

Provincial Grand Secretary:

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Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in Lincolnshire:

- Remigius....Lincoln
- Trent.....Gainsborough
- Heneage.....Cleethorpes
- St. Wilfrid's...Alford
- St. Mary.....Louth
- St. Oswald.....Scunthorpe
- St. Denys.....Sleaford
- St. Swithun's...Crowle
- St. Wulfrum's...Grantham
- St. Nicholas.....Boston
- Earl of Scarborough...Skegness
- St. Guthlac.....Deeping St. James
- Mercia.....Spalding
- Bayons.....Market Rasen
- Millennium.....Boston
- The Haven....Cleethorpes
- Mayflower.....Spilsby
- The Ark.....Alford

(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

THE ANCIENT
AND
HONOURABLE FRATERNITY
OF
ROYAL ARK MARINERS



Are you a member of this lovely, warm, colourful and interesting degree?

If not, why not join, enjoy the warmth of friendship and discover what the story of Noah and The Great Flood can teach you.

Historical Background of The Royal Ark Mariner degree.

The history of the degree is somewhat obscure and there seems to be little recorded to establish its exact origin.

It is generally accepted that the degree is around two hundred years old and is based on the Great Flood and the steps taken by Noah to build the Ark by which mankind was preserved from perishing in the "Universal deluge".

The legend of Noah, his sons, the Ark and the Deluge were enacted in the Mystery Plays of the 17th century and continued as catechisms in many of the early Masonic rituals.

By the 1750's there was a degree of Noachites or Prussian Knights. However, the first authentic record of the degree appears in the minutes of a meeting held in Bath in 1790 and several records exist throughout the country to show that the degree has been practised since that date.

Conflict and dissension arose as to who controlled the degree and continued well after 1870 until the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons simply purchased the degree for the sum of £25.00. The receipt for the transaction still hangs in the library of Mark Mason's Hall in St. James Street, London.

The Degree of Royal Ark Mariner

The degree, although worked under the aegis of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and governed by the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, has no historical connection whatsoever with that degree. It stands entirely alone and totally unrelated to any other degree in Freemasonry.

However, like the Mark degree it is based on an established fact. The Mark degree based on the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem, so the Ark Mariner degree is based on the Great Flood as recorded in the Bible and verified by archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley in 1929.

The qualification for "elevation" to membership is that of being a Mark Master Mason.

The degree commemorates the providence and mercy of God, the subject matter being taken directly from the Bible is naturally both beautiful and instructive. The Ark is symbolised in terms similar to the Ark of Salvation and the candidate is instructed to advance in the spirit of the Cardinal Virtues.

The teaching of the degree emphasises the importance of the family strengths and the need for each member of society to play his part for the benefit of all. We are taught that out of chaos and catastrophe, mankind can survive and that we should

face adversity together, helping to look after those less fortunate than ourselves.

How can I become a Royal Ark Mariner?

Any brother that you meet in your Mark Lodge who is wearing the distinctive "rainbow" breast jewel should be able to supply you with the appropriate information. Alternatively, you can contact the Provincial Grand Secretary or the Scribe of your chosen Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

(see Lincolnshire Freemasons' Handbook).

Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

All Royal Ark Mariner Lodges are attached to or "moored" to a Mark Lodge and has the same number, though, not necessarily the same name. Most Lodges meet three or four times per year of which one meeting is for installation. The dates for all meetings, venues, lists of officers and members are found in the Lincolnshire Freemasons' Handbook.

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.