

Schedule of 21 Articles were laid down at the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, In Article 2 it was declared and pronounced that:-

Pure Ancient Masonry consists of First; Second ; Thrid Degrees and the Holy Royal Arch.

But the Article went on to say as follows:

This Article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding a meeting an any of the Degrees of Chivalry according to the Cosntitutions of the said fraternity.

What ever may have been the original intention of the Brethren who negotiated the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, and that of the two Grand Chapters in 1817, the outcome was that the practice of certain ceremonies, formerly current and including some matters that are embodied in the present day Degree of Mark Master Masons, had ceased by 1817 to be permissible "In Open Lodge". Thereafter, Mark Masonry and other similar unrecognised Grades could be worked only in independent assemblies.

By 1816 - 1817 groups of Mark Masters in various localities of England and Wales had formed themselves into Mark Lodges. In order not to sever their relationship with their (Craft or Royal Arch) parent and at the same time to avoid violating the provisions of the 'Secret Societies Act of 1799.

Bon Accord 17 Sept 1851

Relate story of Bon Accord briefly.

5th March, 1856 Attempt recognition by Grand Lodge.

4th June, 1856 Non confirmation of the section
of the minutes.

Grand Lodge of ⁻⁻⁻Mark Master Masons formed with Lord Leigh
Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire (Crat) First Grand
Master.

Lodges up and down the country, Cheltenham Keystone
No. 13 S.C. 16th June 1858. Practically dormant. Became No.10

Frederick Binkes First Grand Secretary.

Was a great friend of Sir Edmund Lechmere, and also a fellow
member of Apollo University Lodge, Oxford.

1884 proved to be a great year not only for Grand Lodge of Mark
Master Masons, in that they attained full universal acknowledgement
as the Head of English Mark Masonry.

The second item of interest in this year was, the
formation of Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire of Mark
Master Masons, on the 8th December, 1884. You might ask at this
moment how could there be a Province with out Lodges, so let us go
back a number of years to 1863, when a Lodge was consecrated
called the Abbey Lodge at Tewkesbury on 22nd May of that year.

The Founders were Brethren of Cheltenham Keystone
Lodge and also Worcester Lodge No. 280, who had taken their
mark Degree else where. At this meeting several members of the
Worcester Lodge were proposed as members and admitted into the
Order. It would appear that they were admitted prior to the

Consecration, for most of them became Officers of the new Lodge. By December, 1864, the Lodge appeared to be on the wane, for the Tylers Book recorded only six to eight Brehtren present, yet the intake of brehtren had continued on a regular basis, and no resignations had been recorded in the minutes of the Lodge.

In 1865, we find a meeting being held on the 10thth March, when a proposition was carried that a petition be made to Grand Lodge to move the Lodge to Worcester. The interest and support for this Lodge was on the increase, especially among the higher Officers in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire, for among those brethren joining the Lodge were Sir Edmund Lechmere, Past Dep. Provincial G.M. in the Craft, who was a member of 'Bon Accord' No.2. Albert Hudson Royds, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Worcs, and P.Dep.Prov.G.M. East Lancs. The Joining of these two Brethren appeared to stimulate the interest of other Brethren

The Lodge moved from Tewkesbury to Worcester when the first Meeting was held on 7th Novemebr,, 1886 at the Guild Hall.

On the removal to Worcester the Lodge changed its name to 'Lechmere Lodge NO. 59, and a condiasil was added to the original Warrant.

In 1868, The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons met at Worcester under the Banner of Lechmere Lodge, when a far reaching decission was taken, when it was decided that for a period (experimental) of three years, the Festival after the Half Yearly Meeting of Grand Lodge in December, should be a Charity Festival

under the management of the Board of Stewards.

A further proposal was made that 'The Ladies' be admitted to dine at the same table as the Brethren. It would appear that in the past the Ladies were allowed to attend but were placed in the balcony overlooking the proceedings of the Banquet. There was quite a difference of opinion, but however it was agreed for a trial period to admit the ladies. The account of the following Festival in London relates how, 'shortly after six o'clock the ladies were escorted from the drawing room and were arranged in an original and excellent manner round the outer lines of the tables so that they would not suffer inconvenience from the passing of the waiters, the gentlemen being placed round the inner and centre seats. This proved so successful that it has been continued to present day as the Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival. In 1869, Sir Edmund Lechmere was installed as R.W. Deputy Grand Master of the Order.

In 1881, it was proposed that a Royal Ark Mariners Lodge be consecrated and attached to the Lechmere Mark Lodge No. 59, to be called the Ark Lodge No. 59, the same being consecrated on 29th November, 1881.

Things were looking up, although there was only one Lodge in Worcestershire. Early in 1884, W.Bro. Augustus Frederick Godson, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Warks. was proposed as a Joining Member of Lechmere. At the meeting it was suggested that the Hereford Lodge had not joined with Brecon and wished to join with Lechmere in forming a joint Province. However this did not find any favour with certain Brethren

of the Lodge., and so no action was taken.

In February, 1884, at Kidderminster Masonic Hall, was consecrated the second Lodge of Mark Master Masons in the Province, several of the Founders being members of Lechmere and several from Howe Mark Lodge T.I., Shakespeare Lodge, (Warks and Fowke Lodge in Leicestershire.

With there now being two Lodges in Worcestershire naturally the minds of the Brethren turn to having a Provincial Grand Lodge. We find that both Lodges wrote to Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons with this request and nominating W. Bro. Augustus Frederick Godson to be the first Provincial Grand Master.

On the 8th, December, 1884, under the banner of Lechmere Mark Lodge No. 59, the first meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held when W. Bro. Augustus Frederick Godson was Installed first Provincial Grand Master, of the Mark Province of Worcestershire.

It might have been thought that with the increase in membership in 1884, in both the Lodges and the Ark Lodge of R.A.M., that the Province was well on the way to being a great success with a regular intake of candidates. This over the next four years was not to be the case.

The Lodges continues to meet regularly, but attendances fell away, and there was no meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in 1886. In 1887 The Provincial held a Provincial Grand under the Banner in 1887, there were only seven members from each Lodge present and one visitor. At this Meeting, George Taylor was

Installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. There was a drop in Membership for "echmere numbers had dropped to 25 and Godson had taken no members since 1885.

To get over the difficulty, George Taylor proposed that Godson Lodge be made moveable and that some of the meetings might be held held in Dudley.

Fees not paid to the Provinc since Grand Lodge formed, suggested by Traes. due to cash difficulties, they could pay back dues and offered present years dues, with the next years to be paid six months in advance, the dues being 6d.

In the first twenty years the membership of the Province increased from 30 to 67 Brethren

By 1906 there was improvement in the Province, but sadly the Province had to suffer the loss of its first Provincial Grand Master in the death of R.W.Bro. Sir Augustus Frederick Godson.

A recommendation was sent to Grand Lodge for the appointment of W.Bro. Abraham Green as Provincial Grand Master, but it would appear it fell on stony ground, for Grand Lodge appointed The Right Honorable Lord Athlumey, who was installed on 19th April, 1907. Within a month of his being Installed, as Provincial Grand Master the long awaited third Lodge in the Province came into being, when the new Lodge called Athlumney Lodge No. 590, now meeting at Stourbridge.

In 1910 V.W.Bro. Abraham Green retired from the Office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, having served in

in that Office from 1891 -1902 and from 1905 - 1910.

V.W.Bro. W.T. Page was appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

During the first World War, Lord Athlimney was away in the Services and W.T. Page acted as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge.

On 10th September, 1917, the Moseley Lodge was Consecrated, with 37 Founders, The Provincial Grand Master being able to get away from his Military duties to perform the Consecration. There were many names put forward for this Lodge which included 'Masefield' or Arter and East Worcestershire Lodge.

The Province was continuing to grow, at this time in the Province there was only 22 Craft Lodges, eight Royal Arch Chapters and so there was not the diversity of the many Masonic degrees to attract the Brethren to.

In 1917, the Provincial Grand Master Lord Athlumney retired from Office, and V.W.Bro. W.T. Page, Deputy Provincial Grand Master was offered the Office. He said at the time he fully appreciated the Office, but had to admit to some reluctance to accept the appointment, as with all his other Provincial duties in other Degrees he felt that he could not do it justice. However the overriding factor which determined him to accept the Office was the feeling that if he had refused, the Worcestershire Province of Mark Master Masons might once again be ruled by somebody from outside the Province, and that he did not like the prospect.

He was to serve as P.G.M. until 5th November, 1933 when he passed away just one week after Provincial Grand Lodge

of that year over which he had presided. During his term of Office he consecrated four Mark Lodges and two Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. On 12th July 1921, Persevrance "ark Lodge was Consecrated 26th November, Stechford Lodge. In 1922 the Province seemed to be consolidating its position in respect of its membership though attendnaces were dropping off at Lodge Meetings.

On 1st Novemebr, 1923 Provincial Standards were presented at Provincial Grand Lodge.

On October 9th, 1933, the Verion Lodge of Mark Master Masons was consecrated at Stourport on Severn. This was the first Lodge of "ark Master Masons consecrated in the South of the Province since 1863, and satisfied the needs of the Lodges meeting in the Kidderminster Area.

On the death of R.W Bro. T.W. Page, he was succeeded by V.W. Bro. F.D. Eaton, another devoute Masons, who had served in Office in Warwickshire for many uyears as Provincial Grand Secretary. His Installation took place on 26th June 1934, and in his address he went on to say:-

"Very early in my Masonic Carreer I was introduced into Mark Masonry by my two friends, the late W.Bro's. Alfred Wirrillow and John C. Aston, and to that event I probably owe my usefulness and present position in the Craft, for I found their a close and war, friendship, and a readiness to help the Junior Brethren of an enquiring turn of mind, than at that period I had met with in the Order.

This created an ethusiasim for the Degree which has never

been lost, and, although I met with such criticism from many Brethren who in those days looked upon anything beyond the Three Degrees and 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.

By 1940 the number of Brethren in the Province had increased to 292 net. though the number on the Lodge returns was 311. The membership of the Royal Ark Mariners was 176.

In this year there was a further expansion in the P Province when Eaton Mark Lodge was consecrated. The Provincial Grand Master was pleased on this occasion for the Lodge which had taken his name was consecrated in the year which marked his Jubilee as he was advanced in the Hertford Military Lodge, Warks in 1890. This period in time marked the beginning of Provincial Grand Lodge being held on a Saturday afternoon in June.

1941, saw the dispensation for the Provincial Secret: Secretary to have loose leaf minute book and typed minutes., but not the private Lodges. W.Bro. Eaton died in 1946, he was succeeded by P.W Bro. Richard Mason Hadley

The latter half of 1949 saw the consecration of St. Egwin Lodge of Mark Master Masons at Evesham. and in November of the same year Mosaic Lodge was consecrated at Dudley.

In May 1950, the Provincial Grand Master died and was succeeded by V.W.Bro. V.W. Gosvenor, he appointed

W.Bro. W.S. Burton as his Deputy.

At this period many leading figures known to present Brethren in the Province were coming to light, among them, W.Bro. H.E. Clive, and W.^Dro. F.H. Griffiths.

R.W. Bro. Grosvenor was to preside over the Province until 1960, a period of 10 years when the Province had steady growth in numbers but no new Lodges were consecrated. on his death he was succeeded by W.Bro. W.S. Burton, a well known figure in all degrees of Masonry, he passed away in 1968 after eight years in Office, in which period he consecrated 2 Mark Lodges, Teme Valley in 1961, Stability in 1964, Bromsgrove in 1967.

He would have consecrated Malvern Priory in 1968, but passed away just prior to the meeting. It was then to beconsecrated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, W.W.Bro. H.R. Bewley, but he passed away just prior to the consecration, as did one of the Founders R.W.Bro. H.E. Clive. It was a tragic time for the Province, all its senior Brethren passing on.

Fortunately there was in the Province W.Bro. Chitty P.G.W., P. Grand Secretary, who came to the aid of the Province, and with the help of V.W.Bro. F.H. Griffiths, Consecrated Malvern Priory Lodge. Since that date the Province has been in charge of R.W.Bro. F. Clifford, who resigned Office in May 1981, having consecrated Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge of M.M.M. and All Saints Lodge of Mark Master Masons. He also presided over the 1980 Mark Benvolent Festival which was a record. He was succeeded by his Deputy R.W.Bro. G.E. Rackstrw, who has worked hard with his deputy W.Bro. D.J.F. Rawlins to keep the Province

going forward. The Story of this Province since consolidating itself in the early days has been one of expansion until the last two years, when due to many causes there has been a set back, this is not confined to this Degree, but to all degrees including the Craft, However where there are smaller ~~xxx~~ Lodges, and for the effect is a great deal enforced.

December of this year will see the Centenary of the Province, although the celebration will not be held until early 1985. It being the wish of the Province to have a named ward in the Royal Masonic Hospital, which with the good will of the Brethren and the support received from the Craft and other degrees a last push is being made to accomplish this aim

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