

**Celebrating 100 Years
of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
of
Durham**



1920 – 2020

This booklet is not intended to be a definitive history of Mark Masonry in Durham, but merely a light-hearted look back in time, highlighting some of its developments, as part of the Centenary celebrations of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham.

More detailed information can be obtained from the archives held within the Library and Museum of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.



R.W. Bro. Denny Wilson,
Provincial Grand Master.

Forward

To ignore the past is to rob the present,
But, to dwell in the past is to rob the future. (Anonymous)

When my senior colleagues and I began in earnest to plan how to celebrate the Centenary of our Province, one of the projects we included was the production of a record of the history of our Province. For guidance, I turned to the highly regarded and greatly admired Craft Museum Team, led by W.Bro. Adam Lamb, the Craft Provincial Archivist. Adam readily agreed to help. Indeed, he went much further by offering to compile the history for us. The result is a very informative review of the origin of Mark Masonry in Durham and of the first hundred years of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham, for which we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Adam and his Team.

Two versions of the review have been produced. The first is a comprehensive audio-visual presentation, which was uploaded to our new Provincial Website in time to go live on 12th June 2020, the date of the Centenary Anniversary of our Province. The second is this printed version, which I commend to readers as a delightful and easy to read review of who we are, what we stand for, and what we do. Taking stock of this helps us to learn the lessons of the past and so be better able to deal with the present and plan for the future. This is always important but perhaps never more so than now as we emerge, as we surely will, from the Covid19 Pandemic.

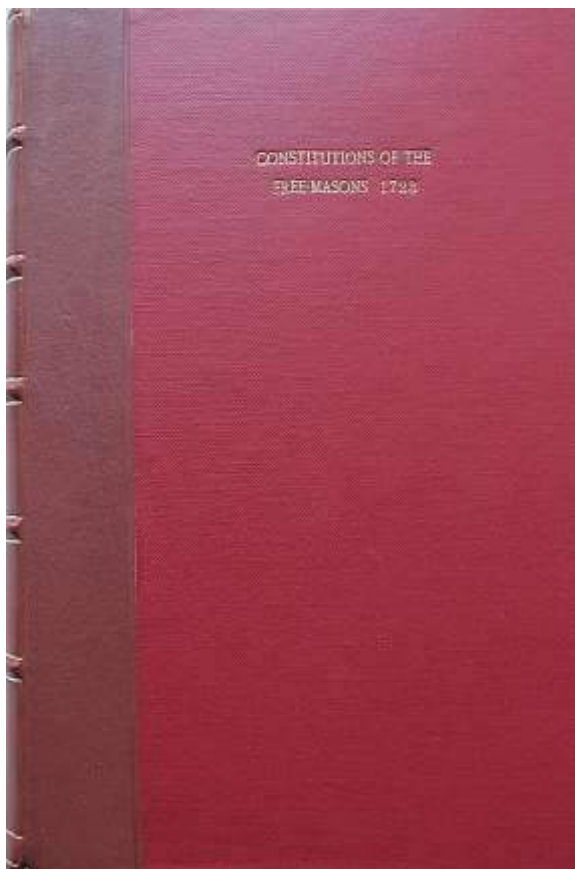
R.W. Bro. Denny Wilson,
Provincial Grand Master.

1st September 1769

Whilst there is evidence that Mark Masonry had been practiced in Scotland in some form as early as 1599, in England, it is not until 1769 that one of the earliest known records is found of it being practiced in a speculative body at Portsmouth, where Thomas Dunkerley conferred the Mark Masons and Mark Master's Degree on brethren of the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship No 257



However, in Durham around 1959 a copy of the 1723 Book of Constitutions, was discovered which shows evidence of a Mark degree being worked as early as 1756.

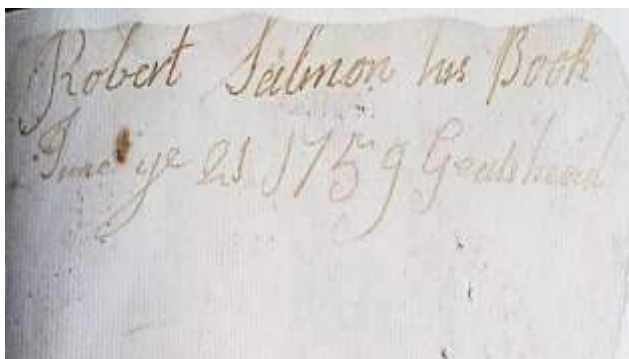


This book lies within the archives of the William Waples Library and contains probably the earliest record of Mark Masonry in England.

This Book of Constitutions was bound up together with several pages of Regulations and Songs, etc. It had probably belonged to a Lodge of unattached St. John's Masons meeting at Gateshead and/or Newcastle.

The first page is inscribed Robert Salmon, his Book June Ye 21st 1759 Geatshead.

The name of Robert Salmon appears in various documents as far back as 1730, being a member of an unattached Lodge at Gateshead.



Newcastel January the 19 1756

There being met part of the Body of the
 Lodge they taking it to their serious Consideration
 That no member of the saide Lodge shall be
 made a Mark mason without paying the sum
 of one Mark Scots and that for the Propagation
 of the Pedestal as Witnessed the forisid
 Date By ————— John Maxwell Master
 ————— Tos. Provand
 ————— Robert McVicear
 Wardens

The most interesting feature of this book, is on the last inserted page, which reads as follows: — Newcastle January 19, 1756

There being met part of the Body of the Lodge they are taking it to their serious consideration

"That no member of the saide lodge shall be made a Mark Mason without paying the sum of one Mark Scots, and that for the propagation of the Pedestal, as witnessed the aforesaid date by

John Maxwell — Master.

Tos. Provund

Robert McVicear

Wardens

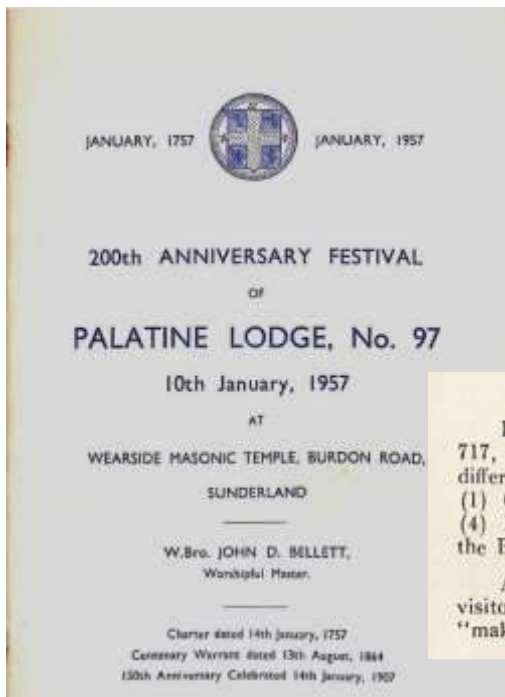
The phrase "Made a Mark Mason" is significant. In some old records the phrase "He received his Mark" is used and there is obviously a difference in the meaning. This entry makes the book of unique value and we should be proud that the record has a local connection. The book was obtained by WBro. Wm. Waples, in 1959, in exchange for another copy of the same edition that had originally belonged to an unattached Lodge at Holliwell, N. Wales.

So evidence suggests in England, Mark Masonry has been practiced in some form for over 250 years. It was originally practiced as an extension of Craft Lodges.

***The Minutes of - Marquis of Granby Lodge in December 1773
Record the first making of a Mark Mason in Durham.***

1773 Decr. 21th	At a General Lodge held at Brother George Nicholson's the Brethren then present, were	
In the Pedestal	Bror. Hart	Master
1. 4. 0	Geo. Douglas	S.W.
Bror. Thorne	Jno. Smith	J.W.
1. 1. 0	Saml. Thompson	By. Tr.
Bror. Benson	P. Barwick	Secry.
1. 2. 0		
3. 6. 0	John Nicholson	Geo. Nicholson
Br. Mackinlay	John Atkinson	Wm. Stott
0. 0	Math. Thorne	Thos. Miller
3. 11. 0	Jas. Mackinlay	John Benson
Br. Barwick	At the same Time were Entered Apprentices and paid	
Pine	accordingly Nathaniel Thorne & John Benson.	
1. 0.	Bror. Barwick was also made a Mark'd Mason and	
Douglas	Bror. James Mackinlay raised to the Degree of Master	
5.	Mason & also made a Mark Mason, & paid accordingly.	
1. 6.	Bror. Geo. Douglas paid 6d fine for one Night's absence	
Math. Thorne	& Bror. Barwick 1s. for Two Night's Absence. Bror.	
Jno. Benson	Barwick also paid 1/6 subscr. & Bror. John Atkinson 3/ for	
	Two Quarterly Subscriptions.	

Bror. Barwick was also made a Mark'd Mason and Bror. James Mackinlay raised to the Degree of Master Mason & also made a Mark Mason & paid accordingly.



This booklet from Palatine Lodge indicates Mark meetings were held between 1778 and 1810. At one meeting seven brethren were made Mark Masons

Work of the Lodge

During the period 1778-1810, the number of meetings was 717, i.e., just over 22 per year. These meetings were however of different kinds; altogether 7 different types have been recorded. (1) General Lodges, (2) Masters Lodges, (3) Extra Lodges, (4) Harodim Lodges, (5) Royal Arch Meetings, (6) Passing the Bridge, (7) Mark Masons Lodges.

At the 336 General Lodges, no lodge business was transacted, visitors were allowed and the work consisted generally of "makings."

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest secular fraternal societies. There are many origins linked to its birth, but the general consensus amongst masonic scholars is that it descends directly or indirectly from the organisation of operative stone masons, those who built the great cathedrals and castles of the middle ages.

Organised freemasonry became established in England in 1717, when four lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron declared themselves a Grand Lodge and appointed their first Grand master Anthony Sayer.

It was known as the Premier Grand Lodge of England



The Goose and Gridiron Tavern in London
1717 First Meeting Place of The Premier
Grand Lodge



Anthony Sayer

This remained the case until 1751, when a rival Grand Lodge was formed in England, known as the Antients.

These two Grand Lodges existed side by side for nearly 63 years, neither recognising each other as regular. In 1813 they combined to form the **United Grand Lodge of England**



However, after the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813

Article II of the constitution stated that: -

“Pure Ancient Masonry consists of 3 Degrees and no more, namely the EA, FC and MM including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.”

The second half of Article II appeared to show a liberal and fraternal attitude to the extra-Craft degrees by saying:

“This Article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding a meeting in any of the degrees of the Orders of Chivalry, according to the constitutions of the said Orders.”

But by the end of 1817 United Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter took their stand and insisted: - Only the three Craft Degrees and the Holy Royal Arch consisted genuine Freemasonry.

So, the Mark had been rejected, but continued to be practiced in Lodges all over England and Wales. However, their activities were curtailed, and many brethren hesitated to apply for advancement

This remained the case for almost 40 years, during which time there was much debate, which eventually culminated in the formation of: -

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England June 1856





The first lodge in Durham to receive a Warrant from the newly formed Grand Mark Lodge, was Eclectic Lodge, which was consecrated in 1859 at Hartlepool.

Due to the lack of interest the Lodge ceased to function holding its last meeting in 1862, however it did re-form five years later and is still with us today.



The Province of Northumberland and Durham came into being in 1870,
when Rt. Hon. Earl Percy was installed as the first
Provincial Grand Mark Master.



Initially there were only two lodges Northumberland & Berwick-upon-Tweed TI and Eclectic.

However, the Province continued to grow over the next 50 years and by 1920 there were 20 lodges, as shown below.

North'nd and Berwick-upon-Tweed Lodge TI

39 Eclectic

122 Percy

124 Union

135 Hotspur

192 St Cuthbert's

250 Darlington

293 Industry

346 Tristram

356 Dunelm

362 Wouldhave Tyne Dock

463 Gosforth

546 Hartford

547 Blagdon

596 Auckland

605 Bede

691 Morpeth

701 Jarrow

702 Thomas Purvis

708 Unity

Over this period of time there were five Provincial Grand Masters, the most prominent of them being Rev. Canon Tristram, a Durham mason, who held this office for over 30 years. His PGM's Jewel is on display in the PGLD Museum

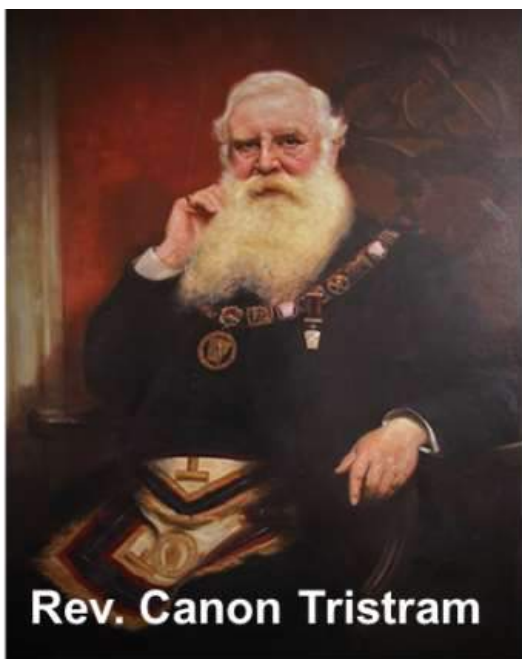
1870 The Earl Percy

1873 Rev. Canon Tristram D.D.

1906 Col. William Mathwin Angus

1909 James Cartmell Ridley

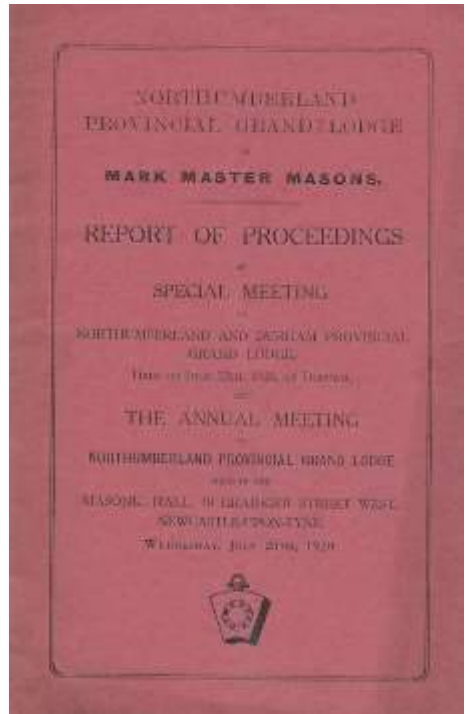
1911 Col. Charles W. Napier-Clavering



On June 12th, 1920, at a Special Meeting of the Province, the Provincial Grand Master announced that HRH The Most Worshipful Grand Master had agreed to divide the Province of Northumberland & Durham into two separate provinces: -



RW Bro Gerald Wellesley Liddell Baron Ravensworth, was appointed as the first PGM of the new Province of Durham



RW Bro Col. Charles Warren Napier-Clavering was appointed as the first PGM of the new Province of Northumberland.





**In 1920 the new
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham
had 10 Lodges & 738 Members**

Appropriately, the first lodge consecrated
under the new Province of Durham was
Ravensworth Lodge No. 718
with Lord Ravensworth as its first Master



RAVENSWORTH LODGE, No. 718,

OF
MARK MASTER MASONS,

• **FESTIVAL** •

TO CELEBRATE THE
CONSECRATION
OF THE LODGE.

Palatine Hotel, Borough Road,
Sunderland,

On Wednesday, 29th Sept., 1920.

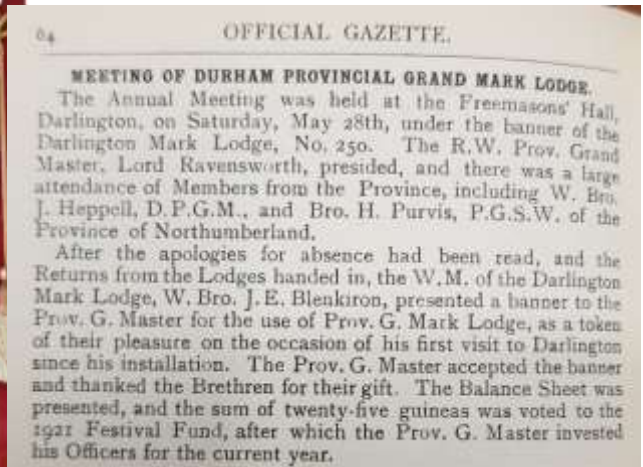
At 6-30 p.m.

LIST OF OFFICERS,

1920-21.

R. W. BRO. THE RT. HON. LORD RAVENSWORTH, D.L., F.R.G.W. (ENG.), PROV. G. MASTER	...	...	...	...	MASTER
W. BRO. R. PEACOCK, F.P.O.B. OF M.	...	...	...	...	DEPUTY MASTER
W. BRO. W. H. CHURCH, F.P.O.B. OF M., PROV. G.D. OF G.	...	...	...	...	L.P.M.
BRO. M. WRANGLAN	...	...	...	...	S.W.
BRO. J. G. ROWTHORN	...	...	...	...	J.W.
BRO. A. E. JOHNSON	...	...	...	...	M.O.
BRO. J. G. RUTHERFORD	...	...	...	...	S.O.
BRO. W. D. HUMPHREYS	...	...	...	...	J.O.
W. BRO. C. W. TAIT	...	...	...	...	Chaplain
W. BRO. T. ENGLISH F.P.O.B. OF M.	...	...	...	...	R. of M.
BRO. A. CHATT	...	...	...	...	Treasurer
BRO. G. F. HEDDLE	...	...	...	...	Secretary
W. BRO. W. ANDERSON, F.P.O.B. OF M.	...	...	...	...	D. of C.
BRO. D. HOLMES	...	...	...	...	S.D.
BRO. H. TUNLEY	...	...	...	...	J.D.
W. BRO. R. GOWEN, F.P.O.B. OF M.	...	...	...	...	Organist
BRO. J. S. SANDERS	...	...	...	...	L.D.
BRO. E. W. GIBSON	...	...	...	...	Senior Steward
BRO. I. GARR	...	...	...	...	Junior Steward

**The First Mark Provincial Banner for Durham was presented to the PGM by
Darlington Mark Lodge No.250 In 1921**

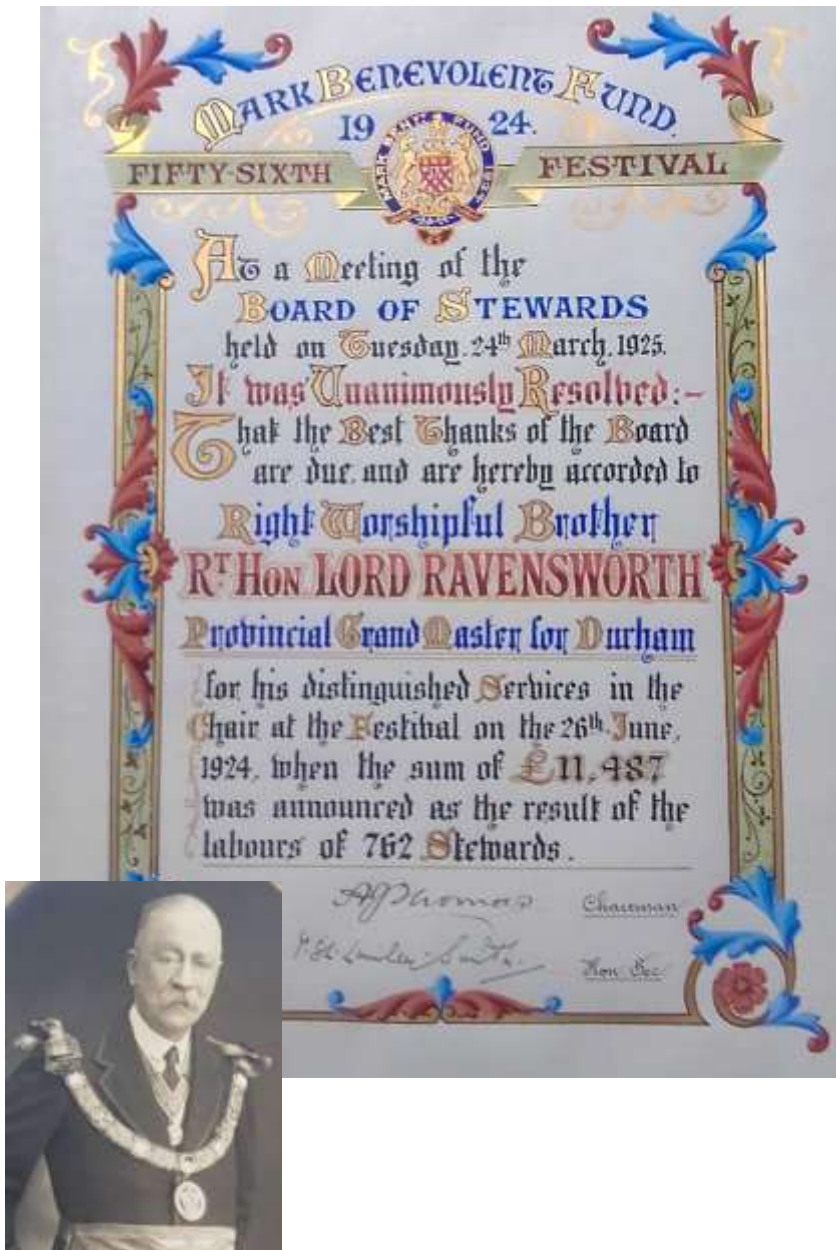


The Annual
Meeting
was held under the
Banner
of
Darlington Mark
Lodge



1924

Durham's first Mark Benevolent Festival Fund raised £3,333.00
towards the total of £11,487 for this Festival



PRESENTED TO PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK
LODGE OF DURHAM, BY
WOR. BRO. GEORGE LAXTON COLLINS.
PROV. S. WARDEN, 1931.

The Provincial Ceremonial
Sword was Presented to
Provincial Grand Mark Lodge
of Durham

in 1931

By

W Bro George Laxton Collins



THE RT. HON. THE LORD RAVENSWORTH DL., DCL., F.R.S.
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER
BY W. BRO. WILLIAM TODD P.G.O.V.
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER, 1931

Lord Ravensworth died in 1932, which led to the appointment of
Rt W Bro William Todd.



W Bro Todd was the ex-Treasurer of the old Province of Northumberland & Durham. He was also the First Secretary of the New Province of Durham, and appointed Dep PGMM in 1927. He was appointed Provincial Grand Master in 1932.

At the 10th Annual Meeting of The Provincial Grand Lodge in 1930, on his 80th birthday, he was presented with a cheque for £57-10s - 0d, which he used to establish
William Todd Mark Benevolent Fund.

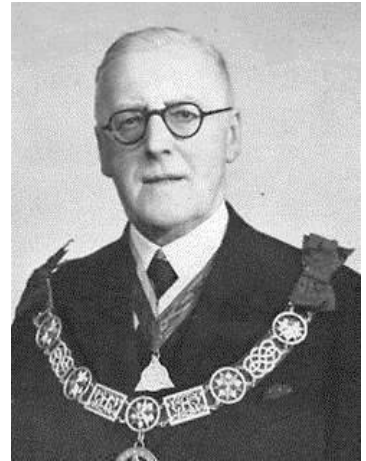
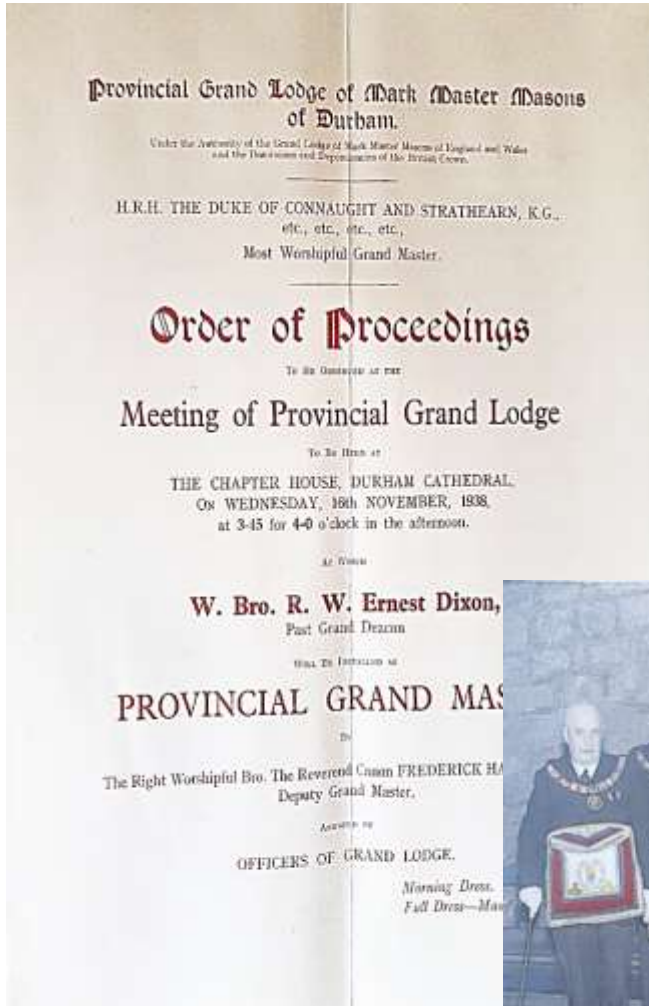


At the age of 83 year he consecrated a second Mark Lodge in Bishop Auckland in 1934.

named
William Todd Lodge No 929, in his honour.

Each founder received an excellent enamelled Jewel bearing his portrait. In 1938 during his 89th year Rt W Bro William Todd sadly died, which led to the appointment of Rt W Bro R.W.E Dixon as PGM.

Rt W Bro R.W.E Dixon is our longest serving
Provincial Grand Master to date, 1938 - 1959



Rt W Bro R.W.E. Dixon's
Installation took place in
Durham Cathedral

To Be Held at

THE CHAPTER HOUSE, DURHAM CATHEDRAL,
ON WEDNESDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 1938,
at 3-45 for 4-0 o'clock in the afternoon.

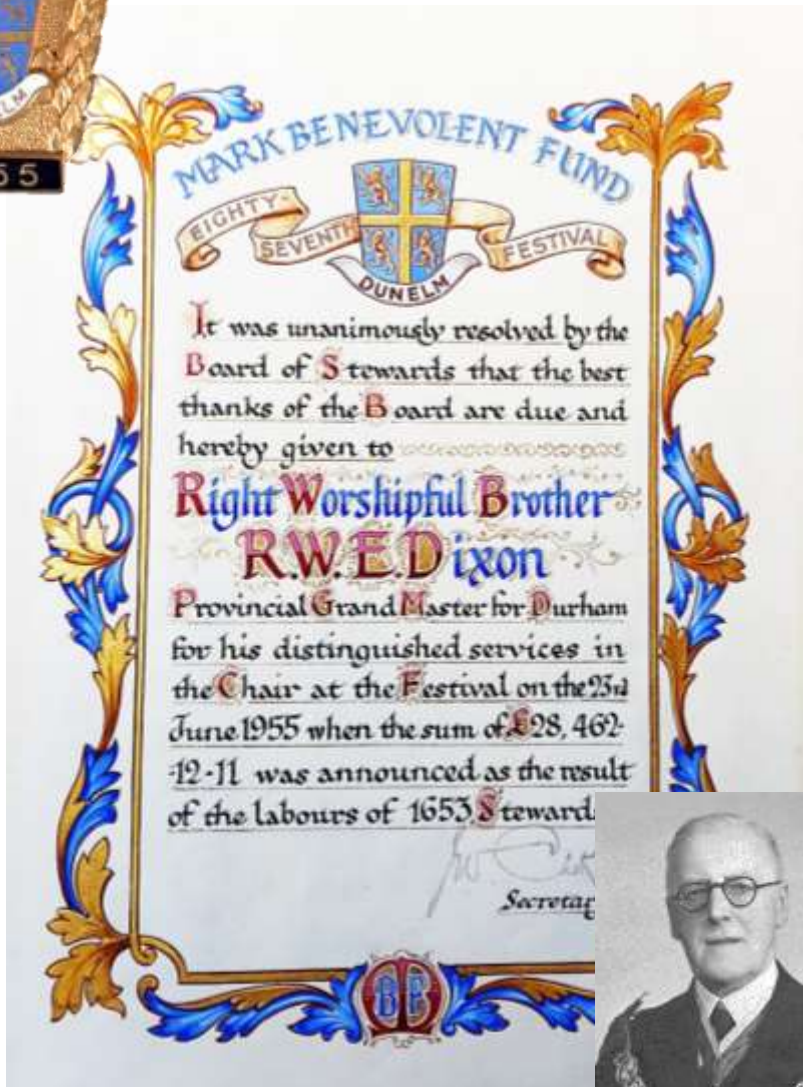
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham



By 1940 There were 24 Mark Lodges in the Province
and 1789 Members

1955

The Mark Benevolent Fund raised £28,462 -12s -11d



**From 1959 – 1994 there were a further four
Provincial Grand Masters**



**Rt W Bro Col Fredrick Walton
1959 - 1969**



**Rt W Bro John MacMurray
1970 - 1975**



**Rt W Bro Colin V Armitage
1975 - 1984**



**Rt W Bro William Gillhespy
1984 - 1994**

Under the Stewardship of Rt W Bro William Gillhespy the 1993 Festival raised the magnificent sum of £347,605 for the Mark Benevolent fund



Rt W Bro James Peter Croft was appointed PGM in 1995 and held this office for 18 years



Rt W Bro Croft was in office during the Beamish project, when a Masonic Hall was demolished in Sunderland and re-established in Beamish Museum.





On display in the Museum & Library is a trowel, which was presented to the PGLD in 2004 by the Mark Masons of Durham, on the occasion of laying of a Keystone



This Keystone also bears the personal Mark of the PGM Rt W Bro James Peter Croft



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

Dedication of New Banner 2000



The current Provincial Banner was dedicated at an especial meeting held at St. Lawrence Lodge, Hedworth Masonic Temple, South Shields on Monday 13th November 2000 where the Province was presented with the new Banner

Rt W Bro J P Croft presided

The Banner was carried into Provincial Grand Lodge by escort and the Provincial Chaplain V W Bro Rev. D A Wright, delivered an oration.

2014

Prof D. K. Wilson was Installed as the Ninth Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Masons of Durham



As PGM he has introduced many changes in the Province, including a new Provincial website and Newsletter.

New Provincial Website

New Provincial Newsletter



The Fourth Step to the Mark



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

Welcome to the "Fourth regular step to the Mark", a presentation for those seeking information with a view to becoming a member of the Mark Degree.

THE MARK DEGREE

For many Masonry ends with the Craft or Chapter, but this need not be the case. Degrees, including the Mark Degree, open to those who wish to study the science. The Mark Degree is the third English Order in Freemasonry.

Within the Province of Durham there are 22 Mark Master Mason Lodges with a current membership of 1500 and 20 Royal Ark Master Lodges with a current membership of 905. In the Craft there are 290 Lodges with a total membership of 6,540 of which 20% are Mark Masters.

Each Mark Lodge determines the regularity of its meetings and this varies from 2 to 6 meetings per year. The subscriptions are relatively low and about a quarter of Craft Lodge subscriptions.

To be a Mark Master you need to be a Craft Master Mason and undertake a Ceremony of Advancement.

The Chair of a Mark Master's Lodge is open to all members by Disposition and it is not a prerequisite that you have been through the Chair of a Craft Lodge.

In addition, Provincial Holdings usually follow approximately four years after a Master has completed his year of office.

The Mark Degree holds its Annual Provincial Meeting on the 4th Wednesday in June and with the visiting Brethren from other Provinces, a very enjoyable day is had by all.



The Provincial Grand Master of The Province of Durham

R.W. Bro-Prof. Duncan Keith Wilson

The Mark Degree is well known not only for its threat to the law, but also for its high quality of its ritual, but also for its social events. Lodges hold a variety of events for members and their families and Provincial Grand Lodges hold a very successful Annual Gala Dinner.

All Lodges support the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, which not only helps any distressed Mark Masters and their families, but also many industrial and local charities. The Lodges also make a commitment to support other charities to which they may have a particular connection.

The Durham Mark Benevolent Fund supported the Barrenthill Millennium Project with a donation of £20,000, and also a donation of £28,000 to the Craft 2005 P.W.B.I. Festival and of late £25,000 to the Flood Relief Fund.



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM



Four Steps to the Mark Questions & Answers

Q What is the Mark Degree?

A The Mark is an extension of the Craft 2nd Degree, it is worked by Craftsmen.

Q Who are Mark Masters?

A Mark Masters are Operative Masons who have completed all 3 Craft Degrees and are interested in furthering their Masonic knowledge.

Q What is Mark Masonry?

A The Mark is the 4th regular step in Freemasonry, and is accepted as such by the Craft UGLE.

Q What is the Mark about?

A The Mark tells us how the Mark Master Masons built the 1st Temple to God by the command of King Solomon.

Q Is this All the Mark is about?

A No, the Mark Degree also tells us what happened after the Death of Hiram.

Q What is a Mark?

A A Mark is the way Craftsmen who fashioned the Stone for the Temple signed it to distinguish it from other Craftsmen's work.

Q Why is the Mark known as the Friendly Degree?

A The Mark is a smaller Degree hence the Brethren become more acquainted and there being fewer Meetings are Visiting Mores.

Q Do I have to be a Member of the Craft to join the Mark?

A No, but, you do have to have completed all 3 Degrees in the Craft. At this present time you can join the Mark without being a subscribing Brother in the Craft. This may change in the future.

The Final Question

Q How do I become a Mark Master Mason?

A This Answer is easy.

Just Ask One

2016

Durham was only the second Mark Province to gain the prestigious status as a Grand Patron Gold Province.



The Mark Benevolent Fund

Most Worshipful Brother

H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

This is to certify that

The Provincial Grand Lodge of

Mark Master Masons of

Durham

Have qualified as a

GRAND PATRON GOLD PROVINCE

of the Mark Benevolent Fund

and that the Provincial Grand Master is authorised to wear the Distinctive Collarette and Jewel at all Meetings

Grand Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the Grand Secretary.

29th November 2016

67 Grand Patron collarettes were presented to Lodges at an especial meeting



June 2017

The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to Install W Bro. David Nigel Hanson AGDC, as his new Assistant Provincial Grand Master and later appointed him Deputy Provincial Grand Master the following year.



A New Durham Mark Centenary Tie

To celebrate reaching 100yrs the Province, redesigned the traditional Mark tie, the detail being raised to a much higher position, so it could be seen above a waistcoat, with an additional legend to mark this milestone.



PGL of M.M.M. of DURHAM - Family Tree 1859 - 2020



Northumberland & Berwick upon Tweed TI - 1857

39 Eclectic Lodge -1859

124 Union - 1871

293 Industry - 1882

362 Wouldhave 1886 -1994

896 Claverling - 1930

1269 Ambrose Crowley - 1962

1271 Shipley - 1962

740 Harte - 1921

250 Darlington- 1879

930 Castle Eden -1934

122 Percy - 1871

356 Dunelm- 1885

362 Wouldhave Tyne Dock 1994

605 Bede -1909

701 Harrow 1920

854 St. Andrews - 1928

596 Auckland - 1908

1492 Durham Lodge of 1 M - 1977

1274 Staindrop - 1963

846 Streafast -1927

1511 St. Thomas - 1978

759 Tyne Dock 1922 -1994

362 Wouldhave Tyne Dock 1994

1112 Elevation - 1949

925 Mosley - 1933

778 Barnard Castle -1922

860 Bernard Gilpin - 1928

1093 St. Lawrence 1948

827 Unity 1926

1339 Hebburn 1968

1151 Cestra - 1951

929 William Todd - 1934

981 Sperrymoor -1942

1936 Indaba 2012

1145 St. Aidan - 1951

1714 Ryton - 1993

1106 Walton - 1948

1560 Ferryhill - 1981

718 Ravensworth 1920

793 Vodka 1923-1998

1015 Ernest Dixon 1944

1551 Stanhope - 1980

1626 George Washington - 1986

1820 Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 2001

1806 Chief of the Builders 2000

The Provincial Grand Mark Masters of Durham

1920 - 2020

From the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham in 1920
by Lord Ravensworth.

These Provincial Grand Masters have all guided, created and worked tirelessly in
supporting the Brethren to establish the Province as it exists today.



Many towns and cities in Durham have Mark Masonry practiced within their halls.



There are 43 Mark Lodges in the Province of Durham in 2020



1920 - 2020