

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 124 May 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSAI MSA.

## Freemasonry in South Africa: 1872 - 1922

In 1874 Sir Christoffel Brand retired as the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Cape Parliament and as the Deputy Grand Master of the GEN. In 1875 the Cape Town Lodges participated in laying the foundation stone of the new Houses of Parliament. While it was laid by Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of the Cape Colony, and all the heads of the State Departments, churches, civic societies and private business attended, it was the Netherlandic, English and Scottish Freemasons, in full regalia, who managed the ceremony. In the same year the fountain was erected at Lodge De Goede Hoop and the Joppa Lodge (EC), proposed the formation of a Grand Lodge of South Africa. Certain other Lodges opposed this proposal and it was withdrawn. In 1882 Lodge De Goede Hoop held a Lodge of sorrow for the Grand Master of the Netherlands, HRH Prince Frederick, who died after serving in this position for 65 years. In 1883 Bro Hendricus Juta, later Sir Henry Juta, a Speaker of the House of Assembly and a Judge President of the Supreme Court, was elected as the presiding Master of Lodge De Goede Hoop. In 1885 the Cape Parliament relocated from the Lodge's banqueting hall to its own premises, some 300 meters away.

In 1888 the Masonic Education Fund was established by the Netherlandic, English and Scottish Lodges in the Cape in celebration of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee and it still exists. The Kimberley temple was opened and certain German speaking members of Lodges De Goede Hoop and De Goede Trouw petitioned the Grand Lodge of Germany to form a

German speaking Lodge in Cape Town. *Loge Zur Eintracht* was thereafter consecrated in the De Goede Trouw temple under the Grand Lodge of Germany and it worked in German and according to the ritual approved by its Grand Lodge. This Lodge was later taken over by the GEN. In 1891 the Joint Benevolent Fund for South Africa was established by the Netherlandic, English and Scottish Lodges at the Cape. On Sunday, 21 February 1892 a fire broke out in the exhibition hall which stood on the grounds of Lodge De Goede Hoop and it soon spread to the roof of the temple. Despite valiant efforts to extinguish the fire, the inside of the temple was destroyed and 4 priceless Bro Anton Anreith statues, together with the furniture, fittings and paintings were lost. The Master's Chamber and the Chamber of Meditation were however saved. These contained the other statues and they still exist. The members thereafter made use of the nearby De Goede Trouw temple for their meetings while the damage to the De Goede Hoop temple was being repaired. On 27 April 1893 the De Goede Hoop temple was re-opened and the newly appointed Deputy Grand Master of the GEN, Bro David Faure, was installed by the Acting PGM, Bro Wethmar, a past master of Lodge St. Jan in Malmesbury. In the same year the members of the Buffalo Lodge (EC), convened a meeting with the view to forming a United Grand Lodge of South Africa. It was well attended and the proposal was defeated by a narrow margin. Lodge De Goede Hoop rebuilt its banqueting hall, which became known as the Good Hope Hall and which still exists.

In 1894 the first Lodge under the Irish Constitution, the Abercorn Lodge, was formed in the Transvaal. During 1896 new statues representing Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, presently exhibited in the De Goede Hoop temple, were unveiled by the PGM, Bro Charles Lewis, in memory of Bro Jan Hendrik Hofmeyer, the previous Deputy Grand Master. In 1897 Bro Lewis was appointed as the Deputy Grand Master of the GEN and was requested by certain Irish Brethren to consecrate the first Lodge in Cape Town under the Irish Constitution, being St Patrick's Lodge, which he did in the De Goede Hoop temple.

In 1899 the ongoing dispute between the *Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek* and the British Government erupted into a war, which affected Freemasonry in South Africa. The Deputy DGM of the Transvaal (EC), Bro Charles Aburrow, directed that all Lodges in this province would be in recess. The Biggarsberg Lodge Unity in Ladysmith could not be officially opened as the town was under siege. A few days before this, the DGM of Natal (EC), Bro Wesley Francis, had laid the foundation stone for a new Masonic hall there. In Doornfontein, many members of the different Constitutions formed an Ambulance Brigade because they were unwilling to fight on either side. The

members of the El Dorado Lodge (EC) in Zeerust buried all their Masonic emblems, regalia and jewels and the Lodge building was converted into a hospital. In Bloemfontein and Mafeking the Brethren met as usual, even though the latter town was also under siege. Winston Churchill, who was a journalist and who became a Freemason after the war, was captured by the Boksburg Commando. A member of Lodge De Broederband captured a Colonel of a Canadian Regiment near Modder River but let him go after he discovered his prisoner was a Freemason. The first candidate in Lodge Doornfontein was Fritz Krause, a young prosecutor. When the British forces reached Germiston, he was ordered to blow up certain mines which he refused to do. He was then instructed to discuss the surrender of Johannesburg with Lord Roberts. When Roberts discovered that Krause was a Freemason, the negotiations became more friendly and it was agreed that the Boer Commando could leave the city and Roberts took over Johannesburg without any force. Cecil Rhodes was good friends with Francois Reitz, but neither could persuade their respective governments that the war was not in the best interests of the people of this country.

After the Anglo-Boer war ended in 1902 and during the next 20 years a large number of Lodges under all the Constitutions were formed throughout South Africa. In 1903 Bro Conrad Silberbauer was appointed as the Deputy Grand Master of the GEN, a position he occupied for the next 41 years. In 1910 the members of the Lodges in Cape Town attended the opening of the first parliament of the Union of South Africa. During the First World War members from all the Constitutions fought side by side against a common enemy. In 1917 Bro Charles Silberbauer, a member of Lodge De Goede Hoop, was requested to compose a hymn with 5 verses to be sung during the journeys in the Fellow Craft degree, which is still used today in all the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of South Africa. On 2 May 1922 Lodge De Goede Hoop celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the De Goede Hoop temple. Bro Colin Graham Botha, a member of the Lodge and later the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Africa, presented an historical review of this Lodge.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA  
Grand Master**



*MECs John Smith OSM MSA (centre), Dave Duncan (3L) and Brian Masencamp (5L) at the Northern RA AGM.*

### Inter-Division support for Orange Installation

On 23 April 2022, Wor Bro Skottowe Lourens was installed as Master of Lodge Orange.

“Scotty” was initiated into Lodge Westerford in Cape Town in 2013 and progressed to Master of the Lodge and a respected PGL Officer. In January 2020 he transferred to Rustenberg and joined Lodge Orange.

Having settled into Rustenberg, he was elected Master of his new Lodge in 2022. The PGM of Southern Division, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, along with Assistant PGM, Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, flew up from Cape Town to support Scotty.



*Wor Bros Raymond Eyiomen and Scotty Lourens with RW Bros Godfrey Place and Tommy Hardiman.*

The Installation was very well conducted by Wor Bro Alex Ndubuisi and the Lodge team had prepared themselves well. The Lodge Members knew their work and it was a great start to Orange’s new Masonic year.

### RA Northern hold their AGM

On Saturday 4 June the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa, Northern Division, held their Annual meeting at Orange Grove. This was our First Grand Principal, MEC John Smith OSM MSA’s, first official call-out in his new role and it ensured that MEC Brian Masencamp and his team were very much prepared for the big occasion.

MEC Smith interacted with a variety of people during the course of the afternoon, including his Deputy GM, RW Bro Brandon Topham. Overall the meeting was a great success and much appreciated.



## Supporting the UGLE Central Installations

For the first time in many years, the UGLE in Bloemfontein were visited by their Pro Grand Master. MWB Peter Lowndes came to South Africa to initiate RW Bro Hon Dr Yaw Nyameky Gyasi-Agyei as the new Royal Arch Grand Superintendent, as well as the District Grand Master of their Central Division..

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA and the GLSA were invited to the celebrations, and readily accepted.

After a successful Friday morning meeting with Central Division members in Welkom, MW Bro Smith arrived in Bloemfontein at noon. That afternoon, he and MW Bro Lowndes, accompanied by various Brethren, attended a press conference on Freemasonry and the Boer War at the Bloemfontein museum. Judging by the article which appeared in the local Press, this had proved a great success.



*MEC Bro Peter Lowndes, MEC Bro Yaw Nyameky Gyasi-Agyei and MEC Bro John Smith OSM MSA*

On Saturday morning, MEC Lowndes, as Pro First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter of England, installed MEC Yaw Nyameky Gyasi-Agyei as the new Grand Superintendent of the UGLE's Central Division. MEC John Smith OSM MSA was in attendance in his "other role", being as the First Grand Principal of the Royal Arch of South Africa.

The morning's labours were followed by a much enjoyed light lunch at the Bloemfontein Temple lapa – scene of so many memorable times in recent years.

After lunch it was time for the installation of RW Bro Yaw Nyameky Gyasi-Agyei as the UGLE Central Division's District Grand Master. This time MW Bro John Smith was accompanied by his Deputy, RW Bro Brandon Topham, a Past Assistant GM,



*MW Bros Lowndes and Smith on either side of the new DGM. RW Bro David Staples (UGLE Grand Secretary) is in the centre at the back, surrounded by visiting UGLE DGMs.*

RW Bro Vic Mühlenbeck and Central Division PGM RW Bro Frans Appelgryn,. The Installation was expertly performed and created great memories.

Saturday night was a banquet at a local restaurant and Sunday morning it was time to leave for home – with a special bonus of 2 hours at the airport exchanging thoughts with the visiting dignitaries.

## The Eastern Division AGM weekend

In simple terms, on Friday 6 May there- was a "What is Freemasonry?" working for the YPO followed by a Banquet in the Durban Country Club; on Saturday morning the Neerlandia 100 year Rededication and Installation; on Saturday afternoon the Eastern AGM, after which there was a spit braai.

Successful weekends, however, take a lot of planning and preparation and this was no exception.

The YPO working was excellent and the dinner that followed was much enjoyed by all.



Wor Bro Schalk Jacobs, as WM of Neerlandia, receives the 100 year Rededication Charter from the Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA. The following Installation was well run by RW Bro Johan van der Merwe and his Provincial Grand Lodge team.

The Annual Meeting was the first held under RW Bro Johan van der Merwe and I am advised that it was well run and everything was attended to.



*The Brethren who attended the Eastern Division AGM*

Finally, there was the always popular spit braai, at which the Brethren were able to relax together, with their partners, and just enjoy one another's company.



## President Burgers – an Apprentice’s view

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of May was a special night for



Femi Baiyewu, for that was the night of his initiation. In the picture he is seen with the PGM, RW Bro Godfrey Place and Bro Kelvin

Chris Aku (Alpha) who acted as his Preparator. Bro Femi found the rituals to have “a solemn and reflective air” and that “the messages were clear”. When the ceremony was completed, the welcome was warm and brotherly. Another thing that was “special” for him was the amount of preparation and the number of people involved in getting everything ready.

## Golden City passes Bro Michael Shipton

On Thursday 19 May Bro Michael Shipton was passed to Fellowcraft. While feeling slightly nervous going into the working, he thoroughly enjoyed it and found that “the evening just as unforgettable as my first degree.” We have no doubt that Bro Michael will continue to find more challenges and stimulating experiences ahead on his Masonic journey.



*Bro Michael Shipton is seen with RW Bro Godfrey Place and Wor Bro Reuven Coenen*

## Westerford raise Bro Chad Beyer

On Wednesday 25 May Westerford raised Bro Chad Beyer to Master Mason. Due to Covid delays, aggravated by his being a young Doctor, Chad has waited an unusually long time for this advancement. I’m assured, however, that the exceptional quality of the working made the wait very worthwhile.



*Bro Chad Beyer (centre) with Wor Bro Cobis Wilson and RW Bro Tommy Hardiman*

## Almoner's Report

. Since the last issue of Square and Compasses we have had 3 Brethren taken to the Eternal East.

Bro Thamsanqa Mbeleni (MW Pretorius) was only 46 years old. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all those close to him as they cope with their loss.

Wor Bro Graham Sumner (Perseverance) was one of Freemasonry’s real characters. He was a Past Grand Ambassador and had been a Mason for almost 50 years. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) was a Past Grand Junior Warden and one of Freemasonry’s best loved Brethren. He was a 50 year jewel holder, had been an ESGIG in the AASR and had been a tireless worker for the Order. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Paul Nash	083 3774843
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

## AASR Regions are busy!

On Saturday 7 May the AASR Eastern Cape Chapter had a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree working in the new Port Elizabeth Temple. There were 4 new members, being Damian Marais, Ian Hetherington, Johnathan Kruger and Eric Dyer. At the same event Hendrik Rademeyer and James Lidderd Jnr were affiliated to the Chapter.



In Kimberley, the members of the AASR **Ronnie Bauser** Chapter took advantage of the fact that their members were all in town for craft meetings and organised an interactive discussion on AASR. This was led by M Ill Bro Alf Brønner and Ill Bro Marcell de Kock

