

The Marker reads,
In this Necropolis there lies to rest the mortal remains of
R.W. Brother Archibald St. Clair Ruthven. Who served
The Grand Lodge of Masons in The Republic of Texas
as Grand Master from 20-2-1846 to 6-1-1847 and as
Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of Texas from
1847 to 1858.
He died while here on a visit to his native country.

THE RIGHT ANGLE

THE MAGAZINE OF LODGE ST. BRYDE No. 579

Lodge St. Bryde No. 579

Issue No. 198

May 2019

Bro. Russell Parsons, R.W.M.

VISIT — www.stbryde579.co.uk






Wed. 1st. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Enquiry Committee Meeting at 7 p.m. Management Committee at 7.30 p.m.

Thurs. 2nd. Lodge St. Bryde visit Lodge Coltswood No. 1067 E.A. Degree.

Wed. 8th. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. F.C. Degree by Lodge Robert Burns No. 440.

Mon. 20th. Lodge St. Bryde visit Lodge Milton No. 1520 F.C. Degree

Wed. 22nd. Lodge St. Bryde No 579. Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. M.M. Degree by Lodge Tollcross No. 1194.

Fri. 7th. June Provincial Grand Lodge Communication at 7.30 p.m. Lodge 166 Airdrie

Thurs. 13th. June Grand Lodge of Scotland Communication. 2 p.m. Edinburgh.

Mon. 2nd. September Lodge St. Bryde visit Lodge Buchanan No. 1499. E.A. Degree.

Wed. 4th. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Management Committee at 7.30 p.m.

Wed. 11th. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. F.C. Degree by Lodge Bothwell Brig No. 1229.

579 Lounge Night

**Sat. 15th. June at 7.30 p.m.
in aid of Hall Fund**



**NEW
Lodge St. Bryde No. 579
TIES
NOW
IN STOCK**

the Memorial serves as another testament to Ruthven's continued involvement in business and community affairs both locally and internationally. Around 1855, Ruthven and his wife relocated 50 miles Southeast to Galveston, Texas, at which time he began serving as the Texas Representative in cotton purchasing of Nelson, Clements & Co. of New York, and by 1857, of Powell & Ruthven of Galveston. Business appears to have been steady for Ruthven – so much so that in 1860 a steamboat, the A.S. Ruthven, was commissioned to haul cotton along the Trinity River between the ports of Magnolia and Galveston. By 1861, however, she had been leased to the Texas Marine Department for use as a transport vessel during the Civil War. The recovered anchor of the A.S. Ruthven remains on display in Palestine, Texas as a tourist attraction to this day. Ruthven was himself involved in running the blockade of the Texas coast during the war, and was even incarcerated for a time in Matamoras as a result of a freight mishap which purportedly violated the revenue and neutrality laws of Mexico. Near the end of the war, Ruthven and his wife returned to Scotland for a visit, at which point he appears to have fallen ill for several months. A.S. Ruthven died of tuberculosis on July 24, 1865 at Broomhill Cottage in Pollokshields. He was interred in an unmarked grave in the Iota section of the Necropolis on July 27th. Ruthven was remembered by the Grand Lodge of Texas as “much beloved by all who knew him for his many qualities of heart and mind, for his genial nature and generous impulses.” He left behind his wife Jane who returned to Texas after his death, and survived him by two years. She was interred at a Masonic cemetery in Houston, Texas. The couple had no children.

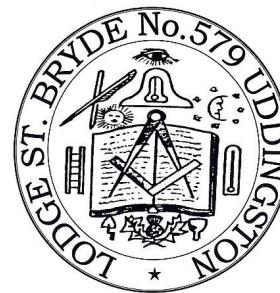
A great story of a Scot who emigrated to America and became one of the most respected Freemasons in Texas. I can't wait to meet Robert Marshall again !!

James L. Jack, Past Master.

By age 23, Ruthven was a merchant pursuing business in the New York City area, and it is likely that he met and married his wife, a native New Yorker by the name of Jane Ann Coats, around this time. In 1840, the couple moved to Houston, Texas where A.S. Ruthven and his associate Charles Power operated an English Importing House that sold a variety of imported dry goods, hardware, groceries and other “articles,” and where he sold passage on ships bound for England.

Just one year after his arrival in Houston, Ruthven was initiated into the state’s first Masonic lodge, Holland Lodge No. 1, and very quickly advanced through its ranks, serving first as Senior Warden in 1842, and later in a wide variety of both elective and appointive offices for the Grand Lodge of Texas, chief among which being those of Grand Master (1846-1847), and Grand Secretary (1848-1861). It was during his time as Grand Secretary that Ruthven compiled the two-volume *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas: 1837-1857*, a chronicle of the early history and important records of the organisation for which he is most recognised.

In addition to Freemasonry, Ruthven was also active with the Knights Templar of the Indivisible Friends Commandery No. 1 at New Orleans, and later the Ruthven Commandery No. 2 at Houston which was so named in his honour. Both he and his wife Jane were also members of Christ Church in Houston. In 1844, Ruthven became involved in protesting the annexation of the Republic of Texas to the United States. Along with a group of other British residents in the area, Ruthven composed a Memorial to the Earl of Aberdeen, Queen Victoria’s principal Secretary of State, urging “Her Majesty’s Govt...to guard against any project inconsistent with the Political Independence of the Republic.” Most of the 32 signers of the Memorial were, like Ruthven, “engaged in Commercial pursuits,” and feared that annexation would give the United States the “power to establish a Monopoly of North American Commerce” as well as “complete ascendancy” in the affairs of the continent. Though ultimately unsuccessful,



Lodge St. Bryde News.

**Lodge
Tollcross
No. 1194
Centenary.**
Bro. Russell
Parsons,
RWM and a
number of

Brethren from our Lodge attended the Regular Meeting of Lodge Tollcross on 11th. April where our RWM presented Bro. Alan McColl and Lodge Tollcross with a commemorative plaque to mark the Centenary of the Lodge. Lodge Tollcross will formally be rededicated by The Grand Lodge of Scotland on Saturday 2nd. November.



Lodge Meridian No. 1779

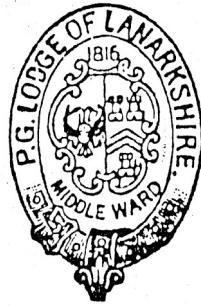
Lodge Meridian No. 1779 meet in The Masonic Hall, Gardenside St., Uddingston at 1 p.m. on the Second Tuesday of May, June, July, August & September

579 Sportsmans Dinner
Fri. 10th. May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

**Speakers Jimmy Nicholl and
Eric Davidson**
**Tickets £28 available from
Norrie Telfer**

Provincial Grand Lodge News.

St. Thomas No. 306. The Annual Degree by Reigning Masters of Lanarkshire Upper Ward was truly a Special Meeting this year. In attendance at the meeting was MW Bro. W. Ramsay McGhee, Grand Master Mason and a Deputation of Grand Lodge Office-bearers which included three Past Provincial Grand Masters of our Province, George R. Kelly, James L. Jack and Thomas Davidson. Also in attendance were the Provincial Grand Masters of both the Middle and Upper Wards. An excellent M.M. Degree was carried out by the Reigning Masters.

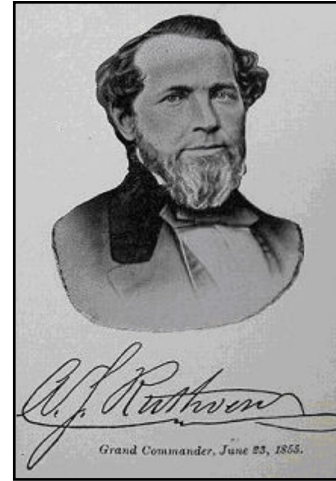


Lodge St. Bryde Sponsored Walk

Saturday 1st. June
In aid of cancer research
See Norrie Telfer for details.

Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Texas buried in Glasgow.

Recently when visiting the Grand Lodge of Kansas, I was



speaking to Bro. Robert Marshall, Masonic Historian of The Grand Lodge of Texas about all things Texas and Scottish when suddenly I remembered about twenty years ago I came across a grave stone in Glasgow Necropolis of a Past Grand Master of Texas. Robert nearly fell of the chair ! I couldn't remember his name, but promised Robert that I would try to find out some information. After racking my brains for hours, still nothing then next morning, I met Robert again and suddenly the name "Ruthven" came into my head. It was Ruthven I said , Ruthven , Robert replied, he was the Grand

Secretary that signed my Mother Lodges Charter. Then I thought perhaps I got it wrong and he was Grand Secretary not Grand Master. Further investigation required, I need to find the grave again. On my return from Kansas, a trip to Glasgow and the Necropolis ! I tried to remember the spot where the grave was without success, and then, there it was ! I was correct, Archibald St. Clair Ruthven was Grand Master of Texas and a Past Grand Secretary, but who was this Brother ? My photos were sent off to Robert Marshall in Texas who quickly replied how delighted he was and would start investigating. Well here is what we have come up with !

ARCHIBALD ST. CLAIR (SINCLAIR) RUTHVEN was born on September 25, 1813 in Edinburgh (Canongate parish) to James Ruthven Jr., a printer in Edinburgh, and his wife Margaret Sinclair. He was the youngest of four siblings: Jean St. Clair (born 1807), James (1809), and Margaret (1811). Little is known about Ruthven's early years in Edinburgh, as he immigrated to the United States in 1832, and, apart from occasional travel, remained in the States until around the time of his death. *(continued page 6)*