

PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY

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MARK LODGES IN LINCOLNSHIRE

- Remigius ..... Lincoln
- John O'Gaunt ..... Gainsborough
- Sutcliffe ..... Grimsby
- St. Wilfrid's ..... Alford
- Urania..... Louth
- St. Oswald's ..... Scunthorpe
- Nene..... Sleaford
- St. Swithun's..... Crowle
- St. Wulfram's ..... Grantham
- St. Botolph's ..... Boston
- Earl of Scarborough..... Skegness
- St. Guthlac..... Market Deeping
- Spurn & Humber..... Cleethorpes
- White Stone..... Lincoln
- Alexandra ..... Long Sutton
- St. Matthew ..... Barton-on-Humber
- Mercia ..... Spalding
- Bayons ..... Market Rasen
- The Haven..... Cleethorpes
- Mayflower..... Spilsby

*(Compiled by W.Bro.D.S.Bontoft)*



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF  
MARK MASTER MASONS  
OF LINCOLNSHIRE



PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Rt. W. Bro. The Reverend  
Trevor John Walker

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Neville Andrew Storey

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W.Bro. Ronald Henry Harrison

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons  
of England and Wales and its Districts  
and Lodges Overseas



M.W. GRAND MASTER

H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent K.C.V.O.

M.W. PRO. GRAND MASTER

Raymond John Smith

R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

John Prizeman

R.W. ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

Stephen Davison

## Historical Background of Mark Masonry

Since "time immemorial", man has used stone as a material for the construction of buildings and the stonemason preparing the stones marked each stone with their own unique mark to identify their work.

There are examples of this practice at Masada, Jerusalem where some stone was taken from quarries some 2000 years ago.

However, the practice continues today and each stonemason at Lincoln Cathedral still carves his own distinctive mark on his work.

These marks served two useful purposes - It established a craftsman's entitlement to wages and in the event of faulty work, enabled the foreman or overseer to identify the workman responsible.

The ceremony of advancement to the degree of Mark Master Mason is centred on this practice and is particularly directed to the inculcation of order, regularity, diligence and discipline.

Like the Fellowcraft Degree of the Craft, it is less concerned with the past and future, but more with the here and now of our present life.

It places emphasis on not judging people or situations on outward appearances but to seek hidden truths.

## The Degree of Mark Master Mason

Mark Masonry, as a speculative degree, is known to be more than 200 years old. The minutes of our own Witham Craft Lodge No. 297 in Lincoln includes this reference in 1798, "Several brethren expressing a wish to be acquainted with the degree of Mark Mason, were advanced to that degree."

However, it was not until 1856 that the first Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was constituted in London.

Currently, there are 41 Provinces in England and Wales, as well as 25 Districts throughout the world, with 1500+ Lodges under its jurisdiction.

Grand Lodge meets four times each year when **all** Mark Master Masons can attend and appreciate the magnificent ceremonial.

Mark Masonry is regarded as one of the "Higher Degrees" in Freemasonry and enjoys good working relations with both the Craft and Royal Arch. In Ireland, the degree of Mark Master Mason is required to join a Holy Royal Arch Chapter and they share the same Warrant. In Scotland, the Mark degree is conferred in a Craft Lodge as completion of the Fellowcraft degree or in a Holy Royal Arch Chapter as a prerequisite for exaltation to the Royal Arch.

## How can I join Mark Masonry?

A prospective candidate must have been a Master Mason for at least four weeks in order to be proposed, seconded and balloted. The ceremony centres around the powerful symbolism of the Keystone, and in particular, a verse from Psalm 118, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner."

## Why should I Join Mark Masonry?

One of the hallmarks of Mark Masonry is its very noticeable warm and caring nature which is embodied in the generous Lincs Mark Benevolent Fund. It is often referred to as the "Happy Order". "Should other friends forsake you—among Mark Master Masons, you will ever find friends." It is also a basic qualification to join the orders of Royal Ark Mariners, Royal & Select, Allied and the Operatives.

## The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Lincolnshire

After the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1856, it didn't take long for Lincolnshire to form its own and in 1874 John Sutcliffe became its first Provincial Grand Master.

Our current Provincial Grand Master, the Reverend Trevor John Walker was installed as our twelfth Provincial Grand Master in 2007.

To date there are 22 Mark Lodges in the Province to which 18 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges are moored.