

Issue 5

Worcestershire becomes a Province.

We left off on my last paper with two Mark Lodges within Worcestershire, Lechmere and Godson, and the thoughts of members turned to the formation of a Provincial Grand Lodge.

At a meeting of the Lechmere Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.59, held on 14 August 1884, W Bro W Barkley PGD, stated that he had been in communication with Grand Lodge and that they then agreed to the creation of a Province for Worcestershire alone. They recognised the determination of this Lodge not to be united with the Province of Herefordshire. W Bro Barkley then moved the resolution and proposed that the Grand Master for Mark Masonry, The Earl of Kintore, be solicited that he will, under regulation No.54 of the Constitutions of Grand Mark Lodge grant a Provincial Grand Lodge for a Province of Worcestershire. The said Province having now two successful Mark Lodges; and this Lodge further recommends that W Bro Augustus Frederick Godson be the first Provincial Grand Master. The proposition was seconded by Bro Henry Wilson, WM, and carried unanimously by the Brethren.

Four days later on 18 August 1884, at a meeting of Godson Mark Lodge, Bro GR Green proposed a similar proposition to that of the Lechmere Lodge, which was also carried unanimously.

On the 08 December 1884 at the Masonic Chambers, 95 High Street, Worcester, under the banner of Lechmere Lodge, the first meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Worcestershire was held for the Installation of Bro Augustus Godson as Provincial Grand Mark Master.

A good many of the local people must have wondered what was taking place in the City of Worcester on this quiet Monday afternoon, with so many people coming and going to this relatively small building which was part of Stallards Wine Merchants, very appropriate to have a Masonic Lodge there, and later in the afternoon the same people proceeding down the High Street to the Star Hotel in Foregate Street for the Festive Board. The Tylers book shows sixty Brethren present.

The Lechmere Lodge was opened at 2.30pm by W Bro Harry Wilson, WM, and after the opening hymn had been sung, it was announced that the MW Bro The Earl of Kintore, Grand Mark Master, attended by Officers of Grand Lodge was at the door. The Grand Master was received by a deputation of Past Masters, entered the Lodge, assumed the Throne and opened a Provincial Grand Lodge and was then saluted with the customary honours.

After the summons convening the meeting was read, W Bro Augustus Frederick Godson, MA, DPGM (Warwickshire), Provincial Grand Master Designate, was announced and received by a deputation of Grand Officers and introduced and conducted to the front of the pedestal. The memorial praying for his appointment as Provincial Grand Master was read. An ode was sung and the Grand Director of Ceremonies proclaimed Worcestershire a

Mark Province. The Provincial Grand Master was the Obligated, placed in the Chair and saluted in due form.

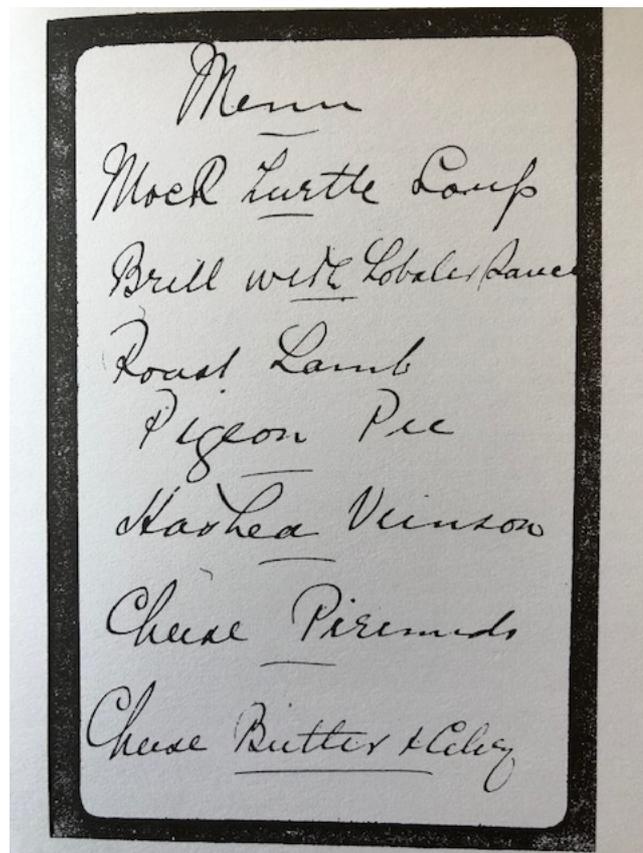
The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and obligated the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro CF Pidock who was proclaimed and saluted. The first Provincial Officers were then appointed, the Principal Officers being:-

Senior Warden	Bro FH Lingham, Godson Lodge
Junior Warden	Bro George Taylor, Godson Lodge
Master Overseer	Bro WC Green, Godson Lodge
Senior Overseer	Bro HB Pigot, no Lodge recorded
Junior Overseer	Bro GR Green, Godson Lodge

Don't worry, there were eight Brethren for Lechmere Lodge who were appointed Provincial Officers.

At this meeting, Bro Sir EAH Lechmere announced that HRH, the Prince of Wales, Grand Master, would receive an address from the Freemasons of Worcestershire on the occasion of his visit to Worcester, and that there would be a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at the Guild Hall for that purpose.

Following the completion of items on the summons including the election of two Tylers, the meeting was closed and the Brethren made their way to the Star Hotel to dine.



The cost for the banquet (excluding wine) was 6s 6d, that's about 32.5 pence in today's money.

The second meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held under the banner of Godson Lodge on Monday 15 February 1885, at the Masonic Hall, Kidderminster, when the Provincial Grand Master presided. The number of Brethren present at this meeting, including visitors, was 24. It might have been thought that with the increase in membership during 1884 in Both Lodges and with the addition of Ark Lodge of RAM No.59, that the Province was well on the way to being a great success with a regular intake of Candidates. This however, as we shall find over the next four years, was not the case.

Thank you for reading to the end.

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