

YENTON MARK MASTER MASONS' LODGE

The Yenton Mark Master Masons' Lodge No. 719 was Consecrated by The Right Worshipful Brother Lieut-Col. Zacchaeus Walker, V.D., J.P., Rt. Wor. Provincial Grand Master, assisted by the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire on Wednesday 29th September 1920 at the Church House, Erdington, Birmingham. There were 54 Brethren present.

A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened at 5pm, and following the Consecration, appointment and investment of the Officers the Brethren retired to a Banquet where the sum of £3-4-0 was collected for Charity.

The Consecration followed a series of three meetings of potential Founders.

MARK LODGE - FOUNDERS MEETINGS

Initial Founders Meeting.

A letter dated 10th March 1920 was circulated inviting attendance at a meeting in The Committee Room, Church House, Erdington, on Tuesday March 16th at 7.30pm with the object of founding a Yenton Mark Master Masons' Lodge in Erdington.

16th March 1920, first meeting attended by 14 Mark Masons and 6 Craft Masons.

Decisions -

Lodge of Mark Master Masons be founded to be known as the "Yenton" Mark Master Masons'

Lodge to meet in the months of November, January, March and May.

First Master	- W. Bro. E E Lonnen, Prov. G. Stwd.
First Senior Warden	- W Bro. M H Clarke, Prov. G.D.C.
First Junior Warden	- Bro. Fred H Eaton
First Secretary	- Bro. H Caddick

Mothering of the proposed Lodge - Charity Mark Master Masons' Lodge No. 430.

It was also proposed that the Charity Mark Master Masons' Lodge No. 430 be requested to advance a number of Craft Masons, at an early date, so that they could become Founders of the proposed Yenton Mark Master Masons' Lodge.

The meeting was informed that an application for the new Lodge to meet at the Church House, Erdington, had been refused. The Secretary then read out a letter that had been received from the Manager of the Church House. It was decided to leave the matter open until the question of hiring furniture for the Lodge from Yenton Lodge had been resolved

The Worshipful Master designate then requested any Mark Master Mason present, who wished to do so, to sign the Form of Petition. Nine signatures were obtained and it was announced that twenty Founders, at least, were assured.

Nothing further offering the meeting was closed in harmony and brotherly love.

Second Founders Meeting.

The second meeting was held at the National Schools, High Street, Erdington on Monday April 19th 1920 at 7.30pm. In attendance were 10 Mark Masons and 7 Craft Masons. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 1920 were read and confirmed. Apologies were received from 5 Brethren.

The Secretary Designate then reported that following a meeting with Dr. Featherstone, Secretary of the Church House Committee, and a second application for the use of Church House, the proposed Yenton Mark Masters' Lodge was accepted as a tenant with the choice of the first or second Mondays in November, January, March and May.

A proposition that the offer of the Church House Committee to let the Church House on the first Mondays at an inclusive rental of £25 be accepted was carried unanimously.

A further proposal to rent the furniture for the four Regular Meetings and pro rata for emergency meetings of £5-5-0 (Five Guineas later reduced to Four Guineas) from the Yenton Lodge was carried unanimously.

The Founders fee was set at £5-5-0 (Five Guineas).

The fee for Advancement was set at £3-3-0 (Three Guineas) and the Visitors fee was set at 7/6 for an ordinary meeting and 10/6 for the Installation Night.

Joining members fee was set at £3-3-0 (Three Guineas).

A Committee consisting of the Master Designate, Secretary Designate and Bro A Heeley was appointed to draw up the By-Laws and report to the next meeting.

The Master Designate reported that it was impossible to obtain the services of the Provincial Grand Tyler, Bro W Littler, as Tyler. He therefore proposed that Bro Littler's son-in-law, Bro A G Matthews, who was to be Advanced in September, be Tyler designate. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The Master and Wardens Designate offered to provide at their own costs all that would be required for their respective pedestals.

Bros. E & H Newton offered to provide four dozen music books and Bros Hudson and Caddick the plinths for the Overseers' Pedestals.

Nothing further offering the meeting was closed in harmony and brotherly love.

Third Founders Meeting.

The third meeting of the Founders of the proposed Yenton Mark Master Masons' Lodge was held at the Church House, Erdington, on Monday 17th May 1920 at 7.30pm. There were 19 Brethren present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

The following Propositions were approved unanimously -

Bro C H Williams be elected Treasurer; an account be opened at the London Joint City and Midland Bank Limited on behalf of the Lodge and that the Treasurer Designate be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Lodge for all payments.

The proposed By-Laws were approved by the Brethren and recommended for adoption at the first Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

The Secretary Designate was authorised to order the Jewels, Ornaments and Masonic Clothing which included -

Thirty seven Founders Jewels,
One 1st Joining Members Jewel, and
One 1st Advancees Jewel at a cost of £1-13-6 per Jewel.

23 Officers' Collars and Jewels engraved;
1 set of Books for Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar of Marks.
1 Axe for Junior Warden;
2 Plated Chisels and Mallets.
3 Gavel, blocks and Squares for Overseers.
50 copies of By-Laws.
2 Mounted copies of Scriptures.
48 copies of Music;
20 copies of Provincial By-Laws.
6 Mark Masters' Aprons
6 Mark Masters' Jewels.
Additionally 1 cube, 1 double cube, 1 Keystone and 1 Marble Slab, 1 Tracing Board and 20 copies of the Constitutions.

It was further resolved that every alternate year commencing with the year 1922 the following six Founders in the order named Wor. Bro. F Phillips, Bro's A. Heeley, N. C. Hudson, J. Crossley, G. Pitt and G. H. Williams shall if they so desire be offered the Office of Junior Warden and all other Officers from the Master Overseer downwards hold their respective Office for another year.

On the suggestion of the Master Designate it was unanimously resolved that the Provincial Grand Master should be asked, if convenient and possible, to Consecrate the Lodge on Wednesday September 29th, 1920, so that the Lodge might be represented at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in October 1920,.

The Founders were requested to pay their £5-5-0 Founders fee as soon as possible so that the Treasurer was in a position to pay for the Jewels, Ornaments and Masonic Clothing which it had

been decided to order.

Nothing further offering the meeting was closed in harmony and brotherly love.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

NAME.	INSTALLED		
1. W Bro. E. E. Lonnon	1920	51. W Bro. J Constantine	1970
2. W Bro. M H Clarke	1921	52. W Bro. H P Williams	1971
3. W Bro. F H Eaton	1922	53. W Bro. A I Beddard	1972
4. W Bro. S Hill	1923	54. W Bro. W H Noble	1973
5. W Bro. F Phillips	1924	55. W Bro. J C Hewitt	1974
6. W Bro. F Jones	1925	56. W Bro. H V Jones	1975
7. W Bro. A E Terry	1926	57. W Bro. V J Immer	1976
8. W Bro. H Caddick	1927/28	58. W Bro. T E Jones	1977
9. W Bro. H V Millington	1929	59. W Bro. P J Mitchell	1978
10. W Bro. Wm. E Bryan	1930	60. W Bro. E F Showell	1979
11. W Bro. A H Smith	1931	61. W Bro. W S K Darlington	1980
12. W Bro. J B Hassett	1932	62. W Bro. W T Bromley	1981
13. W Bro. L D Bond	1933	63. W Bro. C Bryan	1982
14. W Bro. G S Lawrance	1934	64. W Bro. L D Chamberlain	1983/84
15. W Bro. C H Willetts	1935	65. W Bro. S G Pinfield	1985
16. W Bro. T E Johnson	1936	66. W Bro. B Brewer	1986
17. W Bro. W M Salt	1937	67.	1987
18. W Bro. E Caddick	1938	68.	1988
19. W Bro. R F McKay	1939	69.	1989
20. W Bro. C R Medway	1940 (Inst.03/41)	70.	1990
21. W Bro. Dr. J N Frankland	1941	71.	1991
22. W Bro. H E Weston	1942	73. W Bro. B Dolphin	1992
23. W Bro. E W Walker	1943	74.	1993
24. W Bro. R Tuddenham	1944	75.	1994
25. W Bro. F J Cadwallader	1945	76.	1995
26. W Bro. J G Cassells	1946	77.	1996
27. W Bro. G B Percy	1947	78.	1997
28. W Bro. F Procter	1948	79.	1998
29. W Bro. J R Hudson	1949	80.	1999
30. W Bro. G V Hollidge	1950	81.	2000
31. W Bro. J W Steele	1951	82.	2001
32. W Bro. W J B Cowin	1952	83.	2002
33. W Bro. H A Smith	1953	84. W Bro. R. Newton	2003
34. W Bro. A.K. Spencer	1954	85.	2004
35. W Bro. A E McNamara	1955	86.	2005
36. W Bro. G. Benton	1956	87.	2006
37. W Bro. E W Lowe	1957	88.	2007
38. W Bro. W C Pilgrim	1958	89. W Bro. B. Stopford	2008
39. W Bro. D E Lownes	1959	90.	2009
40. W Bro. G F Powell	1960	91.	2010
41. W Bro. E F Tebbs	1961	92. W Bro. V. Dalal	2011
42. W Bro. J Thorneywork	1962	93. W Bro. C Rogers	2012
43. W Bro. S D Gisborn	1963	94.	2013
45. W Bro. G E Shillito	1964	95.	2014
46. W Bro. E G Horsepool	1965	96. W Bro. J. Harris	2015

47. W Bro. C J Price	1966	97. W Bro. D Whitehead	2016
48. W Bro L Davies	1967	98. W Bro. D J M Greenwood	2017
49. W Bro P F Brewer	1968	99. W Bro. D Whitehead	2018
50. W Bro R D Nicklin	1969	100. R W Bro. P Wills	2019

The early minutes describe the Installation meetings following a pattern that we are familiar with.

The presentation of the Master Elect, Address to the Master, Wardens and Overseers all follow in order. The Proclamation of the Master, however, was somewhat different.

Where we proclaim him as Master of the Lodge No. 719 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, at the time of the Consecration and over subsequent years the Proclamation was –

“ Master of the Yenton Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 719 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependences of the British Crown.”

CANDIDATES.

The first Regular Meeting of the Lodge was held on 1st November 1920 at Church House, Erdington. The meeting was well attended and three Candidates were advanced, namely Bros Edgar Whittaker Anderson, William Bryan and Thomas Facer. Bro Anderson was presented with the First Advancee’s Jewel, and Bro Facer was appointed as Organist.

His time as Organist was, however, short for at the meeting on 7th November 1921 the Brethren stood and paid due respect to his departed merit. His exact date of death is not recorded in the minutes. He was succeeded as Organist by Bro. Harold Godfrey who was Advanced on 1st May 1922 and immediately appointed to the Office.

The Lodge prospered and had many Joining Members. The first being Bro Frank Thompson, a Chief Inspector of Nuisances, a member of Charity Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 430, who was also proposed as a Joining Member on the 1st November 1920. He was presented with the First Joining Members Jewel, which was an exact copy of the Founders Jewel.

During the first Decade the Lodge Advanced a total of 31 Candidates. By 1952, which is where the first minutes bookends and covers the first 32 years of the Lodge, a total of 76 Candidates had been Advanced.

Over the years the occupations of the Candidates showed the varied background of the members. Occupations included many that we would recognise today, Teachers, Musicians, Doctors, Dentists,

Architects, Accountants, Solicitors, Police Officers, Builders, Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Merchants to name but a few, but some were different.

As mentioned earlier the First Joining Member was a Chief Inspector of Nuisances. One presumes he was some sort of Local Government Officer perhaps? Another is described as a Glass Tube Manufacturer, and one who I assume is a Police Officer is described as being “of the CID”.

ROYAL ARK MARINERS.

The Lodge once Consecrated was clearly keen to develop a Royal Ark Mariners Lodge to be moored to the Mark Lodge. At 5.15pm on Thursday 29th September 1921 the Consecration meeting of the Yenton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners took place at The Church House, Erdington, Birmingham. A total of 49 Brethren were in attendance.

The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was Consecrated on the 29th September 1921 by the Right Worshipful Brother Lieut-Col. Zacchaeus WALKER V,D., J.P. the Provincial Grand Master.

Bro M H. Clark was Enthroned as Worshipful Commander Noah and appointed his Officers. There were nine Joining members at the meeting and one proposed for Elevation at the first regular Meeting of the Lodge.

On 7th March 1921 the minutes of the Yenton Mark Master Masons Lodge record the recommendation to form the Yenton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners and members present who were Royal Ark Mariners were urged to sign the Petition to form such a Lodge.

On 2nd May 1921 W Bro Frank Phillips, D.C., presented the Petition to Grand Lodge for a Warrant to found a Yenton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners to the Worshipful Master for favour of his signature. Having read the Petition to the Lodge the Worshipful Master formally proposed, seconded by V. W. Bro. Felix Jones that the Petition be signed, which was approved by the Brethren. The Petition was duly signed by the Worshipful Master in open Lodge.

Three Founders meetings were held. The first took place at 5.30pm on Monday 2nd May 1921, before the Mark Lodge meeting was held at which the Petition was signed. This was at Church House, Erdington with fifteen potential Founders in attendance, including V W Bro. Felix Jones, Deputy P.G.M. and Bro. M. H Clarke, who was unanimously declared Worshipful Commander Noah elect. V W Bro. Felix Jones was elected first I.P.C.N., Bro E. E. Lonnen J designate and Bro F. Eaton S designate. The meeting was closed at 5.45pm.

The second Founders meeting of the proposed Yenton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners took place on Wednesday 25th May, 1921 at 7.30pm at Church House, Erdington. There were nine Founders present. After the formalities of opening and approving the minutes of the first meeting the business included electing a Treasurer and a Warder, appointing a first Scribe and recommending the first Officers as follows –

I.P.C.N.	V. W. Bro. Felix Jones. D.P.G.M.
J	Bro E. E.Lonnen
S	Bro. F. H. Eaton
Chaplain	Bro. Sydney Hill
Treasurer	Bro. C. H. Williams
Scribe	Bro. H. Caddick
S.D.	Bro. E. Newton
J.D.	Bro. A. E. Terry

Organist	Bro. T. Facer
Guardian	Bro. B. W. Ambler
S. Stwd.	Bro. H. V. Millington
J. Stwd.	Bro. F. T Harrop
Asst. Stwd.	Bro. E. W. Martin

The opening of a Bank account was approved, Founders fee set at £4-4-0 (four guineas), By-Laws were approved and recommended for approval at the Consecration meeting and the fee for the Banquet to follow the Consecration meeting was set at 12/6d

It was agreed to request the Temperance Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 620, to hold an Emergency meeting prior to the Consecration of the Lodge so that all members of the Yenton Mark Masters Lodge could be who were not Royal Ark Mariners could be Elevated so that they could have the privilege of membership of the proposed Lodge. The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

The third meeting took place at Church House at 7.30pm on Monday 29th August 1921. Following the formalities it was reported that the Temperance R.A.M. Lodge had agreed to facilitate the Emergency Meeting prior to the Consecration and the Scribe designate reported that 12 members of the Mark Lodge had offered themselves for Elevation at that meeting. It was agreed that the Emergency Meeting would be held at 3.45pm and the Officers of the Temperance R.A.M. Lodge would be guests of the Lodge at the Banquet. Auditors were recommended for appointment and Officers Collars & Jewels were shown to the Founders. The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

The first meeting following the Consecration of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was held on Monday 7th November 1921 at The Church House, Erdington.

At this meeting the Brethren stood in silence to lament the death of the Organist, Bro Thomas Facer and a report was received that the Provincial Grand Master was seriously ill. Nine members of the Temperance Lodge of Roya Ark Mariners were accepted as Joining Members and five candidates were Elevated.

The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge continued to prosper and meet at The Church House, Erdington, until their final meeting held there took place on Monday 7th May 1923. The next meeting held on Monday 7th January 1924 was held at the Masonic Hall, 73, Gravelly Hill North, Erdington. The minute book records that they enjoyed many Candidates for Elevation being proposed at every meeting over many years.

PAST COMMANDERS

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. P. Comm. M.H.Clarke | 2. P. Comm. Felix Jones |
| 3. P. Comm. F. H. Eaton | 4. P. Comm. Sydney Hill. |
| 5. P. Comm. A. E. Terry | 6. P. Comm. Harold Caddick |
| 7. P. Comm. H. V. Millington | 8. P. Comm. W. E. Bryan |
| 9. P. Comm. A. Harrison Smith | 10. P. Comm. J. Blennerhasset |
| 11. P. Comm. L. D. Bond | 12. P. Comm. G. S. Lawrence |
| 13. P. Comm. T. E. Johnson | 14. P. Comm. William Salt |
| 15. P. Comm. C. H. Willetts | 16. P. Comm. Ernest Caddick |
| 17. P. Comm. C. R. Medway | 18. P. Comm. R. F. McKay |
| 19. P. Comm. Rev. J. N. Frankland | 20. P. Comm. E. W. Walker |
| 21. P. Comm. H. E. Weston | 22. P. Comm. Ralph Tuddenham |
| 23. P. Comm. F. J. Cadwallader | 24. P. Comm. J. G. Cassells |
| 25. P. Comm. L. V. Hazelwood | 26. P. Comm. F. Procter |

27. P. Comm. J. R. Hudson
29. P. Comm. H. A. Smith
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28. P. Comm. J. W. Steele
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HISTORICAL EVENTS

The minutes book contains details of some notable historical events.

5TH NOVEMBER 1923. NEW MASONIC ROOMS.

On 5th November 1923 the first meeting of the Mark Lodge at the new Masonic Rooms, Gravelly Hill North, Erdington took place, The Worshipful Master congratulated the Directors, Builders and Architects on the arrangements made for the comfort of the Brethren.

10TH NOVEMBER 1930. DEATH OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

At the Installation Meeting of the Mark Lodge held on 10th November 1930 the Brethren stood in memory of departed merit following the announcement of the death of the Consecrating Officer, R W Bro Lieut. Col. Zacchaeus Walker V.D. J.P., Provincial Grand Master. There is a letter appended to the minutes which states "It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of our revered Provincial Grand Master. R. W. Bro. Zacchaeus Walker V.D., J.P., which occurred on Friday 5th inst." The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was placed into mourning the death of the Provincial Grand Master at their meeting held on 2nd March 1931.

10TH DECEMBER 1930 KEYSTONE LODGE QUALIFICATION

In a letter dated December 1930 Grand Lodge announced the launch of the New Premises Fund and gave details of qualification to become a Keystone Lodge.

Costs were outlined as £10-10-0 for individual Brethren to acquire a special jewel, £5-0-0 per subscribing member for a Lodge. After a Brother's quota of Five Pounds has been shown on the list of one Lodge, his quota in respect of every other Lodge of which he is a subscribing member shall be deemed to be Two Pounds ten shillings.

On 2nd November 1931 it was announced that the sum of £150 had been paid to the New Premises Fund and at that Meeting the Worshipful Master was presented with the Keystone Jewel.

INSTALLATION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

On Saturday 13th June 1931 V. W. Bro. Matthew H Clarke was Installed as Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire by The Most

Worshipful Bro. The Earl of Stradbroke, Pro Grand Master at the Masonic Temple, Broad Street, Birmingham. A lunch was provided at a cost of 5/- each.

R W Bro Matthew Clarke was the First Senior Warden of the Yenton Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 719.

DEATH OF KING GEORGE V.

On 2nd March 1936 the Brethren stood to order and in silence paid due respect to departed merit.

WORLD WAR 2.

The effect of World War 2 is recorded in the minute book of the Mark Lodge in a variety of ways. There is little mention in the Royal Ark Mariner minutes of the War.

The first mention in the Mark minutes is a letter from Grand Lodge outlining the way Masonic activities could be resumed following a suspension of all activities and the Lodge continued to meet by Dispensation as close to their due dates as possible. A copy of the letter is included in this document.

The first noticeable impact was in 1940. At this time Birmingham was under attack by nightly air raids and as a result the meetings were held during the afternoon. At the Installation meeting of the Mark Lodge in November 1940 the Installation of the Master Elect, Bro Medway, was deferred as he was in hospital having been injured in an air raid. His recovery from his injuries was marked at the meeting held in March 1941 when he was installed as Master. Bro. Medway is mentioned in the Royal Ark Mariner minutes in 1941 when he is welcomed back to the Lodge having recovered.

He installed his successor at the Installation meeting in November, 1942, but as he had not served as Master for a full year a Dispensation was granted by Grand Lodge so that he could be included on the list of Past Masters.

On 25th August 1942 the Mark Lodge was once more in mourning. On this occasion it was in respect of the death of the Duke of Kent.

During the six years of war the Lodge was very active Advancing Candidates. A total of 14 Brethren were Advanced between 1939 and 1945.

At the meeting held on 7th May 1945 the business was to Advance a Candidate. The ending of hostilities was expected to be announced and the Brethren were eagerly looking forward to the announcement. The Treasurer retired to attend to the Candidate and upon his return reported that no announcement had yet been made but the Candidate was in attendance, had paid the necessary dues and signed the declaration book.

He was Advanced and the Brethren retired to the festive Board. The minutes record that the Brethren quickly consumed the meagre fayre provided and retired to listen to an announcement announcing the ending of the war. The minute book sets this out in some detail and explains that they were expecting a wireless address to be broadcast from the King and Mr. Winston Churchill. The following day, 8th May 1945 was subsequently declared to be V.E. Day (Victory in Europe Day). This was mentioned in the minutes as the Brethren felt that this historic moment should be recorded for posterity. A copy of this is reproduced later in this record.

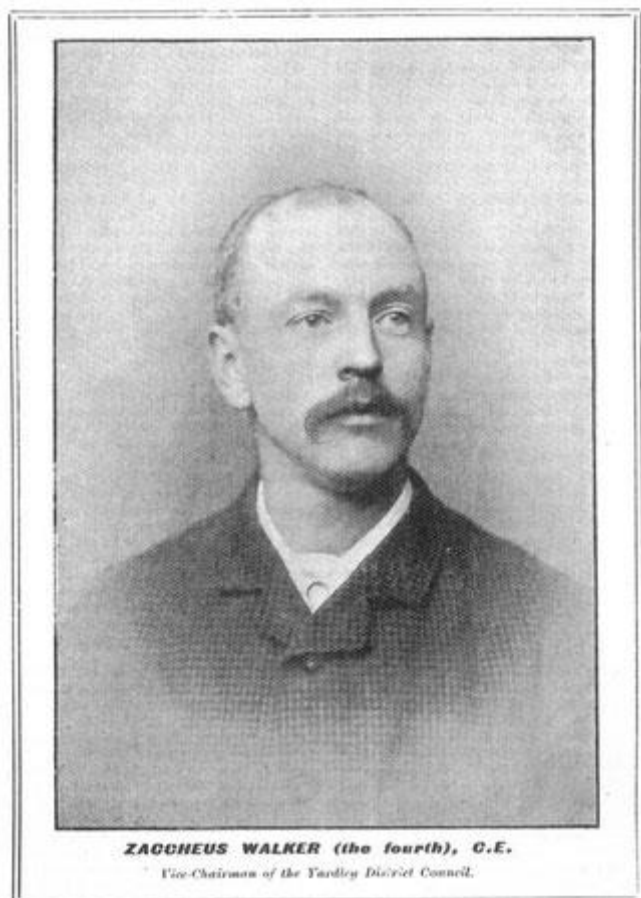
DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI.

At the 100th Meeting of the Mark Lodge held on 3rd March 1952 the Brethren stood to order to pay silent respect to departed merit following the announcement of the death of King George VI.

AMALGAMATIONS.

In recent times both Lodges, Mark and RAM, struggled to attract new members and both amalgamated in 2017. The Yenton Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 719 amalgamated with the Central Keystone Lodge of Mark Master Masons' No. 744 to become The Yenton and Central Keystone Lodge of Mark Master Masons' No 719.

The Yenton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 719 amalgamated with the Central Keystone Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 744 to become the Yenton and Central Keystone Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 719.



Photograph from around 1895.