



## Jean de Cabalis - Guardian Orders Paper

For Members of the Following Orders



## Did the Guardians exist before 1970?

Essaier LXVIII

**Did the Guardians exist before 1970?**

**By Jean de Cabalis (with Frater Carfax)**

According to Michael Freedman (Michael Tyne-Corbold) he was initiated into the Guardians and appointed Senior Guardian by Freedman Burford, who was in the Senior Guardian of the Order at that time.

However other than a few stretchy copies of Guardian ceremonies (so-called) there is no evidence to support the existence of the Guardians before 1970. The only verifiable evidence is post 1970 in New Zealand. To be sceptical, the early typed copies of the Guardian ceremonies could just as easily be concocted by Michael himself.

To establish that the Guardians were not an invention of Michael's we need

to confirm the existence of, or at least the likelihood of the existence of Freedman Burford and potentially the Guardians in Australia. Once having established this, then we can trace backwards to England pre 1940.

### **Freedman Burford**

Freedman Burford was Mr Burford's magical name. It is a Masonic and religious term, 'to be a freed man' There are a few possibilities to Mr Burford's identify per Burford's deceasing, record of Deaths in the Melbourne Dandenong area, around the time Michael mentioned.

1. 'Stanley Burford' whom died in 1968 at Kew. Kew is in near-eastern suburban Melbourne, but is on the main road which runs out to the Dandenongs (Maroondah Highway). Interestingly Stanley Burford was married to an Alice Thorpe which by chance was also the name of second Abbess (of the Guardians) under Michael Freedman - coincidence?

2. 'Charles Burford' whom died at Lilydale in 1965 - this seems a bit early, as Michael said 1967. However there is a Lilydale which is near the northern entrance roads into the Dandenongs. Lilydale is also on the Maroondah Highway and the surrounding area was also known for the local strawberry farms. Michael frequently mentioned old Mr Burford giving him strawberries that he had grown. I am uncertain whether or not Mr Burford was said to own a strawberry farm.

3. 'Henry Burford' whom died at Box Hill in 1967; Box Hill is two suburbs down from Kew and also on the Maroondah Highway to the Dandenongs.

4. 'Leonard Burford' whom died in 1968, at Ivanhoe, which is north of Kew. (Note: Reportedly the Guardians at this time, were mainly made up of family members)

5. Interestingly - all the Suburbs (aside from Ivanhoe) are along a main "corridor" to the Dandenongs. When we consider that we are talking about Suburban Melbourne of the 1940'-1970's then Lilydale may very well be considered part of the urban environment that encompasses the Dandenongs. A rail line runs along this route through those suburbs. According to Michael, the Guardians used to place notices for their rituals

on the public notice board at a railway station. Lilydale has a railway station. In fact there is an "abandoned" rail line extension from Lilydale straight into the Dandenongs which now forms a "tramping track". This is a path known as the Warburton Trail - its use as a train line closed in 1964.

While the above is all anecdotal, it does fit and certainly makes the likelihood of the Guardians existing a generation earlier Michael Freedman as more credible and likely.

### **Questions concerning Burford's Guardians still to be answered**

(a) If Michael was correct in the date of Freedman Burford's death as September 1967 then this only leaves Henry Burford of Box Hill. What can we find out about this person?

(b) As it is easy to get years mixed up, as most of us do after a long period, the other Burford's should not be over looked. Did Henry or any of the other Burford's die during or near September?

(c) Of all the Burford's mentioned above, were they born in Australia, or did they come to Australia as British citizens as Michael stated Freedman Burford did around 1940. Immigration records need checking.

(d) Michael stated that he tried to get in touch with the Guardians a few years later and that all had died. Certainly from the above dates this is credible. However we need to know whether or not these Burford's were from the same family, as reportedly the majority of Guardians were from the same extended family.

(e) If in fact notices were placed up on local Railway Station noticeboards, is there any remaining evidence of this? An old Guardian notice or note of record of such in a paper, Church, Museum, Masonic Lodge or Library certainly would provide irrefutable evidence of the Guardians existence in Australia - taking the verifiable line back another Generation, certainly until 1940.

(f) Is there any record of these Burford's having membership at the local Freemasonic Lodge or the local (presumably Anglican) Church?