



*Royal Ark Mariner
Lodges in Northumberland*

Northumberland and Berwick upon Tweed TI —
Cramlington

St Cuthbert's No 192—*Berwick-upon-Tweed*

Tristram No 346—*Newcastle upon Tyne*

Hartford No 546—*Bedlington*

Blagdon No 547—*Blyth*

Morpeth No 691—*Morpeth*

Whitley No 788—*Whitley Bay*

Ashington No 890—*Ashington*

Carville No 968—*Newcastle upon Tyne*

Newgate No 1141—*Wallsend*

Hexham No 1161—*Hexham*

Backworth No 1189—*Shiremoor*

De La Val No 1290—*Seaton Delaval*

*Triangle No 1483—*Bedlington*

Farne No 1540—*Alnwick*

** Triangle is a Lodge for Installed and Past Commanders .*

*Application forms, lodge contact details and any
other information can be obtained from:*

Your Mark Lodge Secretary.

A RAM Lodge Scribe (Secretary) contact details in
the Year Book section of the website.

The Provincial Grand Secretary contact details on
this leaflet.

**Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark
Master Masons of Northumberland**

Provincial Grand Master

R W Bro Raymond Arthur Walton

Deputy Provincial Grand Master

W Bro Richard Northey

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Northumberland Mark Masonry

*Royal Ark Mariners
of Northumberland*



Held under the

**Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark
Master Masons of Northumberland**

Are you a Mark Master Mason?
If not why not?

If you are, have you considered becoming a
member of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree,
a lovely, warm colourful and interesting
degree?

Why not join us to enjoy our happiness and
warmth of friendship and discover what
you can learn from the story of Noah and
The Great Flood.

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner, more commonly known as RAM, has been under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons since 1871 and is governed by the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council. However, its early history is obscure. Statutes refer to a Grand Lodge being 'reconstituted' in 1772.

It is recorded that the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons took possession of the rights of the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners on 10 June 1884 for just £25.

Lodges are attached, or moored, to Mark Lodges assuming the same Number in the Roll. To become a Royal Ark Mariner the Candidate must first have been advanced as a Mark Master Mason. There the relationship ends. In chronological terms the degree precedes the Mark by up to 3,000 years, relating, as it does, to the building and voyage of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood.



There is no connection between the Ceremonies of the Mark Degree and that of the Ark Mariner Degree; indeed, the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners stands alone, unrelated to any other Degree in Freemasonry.

The government of the Mark and Ark Mariner Degrees are however inextricably linked. The Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters and the Grand Secretary in the Mark Degree hold the same title in the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner. This also applies to Provincial and District Grand Masters, Deputy's, Assistants and Secretaries.

The Ark Mariner Degree has grown steadily over recent years, helped by the fact that the December Communication was altered in 1991 to become the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners where the recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank are invested.

There is only one ritual used throughout the Constitution and the 'Regulations' of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners are included in the 'Constitutions and Regulations' of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

A Candidate is said to be 'Elevated' into the Degree of Royal Ark Mariners and he must be a Mark Master Mason before he can be Elevated.

There is little known of the origin of the Degree, it is however, like the Mark Degree, based on fact. The Mark Degree is based on the Building of the Temple at Jerusalem. The Ark Mariner on the Great Flood, as recorded in the Bible and other Holy Books, relating to Noah's building of the Ark by which means mankind was preserved from the Deluge.

The legend of Noah and the Deluge were enacted in the Mystery Plays of the seventeenth century. The first authentic record of the Masonic Degree appears in the minutes of a meeting held at Bath in 1790.

We are reminded of the former widespread practice of the Degree by the lodge deacons in our Craft Lodges usually using a wand topped by a dove bearing an olive branch.

The Ceremony of Elevation emphasises the importance of faith, family connections, how we can survive any catastrophe by working together and looking after those less fortunate than ourselves. We are taught how we should strive to reach the Ark, that haven of rest, as did Noah and his family at the time of the Deluge.

The Ritual is a joy, the explanation of the working tools is intensely practical, the way the candidate is conducted to the 'Haven of Rest' in the East from the West is particularly significant, showing the fellowship and friendship that lead to the Degree being called a Fraternity, there frequently develops a close association amongst members.

The three Principal Officers of the Lodge are the Worshipful Commander (Noah) and two of Noah's sons, the Senior Warden (Japheth) and the Junior Warden (Shem). The Regalia is easily distinguished by the motif on the Breast Jewel and the rainbow colours of the Apron and Jewel.

We should not be surprised by the importance of Noah in the history of Freemasonry. Noah was descended from Adam, as was Tubal-cain who is well known amongst masons for his skill in the working of metal as are we all aware.

