden's Chair and Bro. James Binning Moore, son of Bro. Robert White Moore donated the brass charter stand.

Liggins was a member of the 'Party of Union' consisting of four brethren who interviewed Lord Carnarvon at Government House on 20 January 1888 regarding the formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.
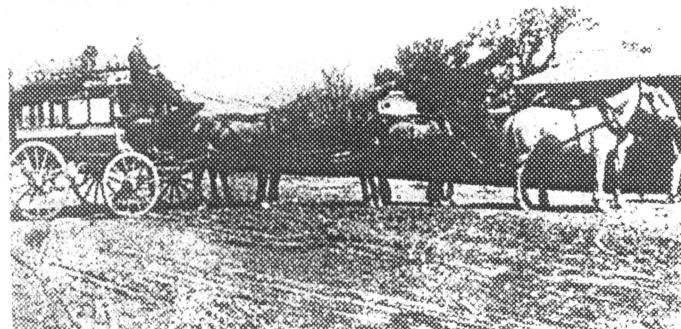
He was installed as Wor. Master of the Sydney Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.O, New South Wales Constitution on 29 November, 1889 and held the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden in the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

In 1888 many of the members of Lodge St Leonards Samaritan resided at St Leonards, now North Sydney. The total population of the area that year was just over 4,000 and access to this district was anything but easy or rapid, the houses being chiefly approached by a series of bush tracks and dirt roads.

The Pacific Highway, then known as Lane Cove Road and later as Gordon Road, was a dirt road with many potholes and it became a quagmire in wet weather. The road followed the high ridge from St Leonards to Pearces Corner (now Wahroonga) and was mainly used by timber-cutters and orchardists to take their produce to Fidden's Wharf on the Lane Cove River and thence by barge to Sydney.
By 1888 small villages were established along this road at Crows Nest, Chatswood, Gordon and Pymble.

It was along this road that Wor. Bro. Liggins and his Brethren of Lodge Samaritan would have travelled on Saturday, 28 April, 1888 by horse, horse and cart or on one of Tom Watson's coaches to Gordon.

Tom Watson and one
of his coaches, 1888.

On their arrival at St John's Church the brethren assembled to hold a special meeting, with dispensation from the Grand Lodge to wear regalia, to lay the foundation stone for the new Church Hall and Sunday School. The stone was laid by the Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. John Liggins with a silver trowel and with full Masonic Honors.

The inscription on the trowel reads:-

St John's Hall
Gordon
ꜝ Foundation Stone laid with Masonic Honors
A.D. 29th April 1888. A.L. 5888
by Wor. Bro. John Liggins
Wor. Mas. of the
St Leonards Samaritan
Lodge 1654 E.C.
To Whom
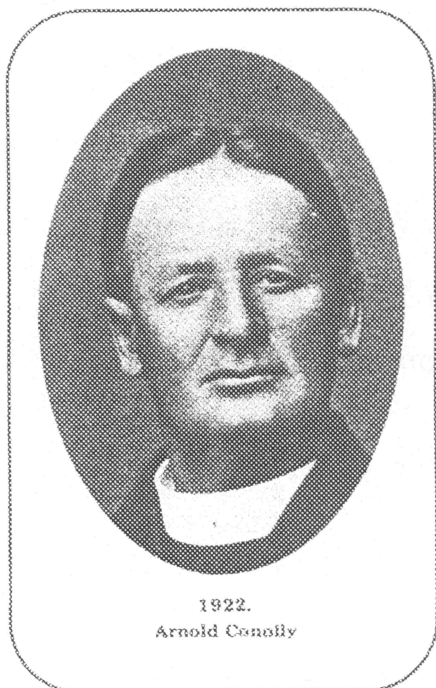This Gavel is presented
In Commemoration
of the Event

The old Church Hall today.

No doubt after the Ceremony some of the brethren would have spent the night at the new Green Gate Hotel which replaced the low small wooden structure built in 1832. The new building had been built by Bro. James Oatley, at one time Mayor of Sydney, whose wife owned the land on which the public house stood. By 1887 the hotel had been extended to form an L-shape. It was finally completely rebuilt to its present state in 1939.

The Green Gate Hotel in 1888.

The erection of the Church Hall itself was postponed - it seemed wiser to build a rectory instead of continuing on with the hall. Fifteen years were to elapse before the Hall was built.
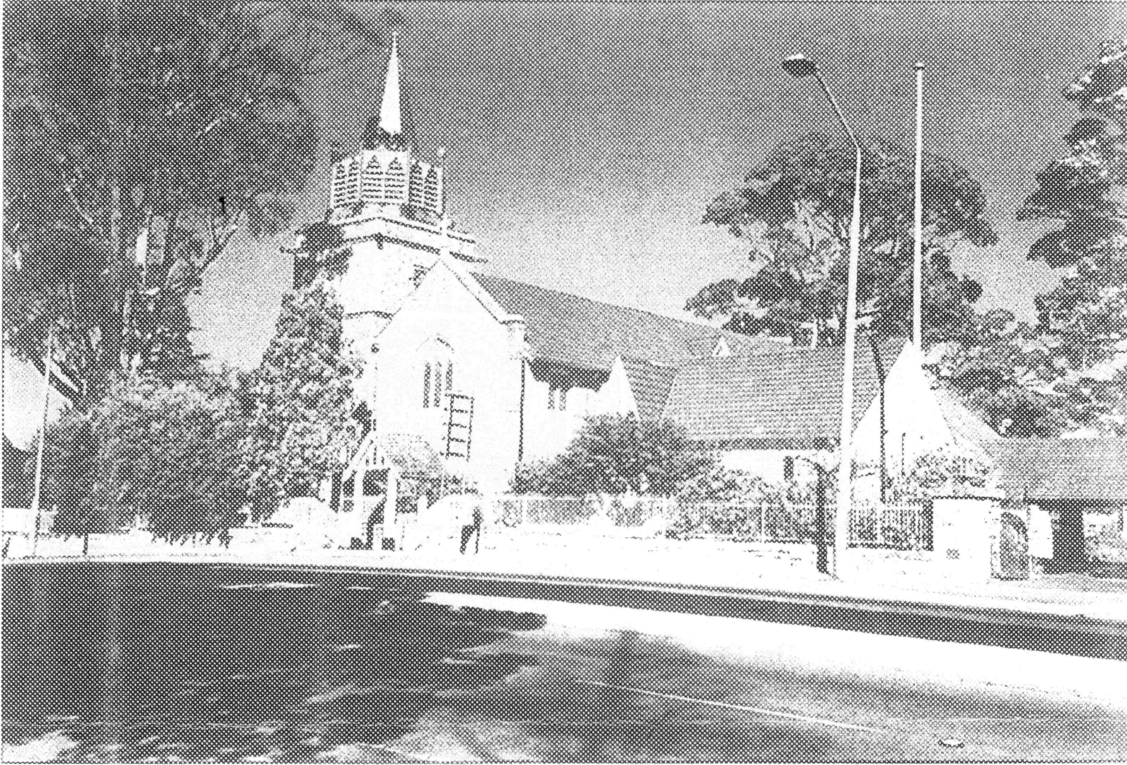

1922.
Arnold Conolly

When the present large brick hall was contemplated in 1959, it was decided to move the old hall to its present position at the rear of the Church.

Several of the ministers at St John's have been Freemasons, the most notable being Wor. Bro. Rev. Arnold Conolly who was rector from 1922 until 1932. He was a Past Master and Chaplain of The Millions Lodge No.476 and foundation Chaplain of Lodge Gordon No.557 United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, consecrated on 24 November, 1924. The preliminary meetings prior to the formation of Lodge Gordon were all held in St John's Church Hall.

The trowel used by the Wor. Master, Wor. Bro. John Liggins to lay the foundation stone of St John's Parish Hall is now an exhibit in the Grand Lodge Museum.

Note: Lodge St Leonards Samaritan became Lodge Samaritan in 1905 when Lodges Sydney Samaritan and Kiama Samaritan ceased to exist.

The present Church showing the original old church which is attached, and forms the Chapel.

NOTES

1. History of Lodge Samaritan No. 50, 1876-1913. by Wor. Bro. F.S.Mance.

2. History of Lodge Samaritan No. 50, 1876-1976, by V.Wor. Bro. R.F. Kitchener.

3. 125 Year History of The Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon, N.S.W.
     Edited by John C. Moon OAM.

4. Pioneers at Peace - the Story of St John's Cemetery, by Jill Lyons.

5. North Sydney 1788-1962 by Isadore Brodsky.

6. The Railway came to Kur-ring-gai by Kerrin Cook.

7. History of the United Grand Lodge of N.S.W., Vol. 1, by Cramp and Mackaness.