

THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION VEHICLE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In the picture nearby you see our presiding Grand Officers in the Lodge at Redding, where they appeared for a 3-Way Reception on September 10th. That began a 4-day swing around Northern California during which they visited over 20 York Rite bodies. In late August, M. E. Bill and M. I. Bob attended their respective General Grand Triennial Sessions in Raleigh, North Carolina. Much interesting information about their respective charities is included in this edition, especially about Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.), which has been dramatically restructured.



In his remarks at the Receptions, Most Illustrious Bob has asked each local Council to consider donating \$3.00 for each member to the Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). Most Excellent Bill conversely has talked about his vision to build our DeBarrows Scholarship Fund to a level where we can begin to issue \$2,500 scholarships, rather than \$500. If the local Chapters were to take a similar approach as the Councils in donating funds for Scholarships, we could reach the \$100,000 level in less than 4 years.

At the joint memorial service, I was honored to give a eulogy for M. E. Bill Wine, who served our Grand Chapter as Grand High Priest in 2004-05, and ran for General Grand Scribe in 2008. That eulogy, prepared with assistance from our Grand Secretary, Ken Hope, and our webmaster, Richard Thornton, is included below.

Our Grand Secretary-Recorder reports:

"Here are some of the highlights (of the Triennial Sessions) that concern California:

- 1) The South West Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest and General Grand Principal Sojourner is Teddy G. Hammack, PGHP;
- 2) The Ambassador to CA from the General Grand Chapter is Philip A. Hardiman, PGHP;
- 3) The General Grand Trustee is Jerrold A. Wohlfarth, PGHP;
- 4) Royal Arch Advancement Committeeman Sam Pitassi, PGHP
- 5) General Purposes Committeeman Sean Foran, PGHP
- 6) The Distinguished Service Medal in Silver (awarded only every 3 years) -- Frederick G. Kleyn III;
- 7) Ambassador to CA from the General Grand Council is Frederick J. "Tiny" Potter, MIPGM; and
- 8) General Grand Council Finance Committeeman is James G. Baum, MIPGM, and is also on the Strategic Planning Committee
- 9) CMMRF Committee: H. Edward Barr MIPGM and Edmund W. Heath MIPGM

GOOD NEWS for ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE !

Companions: As announced prior to the Triennial, the board of Royal Arch Research Assistance has concluded their study into organizations in need of funding to continue research in CAPD, long our object of support, and have determined to provide grants to the University of Connecticut CAPD Research Project under the direction of Dr. Frank Muziek; to the Deafness Research Foundation permitting them to issue four grants to CAPD researchers; and to Autism Speaks to permit them to check for CAPD signs as they test Toddlers (ages 12 – 36 months) for Autism.

The response to the initial announcement of this decision and the reaction at the Triennial by those Ambassadors and Regional Deputies who received the full training explanation of this program has been nothing short of overwhelmingly positive.

With considered direction and dedication, we anticipate that these associations can bring us into

the forefront of Masonic charitable activity such as we have not ever enjoyed. We are grateful to the exceptional work and generosity of our Companions over the years that have brought RARA to its current level and believe that we are now poised to move forward into new horizons of demonstration of service to the community by our Royal Craft.

In order to prepare ourselves to be able to capitalize on these opportunities, the Board has unanimously determined that changes in our administration are in order and so we announce the following:

1 Contributions will henceforth be sent to Royal Arch Research Assistance, PO Box 128, Greenfield, IN 46140. Mail to the former address in Kentucky will be forwarded. Records will be kept by the Secretary of Royal Arch Research Assistance and appropriate receipts, certificates and awards will be sent from that office. Prior records have been forwarded.

2 To provide the Public Relations and fund raising assistance that will be needed, we have appointed three officers regionally located to serve you:

1. Jerry Wohlfarth, from California and Trustee of General Grand Chapter will assist in the west coast regions (North West and South West Regions). Tel.: 760-685-3370,

jerrywohlf@cox.net

2. Dr. John W. Siscel III, from Missouri, will assist in the central regions (North Central, East Central and South Central regions). Tel.: 314-608-6005, drsiscel@yahoo.com. John will also work to create public relations projects and will be the chairman for these three officers.

3. George D. King III, from New York City, will coordinate with our three beneficiaries to link their activities with the respective Grand Chapters. George will also assist in the east coast regions (North East and South East). Tel.: 212-836-2631 and georgekingIII@gmail.com.

Information is being prepared to send to the RARA representative in each Grand Chapter and to the Regional Deputies and Ambassadors.

We encourage your support of this program and look forward to the great work that we know will be performed by these devoted members of our RARA Team.

Please direct any questions to Edmund D. Harrison. Thank you.

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Foundation funds research at the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine (ICVBM), which is located at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. Because blood vessels are very important in maintaining the health or in repairing almost all tissues, nearly all diseases turn out to have a vascular component involved in their origin or in tissue repair. Diabetes, stroke, poor leg circulation, heart disease, COPD, difficult wound healing and many more diseases share a common denominator, blood vessels! Centering our contributions to an organization that helps so many different health concerns around the world, allow our contributors to share in the medical advancements, regardless of their state or country.

Contributions are urgently needed. As you know, most of our donations are voluntary. Only three states that we know of have include4d CMMRF in their per capita dues. This is a decision that must be made by each Grand Council and not the General Grand Council. Contributions are tax deductible and lapel pins, certificates and plaques may be available based on the size and structure of your donation. Matching grants may be available, please contact CMMRF for details. We now have new brochures, supportive training materials, handouts and can assist you in developing your program to promote the philanthropic needs of CMMRF. We have a quantity of CD's, describing our research efforts as well as document downloads and links to You Tube instructional videos. They are available upon request (leahgjackson@aol.com) or by visiting the website at www.cmmrf.org.

There is a Board of Directors that meets once a year, or as needed. The Secretary is Marion K. Crum, P.O.Box 1489, Nashville, IN 47448. We urge you to consider partnering with the CMMRF

mission to save lives and improve the quality of life. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Foundation. We could not achieve our goals without your help.

Prepared by Marion Crum, Executive Secretary, CMMRF@aol.com

GENERAL GRAND PUBLICATIONS

Both General Grand bodies publish quarterly magazines. They are available at a very reasonable subscription rate of \$5.00 per year. For the Royal Arch Magazine, send a check to The Royal Arch Mason, P. O. Box 205, Maxwell, IN 46154-0205, USA. For the Cryptic Freemason, mail to David Grindle, General Grand Recorder, P. O. Box 1087, Meridian, ID 83680-1087.

General Grand Chapter is beginning a new, free national electronic newsletter. Go to <http://Gewurztraminer> and enter your email address. If you have items of interest to other readers of this newsletter, send the information to your Ambassador at philipandnancy@aol.com.

General Grand Council has a Special Offer to those interested in the History of the Cryptic Rite. A 2-volume set published in 1931 will be reprinted, if enough subscribers can be found. If you are interested and willing to pay \$100 for one of the 500 limited sets to be printed, contact the General Grand Recorder at ggr@ggccmi.org or by phone at (208) 870-8397.

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

We are growing by leaps and bounds, as they say! Forty new members affiliated at the Triennials in North Carolina – 3 from France, 3 from Croatia, and 1 from Mexico City, and the remainder from sister states. We are truly an international Chapter now.

The Research Chapter hosts a website at: <http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/>, which is well worth your while accessing. We have prepared a publication of the Grand Orations and Vesper Services message given at the Grand Sessions in April 2010. A publication for the Orations of 2011 is also now available for a suggested \$5 donation by sending a request to the High Priest.

For information about membership, contact:

Ex. Comp Rich Wilson, High Priest

D246rich@surewest.net

Peter Eiserloh, King

eiserlohpp@yahoo.com

Daniel Kaffka, Scribe

kych1@msn.com

M.:E.: Comp.: Philip A. Hardiman, Secretary

philipandnancy@aol.com

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dennis Dyer, DGL, has developed access to a number of information materials related to Royal Arch Masonry. He says: "I have compiled a Royal Arch Education CD, containing numerous articles and books, with valuable assistance of two inspectors: Steve Bass and Ray Broomfield in attempt to address perceived chapter membership problems throughout the state.

"It appears more members leave through the back door via death and apathy than enter the front door after Blue Lodge outreach. Once you have a new member how do you retain him -- that is the question. I would suggest education is a way to start the process. We hear there is great interest in Masonry as evidenced by thousands of contacts at Grand Lodge after the Dan Brown Books, with particular interest in the spiritual aspects of Masonry as taught by allegory and symbolism. Are we prepared to answer the inevitable questions? You will be better equipped to do so after digesting the contents of this CD. Optimally an action plan to retain new members would be to form an education committee after digesting the CD and planning education at every stated convocation." Contents of the CD include:

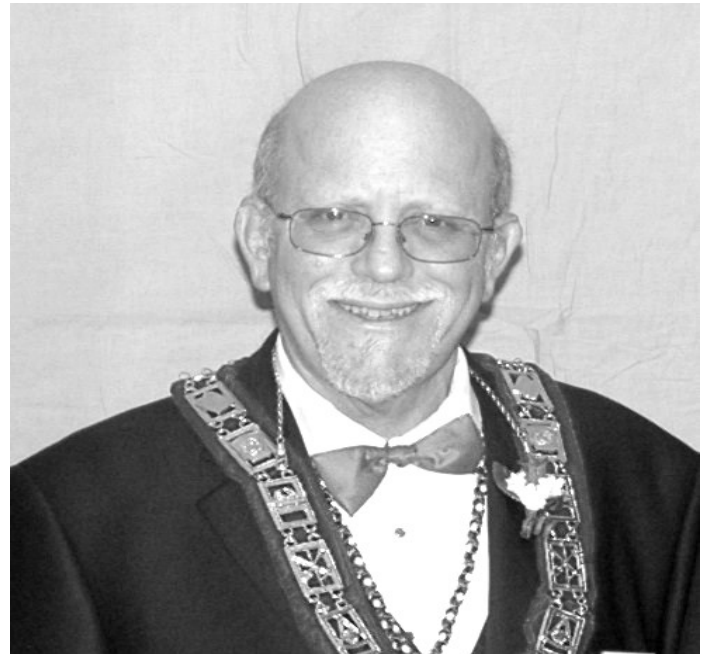
A Portrait of Cyrus II
ACT Presentation II
ACT Presentation
Ancient Order of the Druids
Arks of the Royal Arch
Banners of the Royal Arch
Becoming a Royal Arch Mason
Aholiab & Bezaleel

Royal Arch Chapter Walkabout Ceremony
 Development of the Royal Arch
 Early Royal Arch & Cryptic Degrees in America
 Freemasonry Timeline
 Holiness to the Lord
 Holy Royal Arch – Jabelon
 Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem
 Jeshua, Zerubbabel, & Haggai
 Joshua, Zerubbabel, & Haggai
 More Light on the Royal Arch
 Paraphernalia Checklist RAM Degrees
 Passwords of the Veils
 Royal Arch Banners
 Royal Arch of Heaven
 Royal Arch Precision of Equinox
 Royal Arch Terms and definitions
 Royal Arch Vernal Equinox pic
 Royal Arch Zodiac pic
 RAM Education Topics
 Religious Veil
 Royal Arch – The Ark
 Royal Arch Candidates Coach ppt
 Royal Arch Floor Cloth
 Royal Arch Lost Word
 Royal Arch Officers
 Royal Arch or 7th Degree
 Royal Arch Definitions and Terms
 Royal Arch Timeline ppt
 Royal Arch Zodiac paper
 Some Familiar Royal Arch Terms
 Tau pic
 The 47th Problem of Euclid
 The Breastplate of the High Priest
 The Cosmic Golden Curtains
 The Holy Royal Arch, Keystone of the Spiritual
 Journey Within
 The Holy Royal Arch
 The Lost Word
 The Masonic Lodge Floor Explained
 The Master's Word
 The Mysticism of the Royal Arch
 The Necessity of the RA Degree to the MM
 The Signs of the Tribes
 The Symbolism of the Colours
 The Symbolism of the Royal Arch
 The Symbolism of the Veils
 The Tau & the Triple Tau
 The Tau & Triple Tau Symbol in RA Masonry
 The Triple Tau & Triangle
 The Triple Tau in Freemasonry
 The Twelve Tribes of Israel
 The Unspeakable Masonic Word
 The Work of the Priesthood

To Widows and Orphans
 Unknown Lectures of the Holy Royal Arch
 What attracts Brethren 2 seek light in RA
 Masonry
 What Royal Arch Masonry is
 Whither the Royal Arch
 Why a Royal Arch Mason?
 Why Join the Royal Arch?

These items will soon be loaded on the Research Chapter website. Until that happens, feel free to contact Dennis for a copy of that CD: 805-758-0043, or ddyer39@verizon.net.

WILLIAM NEWTON WINE, RIP



William Newton Wine, Knight York Grand Cross of Honor, passed away at his home in Concord, CA, on March 25, 2011, at the age of 61 years, 230 days. He was raised June 17 of 1971 (init. 10/27/70, passed 2/23/71), served as Master of Diablo Valley Lodge #448 in 1979 and 1986, and was their Hiram Award recipient. He was High priest of Ancient-Antioch # 31 in 1996, Illustrious Master of King Solomon's Council #29 in 2007, Eminent Commander of Oakland Commandery #11 in 2006, and Grand High Priest for California in 2005-06.

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved brother, Companion and Sir Knight.

Thanks to you all for being here. This is a bitter-sweet moment for me – bitter because it's always

hard to say good-bye to a friend, a brother Mason, a true companion; sweet because it's an honor to honor Bill today as the one who appointed me to the Grand Chapter progressive line. But an honor more because Bill exemplified the two of the traits of a dedicated Mason – he was always in search of greater light, and he was always willing to serve! Here's a partial list of his many memberships:

DeMolay – Master Councillor for his Chapter, Division and Nor Cal Jurisdiction. Chevalier Award and Legion of Honor Award recipient

Craft Lodge -- Officer's Coach from 1982 - 1995. Academia Lodge - Oakland – Charter member 2004 - Chaplain

Grand Lodge of California

1. Grand Secretary special Technical Review committee (1992 – 1994)
2. Memorial Services Committee
3. Masonic Education Committee – Member for 10 years
4. Grand Lodge Masonic Summer Symposium I and II

York Rite - Other

1. Author McBain York Rite College – Chancellor
2. Red Cross of Constantine – St. Phillips Conclave

Some of you may remember Bill at Indianapolis three years ago when he competed for General Grand Scribe. He was unsuccessful, of course, and he was disappointed because the loss deprived him of a new opportunity to serve. He contemplated running again this year, but finally decided against doing so less than a year ago, I think because he was newly retired and involved in some new ventures closer to home! But more on this later.

Of special note was his interest in Masonic Education generally and the various research bodies, in particular. He was a member of: 1) Nor Cal Res Lodge, for which he served as Master in 1995 and Secretary from 98 to 2003; 2) So Cal Res

Lodge; 3) Texas Lodge of Res.; 4) Ohio Lodge of Res.; 5) Quator Coronati Res Lodge of London Correspondence Circle; 6) Philalethes Mas Res Society Intl.; 7) SRICF for which he served as Celebrant 2 years ago; 8) Bay Cities Council, AMD, for which he served as Sovereign Master; and 9) he was instrumental in establishing the first Research Chapter for CA when he was Grand King in 2003. He had far ranging impact on California Masons through his service to CA Grand Lodge Committee on Education, from 1994 through 2002, for which he served as Chairman in 2001 and 2002. During his tenure the Committee prepared 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree info booklets, which are now given to every candidate after each Degree. He took particular pride in his Education Binder, a copy of which is beside his photograph.

If you would like to honor Bill for his service to Masonry, I suggest you seek membership in one or another of these many Research bodies whose main purpose is the dissemination of Masonic light: An AMD Council, SRICF, a Research Lodge in CA, TX, OH, London, a Research Chapter in CA. See me in the Vendor room for the latter!

On a Personal Note, Bill's Masonic activities were sandwiched between Boy Scouts and DeMolay activities, and the Elks Lodge, in his last year! The lifelong resident of Concord grew up and attended schools in the Bay Area, including San Francisco State College (Now Cal. State, San Francisco), where he sat on the student council and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech in 1972. He was also a licensed single engine aircraft pilot. He was employed for over 30 years with the City and County of San Francisco as a Programmer-Analyst. This helps explain his role as a webmaster for the CA Grand York Rite bodies AND for the CA Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

Bill was severely burned by hot oil on his legs, as a youth. This accident in his mother's kitchen left him lame, and altered the course of his life. It may have had something to do with his confirmed bachelorhood, but it's more likely that he took Masonry as his Mistress – and you know how jealous she can be! He was a cheerful individual, despite the difficult hand which Fate had dealt him. Bill was hardly perfect, though he had fewer faults than most of us. He had a taste for good Cigars, and single malt scotch. Teddy and Jerry

and a few others and I were on a cruise to Vancouver in May and one night we spent a little time talking about Bill, sharing cigars and some scotch. Three cigars are left and if you'd like a remembrance of Bill, your welcome to one of them. The Scotch is gone!

He loved to stop at Indian Casinos while he traveled up and down the State from Chapter to Chapter for receptions, visitations, and so forth. I asked him one day what he played there, and he shrugged his shoulders and said "just the slots." This horrified me, not because I object to gambling – I like the Pass Line as much as the next guy; but because you can certainly get more bang for your buck at BlackJack or even Craps. And Bill was certainly smart enough to play those games. But he chose to play just for relaxation and devote his mental energy instead to Masonic tasks. I had always hoped to some day go gambling with him, but that alas is not to be.

He started playing online gaming in the last few years – a game called World of Warcraft. I understand he often played hours on end, maybe 12 hours in a day. This too horrified me – I wanted him to get back and support his RA Chapter and devote his time and energy there in Antioch! But he had that fascination with Technology, which was compelling. He pretty successfully meshed this with his pre-occupation with Masonic education, witness the fact that one the players in his "Warcraft Guild" is now a Fellowcraft, simply because of his electronic interaction with Bill. So, what do I know??!??

He joined the Elks Lodge near his home, within walking distance and he could stop by his favorite deli on the way home. Soon he was an Esteemed Loyal Knight, similar to our Sr. Deacon. He was soon Esteemed Leading Knight and in January of this year he was elected Exalted Ruler of the Lodge. This, too, would have horrified me – but I have no doubt that within a year, all of the Elks would have also become Masons!

His health was not good. He had a difficult time with his Gall Bladder and its removal in the month before his death, and that may have contributed to his Heart Attack. He seemed to be recovering well from the operation. He called me a week before he died to urge me to do what I could in support of one of his candidates for a Grand YR Office. We talked

briefly and then he made some general congratulatory remarks that gave me the impression that he knew the big one was coming. I had the distinct feeling he had really called to say Goodbye! A week later he was gone.

His niece from Boston and nephew from LA made Herculean efforts to send him off in style at the Oakland Scottish Rite. Two days before the memorial service, they lost their Father in Hawaii, Bill's brother. Needless to say, this Spring was a difficult one for the Wine family. I doubt that Bill has been waiting around since then to approach the Throne of Grace – but just in case:

Soft and Safe to Thee my Brother be thy resting place

Bright and glorious be thy rising from it.

Fragrant be the Acacia sprig that there shall flourish.

May the earliest buds of Spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place

And there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest.

Though the winds of autumn may destroy the loveliness of their existence

Yet the destruction is not final, and in the Springtime they shall surely bloom again.

So, in the bright morning of the Resurrection, thy spirit shall rise in newness of life,

And expand in immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies.

Until then, dear brother, until then, farewell

FORTY FOR FORTY

Keep Comptche on your agenda as you begin to plan for your next Stated convocation. Let your companions know what a great opportunity it is to witness the capitular degrees in an outdoor setting. Exhort your members to encourage their Blue Lodge brethren to come to Comptche next June 23rd and help us achieve our goal of 40 For

40 – 40 candidates for the 40th annual celebration of this festival.

SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE

- ◆ Saturday, Oct 29, 2011
- ◆ San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd., San Francisco
- ◆ Buffet lunch starting a 11:00 am
- ◆ Opening and Degree Conferral 1:00 pm
- ◆ Candidate Fees - \$10 paid by their Council
- ◆ Catered Buffet lunch - \$15, incl. Lapel Pin
- ◆ Host: MIGM Bob Whitfield
- ◆ Jeremiah: Most Excellent Sean Foran

To sign up, contact your Council Recorder. For information, call Allan Weinstein, IPM, (650) 871-4430 and allanw@astound.net

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL ARCH

The Order of the Royal Arch has long been considered a necessary part of Freemasonry. The Royal Arch made its first appearance in England during the 1740s. We may assume that the seeds of this new ceremony were germinating for several years before we have records of it, but we cannot date the practice of the Royal Arch earlier than c. 1740.

It is impossible to say with certainty that the R.A. took its rise in any particular country, but it seems possible that the ceremony came into England from Ireland. Several of the earliest references to the R.A. are undoubtedly Irish, and when the second Grand Lodge, the "Antients", was founded in 1751 it recognized the R.A. as a more-or-less essential adjunct to the normal Craft degrees.

As to the development of the Royal Arch ceremony, there is every reason to believe that it was designed, originally, for Masters of Lodges or for men who had passed the Chair, and although there is some difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the evidence on this point, there is, in fact, a great deal of valuable evidence to support this view.

In 1744, Dr. Fifield Dassigny published a book with an enormous title, *A Serious and Impartial Enquiry into the Cause of the present Decay of Freemasonry in . . . Ireland*, and, speaking of the Royal Arch, he described it as "... an organis'd body of men who have passed the chair".

The first known reference to the Royal Arch is found in *Faulkner's Dublin Journal*, 10-14 January 1743, which reported that Youghal Lodge No. 21 celebrated St. John's Day with a parade in which "the Royal Arch was carried by two Excellent Masters."

If the question is asked, "Why did the Royal Arch appear?", the answer is that a further ceremony, or a separate "Fourth Grade", was inevitable, and this can best be explained by our knowledge of the evolution of the three Craft degrees.

If we go back as far as we dare in English Masonic history to the point where the separate grades or degrees were being evolved, it is almost certain that the first Masonic ceremony was designed for the Fellow or Fellow-craft, i.e., the fully trained Craftsman.

The system of apprenticeship in England makes its first appearance in the 1200s, and it is fairly safe to assume that the next degree was evolved as an admission ceremony for apprentices.

At this stage, and up to the late 1600s, it is certain that the Craft had no more than two admission ceremonies: one for the Apprentice or Entered Apprentice and the other for the "Fellow-craft or Master". Sooner or later it was inevitable that there would be a demand for a separate ceremony to distinguish the Master from the Fellow-craft; both were equal in their technical capacity, but the Fellow-crafts were employees, and those who were fortunate enough to be able to set up as Masters would quite naturally have wanted a separate degree to themselves.

The third degree appeared in England some time around 1724-1725 and, by 1730, it was already fairly widely known, though not widely practiced.

At this stage all three working grades within the Craft were covered by separate ceremonies only one grade remained unrepresented in this fashion. There was still no distinguishing ceremony for the men who had presided in a Lodge, i.e., for the Masters of Lodges, and inevitably a ceremony appeared around 1740.

In England the first Grand Lodge, the "Moderns," (1717), gave no official recognition or support to the Royal Arch ceremony, although it was practised in several "Modern" Lodges, and it is interesting to notice that although the ceremony was not regarded as an integral part of the three Craft degrees, it was nevertheless worked in ordinary lodges. R.A. Chapters did not yet exist as separate organizations for conferring the new grade, and there was, of course, no supreme controlling authority.

The first Grand and Royal Chapter of the Royal Arch of Jerusalem ("Moderns") was constituted in London in July 1767. The Grand Lodge of the "Antients" (1751), who had always counted the ceremony as the "root, heart and marrow of Masonry," had not realized the need for a separate controlling body, and their Grand Chapter minutes begin in 1782, after a series of resolutions in their Grand Lodge in December 1771.

When the rival English Grand Chapters were united in 1817, the "chair-degree" was officially abolished, but it continued to be worked in many places until the 1850s. The Act of Union refers to the Order but does not qualify it as a degree.

To this day, in many of the American jurisdictions, the entrusting, which forms a preliminary to their R.A., is a brief ceremony which contains recognizable elements of the Installation work in England. The first record of conferment of the R.A. degree was George Washington in the lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on 22 December 1753.

The Degree of Royal Arch Mason is founded upon the destruction of the first and the building of the second Temple. The ceremonies of the Degree have an interesting and graphic historical setting, and a profound and reverential moral significance.

The value of Royal Arch Masonry will be justly appreciated by all who are Exalted to that Most Sublime Degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education.

The Triple T. did not appear until c. 1820.

CRYPTIC MASONRY

The Cryptic Rite is "one of the smallest but one of the most important and certainly one of the most curious of all rites," according to Coil's Masonic

Encyclopedia. "Crypt" comes from a Greek word meaning "hide, conceal, or secret," and thus has come to mean a vault, cave or other place of underground concealment. The Cryptic degrees are centered on stories involving a vault or crypt where certain treasurers were hidden beneath King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem for very specific purposes. They were first called "Cryptic" by Rob Morris, a very influential Mason in the 1800s.

Cryptic Masonry now consists of the Royal and Select Master degrees. Originally, they had no relation to each other and were only connected into a Rite until after they had each existed for many years.

In some states, the Super Excellent Master degree is also included in the Cryptic Rite, but some say it should not be because it does not deal with the "crypt" story and therefore not really a degree, but a ceremony. However, it is described as a beautiful ceremony and it is not clear why some call it a ceremony rather than a degree.

THE DEGREE OF ROYAL MASTER

The Degree of Royal Master symbolizes a Fellowcraft in search of additional Masonic Light. His efforts are eventually rewarded and he is admitted into a select fellowship that has been entrusted with Cryptic secrets not yet available to the majority of the craft. However, as Divine truth can only be fully perceived by those who have attained an advanced state of spiritual awareness, the Fellowcraft, now a Royal Master, must continue his quest until the Temple is completed.

THE DEGREE OF SELECT MASTER

When the Temple of Solomon was completed, a number of the secrets of the craft had been lost. The craftsmen were advised that future generations may discover them if they properly applied themselves with fervency and zeal. Future generations did discover these secrets and the Select Masters degree reveals how they have been preserved. This degree completes the education of the craftsmen with regards to the concealed mysteries of Ancient Craft Masonry. It is the Omega of the Symbolic Rite. However, while the candidate has received this additional knowledge, he had also been confronted with

additional symbolism. This requires future application by him in perfecting his spiritual building.

THE DEGREE OF SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER

The last or third degree in the Cryptic Rite is the Super Excellent Masters degree. The origin of this degree is unknown. It is not listed as a side degree of European Masonry in a catalog of over seven hundred known degrees, which was published in the 19th century.

The Super Excellent degree is one of the most dramatic and impressive in all of Freemasonry and is especially significant in that it is the only degree based directly upon the destruction of the Temple of Solomon. It requires a large, well rehearsed cast. All Select Masters owe it to themselves to witness this degree if at all possible.

This is not a cryptic degree; however, it is well placed in the York Rite system as it prepares the candidate historically for the Order of the Red Cross which immediately follows in the Commandery Orders.

The moral and spirit lessons conveyed in the degree are: To Walk in Faith, Promote Friendship, and Practice Fidelity. These lessons are presented to the candidate in a clear and forcible manner.

THE EARLY DAYS OF CRYPTIC MASONRY IN AMERICA

As further described by Speidel in his handbook, *The York Rite of Freemasonry*, most Masonic histories assert that the Cryptic Rite originated in America. This is true. However, the degrees of Royal and Select Master came into the United States from France, by way of the West Indies, as side degrees of the Rite of Perfection in the 18th century. They were primarily concerned with promulgation of the twenty-five degrees of the Rite of Perfection. The "side" or detached degrees were conferred infrequently by individuals having knowledge of them, usually with some authority.

In 1818, Jeremy Ladd Cross received the Royal Master Degree from Thomas Lowndes in New York. Within one year, he had put the Royal and Select degrees together and, thereafter, warranted "Councils of Royal and Select Masters." Jeremy Cross is acknowledged as the founder of Cryptic

Masonry in the world. (Note: My wife, Priscilla George Price's, Great-Great-Great Grandfather, Judge Ezekiel Ladd, CPTNHRW, is buried in the same small cemetery in Hanover, New Hampshire near Jeremy Ladd Cross. Hanover is located across the Connecticut River from Newbury, Vermont where once a Ladd married a Bayley and a Bayley married a George and so on.)

If any rituals existed from the early years, none have survived. Whether the content of the Royal and Select degrees today resembles that of the early period is unknown. However, historically, the titles of these degrees can be accurately traced to roots in the Rite of France prior to 1762.

The fact that these degrees were readily adopted by the Symbolic and Capitular Masons of America testifies to the value in supplementing the lessons of Ancient Craft Masonry and the importance of the degrees in the American Rite of today.

THE DEGREE OF THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER

This is a side or "chair" degree, and is conferred on present or Illustrious Past masters, usually during the time of the State Grand Council meeting. In some jurisdictions, it goes by the name of the *Order of the Silver Trowel*. It consists of two sections - the candidate representing young King Solomon in both sections.

In the first section, the candidate learns of the conspiracy by his half-brother Adonijah, to wrest the throne by cunning from Solomon. He also learns of his mother (Bathsheba) interceding with the aged and ailing King David to prevent this. After securing David's approval, Solomon is symbolically conducted to Gihon by Benaiah where he is duly obligated, anointed, and hailed as King by Nathan, the prophet, and Zadok, the High Priest.

In the second section, the newly anointed King is brought before his father, David, who, in his dying moments, instructs him in moral wisdom and counsels him to govern uprightly and to serve the Lord with all his strength. Upon Solomon's assent, the King expires.

Prepared by MEC William "Bill" W. Price, KYGCH, OPC, HRAKTP, PGHP of California 1993-1994

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