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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:-
"LETCWORTH,
LONDON WC2B 5AZ."

PHONE:
01-405 3633

13th February 1978

Dear Brother Grounsell,

Sir Edmund Lechmere

Your letter of 17th January addressed to the Grand Scribe E. has been passed to me since enquiries of this nature are dealt with in the Library. I am attaching biographical notes on Lechmere that had in part been compiled by us in connection with another enquiry about him. We have endeavoured to amplify the details of his Royal Arch membership without, I fear, a lot of success.

We have not, for instance, been able to trace in what Chapter he occupied the Principals' Chairs. You will note that he was a joining member of Semper Fidelis Chapter No. 529, and in the entry of the S.G.C. Register of Principals under that Chapter he is stated to be a P.Z. of "No. 1448". However this Chapter was in the Punjab and as Lechmere's masonry was apparently all in Worcestershire, this must surely be a mistake. We have tried various combinations of 1-4-4-8 as a chapter number, also Chapters with a distinguished membership of which he might have been a member and Past Principal but, again, without result.

Although the Register of Principals does not show him as a P.Z. of Alfred Chapter (now) No. 340 I do wonder whether it is just possible that he occupied the Chairs of this Chapter but was never shown on a return. The Grand Chapter Registers of Principals were only started about the middle of last century and in many cases the entries covering the early years are somewhat sketchy to say the least. It might be worth while your writing to the Sc. E. of the Alfred Chapter to see if by any chance their records provide the answer. He is: E.Comp. G.S. Hitchcox, 119, Fernhill Road, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2JR.

I am sorry not to be of more help.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Librarian and Curator.

W.Bro. T.W. Grounsell, P.Pr.S.G.D.,
36 Shirley Road,
Droitwich, Worcs.

Sir Edmund Anthony Harley LECHMERE, Bart. M.P.

CRAFT

- 1848 24 March. Initiated Apollo University Lodge No. 460 (now 357) Oxford. An Esquire aged 27 of Christ Church College. Resigned 1851. Rejoined 1 February 1854. Resigned at end of 1856.
- 1848 5 June. Joining member Lodge Semper Fidelis No. 772 (now 529) Worcester. A Gentleman, of Great Malvern. Paid dues to end of 1857. W.M. 1850
- 1852 15 June. Joining member Clife Lodge No. 819 (now Vernon Lodge, No.560) Bromsgrove. Banker of Worcester. Paid dues to end of 1859.
- 1870 1 September. Joining Member, Worcester Lodge No. 280. A Baronet of Worcester.
- 1852 Appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Worcestershire.
- 1855 Appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Worcestershire. Held appointment to end of 1856.
- 1878 Appointed Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire. Held office to 1894.

ROYAL ARCH

- 1850 9 February. Exalted in Alfred Chapter No. 425 (now 340), Oxford.
- 1889 Joined Semper Fidelis Chapter, No. 529, Worcester.
- 1880- Grand Superintendent in and over Worcestershire.
1894

MARK

- 1858 & 1862 Appointed Grand Senior Warden, Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.
- 1869 Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.
1870



GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

of England and Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown

TELEPHONE:
01-629 0876-7

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
ADONIRAM, LONDON, W.1

MARK MASON'S HALL,
40, UPPER BROOK STREET,
LONDON, W1V 2DX

AC/CAS

25th January, 1978

W.Bro. T.W. Grounsell,
Librarian and Curator,
Library and Museum Committee, Provincial Grand
Lodge of Worcestershire,
36, Shirley Road,
Droitwich,
WR9 8NR.

Dear and W. Brother,

Thank you for your letter dated the 17th January.

Grand Lodge records show that Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart. joined Carnarvon Lodge, No.7 on the 24th September 1857; his previous Lodge is recorded as Bon Accord Time Immemorial. I regret that I have no record of the date of Sir Edmund's advancement in Bon Accord Lodge; he would therefore have been advanced prior to the formation of Grand Mark Lodge in 1856.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Assistant Grand Secretary

Sir Edmund Lechmere

Edmund Lechmere was Initiated into Apollo University Lodge Oxford in March 1848, and in the same year on the 5th June, he became a joining member of Semper Fidelis Lodge Worcester, and was appointed Senior Deacon of the Lodge.

He was appointed to the Office of Senior Warden in 1849, and in the same year gained promotion in Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire with the rank of Provincial Grand Supt. of Works. In 1851 he was elected and Installed Worshipful Master of Semper Fidelis Lodge, and in the same year was promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to Senior Grand Deacon. In 1852 he was appointed to Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and in 1855 he was appointed to Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, an Office he held for one year resigning from Office in 1856. In 1878 he was appointed and Installed as Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Worcestershire an Office of which he held until his death in 1894. During this period, he consecrated the following Lodges.

23rd February 1881 Lechmere Lodge No. 1874. 11th March 1891 Godson Lodge 2385
6th May 1884 Masefield Lodge No. 2034.

3rd October 1883 he laid the Corner Stone of St. Agnes Church, Moseley.

27th Aug. 1884 He presided over the Masonic Exhibition at Worcester, from which developed our present Library and Museum.

19th September, 1892, Unveiled Tablets in St. John's Church, Dudley in memory of the late W. Bro. Wm. Masefield, Dep. Prov. G.M.

It would appear that in 1858 he resigned from Semper Fidelis Lodge, but joined Worcester Lodge No. 349 now 282.

On leaving Oxford he does not appear to have been very active in that Province, though he was Secretary of Apollo Lodge in 1849.

In 1850 he was Exalted in to Royal Arch Chapter, and in the same year was Installed as a Knight in the newly consecrated Preceptory of Coeur de Lion at Oxford and was appointed to the Office of Herald.

He was advanced in the Mark Degree in _____ Lodge, and in 1865 he was joined 59 Lodge which was the Abbey Lodge which had just moved from Tewkesbury to Worcester.

On the first meeting of the Abbey Lodge at the Bell Hotel Worcester on the 7th November 1866, the name of the Lodge was changed to Lechmere Mark Lodge No. 59. On 11th February, 1868 he was elected Worshipful Master of the Lodge and Installed on the 9th June 1868. On the 1st June 1869 he was Installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire. His Past Masters Jewel of 59 Lodge is now the Heirloom of the Lodge and is worn for one year by the Immediate Past Master of the Lodge.

Source of information:

History of The Lechmere Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 59 P3/E 10b

Christvs Pelicano No. 552 Shelf E2.

The True Principles of Freemasonry.

Masonic Memoranda. Edmund Lechmere. 1444 B8

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WORCESTERSHIRE
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Droitwich: 2413

36, Shirley Road,
Droitwich,
Worcs. WR9 6NR
16th February, 1978

John Webb, Esq.,
81, Rosebery Square,
Rosebery Avenue,
London. E.C.1.

Dear Bro. Webb,

Your telephone message to the Provincial Grand Secretary was passed on to me, and I do apologise for the delay in writing to you. I enclose with this letter details of the Masonic career of Sir Edmund Lechmere.

There are two items on which neither our archives, and those of Grand Lodge and Grand Mark Lodge offer any information. The first is the Chapter or Chapters in which he passed through the Principals Chairs. The only information we have has been obtained from W. Bro. T. O. Haunch, who has found on the return of P.Z.'s. from Semper Fidelis Chapter No. 529, that he was a P.Z. of Chapter No. 1448. However this Chapter was in the Punjab, and I wonder if he travelled in this area in his many overseas trips. There is nothing in the records of 529 Chapter which show his original Chapter. All we can find on his joining 529, was that he was Provincial Grand Superintendent. I will however write to his S.E. of Alfred Chapter No. 340, Oxford and see if their records offer any clue.

In the case of the Mark Degree, we have not got the date of his Advancement into Mark, but from the letter I have received, it would appear to have been in Bon Accord, Time Immemorial. As they meet in April at Mark Masons Hall, you may get the information required from their Secretary.

There is a great deal of information on Sir Edmund Lechmere in the following two books, especially on the restoration work with which he had a great deal to do with, both at Tewkesbury, in Gloucestershire and also in and around Worcester.

Christ vs Pelicano; The True Principle of Freemasonry.

The latter being an address delivered in Worcester Cathedral on the day of his Installation as Provincial Grand Master.

I do hope that we have been of some help to you, and wish you well with your paper for Q.C.

Fraternal regards,
Yours sincerely,

(Thomas W. Grounsell)
Librarian and Curator.

CRAFT

- 1848 24th March. Initiated Apollo University Lodge No. 460 (now 357) Oxford. An Esquire age 27 of Christ Church College. Resigned 1851, rejoined 1 February, 1854. Resigned at end of 1856.
- 1848 5 June. Joining member Lodge Semper Fidelis No.772 (now 529) Worcester. A Gentleman, of Great Malvern. Paid dues to end of 1857. W.M. 1850
- 1849 Appointed Provincial Grand Supt.Wks. in Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.
- 1851 Appointed to the Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, in Provincial Grand Lodge
- 1852 Appointed Senior Grand Warden, in Provincial Grand Lodge.
15 June. Joining member of Clive Lodge No.819 (now Vernon Lodge, No. 560) Bromsgrove. Banker of Worcester. Paid dues to end of 1859.
- 1855 Appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Worcestershire. Held appointment to end of 1856.
- 1878 Appointed Provincial Grand Master, Worcestershire. Held office to 1894.
- 1881 23 February. Consecrated Lechmere Volunteer Lodge No.1874.
- 1883 3 October. Laid the Corner Stone of St. Agnes Church, Moseley, Birmingham.
- 1884 6 May. Consecrated Masefield Lodge No.2034.
27 August. Presided over the Masonic Exhibition at the Guild Hall, Worcester.
- 1891 11 March. Consecrated Godson Lodge No.2385.
- 1892 19 September. Unveiled Tablets in St. Johns Church, Ludley, in memory of the late W. Bro. Wm. Masefield, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.
- 1870 1 September. Joining Member, Worcester Lodge No.280. A Baronet of Worcester.

He was Secretary of Apollo Lodge in 1849 for one year.

ROYAL ARCH

- 1850 9 February. Exalted in Alford Chapter No.425 (now 340), Oxford.
- 1889 Joined Semper Fidelis Chapter, No 529, Worcester.
- 1880 Appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent for Worcestershire, Held office until his death in 1894.
- T. Haunch informs me that in the register of Principals returned by Semper Fidelis Chapter No. 529, he is listed as a P.W. of No. 1448. This Chapter was in the Punjab. There is no record in the minutes of 529 Chapter of this, as they state on the day of Consecration of this Chapter in 1889, he is listed as a joining member, with no other details than Grand Superintndent.

MARK

- Advanced into Bon Accord, Time Immemorial Lodge, prior to 1856.
- 1857 24 September. Joining member of Carnarvon Lodge No.7.
- 1865 Joining member of Abbey Lodge No.59, Tewkesbury.
- 1866 This Lodge moved to Worcester, and met at the Bell Hotel.
- 1866 7 November. Abbey Lodge renamed as Lechmere Lodge No.59.
- 1868 11 February. Elected Worshipful Master.
- 1868 9 June. Installed Worshipful Master of Lechmere Lodge No.59
- 1869 1 June. Installed Deputy Grand Master of the Mark Grand Lodge.
His P.M's. Jewel of Lechmere Lodge is now the Heirloom of the Lodge and is worn by the I.P.M. during his year of Office.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

- 1850 Installed as a Knight in the Preceptory of Coeur de Lion, Oxford on the day of its Consecration, and was appointed to the Office of Herald.