

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Barnard  
Provincial Grand Master of Durham 1900 to 1918



Henry de Vere Vane, the 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Barnard, was born 10<sup>th</sup> May 1854. He was educated at Eton school and Brasenose College Oxford, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1876 and was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple three years later. He held a Lieutenant's commission in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Militia Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment and worked with the Charity Commission for a decade serving the last five years as Private Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1881, he married Lady Catherine Cecil, daughter of the third Marquis of Exeter. It was in 1892 and after the death of the last Duke of Cleveland that Henry de Vere Vane was adjudged by the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords to be the ninth Baron Barnard and inheritor of the vast estates of Raby. He left his work with the Charity Commission to fulfil his new responsibilities and won the hearts of all by his unaffected kindness and consideration, and by the interest he evinced in everything that concerned the welfare of his estates and neighbours.

Lord Barnard's Masonic career commenced with his initiation in Apollo Lodge No. 357 whilst studying at Oxford University during 1874. After leaving Oxford he became a joining member of the Lodge of friendship No.6 that met in London – one of its members being a John Fawcett who was Provincial Grand Master of Durham at the time.

His association with the province of Durham commenced during 1892 when he joined the Rose of Raby Lodge No. 1650 at Staindrop – the village nearest to his Raby Castle home, and two years later he was installed as Master. During the year of his Mastership he was appointed and invested as Senior Grand Warden for the Province of Durham and in 1895 was appointed Junior Grand Warden of England. Lord Barnard joined Lambton Lodge No.375, Durham in 1900 and occupied the Chair in 1904. He was also the founding Worshipful Master of Wrekin Lodge No.2883 which was constituted in London for Shropshire brethren residing in the capital. He became a member and Past master of the distinguished Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 in which Prince Arthur of Connaught was initiated. On the death of Hedworth Williamson during 1900, Lord Barnard was appointed to the vacant office of Provincial grandmaster of Durham.

Lord Barnard had presided as Chairman of the 1902 Durham Masonic Charities Festival, the 1906 RMBI Festival and 1912 RMIG Festival. It was during the autumn of 1917 that he received an invitation to be Chairman of the 1921 Festival. However this was not to be. The closing months of the great War proved to be a time of extreme sadness at Raby castle. During November 1917 Lord Barnard's first son and heir, the Hon. H C Vane died from his injuries in France. This was followed within months by the death of Lady Barnard on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and finally the death of Lord Barnard on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1918 with his funeral following on New Year's Eve.

Lord and Lady Barnard were survived by their two remaining sons, their second son, W Bro The Hon. Christopher W Vane, succeeded to the title and the Raby estates, and was father to the present Lord Barnard (the Provincial Grand Master of Durham from 1969 until 1988); their third son was the Hon Ralph Frederick Vane.

Many changes were introduced to Freemasonry in the Province of Durham during Lord Barnard's eighteen years as Provincial Grand Master. His legal training brought precision to the running of the Province. He established the first Provincial office (in Sunderland) for the administration of the Province, founded the Provincial Gazette in January 1908 that has been published each month since, and through his great interest in historic relics he established a Provincial Museum and Library and appointed a curator.

During Lord Barnard's time as Provincial Grand Master, twenty six new lodges were consecrated in the Province of Durham and membership of the Craft increased from 3300 to nearly 9000. Two lodges were named in his honour – Lord Barnard Lodge No.2935 (at South Shields) consecrated during 1902 and Vane Lodge No.3110 (at Bishop Auckland) consecrated during 1905.

A Masonic Memorial Service in honour of the late Lord Barnard was held in Durham Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1919. During the service the Dean of Durham stated that Lord Barnard had, '.....succeeded by inheritance to a great position upon which it had not been possible for him with complete certainty to reckon. He accepted it in the simple spirit of duty and made best use of it while life and health were his, for the good of his fellow citizens'.

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