



ADDRESS
MARK MASONRY

GIVEN AT THE

Annual Festival of the
Warwickshire Mark Lodge of Instruction,
January 29th, 1925,

BY

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ADDRESS.

VERY early in my Masonic Career I was introduced into Mark Masonry by my friends, the late Wor. Bros. Alfred Warrillow and John C. Aston, and to that event I probably owe my usefulness and present position in the Craft, for I found there a closer and warmer friendship, and a readiness to help the Junior Brother of an enquiring turn of mind, than at that period I had met with in the Order.

This created in me an enthusiasm for the Degree which has never been lost, and, although I met with much criticism from many Brethren who in those days looked upon anything beyond the three Craft Degrees and the Royal Arch as "fancy" or "spurious" Masonry, I have never ceased to advocate the importance of the Degree as an undoubted part of Antient Freemasonry.

We have to remember that little or no positive information as to separate Degrees in Freemasonry is known prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. The Master Mason's Degree was unknown until the third decade in the 18th Century. The Royal Arch not until 1735 to 1740, and the first mention of the Mark Degree is in 1769, when the Degree was worked in the Chapter of Friendship, at Portsmouth, by Bro. Thomas Dunckerly, the inference being that it was actually in being at the time.

The custom of cutting the Mark on the Stone differentiates the "Mark" from all ceremonies other than the Craft Degrees, and supports its close connection with operative Masonry.

According to the late Bro. W. J. Hughan, existing records date back to 1600, in which year, on the 8th day of June, it is stated, "Ye Principal Warden and Chief Maister of Maissons, Wn. Schaw, Maister of werk to ye 'Kingis' Maistie' (Majesty), met Members of the Lodge of Edinburgh (now No. 1), at Holyrood House, at which Meeting the Laird of Auchinleck was present and attested the minutes of the assembly by his Mark, as did the operatives in accordance with the Schaw Statutes, December 28th, 1598, which provided:

'That the day of ressaung (receiving) of the said Fellow of Craft or Maister be ord'lie buikit, and his Name and Mark insert in the same buk.'

In 1670, the Mark Book of the Lodge of Aberdeen (whose records commenced in that year) is signed by 49 members, all of whom but two have their Marks inserted opposite their names, and it is stated:

"The Master of the 'Honourable Lodge of Aberdeen' in that year was Harrie Elphingston, Tutor of Airth and Collector of the King's Customs, and only a fourth part of the members were operative Masons, the roll of Brethren including the Earl of Findlater, the Earl of Dumfermline, Lord Pitsligo, the 'Earle of Errolle,' a Professor of Mathematics, several Ministers, Doctors, and other Professional Men, and Tradesmen, such as Wrights (or Carpenters), Slatiers, Glaziers, etc."

Speaking of the Mark Man and Mark Masters Degrees, Wor. Bro. T. B. Whytehead says these Degrees formed an appendage to the F.C. or Craft Second Degree. On the other hand, Bro. W. J.

Hughan quotes a minute of May 4th, 1775, "Worked in the Three Degrees made the following Mark Masons as also Mark Masters," as though they were additional to the Third Degree, that being a necessary qualification as it is to-day.

The first mention of the Mark Degrees in England is in the minutes of the Chapter of Friendship, No 5 (now No. 257), attached to the Phoenix Lodge, Portsmouth, on September 1st, 1769, which are written in cypher, and was discovered about 1893 by Bro. Howell, the Author of the History of the Phoenix Lodge, and which reads:

"At a Royal Arch Chapter / held at the George Tavern, Portsmouth / on First Sept., Seventeen Hundred and / Sixty Nine—Present: Thomas Dunckerley, Esq. / William Cook, 'Z,' Samuel Palmer, 'H,' Thomas / Scanville, 'I,' Henry Dean Philip Joyes, and / Thomas Webb, the 'Pro G.M.' Thomas Dunck / erley bro't the Warrant of the Chapter / and having lately rec'd. the 'Mark,' he made / the Bre'n 'Mark Masons' and Mark Masters, / and each chose their 'Mark, viz: W. Cook 'Z' / S. Palmer, 'H' × T. Scanville, 'J' × H. / Dean ×, Philip Joyes ×, T. Webb ×. He / also told us of the manner of Writing / which is to be used in the degree w'ch / we may give to others so they be F.C. / for Mark Masons and Master M. / for Mark Masters."

Again on April 10th, 1770, in the Chapter of Friendship, "Bro. Kennett took his Mark and paid ten shillings for the Degree." On October 1st, 1770, "Bro. Dance took the Mark and chuze also Edmund Cooper his Mark, and to be made Arch next time. Bro. Dance declined his Arch."

In the Minutes of the Dumfries Lodge, October, 1770, it states Bro. Baird, who was elected Master of the Chair, and then *elevated* to the Sublime Degree of Super Excellent and Royal

Arch, following which Minute is a form of Certificate for those Degrees, and declaring that the Brother has been previously found qualified as an E.A., F.C., M.M., and M.M.M. This is apparently the first use of the term Elevated.

In the Marquis of Granby Lodge, No. 124, Durham, on December 21st, 1773, it is recorded that "Bro. Barwick was also made a Marked Mason, and Bro. James Mackinley raised to the degree of a Master Mason, and also made a Mark Mason and paid accordingly."

In St. Thomas Lodge, No. 142, London (warranted by the Ancients), August 9th, 1777, "The Wor. Master with the following Brethren were made Mark Masons and Mark Masters."

Again on August 14th, 1777, "worked in the First and Second Degrees, made following Brethren Mark Masons and Mark Masters."

Note that in 1773, in the Granby Lodge, only one degree is mentioned (Marked Masons), and that conferred on a Master Mason. In 1777, in St. Thomas Lodge the two degrees are mentioned, the Mark Mason for F. C., and the Mark Masters for Master Masons.

The first mention of the degree now known as the Royal Ark Mariners is in the minutes of the Chapter of Friendship, No. 257, under the date February 11th, 1801, when "Comps. Hiscock and William Cole received the degree of 'Mark Mariner,'" and again on March 11th, 1801, "Seven other Companions received the degree" (that of Royal Ark Mariners).

In the 1807 Edition of "Ahiman Rezon" (Book of Constitutions of Ancients Grand Lodge), p. 112, Laws and Regulations for the institution and government of R. Arch Chapters revised list, April, 1807, the form of return to be used by R. A. Chapters concludes "given under our hand and Masonic Marks this.....day of.....

Z.

H.

J.

On page 213 of the History of the Chapter of Friendship, No. 257 by Bro. Howell, under date February 16th, 1844, occurs the last mention of the working of the degree of Mark Mason in that Chapter, when "the degree of Mark Master to fourteen companions,"* amongst whom was a Bro. Andrew Rogers, who afterward became the first Senior Warden on the formation of the Phoenix Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 2, Warranted July 7th, 1856.

Bro. Howell asserts that, down to 1844, no Brother was admitted to that Chapter unless he had previously taken the Mark Master degree.

The Union of the Modern and Ancient Grand Lodges, in 1813, was the result of a compromise on matters of degrees, and the final agreement bound both parties by solemn act of union only to recognise the E. A., F. C., M. M., and R. A. C., as part of pure

* Under the Articles of Union of 1813 this was quite unconstitutional, but many of the old Lodges continued the practice of working the Royal Arch, Mark, and other degrees under their Craft Warrant for some years after the Union of the two Grand Lodges.—*C. D. E.*

and ancient Freemasonry, hence the present position of the degree in English Freemasonry.

In Scotland the Grand Lodge recognises the Mark Degrees.

In Scotland the Grand Chapter controls the Mark Degrees, and they are essential before taking the Royal Arch.

In Ireland Grand Lodge controls and works the Mark, K.T., and all the higher degrees.

The U.S.A., and all Sovereign Craft bodies in amity with the Grand Lodge of England, recognises the Mark Degree as part of the order.

In 1851 six Brethren applied to the Bon Accord Chapter, Aberdeen, where they had taken the Mark degree, for a commission to make Mark Master Masons, who replied that "if a proper petition were presented they could grant a Charter to work the degree in London." A petition was sent and a Charter granted, 17th September, 1851. The Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Master Masons now stands third on the Roll of Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, the Colonies, and Dependencies of the British Crown. In 1854 the Lodge had upwards of 100 members.

In consequence of the action of the Bon Accord Chapter the Grand Chapter of Scotland suspended the Chapter and its officers, but continued itself to issue Charters for Lodges in England.

On the 24th February, 1854, a Bro. John Goode, of the Bon Accord Mark Lodge, London, was proposed as a Joining Member in the Howe Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Birmingham, by Bro. Bassett

Smith, seconded by Bro. Bedford, balloted for and unanimously elected.

A meeting was held in London in June, 1856, to consider the formation of a Grand Lodge of Mark Masons for England but without result.

At a quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of England, held March 5th, 1856, it was resolved unanimously, "That the degree of Mark Man and Mark Master is not at variance with the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, and that the degrees be an addition to and part of the Craft Masonry, and consequently may be conferred by all regular warranted Lodges under such regulations as shall be proposed by the Board of General Purposes, and sanctioned by the Most Worshipful Grand Master," but at the following meeting, held June 4th, 1856, on the motion to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, Bro. John Henderson (afterwards President of the B. of G. P.) moved that the portion of the minutes relating to the Mark Degree be not confirmed, and this was unanimously carried.

At a Meeting of Mark Masons held in London on May 30th, 1857, a Committee reported in favour of the union of all Mark Lodges in England in one Grand Lodge, and the late Lord Leigh was elected the First Grand Master, thus was formed the present governing body of Mark Masonry in this country. The T. I. Lodges gradually came together under the Grand Lodge of England, etc., the last to give in its adhesion being the Ashton District T. I., on the 2nd November, 1899. This Lodge met in different towns near Manchester, frequently on Sundays, and is now Fifth on the Roll of

Grand Lodge, meeting at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Dunkinfield (I believe our esteemed Wor. Bro. D. S. Higson, P. M. of the Charity Lodge, No. 430, P.P.G.A.D.C., was advanced in this Lodge). Of our local Lodges the Howe gave in its adhesion on January 22nd, 1878, as a T.I., and the Shakespeare on January 8th, 1880, becoming No. 40.

Lord Leigh was succeeded as Grand Master by:—

The Earl of Carnarvon	1860-1863
The Viscount Holmesdale	1863-1866
(Afterwards Earl Amhurst)*	
W. W. B. Beach	1866-1869
Rev. Canon Portal	1869-1873
Earl Percy	1873-1875
(Afterwards Duke of Northumberland)	
Earl of Limerick	1875-1878
Lord Skellmersdale	1878-1881
(Afterwards Earl Latimer)	
Lord Henniker	1881-1884
Earl of Kintore	1884-1886
H.R.H. The Prince of Wales	1886-1901
(Afterwards King Edward VII)	
H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught	1901-1925

In 1865 a Committee of the Grand Lodge of Scotland reported that:—

“In this country from time to time immemorial, and long before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, what is now known as the Mark Degree was wrought by operative Lodges in St. John's Masonry.”

In the Province of Warwickshire the Senior Lodge is the Howe, now thirteenth on the Grand Lodge Roll as a Time Immemorial Lodge, and was

constituted on the 15th October, 1850, by a deputation from the Newstead Lodge, Nottingham, as the Howe Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 857, but only held their first regular meeting on the 9th February, 1854, with Bro. B. W. Goode as W.M. The Charter or Warrant was issued by the Newstead Lodge as a sovereign body, that Lodge holding its meetings under and by authority of the Newstead Craft Lodge, now No. 47.

After the formation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1856, many discussions took place on the advisability or otherwise of the Howe joining the new Grand Lodge, and at a meeting held 16th November, 1857, Bro. Basset Smith said there were two courses up to ye Lodge, one of them was to adopt a resolution to the following effect :

“That this Lodge do place itself in communication with ye Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, presided over by Lord Leigh, with a view to alliance herewith, provided that ye ancient powers and privileges of this Lodge be recognised,”

Or rejecting this, to pass the annexed :

“That this Lodge do for the present abstain from recognising any union or head of Mark Masters in England, the old constitutional law of ye Masonic Craft being deemed by it to be fully adequate to ye control of this part of ye Masonic system.”

He having no confidence in ye wisdom of Grand Lodge, more especially in that of ye Grand Lodge of England, he would move adoption of the

latter. This was seconded by Bro. J. H. Bedford and carried by 8 votes to 5.

On the 19th March, 1862, according to the Howe Minute Book, a petition was presented for a warrant to hold a Mark Master Masons Lodge, under the sanction of the Athol Lodge, No. 88 (now No. 74), and signed by:—

Alexander M'Cracken as 1st W.M.

George Hudson ... as 1st S.W.

John Pursall... ... as 1st J.W.

Chas. Joshua Penn

Richard Hudson

Thos. Bragg

W. H. Sproston

F. A. Johnson

J. A. Parker

and others, who had all attached their marks, and it was moved by the W.M., Bro. Henry Weiss, and seconded by the S.W., Bro. W. H. Sproston, and the brethren unanimously agreed that the same should be granted and ordered to be made out forthwith. The warrant was issued by the Howe Lodge, dated 16th June, 1862. The Howe finally joined the Grand Lodge of England on the 22nd January, 1878, when it was reconstructed as the Howe Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Time Immemorial, with The Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, the Prov. Grand Master of the United Provinces of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, as Worshipful Master.

The Shakespeare Mark Master Masons Lodge, No. 356, was first constituted at Warwick by a deputation from the Howe on 24th October, 1860, with Wor. Bro. W. Machen as first Wor. Master, and gave its adhesion to the Grand Lodge of

England on October 26th, 1880, when it was reconstituted and consecrated by the Grand Master, Earl Lathom, as the Shakespeare Lodge of Mark Masons, No. 40, T.I.

The Province of Warwickshire and Staffordshire was constituted in 1876, with the Rev Canon Bedford as Provincial Grand Master, but was divided in 1882, the then Lord Brooke becoming P. G. M. of Warwickshire, and Col. Foster Gough, LL.D., P. G. M. of Staffordshire. In 1886 Lord Brooke resigned, and was succeeded by the Marquis of Hertford, on whose death in 1912 Lord Brooke who had then become Earl Warwick was again appointed, to be followed in 1918 by our present most esteemed Provincial Grand Master the Right Wor. Bro. Lt.-Colonel Zaccheus Walker, J.P.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Masters have been :—

- 1876 Colonel Foster Gough.
- 1877 Henry Murray.
- 1883 Augustus Frederick Godson.
(afterwards Sir A. F. Godson, M.P.)
- 1886 Thomas H. Smith.
- 1892 Rev. Trevor Parkins.
- 1902 W. Wright Wilson.
- 1913 Lt.-Col. Zaccheus Walker.
- 1918 Felix Jones.
- 1924 Matthew H. Clarke.

The Provincial Grand Secretaries have been :—

- 1876 Arthur Horrocks.
- 1878 G. King Patten.
- 1887 R. B. Morgan.
- 1890 W. Wright Wilson.
- 1896 Felix Jones.
- 1901 W. Wright Wilson.

1903	N. H. Turner.
1905	Howard J. Collins.
1908	Charlie D. Eaton.
1919	Major W. B. Hammond.
1923	E. E. Lonnen.

The Lodges composing the Province of Warwickshire and the dates of their registration on the Roll of Grand Lodge are :—

Howe, T. I., Birmingham	...	Jan. 22nd., 1878
Shakespeare, No. 40, T. I., Leamington	Jan. 8th, 1880
Bedford, No. 115, Birmingham		Aug. 10th, 1870
Athol, No. 74, Birmingham...		Feb. 17th, 1877
Hertford Military, No. 408, Birmingham	Mar. 1st., 1890
Charity, No. 430, Birmingham		April 20th, 1891
Seymour, No. 606, Coventry		July 17th, 1909
Temperance, No. 620, Birmingham	Feb. 8th, 1911
Machen, No. 698, Birmingham		July 30th, 1919
Yenton, No. 710, Erdington...		July 12th, 1920
Concord, No. 735, Birmingham		April 16th, 1921
Central Keystone, No. 744, Birmingham	Sept. 30th, 1921
Vesey, No. 757, Sutton Cold- field	Jan. 20th, 1922
Rugby, No. 776, Rugby	Oct. 31st, 1922

And of these, Nos. 115, 174, 408, 606, 620, 698, and 710, have Royal Ark Mariners' Lodges attached.

The Lessons conveyed by the degree should make us thorough in all our work, confident in ourselves, and persevere in right doing, no matter what opposition and discouragement we may meet with.

Good work must eventually meet with the recognition it deserves.