

A short History of the founding of Remigius Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Remigius Lodge of Mark Master Masons should have celebrated its 150th Anniversary in October, but unfortunately its celebrations have been put on hold until after this Covid-19 Epidemic permits, but doesn't stop a short History of its founding.

The earliest reference to the Mark Degree in the County of Lincoln is recorded in the minutes of the Witham Lodge dated 5th April, 1789, when Bro. Plunkett, assisted by several brethren previously made Mark Master Masons did make and acquaint Bros. Caparn, Simpson and Gray into the degree. The next reference came on 27th October, 1845, in another minute of Witham Lodge, when the Installed Masters of the Lodge were requested to take the necessary steps for reviving the Mark Master Masons' Lodge formerly held in connection with the Witham Lodge.

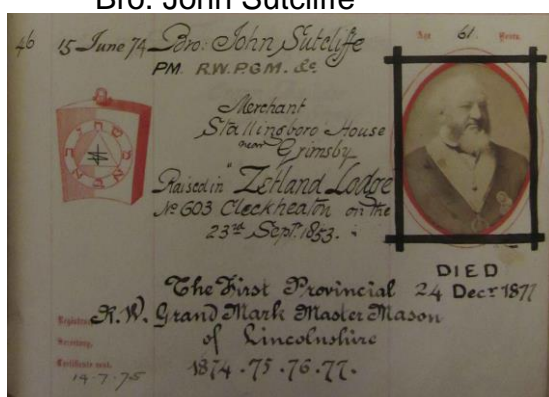
The first Lodge in Lincolnshire under the present constitution was opened in the early part of the year 1870 by Bro. F. Binckes at Sleaford under the auspices and by the same title of the St. Botolph Craft Lodge. The establishment of the degree at Sleaford was due to the enthusiasm of Bro. Ed. Beverley Bogg, W. M. of the St. Botolph Lodge in 1869. He had previously been a resident of Louth and a member of the Lindsey Lodge, but unfortunately he died in 1871 and the Lodge moved to Boston. Subsequently the warrant was returned to London.

Freemasons in Lincoln became interested once again when several brethren, members of the Witham Craft Lodge No. 297 Lincoln, having already taken the Degree of 'Mark Master Mason' in the Minerva Lodge, Hull and St. Botolph's Lodge, Sleaford, thought it desirable that a Lodge of 'Mark Master Masons' should be established in the City of Lincoln, for which purpose a meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Grantham Street, Lincoln on Friday evening, 26th August, 1870.

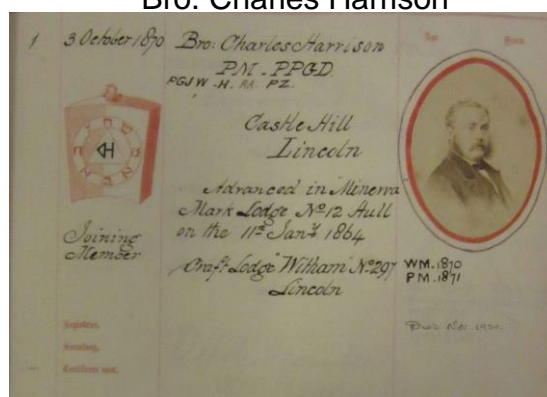
The naming of the Lodge had been given considerable thought. Such names as 'Mercia', 'Portal', 'Remigius', 'Lindum', 'St. Hugh', etcetera, had been submitted along with others. It was finally agreed that the Lodge should be called 'The Remigius Lodge of Mark Masters' after Bishop Remigius de Fecamp, who in A.L. 5088 or A.D. 1088, commenced the foundation of the Lincoln Cathedral which was completed in four years but who died before its consecration. A warrant No. 117 was granted on 5th September, 1870, constituting a Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Lincoln.

There was no Provincial Grand Lodge in Lincolnshire at that time until it was suggested by the fourth W.M. of Remigius, Bro. F. Watson in 1873, and a patent for Bro. J. Sutcliffe as Provincial Grand Master was granted by Grand Lodge on 24th August, 1874. The first Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Newland, Lincoln on 29th August, 1874, under the presidency of Bro. F. Binckes, when Bro. J. Sutcliffe was formally installed as the first Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire. The first four Provincial Grand Masters were all members of Remigius Lodge, Bros. John Sutcliffe 1874, Charles Harrison 1880, Jack Sutcliffe 1883 and the Earl of Yarborough 1892.

Bro. John Sutcliffe

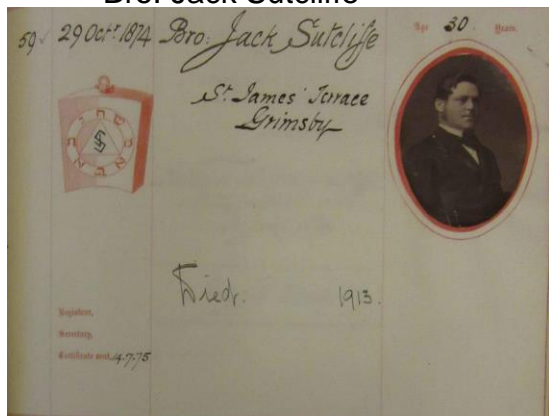


Bro. Charles Harrison

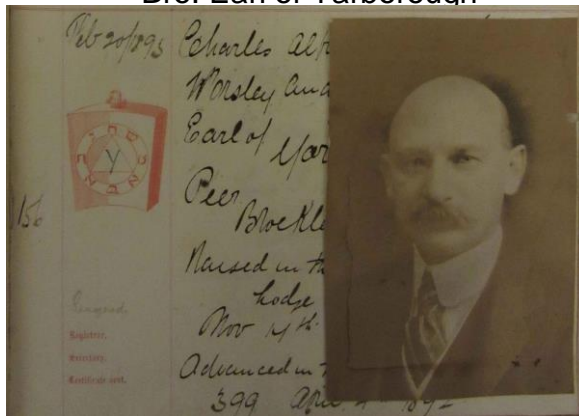


These photos are in the Lodges Register Book

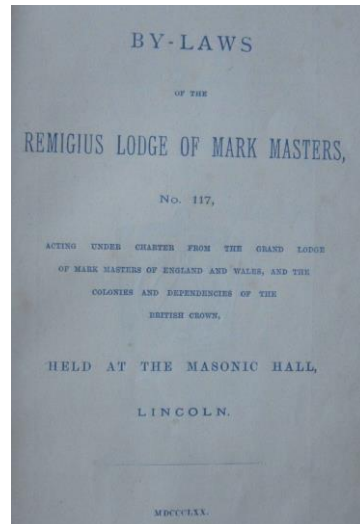
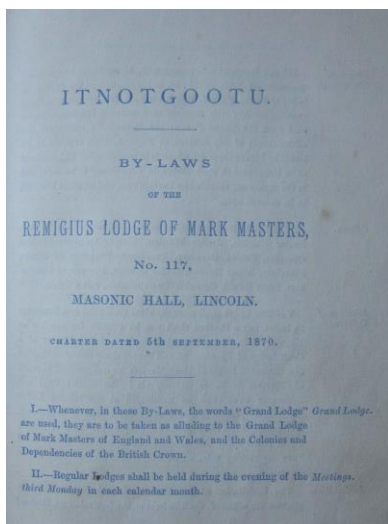
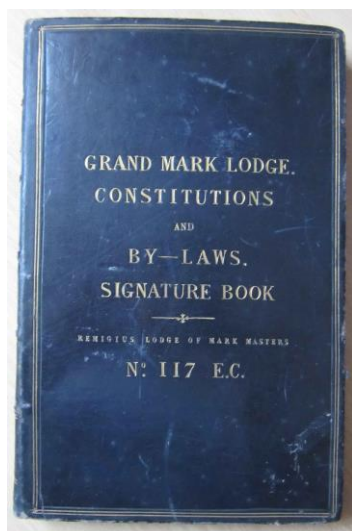
Bro. Jack Sutcliffe



Bro. Earl of Yarborough



Among the records is the Grand Mark Lodge Book of Constitutions given to Remigius Lodge in 1870, also containing the first Lodge Bylaws.



And among some other items are the original Printers Dies from the 1870s of the Keystone in English Lettering, Hebrew and Masonic Cypher.

