

A Masonic burial in Fethard

By Edward Law

The following report appeared in *Finn's Leinster Journal* of 16 November, 1768.

Feathard, Nov. 9. Yesterday the remains of Mr. Francis Clark, late of Lord Drogheda's regiment of Light Dragoons, and a member of the Lodge of Freemasons of this town, was decently interred in the following order, viz. Mr. Robert Robnet, Master, and Mess. Hill Thompson and George Robbins, Wardens of Clonmell Lodge, No. 96, and several of the Members of said Lodge, preceded the coffin, cloathed in their proper habiliments, and bearing in their hands the different ensigns of their office; then followed the coffin covered with black velvet, with a Bible, Square, Compass, and other implements of Masonry thereon, with eight Bearers dressed as Freemasons, with Aprons, Gloves, Scarfs, Hatbands, &c.

Mess. Burrows and Griffith were Head Bearers, marching as two Grand Masters, cloathed extremely grand and solemn; Mess. Kearney and Connell next as Grand Wardens; Mess. Black, Divine, &c. &c. followed in order; most of the bearers belonging to Lodge 96, and the rest to a Lodge formerly held in this town. Immediately after the coffin went the Rev. Mr. Pennefather, cloathed in proper form; then marched two Mutes and a few Mourners, all Freemasons.

This procession being preceded by a Freemason with a drawn Sword, and the Lodge belonging to the 9th regiment of Dragoons quartered here, moved slowly on to the grave, where they interred their deceased Friend with the greatest solemnity; Mr. Pennefather giving them an excellent discourse suitable to the occasion. Just before the earth was laid over the coffin, the Gentlemen gave three claps, repeated some words, and then returned in the same order to the sign of the Sun, Square, Arch and Compass, where directly that memorable number *Forty-five* Freemasons dined, and drank several toasts suitable to the occasion. — *Finn's Leinster Journal*, 16 November, 1768.

(The editor is grateful to Edward Law of Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny, for the above item.)