Belfast Lodges

**Lodge No.354** (Military Lodge). This warrant had been issued to the 49th Foot, ‘The 1st Battalion Berkshire Regiment’, on the 4th December 1760. It would appear to have been regularly stationed in Belfast in the 1790’s and the degree of permanence is perhaps witnessed by the fact that it is recorded in Grand Lodge records as having been holding its meetings at, ‘the Sailor Inn’, in Mill Street, Belfast.

**Lodge 609 Newtownbreda County Down**

I have included this lodge as although registered as County Down it is obviously closely within the Greater Belfast area. The warrant was issued on the 19th December 1782 to members, Edward McGennis, Samuel Reed and Patrick Hart to hold a Lodge, `Friendly Brothers' Lodge' in the townland of Newtownbreda, County Down. A total of 26 members were registered, either transcribed from a previous volume or registered here up to 8th June, 1799.[[1]](#footnote-1) Other than insertions in the press concerning church services any lodge records that existed would appear not to have stood the test of time or the ravages of fire and man from the era of 1798.

**Lodge 636 Falls, Belfast**

This warrant was issuedto members Moses Saunders, James Douglas and Edward Fisher to open `Noah's Blue Lodge' in Falls of Belfast, (i.e. Upper Falls), on the 7th October 1784. There were a further 79 members registered up to 4th April, 1806[[2]](#footnote-2). There are a few church insertions in the press and only one record which touches on the 1790’s period;

*FALLS*

*At a Meeting of Noah's Blue Lodge,* ***No. 636****, Falls, held in our Lodge Room on the 5th July, 1797:- The following resolutions were unanimously agreed on - The Worshipful John McFarland in the Chair:-*

*Resolved that at this critical juncture we feel ourselves called upon, collectively and individually to declare our sentiments in the most public manner.*

*2. Resolved that we will with our lives & fortunes, support and maintain his present Majesty King George the Third, our happy constitution, and the succession to the Throne in His Majesty's illustrious House.*

*3. Resolved that we will aid and assist to the utmost of our power, all Civil Magistrates in the Execution of their duty.*

*4. Resolved that we will use our utmost endeavours to suppress all riot and disorder, and support and maintain our most ancient and honourable Society in its truest intent and meaning.*

*Arthur Woods, Secretary[[3]](#footnote-3)*

**Lodge 651. Whitehouse, Belfast**

This warrant was issued to members James Hunt, David Knowles and James Kirk to form the `Orange Lodge' in Whitehouse, Belfast, County Antrim, on the 2nd March 1786[[4]](#footnote-4). A further 190 members are recorded as registered up to 2 September, 1812.

The lodge was associated with a number of church insertions concerning the liberal and radical ministers, the Rev. James Bryson and the Rev. Futt Marshal. They also inserted a fairly neutral and basic loyalty resolution in the press in 1797[[5]](#footnote-5);

*WHITEHOUSE*

*At a Meeting of the Whitehouse Orange Lodge* ***No. 651****. At their Lodge Room July 15th, 1797 the Worshipful John Bell in the Chair.*

*Resolved That being steadily attached to our beloved Sovereign King George the Third, and to the principles of the Constitution, we consider ourselves called on at this period, to avow our determination to support the Civil Magistrate in the due execution of his duty, and as Masons and Men we recommend to our Members a brotherly love, to govern and conduct the members of our ancient and honourable fraternity.*

*Signed by Order,*

*William Dixon Sec.*

**Lodge 761 `Young Union Lodge' in Belfast.**

This lodge was warranted on the 5th April, 1792 to Lewis Gaffigan, Samuel Sloane and Felix Spence to hold a Lodge, `Young Union Lodge' in the town of Belfast[[6]](#footnote-6). A total of 29 members were registered from its inception up until the 23rd February, 1797. As was the case with many of the other Belfast lodges it may have contained some members whose sympathies lay with the UIM.

The majority of the lodge was probably within the Royalist wings of the Belfast Masonic Lodges and was associated with many of the pro-royalist resolutions of the time such as those of Lodges 257 & 272. Apart from the many church related insertions in the press there are no records of any other activities during the 1798 era.

**Lodge 793 `Tailor's Lodge'**, **Belfast, County Antrim.**

This warrant was issued on the 3rd, April, 1794 to John Graham Senr., James Graham and John Graham, Junr, to hold a Lodge, `Tailor's Lodge’ in Belfast in the County of Antrim[[7]](#footnote-7). A further 47 members are recorded as registered up to 2nd, September, 1813. There are no other records on file concerning the 1798 era.

1. Grand Lodge of Ireland – Roll of Lodges, compiled by Bros. J.J. Nesbitt and William Scott for Bro F.C. Crossle – c. 1889. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid., Grand Lodge of Ireland – Roll of Lodges [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *BNL 7 July, 1797. Crossle* Vol. 7.p. 38. & NP. Vol. C.p. 263. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Grand Lodge of Ireland – Roll of Lodges, compiled by Bros. J.J. Nesbitt and William Scott for Bro F.C. Crossle – c. 1889 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. BNL 24 July, 1797. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid, Volume 3 of the extant Grand Lodge Register. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Ibid, Volume 3 of the extant Grand Lodge Register. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)