

# Chapter of Confidence History



The Charter was granted at the Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter held at Freemasons Hall, London, on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 1839.

The reading is as follows: -

“On petition regularly signed, a Charter was granted for a Chapter to be attached to Lodge No 344, Oldham.”

This was Friendship Lodge, which had been Consecrated in 1789, and which according to the petition had had a Chapter attached to it fifteen or twenty years before but had fallen into disuse.

The name of the new Chapter was to be The Chapter of Confidence No 344 attached to the Lodge of Friendship No 344 and meeting at the Coach and Horses, Oldham. In the County Palatine of Lancaster.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1840. Tudor Lodge No 688 was consecrated at the Temple Inn, Waterhead Mill, Saddleworth. Yorkshire West Riding. (The County boundary was just above the Bus Terminus at Waterhead until 1974)

At around this time a further memorial was submitted to Grand Chapter stating that of the membership of ‘The Chapter of Confidence’ only 6 of the members resided in Oldham and that 7 were attached to the Lodge of Candour and due to transport difficulties, it was felt that a fresh meeting place was desirable.

“Part of the petition reads: - That it has been in contemplation by the Brethren of the Lodge of Candour at Delph to apply to your Supreme and Grand Chapter for a Chapter to be attached to that Lodge, and at one of such meetings it was suggested that the Chapter of Confidence No 344, could be removed from Oldham and attached to the Lodge of Tudor at Waterhead Mill.

The union of the three Lodges would form together a powerful and intelligent Chapter”.

A considerable amount of correspondence took place between the Lodges and Supreme Grand Chapter, as it appeared that the consent of the Lodge of Friendship had not been sought. Permission was ultimately obtained and in 1842 the Chapter was removed from the Coach and Horses in Oldham and transferred to the Temple Inn at Waterhead Mill, Saddleworth and the number of the Chapter became No 688.

The Chapter continued to meet at the Temple Inn, Waterhead, until 1858 when it was removed to the Swan Hotel, Dobcross. which was the home of The Lodge of Candour.

Little difficulty seems to have been experienced in obtaining the necessary approval, this may have been because Tudor Lodge had consecrated their own Tudor Chapter in 1852. Thus, the attachment to the Lodge of Candour was established and number became No 422 which it was to remain until 1863 when the Lodges and Chapters were renumbered to its present number of 337.

It appears from correspondence dated 1857 that when the Chapter moved to the Swan Inn, Dobcross it was necessary, to purchase new furnishings: -

3 Sceptres all gilt with carved heads, complete at 12/- each      £1   16   0

12 Ensigns oil painted, 12.5 by 10.5 with poles 7ft long and painted with spears gilded and 4 primate banners and their staves 9ft high, also Royal Arch Banner gilded and staves same length, gilt spears and a Crown, and 3 extra signs of Judah 9inches by 6inches and finish staves equal to above, staves to be 6ft high      £12   0   0

Jewels and Aprons at 15/6 each

3 Principals, 1 Past Principal, 2 Scribes, 3 Sojourners  
Treasurer and Janitor.

11 Royal Arch Chapter Jewels with gold buttons and cord at 12/- each.

3 and half yards of mixed cord with two tassels

1 pair of slippers extra-large size.