

4. In addition to Article 6 of the By-laws, it is agreed that at the admission of a new member, if Secret Billets are called for, that two-thirds of the members present must be in favour of such candidate before he can be admitted.

Kenneth Viscount Fortrose, and 6th Earl of Seaforth, from whose title the Lodge derives its name, died in 1781. He was succeeded by his cousin, Col. Thomas Frederick MacKenzie, who was killed in India in 1783, and was then succeeded by his brother, Francis Humberston MacKenzie, the **Grand Master** of Lodge Fortrose. In 1797 he was raised to the peerage under the style of Lord Seaforth, and Baron MacKenzie of Kintail, and died on 11th January, 1815, at Edinburgh, predeceased by four sons, the last male representative of his race.

Lord Seaforth held the position of Grand Master from 1797 to 1815. He does not appear to have attended the Lodge very frequently—his office being more or less an honorary one—as his signature is appended to the minutes of only one meeting, held on 9th September, 1799. This meeting was called by the Grand Master "to take into consideration the unfortunate loss of a boat upon the opposite coast, with five men, one of whom was a Master Mason of this Lodge. They resolved to contribute to the relief of the widows and orphans of the persons lost, and accordingly opened a subscription paper for that purpose." The fund realized £27 14s., and was at a later meeting allocated as follows: "To the relict and orphans of the deceased Bro. William MacClymont, ten pounds ten shillings sterling. To the relict and orphans of Duncan McKenzie, late innkeeper of Pollew, six pounds sterling. To the relict and orphans of Donald McRae, late fisherman, of Pollew, five pounds sterling. To the relict and orphans of Roderick McLean, late fisherman there, the sum of four pounds, and to the relict of Alec. Ross (having no children), late fisherman there, two pounds four shillings sterling."

The ruling and working of the Lodge was evidently entirely in the hands of the Deputy Masters, who must have been enthusiastic and capable Masons, as Lodge Fortrose now enters upon a long and unbroken period of prosperity.

1798—1799.

From September 9th, 1797, to St. John's Day of the same year there were 30 entrants, and during the following year 43 members were admitted, the roll on 27th December, 1798, numbering over 100. During these early years many well-known men, some of more than local fame, passed through the Fortrose Lodge. On August 2nd, 1798, Mr. Hector Sinclair, of Goathill, "having petitioned to be admitted a Free and Accepted Mason, and several members knowing him to be a man of good character, and being duly certified as such, and no objection being started to his prejudice, he was accordingly admitted." Bro. Sinclair's grandson, Bro. J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto, occupied the Grand Master's chair in the Grand Lodge of Canada during ten years, and has taken a close interest in Lodge Fortrose since he discovered the fact that it was there his ancestor first saw the light of Masonry. Henry Peter Brongham was entered an apprentice on August 20th, 1799, and on August 21st was passed and raised, together with Messrs. Charles Stewart, Robert Campbell, of Islay, and John P. Stroud. The future Lord Chancellor, who was then a youth of 21, visited Stornoway during a yachting cruise along with the above-mentioned gentlemen on board a ship known locally as "the Mad Brig," probably on account of the daring of her amateur navigators.

1797.

In a minute dated 28th October, 1797, we have the first indication of the fact that Mark Masonry was practised in the Lodge. "The Lodge being reopened as a Master Mason Lodge, the before-mentioned two Brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and afterwards the following Brethren were made Masters, past the Chair, and made Mark Masters, viz.: Alex. Maciver," etc., and again, "Bro. J. McDonald was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, made past the Chair, and Mark Master, when the Lodge was closed." There is in existence an old register of Mark Masters dating from 1797, containing the names and Marks of about 50 Brethren. The