

# Rose Croix Communications

Issue 7

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## Editorial

Princes

Happily some members have sent me material for this bumper issue and I thank them most heartily for making the effort. We do need more for the next issue so may I ask you to send me details of your Chapter functions, unusual events or any heart warming story from your members. I would dearly love to receive a few letters to the Editor to get some correspondence going.

Send your letters, articles etc to me as detailed below:

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## King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement

*Contributed by Ian Savage of St Eligius  
Chapter No 992*

All those Princes who are anything like me will find that memorising the actions and movements in our rituals is every bit as difficult as remembering the words. Substantially for that reason I decided to attend our Chapter of Improvement.

The Chapter meets at 10 Duke Street on the first Thursday of every month at 5.45 pm and newcomers are made most welcome. For the modest fee of £5.00 Life Membership of the Chapter is awarded and great value for money that represents. Given the large number of Princes attending, the meeting is usually held in the large Hall downstairs and the impressive setting is enhanced by the numbers in attendance. Regalia is not required.

The Perfection Ceremony is rehearsed at each meeting, with the Enthronement Ceremony being substituted for the Third Point in January, April, July and October.

Ritual Books are not used by anyone in the Chapter and, with the large body of experience there present, none are needed.

Princes attending are invited to participate either on the basis of acting an office through the entirety of the ceremony or as Sovereign for just part of the ceremony, say The Intermediate Degrees.

During the Third Rising, Officers are appointed for the next meeting, ideally on a Progressive basis with, for example, the Second General advancing to the First Generals chair and so on down the list of Officers. The intention is to give Princes the opportunity to practise the positions they occupy or are about to occupy in their own Chapters.

Participating in the work of the Chapter is both useful and enjoyable. Treat yourself to a visit!

*Ian Savage*



*E & P Bro E I Savage, 18°*

# Who was Colonel Shadwell Henry Clerke - 1836 to 1891?

*Ill Bro George Davis, Recorder of Shadwell Clerke Chapter No 107 compiled this paper for St John Group to discover the man whose name lives on in his Chapter.*

**A**lthough I belong to the Chapter bearing his name I found it strangely difficult to find any information on this illustrious Mason. He appears frequently in the book *The History of Freemasonry in The District of Malta* by W Bro A M. Broadley . There are photographs of him at the Masonic centre in Valletta and the only other written account that I can find of him is his obituary published in *The Freemason* on 2 January 1892. Below is a précis of the account which I hope our readers will enjoy. If anyone has any further information on this avid Mason, or if you would like a full transcript of the article I would be pleased to hear.

## **The Late Grand Secretary**

Sad indeed is the news, which was circulated of the death of Bro Colonel Shadwell H Clerke, Grand Secretary and Grand Scribe E of England. What makes the blow more grievous to be borne is the suddenness of its occurrence. Col Clerke was at his post in Freemasons' Hall on the Tuesday preceding Christmas, as he died on Christmas Day itself. True, he was far from being in his usual health at the time, and was evidently affected by the sooty fog with which London was enveloped. But he was a hale man, of good physique, and by no means advanced in years, and not one would have imagined that Death was so near, and would claim him after so brief a warning.

Shadwell Clerke, son of the late General St John Clerke, was born in the year 1836, and followed his father into the army. He received his first commission at an early age, and served with distinction in the Crimea, the Mediterranean and the West Indies. As Lieutenant, he carried the regimental colours of his regiment up the heights of Alma, and subsequently at the storming of the Redan at Sebastopol was given the command of a scaling party, in which he acquitted himself with so much gallantry that his name was mentioned in the dispatches by the

General Commanding-in-Chief. On the conclusion of the peace with Russia the 21<sup>st</sup> Fusiliers were quartered in Malta. Towards the close of the year 1860 he was appointed firstly ADC, and afterwards Military Secretary to the Commander of the Forces in the West Indies. After holding his staff appointment for seven years, he rejoined his regiment in Ireland. In 1870, we find him in garrison in Plymouth and two years later he retired as a Colonel on half pay and became a resident in London. In

1875 he was appointed one of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms or Royal Body Guard, and was a member of that distinguished body up to the time of his death.

## **Marriage**

He was married on April 29 1856 at the Cathedral, Georgetown, Demerara, to Mary, second daughter of the late John De la Poer Berc Bford, Esq., eldest son of George De la Poer, and brother of Marcus Gervaise, the late and present Lords Bishop of Kilmore, and grandnephew of George De la Poer, Earl of Tyrone, and first Marquis of Waterford.

## **Masonic career**

It is as long as well as distinguished one, dating as far back as April, 1857, on the

13<sup>th</sup> day of which he was proposed by Bro Bruce and seconded by his friend and comrade of the Crimea, Bro Capt N G Philips, and on the 27<sup>th</sup> of which he was initiated in the Zetland Lodge, No. 515, Malta. On the following 27<sup>th</sup> December Bro Captain Clerke, as he then was, was one of twenty brethren on whom was conferred the degree of Past Master, though it was not till nearly three years later that he was actually elected and installed as WM of a lodge. In the meantime, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1858, he was proposed as a joining member of the Lodge of St John and St Paul, No 349, Malta, (still operative in Valletta); at the following meeting he was not only elected, but appointed and invested as JW, and having been advanced to the chair of SW,



was elected and on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1859, was installed as WM. During his service in the West Indies he was a joining member of the Albion Lodge, No.196, Bridgetown, Barbados. While in Ireland he occasionally was present at lodge meetings, though from the exigencies of military duty and his frequent change of quarters in that country, he was unable to join one permanently. While in garrison at Plymouth he joined the Metham Lodge, No.1205, and was appointed firstly Prov Grand Std Bearer, in 1870 and afterwards Prov. Senior Grand Warden of Devonshire in 1871. In 1872, as we have already mentioned, he took up his residence in London, and thenceforward his career in Masonry had been one of exceptional brilliance and activity. Almost his first act as a Mason was to become a member of the Friends in Council Lodge, No.1383, which was consecrated by Bro the Earl of Limerick, P G M Bristol, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1872, with the late Bro the Earl of Carnarvon, Deputy Grand Master, as its first W M. Following shortly after his election into this lodge, Bro Major Clerke was elected as its Treasurer, and so remained till 1875, when he was appointed SW The year following he was unanimously elected and installed WM. In 1878 he was appointed one of the Senior Grand Deacons of the United Grand Lodge, his colleague being the late Bro Sir Erasmus Wilson, while the Junior Grand Deacons were Bros J M P Montague – whose office of Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Rite, devolved only a few months since on Col. Clerke – and Bro. Raphael Costa. On this occasion His Royal Highness, the M.W. Grand Master presided in person at the Festival, having with him both in Grand Lodge and at the banquet his illustrious relative the Crown Prince of Denmark, Grand Master of the Danish Craft, so that Bro Colonel Clerke had the honour of being invested by His Royal Highness. Towards the close of the year 1879, the late Bro Hervey, finding his health and the natural infirmities of age prevented him from continuing the discharge of his duties as Grand Secretary, tendered his resignation to the Grand Master, who after carefully considering the matter was pleased to select Bro. Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D, to be his successor. On the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1880, a special meeting of Grand Lodge was held by direction of the Grand Master in order that the new officer might be invested with the insignia of his rank with all possible éclat. Of the admirable manner in which he carried out his duties it is unnecessary to speak at length. We know how well he

discharged the duties of his trust, with what exemplary fidelity he carried out or saw carried out the edicts of Grand Lodge and the wishes and instructions of the Grand Master. We know how courteous and considerate he was in the reception of visitors, how kind and thoughtful to the members of his staff, how strict in the observance of our forms and ceremonies, and yet with what geniality he displayed when present at the banquet. These are matters which are too well known to be dwelt upon in detail. One of the last occasions on which he took a prominent part in the proceedings of a Craft lodge occurred quite recently, when he was installed in office as WM of the lodge which bears his name – the Shadwell Clerke, No.1910 – and will we trust, preserve it honourably for many a generation to come.

He was exalted to the R A Degree in the Leinster Chapter, No.387. Irish Constitution, on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1858, being the second candidate who received the Degree after its consecration. He was subsequently elected a joining member of the now extinct Union Chapter, No.407, and became its MEZ. During his service in the West Indies he was affiliated to the Scotia Chapter working under the Scottish Constitution, and on his return to England, and after he had taken up his residence permanently in London, he became founder, and in due course MEZ of the Friends in Council Chapter, No.1383. In 1878 he was appointed Grand Principal Sojourner of Supreme Grand Chapter, and in 1880 on his appointment as Grand Secretary he became at once ex-officio Grand Scribe E. He was advanced to the Mark Degree on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1857, in the lodge working under the now extinct Zetland Chapter of Malta. In 1878 he was installed WM of the Studholme Lodge, No.197. In 1880 he was appointed Junior Grand Warden of the Mark Grand Lodge, and in 1885 he filled the chair of A. in the Grand Master's Lodge. In the Order of the Temple he attained to still higher rank, and at the time of his death and for many years previously he was Great Sub-Prior of the Great Priory of England and Wales and Provincial Prior of Suffolk. During the year 1891 he installed Sir R. N. Howard as Provincial Prior of Dorsetshire. In the Ancient and Accepted Rite he had, prior to his selection by the Prince of Wales for the post of Grand Secretary of United Grand Lodge, played a very important part in the proceedings of this Rite, having served as MWS. in the Ivor Hael Chapter, No.34, Newport, Monmouthshire, and having had conferred on him the 33<sup>o</sup> on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1874. For several years he held the



important post of Grand Secretary-General; but, as we have already stated, he resigned this office early in 1880, and was presented with a handsome gift of plate in recognition of the many valuable services he had rendered to this branch of Masonry. The meeting at which the presentation was made took place at the hall of the Supreme Council, 33°, in Golden Square. Bro. Capt. N. G. Philips, Lieut.-Grand Commander, in the unavoidable absence of the Earl of Lathom, Sov Grand Commander, occupied the chair, and in presenting the plate, one part of which was the gift of the Supreme Council, and the other that of members of the various Degrees of the Rite, begged Col Clerke's acceptance of it as a "recognition of the valuable services rendered by you to the Order as Grand Secretary General, and as a small token of the affection and esteem in which you are held by your colleagues of the Supreme Council and the members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of Freemasonry for England and Wales and the Dependences of the British Crown." Among the plate were a salver and an epergne, the former of which bore the inscription: "Presented to Lt-Col Shadwell H Clerke by his colleagues in the Supreme Council, 33°, for England and Wales and the Dependancies of the British Crown, in recognition of his valuable services as Grand Secretary-General. July 1880".



***The uniform of a Captain of the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers in the 1850s***

The inscription on the epergne was as follows: "This centre piece, with many other articles of plate, is presented to Lt-Col. Shadwell H Clerke, 33°, by the members of the various Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales and the Dependancies of the British Crown, as a mark of their appreciation of the valuable and honorary services rendered by

him to the Order as its Grand Secretary-General for nearly seven years, and of the esteem in which he is personally held by them." Last year on the retirement of Bro J M P Montague from the office of Grand Chancellor Bro Col Clerke was appointed as his successor. This office he still held, together with that of representative of the Supreme Council of Canada at our Supreme Council.

As regards our Charitable Institutions, it is needless to say that he took a deep interest in their welfare, and that on several occasions he had served the office of Steward for one or other, a notable instance being in 1888 at the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls when, as representative of the Friends in Council Lodge, he had the satisfaction of handing over to the funds of that Charity one of the largest amounts raised by any London Steward.

We are very far from having exhausted the list of actual or honorary distinctions which had been conferred on Col Clerke on sundry occasions when, as an Officer of Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter, or in some other official or private capacity, he rendered some service of greater or less moment to the Fraternity. But why need we trouble ourselves to demonstrate still further a self-evident proposition? Our readers know full well that for the last 20 years of his life our distinguished brother has devoted himself heart and soul to promoting, as far as lay in his power, the truest and best

interests of every branch of our ancient and venerable Fraternity. However, we must not prolong this memoir, which is long enough for its more immediate purpose of making generally known what he did for Freemasonry, and yet all too short to give

a perfect idea of the man and his absolute and entire devotion to our Order. But though we bid a final adieu to him we saw and spoke to but yesterday, the memory of his services will live and

this memory we shall cherish, and we venture to think the Craft in its entirety will cherish, while the faculty of remembering what is good and worthy remains.



### **Editor's note**

*The two pictures used in the article above and the information below were made available by the Headquarters of the Royal Highland Fusiliers and I am greatly indebted to Sandy Leishman who organised this for me.*

The Royal Scots Fusiliers were known variously as:

The Earl of Mar's Regiment of Foot ('Mar's Grey Brecks') (1678-1695)

The Scots Fusilier Regiment of Foot (1695-1712)

21st (Royal North British Fusilier) Regiment of Foot (1713-1877)

21st (Royal Scots Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot (1877-1881)

They amalgamated with the Highland Light Infantry in 1959 to form the Royal Highland Fusiliers, which in turn has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland

*The facsimile below is a copy of the biography contained in the RSF Officers Mess Photograph Album:*

