

The Mark Degree was thus placed under an independent central authority, in accordance with the precedent already set with respect to the Royal Arch Degree, by the Grand Chapters of England and Scotland; as well as by the four London Lodges in the establishment of a Grand Lodge in London, in A.D. 1717, "The Grand Lodge of All England" then meeting at York.

The Right Honorable Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire [Craft], a thoroughly constitutional Mason, and a personal friend of the M.W. Grand Master of England, was unanimously elected Grand Master of the new organization, and lent most valuable assistance in framing its laws and maturing its system of government.

The first meeting of the New Grand Lodge was held in June, 1856, when a desire for a general union of all the Mark Masters in England under one head was most warmly expressed. To give effect to this desire, a meeting was convened, on May 30, 1857, of representatives from all existing Mark Lodges in England, wherever they could be found; and at this meeting, which was largely attended, a Committee was appointed to concert measures for organizing a union of all regular Mark Master Masons. This Committee reported in favor of a general union of all Mark Lodges upon equal terms in a Grand Mark Lodge.

Meanwhile, several of the Lodges holding Charters from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland became desirous of uniting under one Supreme Body in this country; considering it "derogatory to the national character to apply to a sister country for warrants of Constitution," and a circular was issued in September, 1858, by the Masters of these, advocating a union with the Grand Mark Lodge. Additions were continually made to the Lodges ranging themselves under the banner of the Grand Lodge, and Lord Leigh continued to be elected Grand Master till June, 1860, when he was succeeded by the Earl of Carnarvon.

Of old (time immemorial) Lodges now acknowledging the supremacy of this Grand Lodge, there are—

The Northumberland and Berwick,	Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
" Royal Cumberland,	Bath.
" Kent,	London.
" Prince Edward,	Halifax, Yorkshire.
" Friendship,	Devonport.
" Minerva,	Hull.
" Benevolent,	Stockport.
" Portsmouth,	Portsmouth.
" Roberts,	Rochdale.
" Knights of Malta,	Hinckley.

Of the Lodges originally holding Charters from Scotland these are—

The Bon Accord,	London.
" Thistle,	London.
" Cheltenham and Keystone,	Cheltenham.
" The West Lancashire,	Liverpool.
" Southwark,	London.
" St. Mark's,	London.
" Langely,	Cardiff.

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons is now on terms of friendly reciprocity as regards the Mark Degree with the Grand Royal Arch Chapters of Ireland and Canada, and it is in alliance with the S.G.C. 33°, the order of K.T., and the order of the Red Cross of Constantine.