

Inventory of articles belonging to the Fortrose Lodge as removed to their new Lodge, 17th December, 1822:—

The Master's table.

Two small tables for the Wardens, one of them broke.

Four tables for the Brethren, two of them needing repair.

Sixteen forms, small and great.

The Master's chair, with the Throne. Two chairs for Wardens. (Still used).

A cash chest, and one ditto for papers and books.

Six candlesticks, 5 pairs snuffers, one of them broke.

One ditto, with 3 branches. (Still used).

A sett of fire irons, the shovel broke, a pair of bellows, a large brush.

A case with four case bottles, thirty black bottles, twenty glasses.

One small decanter, two servers, one small bowl.

One punch ladle, one pint stoupe.

Three floor cloths, two pieces Duffle cloth.

A rusty sword, bayonet and compass. (Sword still in use).

A boiler and two water pails, a large pot.

Four small towels, twenty-two glasses purchased 27th December, 1822.

A table with drawers, and two forms, bought 15th January, 1823.

A tub and two water stoupes.

Two water pots and two decanters, bought 1824.

The first candidate initiated in the new Hall was the Rt. Hon. James Alexander Stewart MacKenzie, of Seaforth. This gentleman was originally the Rt. Hon. J. A. Stewart, of Glasserton, nephew of the 7th Earl of Galloway, but upon his marriage with Mary Elizabeth Frederica McKenzie, widow of Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, and only daughter and heiress of Francis Humberston McKenzie, 7th Earl of Seaforth, he assumed the surname of McKenzie. He was M.P. for Ross and Cromarty, and held the offices of Governor of Ceylon and Lord High Commissioner to the Ionian Islands. His death, which took place on 24th September, 1843, severed the last link connecting the Fortrose Lodge with the Seaforth family.

1825.

A petition was presented on January 11th, 1825, from Bro. Malcolm McLeod, sailor, Stornoway, who when we last heard of him was languishing in a Norwegian prison. He pleads ill-health and poverty, "which being considered, the Brethren present unanimously awarded that five pounds sterling should be paid to the petitioner by instalments."

Up to about 1830 the Lodge seems to have continued in a flourishing condition, but for some years after this date the number of entrants declined considerably, and the funds suffered in consequence. In the eight years from 1830 to 1837 there were only 16 entrants, 1832, 1835 and 1836 being blank. Many of the Brethren also fell into arrears with their contributions, and regular warnings were issued by the Lodge "that such members have forfeited all claim to the privileges of Masonry, and that if their arrears are not paid up by a fixed date they will be expelled the Lodge, and their names removed from the Roll of Members.

1830.

On 10th August, 1830, the names of the following were expunged from the Roll, "as they are long in arrears to the Lodge": John Loban, contractor; Normand Morison, cooper; Alex. Cameron, John McDonald, mason, and Ralph Rae, carpenter. And again on the 7th day of March, 1834, "The Brethren directed that the names of the following Brethren would be expunged from the Roll of the Lodge, viz.: Don'd Morison, farmer, late of Dell; Alex. McLeod, shipmaster, Stornoway; Syme Tod, late Collector of Customs, Stornoway; Robt. Goldie, dancing master; Jas. Robertson, commander R. N.; Mur. McLeod, merchant; Don'd McIver, blacksmith; Peter Smith, merchant; John McKenzie, cabinetmaker; Angus McKay, joiner, and Murdo McKenzie, merchant, which was accordingly done." The Brethren, however, seem to have been after all of a forgiving disposition, as we find many cases of application for reinstatement.