

THE FORTROSE LODGE OF FREEMASONS, STORNOWAY, NO. 108.

November, 1767.

This Lodge was established under the designation of "Fortrose Lodge," Stornoway, by Charter dated 10th November, 1767.

The proprietor of the Lewis at this time was the Right Hon. Kenneth MacKenzie, Lord Viscount Fortrose, of Brahan Castle, and from his title the Lodge evidently received its name. Its original number was 135, which has since been altered to the present Lodge number, 108.

August, 1769.

The following extract from the minutes will sufficiently indicate its beginnings: "Upon application to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Kingdom of Scotland by Dr. John McCaskill, Archibald Smith, John McIver, John Wylie, John Reid, Murdoch Mackenzie, senior, Nor. McLeod, Colin McKenzie and Neil McLeod, of Stornoway, in the Island of Lewis, who had been entered Free and Accepted Masons in different Lodges in Scotland, to constitute and erect them into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, by the name and designation of Fortrose Lodge, Stornoway, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Scotland and the Grand Lodge thereof, have by Charter dated the tenth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven at the Grand Lodge held at Edinburgh, constituted, appointed the Worshipful Brethren above named and their successors in all time coming to be a true and regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons by the style and designation of Fortrose Lodge aforesaid. Therefore, and in consequence of the above constitution, the Worshipful Brethren above mentioned, with several others, have since receipt of said Charter, which was upon the sixteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine, met and formed themselves into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and elected a Master, Wardens and other officers as narrated in the minutes below; and likewise framed to themselves several by-laws for their government and direction.

Upon the sixteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, the Worshipful Brethren under-mentioned, viz.: Archibald Smith, collector; John Wylie, surveyor of His Majesty's Customs, of Stornoway; Doctor John McCaskill; Murdoch McKenzie, senior; John McIver, Normand McLeod; Kenneth McKenzie, junior, and Neil McLeod, merchants; Lieut. Hector McNeil; Malcolm McNeil, shipmaster; Alexander Anderson, schoolmaster, and George Bartleman, operative mason, met, and after mature consideration did unanimously elect Archibald Smith, Master; Alex. Anderson, Deputy Master; Murdoch McKenzie, Senior Warden; Normand McLeod, Junior Warden; John McIver, Secretary; John Wylie, Treasurer; Kenneth McKenzie, junior, Steward, and George Bartleman, Tyler; and after the said election did proceed to frame themselves the following By-laws:

Fortrose Lodge, Stornoway, the sixteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine. It is agreed that from and after this day the following By-laws shall be observed by the Brethren of this Lodge:—

1. That it is agreed our monthly meeting shall be on the first Thursday of every month, and the Brethren to attend precisely at six o'clock in the evening.

2. That each Brother upon the first Thursday of every quarter is to pay into the box or publick fund one shilling sterling, being what is due for the preceding quarter, the quarter to end on the sixteenth November, the sixteenth February, the sixteenth May and the sixteenth August.

3. That when the Lodge is open no member or members to curse, swear or speak any obscene language, otherwise they will be fined sixpence for every such crime, nor are they to disturb the harmony of the Brethren by Committees, or interrupting a Brother when speaking to the Master or Wardens, under the penalty of threepence for every such offence, all to be applied to the publick fund. Neither are they to speak in time of business in the Lodge without leave asked and given from the Master.