

Synopsis of the paper Charles Shirreff – A Life of Disappointment

In this paper the life of Charles Shirreff, referred to as “*the real founder*” of Freemasonry in Jersey and “*the chief actor in the revival of Freemasonry in Shropshire*” has been extensively researched for the first time.

Born in London but taken as an infant to Nova Scotia, Charles Shirreff joined the army and became a Freemason at Louisbourg. He was an early Royal Arch Mason and during the Colonial War was granted a patent as a Deputy Inspector General in the ‘Rite of Perfection’.

Shirreff married the daughter of a Jersey merchant, travelled to the island and constituted there the Union Lodge No 1 which continued working until 1813.

Retiring to England as a half-pay Major, his ambition was to become a Provincial Grand Master but he was thwarted by a lack of cash as well as cachet. As Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire, Shirreff was responsible for constituting several Craft Lodges in that Province as well as in North Wales and Staffordshire. One of his Lodges continues to work to this day.

There is little doubt that he introduced the ‘Rite of Perfection’, his “*ne plus ultra*”, to Senior members of the Premier Grand Lodge, in particular William White, Grand Secretary and James Heseltine, Grand Treasurer. However, Robert Wentworth Little’s assertion that Shirreff brought the Red Cross of Constantine to England is improbable.

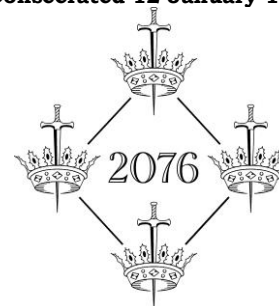
A man of “*blundering forwardness*”, with a burning passion for Freemasonry, he eventually fell out with his Provincial Grand Master and was removed from office. Almost two hundred and fifty years later, it is Shirreff’s memory that is toasted in the Salopian Lodge No 262. His nemesis is almost forgotten.

About the Author

Roger Pemberton is a Full Member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge and a Past President of the Manchester Association of Masonic Research. He is currently Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for Shropshire.

His many writings include papers on Angelo Solomon, the African slave who became a respected Viennese Freemason, and on early Shropshire Provincial Grand Masters.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE No. 2076 The Premier Lodge of Masonic Research Consecrated 12 January 1886



Master
W.Bro. Hugh O’Neill

Email: secretary@quatuorcoronati.com

2 May 2023

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are desired to attend the duties of the Lodge at Derby Masonic Hall,
457 Burton Road, Derby DE23 6FN on **Wednesday 21 June 2023, at 4pm.**

By Command of the Master,

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Paul Calderwood, PGSwdB
Secretary

Dark suit - Undress Regalia
Dinner at conclusion

BUSINESS

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2022-2023

W.Bro. Hugh O’Neill	.....	Master
W.Bro. David Peck	.....	Senior Warden
Bro. Trevor W. McKeown	.....	Junior Warden
W.Bro. Prof. Aubrey Newman, OSM, PJGD,PM	.....	Chaplain
W.Bro. Iain McIntosh	.....	Treasurer
V.W.Bro. Dr Paul Calderwood, PGSwdB	.....	Secretary
W.Bro. Dr John Wade, PAGDC, PM	.....	Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. John Belton	.....	Almoner
W.Bro. Dr Brent Morris, PM	.....	Charity Steward
W.Bro. Richard Gan, PAGDC	.....	Junior Deacon
W.Bro. Kent Henderson	.....	Asst Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. Martin Faulks	.....	Assistant Secretary
W.Bro. Mike Karn, PJGD	.....	Inner Guard
W.Bro. Mike James	.....	Tyler
W.Bro. Christopher Powell	.....	Immediate Past Master

1. To open the Lodge.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 11 May 2023.
3. To welcome visitors to the Lodge, particularly members of the Correspondence Circle, and especially Brethren from overseas.
4. To invest those officers who have not yet been invested.
5. To receive a Report from the Almoner.
6. To receive Notice of propositions.
7. To close the Lodge.

MEMBERS OF THE LODGE INCLUDE

Dr Trevor Stewart, PM; Yoshio Washizu, David Peabody, PGStB, PM; Robert Cooper, PM; Prof. James Campbell, PJGD, PM; Prof. Andreas Önnorfors, PM Brian Price OBE, PAGDC, PM; Arturo de Hoyos; Mark Tabbert; Dr Ric Berman, PAGSwdB, PM; Dr Mike Kearsley, PAGDC; Adam Kendall; Helge Horrisland; V.Rev. Leif Endre Grutle and Roger Pemberton.

After the Lodge has been closed, ladies and non-Masonic guests will be invited to enter the Lodge Room and attend to:

A Talk delivered by R.W.Bro. Roger Pemberton:

Charles Shirreff – a life of disappointment.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

The Most. Hon. the Marquess of Northampton, DL, PProGM;
Dr. James Daniel PSGW, PM; Yasha Beresiner, PGStB, PM

*Next meeting:
Thursday 14th September
at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London.*

DINING ARRANGEMENTS

The members of the Lodge will dine together after the meeting at the Masonic Hall, 457 Burton Road, Derby. If you wish to dine, meals may be booked and paid for (no later than 4.00 pm on the Friday before the meeting) via the QCCC website at <https://www.quatuorcoronati.com/meetings/festive-board/> If you require a fish or vegetarian meal please advise accordingly at the time of booking.

THE NORMAN B. SPENCER PRIZE ESSAY

Brethren are reminded that all are eligible to enter the competition whether they live in the United Kingdom or abroad. It was instituted to encourage brethren to take an interest in Masonic research and those who have not previously undertaken study of this kind will find that it is remarkably interesting and satisfying in itself even though their efforts may not be crowned with the award of the prize. Further details are provided on our website, <https://www.quatuorcoronati.com/research/spencer-prize/>