

## Royal Lodge of Friendship – Famous Brethren



**General Sir Charles Warren, GCMG, KCB, FRS**  
(7 February 1840–21 January 1927)

Was an officer in the Royal Engineers, Surveyor of Jerusalem, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, during the period of the Jack the Ripper murders and in later life was involved with his boyhood friend Lord Baden-Powell during the early days of the Boy Scout Movement.

Born in Bangor, the son of Major-General Sir Charles Warren. He was educated at Bridgnorth Grammar School and Wem Grammar School in Shropshire. He also attended Cheltenham College, from which he went to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and then the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich.. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1857.

From 1861 to 1865, Warren worked on the survey of Gibraltar.

In 1867, Warren went to Palestine with the Palestine Exploration Fund. He conducted the first major excavations of Jerusalem, thereby ushering in a new age of Biblical archaeology. Warren's greatest contribution was his suggestion that Jerusalem D.C. (David's Capital) lay outside the medieval walls of the Old City. At that time, everyone believed that the "Old City" was the old city. Controversy raged for another hundred years until the implications of his discovery became accepted by all in the 1960s, when further excavations revealed the 18th century B.C. city wall. A significant discovery was a water shaft, now known as Warren's Shaft, and a series of tunnels underneath the Temple Mount.

In 1876, the Colonial Office appointed him special commissioner to survey the boundary between Griqualand West (now part of the Northern Cape Province) and the Orange Free State. For this work, he was made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1877.

After this he was sent to South Africa where during the next few years it fell to him to settle many difficult questions in connection with the boundary of the British possessions, which he did with the utmost tact and diplomacy.

He first saw active service in the South African War of 1877-9 during which he earned three "mentions in despatches".

In the Transkei War (1877–1878), he commanded the Diamond Fields Horse and was badly wounded at Perie Bush.

In 1882, the Admiralty sent him to Sinai to discover what had happened to Professor Edward Henry Palmer's archaeological expedition. He discovered that the expedition members had been robbed and murdered, located their remains, and brought their killers to justice.

In 1884 he became one of the 9 founding members of world renowned lodge of research Quatuor Coronati, the first lodge in the world to be devoted to masonic research. A measure of the strength of the Lodge of Friendship at this time is that 3 of the 9 founding members of the Quatuor Coronati had links with Friendship, Warren who became the founding Master, the Rev. Adolphus Frederick Alexander Woodford, initiated into Friendship in 1842 was the founding I.P.M. and Robert Freke Gould who joined Friendship in 1857 was the founding Junior Warden (and then the second Master of the Lodge).

in December 1884, Warren, by now a Major-General, was sent as Her Majesties Special Commissioner to command a military expedition to Bechuanaland, to assert British sovereignty in the face of encroachments from Germany and the Transvaal. Known as the Warren Expedition, the force of 4,000 British and local troops headed north from Cape Town, accompanied by the first three observation balloons ever used by the British Army in the field. The expedition achieved its aims without bloodshed.

In 1886 he was appointed Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis, he was probably appointed as a result of his success in Sinai, in discovering the fate of Professor Palmer's expedition. However this had been a military, not a police enquiry and Warren's tenure as Commissioner had its highs and lows, he showed concern for his men's welfare and was very popular with all his superintendents but was unpopular with his deputies and with the press. Having stood for election to parliament as a Liberal he did not enjoy the best of relationships with the Conservative Home Secretary. His biggest problem was the Jack the Ripper murders and it is a strange coincidence that the Rippers last victim was found on the day Warren resigned.

In 1889, he was sent to command the garrison in Singapore where he commanded the troops in the Straits Settlements. He sited the guns of Singapore and established the modern military apparatus there. He remained in Singapore for 5 years and became the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago.

He served in the Boer War between 1899 and 1900, he was involved in the disastrous battle at Spion Kop and the second attempted relief of Ladysmith where he met up with his boyhood friend Robert Baden-Powell and the idea of using boys as scouts was developed.

After returning to England he became involved with the Church Lads Brigade and was a pioneering Scoutmaster in the movement founded by Lord Baden-Powell.

He died at his home in Weston-super-Mare aged 86, was given a military funeral in Canterbury, and was buried in the churchyard at Westbere, Kent, next to his wife.

