

California Encompasser



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October 2021

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The California Encompasser is a quarterly publication by the Grand York Rite of California and provides information to Companions and Sir Knights of Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California, Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California, and Grand Commandery Knights Templar of California.



***MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION
RAYMOND A. BROOMFIELD, KYGCH
167TH GRAND HIGH PRIEST
GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA***



***MOST ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANION
PETER G. CHAMPION, KYGCH
161ST GRAND MASTER CRYPTIC
MASONS OF CALIFORNIA***



***SIR KNIGHT DAVID W. STUDLEY, KGT,
KYGCH 163RD RIGHT EMINENT GRAND
COMMANDER, GRAND COMMANDERY,
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF CALIFORNIA***

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Most Excellent Companion raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH 167th Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California

Grand High Priest October Message

Companions

“Intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest.”

I often hear that chapters need to teach the esoteric at our meetings. It strikes me that many, including myself, are unfamiliar with the meaning of esoteric. In the movie “The Princess Bride” (20th Century Fox, 1987) Wallace Shawn as Sicilian Vizzini is constantly saying “inconceivable” as each event unfolds. Inigo Montoya (played by Mandy Patinkin) turns to Vizzini and says “You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”



When we use the term “esoteric” are we saying that only Masons can understand the meaning of our basic tenant of faith, hope and charity? Is the spiritual esoteric, the search for truth and light imparted by the Supreme Architect of the Universe, only applicable to our Masonic studies? What are we asking our chapters to impart to our members?

Let us start with an ancient concept of our fraternity. Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by signs and symbols. What we teach is morality, how we should behave to ourselves and others, especially brother Masons. It is a lesson in conduct where we bring together the temporal and spiritual to create a better person. This concept is not unique to Freemasonry, it is the essence of religion throughout the history of man.

We use allegory, in the nature of our degree conferrals, to illustrate our commitment as Masons to the principals of a just and upright life. Religious plays are centuries older than Freemasonry’s documented beginnings. With a less than literate populace, plays were the perfect medium to transmit religious teachings because the audience saw and heard the message. Our degrees serve the same purpose.

Masonic signs and symbols bring to mind the fraternity and its teachings. We recall the degrees we have received and the bond they create for all Masons. It is a bond imperfectly understood by a non-mason. Everything up to this point is a shared experience with non-masons, we both understand “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

We can watch Masonic degrees on YouTube, hear the same words and watch the play, the image of a square and compass, a royal arch or a Triple Tau can be viewed and understood by anyone. But the part that can never be conveyed, and which makes our Masonic message understood by a small number of people, is the actual experience of walking that Masonic path, guided by friends who are our brothers in Freemasonry.

Masonry does not define the Supreme Architect, that is left to the individual Mason. Masonry brings together men from all walks of life with fundamental truths they can use to be a better person. The unique message of becoming a Freemason or a Royal

Arch Mason is the transformative process that changes how we as individuals see the temporal and spiritual world. It is our individual memory of receiving light at our altars and the personal association we have with our signs and symbols that provide the esoteric of Masonry.

Perhaps, when we ask our chapters to teach the esoteric, we are asking for a regeneration of our understanding of Masonry in terms of a unique shared experience. You can begin the process by talking about what the Royal Arch means to you, how it has impacted your life. Support the efforts of others to do the same. It can be done in the formal setting of a Chapter meeting or sharing refreshment in the dining hall. Talk about the symbols we use and what they mean literally and in a Masonic context.

Remember that we each have a unique vision of what esoteric means. Share yours and be receptive of others. It will build a stronger fraternity.

Fraternally,
Raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH
167th Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masons of California



Grand High Priest September Message

Companions

No one seems to be left untouched by the resurgence of Covid. Members of the Grand Line have contacted or been exposed to the virus. Health Departments are reinstating masking requirements throughout California. Lodges and Chapters are faced with the challenge presented by our meetings and social gatherings.

As adults we make choices throughout our life. Some are good and others are regrettable. Often, we do not know the impact of our decision on others around us. Such is the case confronting Masonry and how to deal with social gatherings.

As Masons we are concerned for the welfare of our brother Masons and their families. None of us would deliberately injure our companions but it is possible to inadvertently cause suffering. As an adult you have the right to decide if you are going to be vaccinated or tested for the virus. I ask you to remember that when you exercise that right, your decision impacts not only you, but your family and friends. Be mindful that our Royal Arch Companions and their families often have medical conditions of which we are unaware.

If you do not feel well, stay home. Wear a mask if that is required. Should your Lodge or Chapter restrict attendance to those members who are vaccinated, and you aren't; don't view it as a rejection of your right to not be vaccinated, but rather an affirmation of that brotherly love and care we extend to those who are vulnerable.

Fraternally,

Raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH
167th Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons of California



Grand High Priest August Message

Companions

Grand Chapter has been blessed to see a vigorous return to in-person meetings and events. The number of degree festivals that are scheduled is impressive and will do much to imbue interest in Royal Arch Masons. My heartfelt thanks for everyone's effort in bringing Royal Arch Masonry back to life. It is a great start to reintroducing Royal Arch Masonry into not only our lives but those Masons who seek further light in Masonry.

It is with immense pleasure that I report the following Royal Arch Masons received the Order of The Purple Cross from the York Rite Sovereign College of North America on Saturday, July 31, 2021. Please congratulate them when you have an opportunity.

Daniel Doornbos, Brandon Duenas, Craig Flagtwet, Philip Hardiman, Gary Iverson, Michael McCleary and Robert McNamara.

Tomorrow is the San Francisco Peninsula and Palo Alto York Rite Bodies Annual Picnic and Grand York Rite Reception in Orange Park South San Francisco. Wonderful to see this terrific event back on schedule. Next weekend is a reception in Alameda.

Keep up the good work everyone. We are resilient.

Fraternally,

Raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH
167th Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons of California



Grand High Priest's July Message

Companions,

**Tomorrow, my chapter is having a practice. An in-person practice!
The thought of working together, of shaking the cobwebs off our ritual and floor work, being helped and helping. You don't realize how much you have missed the comradery until you find yourself staring at your ritual, imagining the other officers reciting their parts. The whole being greater than the few. That is our fraternity; that is what it means to be a Royal Arch Mason. Working towards a common purpose of doing good work for the betterment of others, especially our brothers and companions.**

Let us strengthen our Chapters by our presence, attend practices, help make a quorum at our meetings. It will lift your spirits and renew your faith in our teachings of brotherly love.

Fraternally,

**Raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH
167th Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons of California**



Grand High Priest's June Message

Companions,

I am humbled by the honor bestowed on me to serve as Grand High Priest. Thank you to Rick Fonseca and Dave Glass for their work off camera, it was amazing what they were able to accomplish. The Installation team of M.E.C. Rick Baskin, Steve Goad, Gary Spriggs and Ted Hammock made M.E.C. Dick Bullard, junior past GHP, happy by installing his replacement. Thank you to those who were able to attend the Installation, I will honor your confidence in me and the officers of Grand Chapter.

The companions who have volunteered to serve as an officer in the Grand Line or as a member of the Grand Chapter Ritual Staff, some even wear both hats, are dedicated to serving you. Please let me know how we can help you, and your Chapter, strengthen Royal Arch.

Our Masonic buildings have been quiet for over a year, far too long a time. This is about to change, and we will soon be able to meet in the warmth of brotherly love that distinguishes our fraternity. Help make that happen by supporting your Chapter as it returns to work.

Grand Chapter is going to tackle several issues this term.

- **Membership**
- **Finances**
- **Technology**
- **Video conferencing**
- **Ritual challenges**

I will keep you informed of the progress made on each issue. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with me so that together we will do what is best for the Royal Arch.

Fraternally,

**Raymond A. Broomfield, KYGCH
167th Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons of California**



Most Illustrious Companion Peter G. Champion, KYGCH 161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

Illustrious Grand Master October Message

Dear Companions All,

Autumn is upon us, and we see Masonic activities in full swing. As you may know, the Grand Master of Masons in California, Most Worshipful Arthur Weiss, has released his recommendation permitting virtual participation in stated meetings; this will be up for deliberation at the 172nd Annual Communication. However, Cryptic Councils in our jurisdiction already have provisions for hybrid meetings allowing virtual participation in stated assemblies. The companions should reference General Order 2021-01 for more details. Notwithstanding the benefit of virtual or hybrid meetings, we are seeing the return of in-person events including degree conferrals or festivals. To allow our Councils that are conducting virtual assemblies to ballot on petitions, I have released General Order 2021-02. Please review this directive in this newsletter and reach out to me if you have any questions.

I am again including an article relevant to the history of Cryptic Masonry. The articles we included in preceding issues of the *Sword and Trowel* have been well received. Over the past several weeks, I continue to enjoy phone calls and correspondences about the articles and other topics from many of our companions. I am also very grateful for the lifetime membership certificates and other gifts from the various Councils in our jurisdiction. My only regret is not being able to attend in person the receptions and other gatherings owing to my health and the current pandemic. I am with you in spirit, and I enjoy hearing about all the fun and relevant work that you are all doing. Drop me a note at peterchampion5@gmail.com or a quick call at (805) 904-4334. You may also contact our Grand Steward, Right Illustrious Christian Marano, at cgmarano@gmail.com or (805) 712-9212 for more urgent matters; he will be certain to relay the information to me as my internet and phone connections can sometimes be problematic. For this helpful task, he has my appreciation. My thanks also go to our Deputy Grand Master, RI Guy Chalmers, and our other Grand Officers and Past Illustrious Grand Masters who have stepped up to represent our Grand Council in my behalf. This year is not what we had all intended. You supported me to advance to my position, and we are all doing our best regardless of the challenges with which we are presented.

While my opportunity to travel is quite limited for now, I did enjoy an in-person event at King David's Lodge in San Luis Obispo. On September 11th, the lodge unveiled a recently conserved 1870 portrait of George Washington with Masonic regalia, and we also enjoyed a dinner and presentation in observance of Constitution Month and commemoration of the events of 9/11. Nothing beats seeing brothers, companions, and friends, extending a friendly grip, and sharing fellowship to make up for lost time. I hope I will be able to see some of you soon.

Cryptic Degrees

The following contains excerpts from Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia and Bessell's *The Grand Councils of New York, Ohio, and Maryland*.

Tracing the origin and course of these degrees in the United States has been labeled "baffling" and caused in major part by the tendency of writers to refer to the two degrees jointly as though they have always constituted a pair. Another peculiarity is that there has long been a difference of opinion as to which of the two degrees should be conferred on the candidate first, and that they should both precede the Royal Arch, yet ARE often limited to Masons who are Royal Arch companions.

Historically the degrees were conferred in Maryland before Royal Arch Masonry was established in the state. The Royal Master degree is mentioned in only a few scattered references prior to the year 1804, when it is claimed that Abram Jacobs went to New York and conferred the degree upon Thomas Lownds. In Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, (Scribner) Vol. I, p. 300, it is stated that the earliest authoritative account of the working of the degree occurs in the records of Columbian Council No. 1 of New York in 1807. For several years, prior to the adoption of the Select degree, that body conferred several other side degrees, such as the *Order of the Garter*, the *Illustrious and Invincible Order of St George of Capidosia*, and *Knight of the Round Table*. The ritual of only the last named of the three side degrees has been preserved.

E. F. Schulz in *History of Freemasonry in Maryland*, Vol I, p.344, stated, "It is said that the Royal and Select degrees were conferred by Andrew Francken in Albany in 1769." No evidence has ever been discovered that either of the degrees was conferred at Albany until long after that year.

The Select Master degree, under the name, Select Masons of Twenty-seven, was conferred at Charleston, S.C. in 1783, and that is probably the earliest that either degree was worked in this country. One of the earliest investigations of the history of the degrees was made by a committee of the Grand Chapter R.A.M. of South Carolina to determine whether that body rightfully had the control over the degrees that it was then exercising. The report of the committee was dated February 26, 1829, and with it was found a note written by Moses Holbrook, chairman of the committee. The time of the investigation was late enough to permit the committee to fall into the common error of linking the two degrees together and thus to give *Royal Master* an apparent existence in the South earlier than facts warrant.

Several theories exist as to the origins of "The American Rite," including the Scots Degree Theory, the Berlin Theory, and the Baltimore Theory, and the Stuart Theory. The Stuart Theory advances the idea that the Cryptic Degrees were used as a cover under which the adherents of the House of Stuart could meet and plot to recover the Throne of Great Britain on behalf of that royal house. Under this theory, the Select Master Degree symbolizes the plan of Charles Edward Stuart, also known as the Young Pretender, under the title of James VI. He and Louis XVI, the current King of France are the two Kings represented by Solomon and Hiram of Tyre, together with the Earl of Mars and Nithsdale, and 23 others from Gaul forming the 27 that composed the Conclave. These were the men who were laying the foundations of the return and subsequent reign of the Young Pretender in secret. Remember that the word "select" was applied primarily to the individual Mason and not to the Degree itself -- it is the individual that is *choice* or *select*. The Select Masters were the true and tried Companions of the Young Pretender and his cause. About 1724, the Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay was selected by James III, the Old Pretender, to tutor his two sons, Charles Edward, also known as the Young Pretender, and Henry. Ramsay in 1737 as the Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of France delivered the celebrated oration which acted as the incentive for the multiplication of degrees that followed. In France alone several hundred such degrees sprang to life.

According to the Stuart Theory, the Royal Master is the claimant to the throne of Great Britain. The Lost Word is the Lost Cause, the Secret Vault the Secret place in which they carried on their work for the revival of their cause. Within this vault, the Word, symbolizing the Cause and efforts for its revival, was to remain hidden until the time was ripe for it to be revealed. It may be interesting to note that there is evidence which indicates that the adoption by the Stuarts of the Bee-Hive as a symbol of their resurrection caused the Masons of England to drop the emblem, though its use is still retained in this country as a symbol of industry.

The Scots Degree Theory seem to have sprung up about 1740 in parts of France. In 1741 we can find evidence of its reach as far as Berlin, Germany. The Chevalier de Bouneville in 1754 established a Chapter at Paris, France, in the Jesuit College of Clermont. The system of Freemasonry practiced by this Chapter became known as the *Rite of Perfection* or the *Rite of Heredom*. By the year 1758 the original seven degrees had grown to 25, and by 1801, were expanded to some 33 separate degrees of the Scottish Rite. During this expansion, the Select Degree was first included, then dropped, later reclaimed as a detached Degree, and finally dropped once again. One possible reason for the Rite of Perfection in dropping the Select Degree is that its substance is already contained in the 13th and 14th Degrees of that Rite. In 1802 the newly organized Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite issued a Manifesto solidifying the degrees over which it claimed jurisdiction, of which the detached Degree of Select Master was one. But the Royal Master is unmentioned.

Bro. Mitchell, in his *History of Freemasonry*, Vol I, page 667, asserts that the Select Degree was formerly a part of the Royal Arch system. The General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States was slow in formation. In 1871, the Grand Council of Massachusetts took the initiative in calling a convention of representatives which met in New York City on June 12, 1872, with 14 Grand Councils represented. It was resolved that the Cryptic Degrees should be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Grand Councils and that no members should be recognized, except those who received the degrees in a Council of Royal and Select Masters or by authority of a Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. This was seen as a harsh measure, for the degrees had been quite generally conferred by Royal Arch chapters, and, therefore, the resolution aroused considerable rancor, and operated to delay the ultimate objective. At a second convention in 1873, it was resolved that the degrees should be conferred in the order of *Royal Master*, *Select Master*, and that the *Super Excellent* should be optional. Other conventions were held in 1873 and 1874.

At a convention in Detroit, Michigan, Aug. 23, 1880, a constitution was adopted for a General Grand Chapter to become effective when ratified by nine Grand Councils. Virginia and West Virginia had no Grand Councils, the degrees there always having been conferred in Royal Arch Chapters. The Grand Councils of North Carolina, Iowa, Nebraska, and Mississippi still retained the Chapter system, though all of them subsequently abandoned it. Wisconsin and Texas, though having Grand Councils, adopted systems peculiar to themselves in that the relations between councils and chapters were still intimate. In 1889, the General Grand Chapter ameliorated the harshness of the resolution of 1872 by authorizing each State Grand Council to determine the status of Royal and Select Masters in their several jurisdictions.

At the next Sword and Trowel, we will list the figures who were instrumental in the spread of the Select Masters and Royal Master Degrees in America. Happy trails!

Fraternally,

**Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California**



Illustrious Grand Master September Message

Dear Companions All,

Now that the summer months have ended, we see York Rite Masonry starting to open up for business including conferral of degrees. Just recently, I was able to attend San Luis Royal Arch Chapter advancing five new Mark Master Masons. We in the Cryptic Council benefit from the efforts of our Companions in the Royal Arch, so we must show them our support as they strive to bring in new members. While many of us are able to meet in-person, we must not forget about our vulnerable Companions and those who would prefer to continue virtual meetings for various and valid reasons. To that end, I would like to remind you all that you are still able to meet virtually or in a blended fashion. Please also remember that local counties may have specific requirements for social gatherings, and we are all required to adhere to these requirements. At the Mark Master conferral in San Luis Obispo, you will see in our photo that we were all wearing face coverings – a small inconvenience to enjoy in-person fellowship.

On another note, I would like put emphasis this month on the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). You see in every issue of this Sword and Trowel instructions to associate your Amazon purchases with CMMRF through the Amazon Smile program. This is one easy and passive way to donate without additional cost to you. For each purchase you make from Amazon Smile, a donation is made to CMMRF. I urge you to select CMMRF as your charity, and keep in mind that only purchases at smile.amazon.com or through AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app will support your selected charity. As of August 2021, CMMRF has received almost \$2,500!

Lastly, we have another article that discusses the history of the Cryptic Rite. It was wonderfully written by Illustrious Companion Jordan T. Yelinek in 2016. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

As I continue to rehabilitate from the strokes I suffered earlier this year, I thank all of you who sent encouraging cards and emails and made well-wishing phone calls to Jan and me. We appreciate them all, and even if we are not able to send a reply to all of them, know that they do mean a lot to us. Thank you.



REPRINT FROM August 2016 A.D., 3016 A. Dep. Sword and Trowel

Jordan T. Yelinek, PIM, 2016-2017 Grand Orator

The origin of the Cryptic degrees is shrouded in obscurity and has given rise to much controversy. Some contend that the degrees of Royal and Select Master were conferred as early as 1766 in Albany, NY. We know that the Cryptic degrees were introduced in 1783 to Charleston, SC, where they were declared to have their origin in Europe and were side degrees of the Rite of Perfection – which later grew, in South Carolina, into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite that we know today.

Cryptic Masonry, as a coherent and connected system, commences with the year 1818, and that it owes its present existence to the zeal of Jeremy L. Cross. Cross received the degree of Select Mason from Philip P. Eckle at Baltimore in May of 1817, and sometime in 1818 received the Royal Master Mason from Thomas Lownds and his associates, crafting a new system called Royal and Select Masters (which name came into existence sometime between May and August of 1818 based on letters patent issued by Cross).

Jeremy Ladd Cross was a traveling ritualist and contemporary of Thomas Smith Webb, from whose work we derive the Blue Lodge degrees as practiced in most of the United States as a modification of the Prestonian Lectures.

Cross was a native of Connecticut, and an active and influential figure in that Grand Lodge, but particular in early New England Masonry. From his influence the first Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters were set up in Connecticut in 1819.

Earlier this year, I was privileged to attend the awarding of a 50-year pin to a Brother of a Lodge in Connecticut, and in the ceremony it said:

"Each Mason gives of his substance; many give also of their time; while others add loyalty and steadfast devotion. But to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we could give it in a lifetime of service. Today we pay tribute to the Fraternity which opened its portals to each of us, and made it possible for each of us to build our lives on the sublime principles it inculcates."

Let us celebrate that Fraternity now. In this room there are Councils that take every shape and form. There are social Councils, there are philanthropic and service-oriented Councils, there are academically bent Councils and there are family-oriented Councils. There are Councils built to fit each and every one of us. Though what causes us to rise beyond being a simple grouping of men into something greater, something beyond ourselves, is our ritual, it is our common connection to the past, and though it, to the future.

There was an additional line from that 50-year ceremony in Connecticut that personally touched me:

"May the joy of this moment abide with you always, and may you ever stand as you once stood in the northeast corner -- a just and upright Mason, worthy to be known as a son of God."

It is a striking charge that calls us forward, to be above reproach, to act so that we have no cause to be ashamed of ourselves. Let us, each one of us, commit in our hearts to being an agent of profound change in the world, through the collective actions our Craft and our own endeavors, and hold ourselves to that charge.

In the years that follow, when this Council is called together and we have each long passed the mortal veil, may those who follow us gather here again, having committed ourselves today to making a profound difference in the world around us, that they may say we are all worthy to be known as sons of God.

Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

Fraternally,

Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

Illustrious Grand Master August Message

Dear Companions All,

Summer

I hope your summer is going well. This month we start to see in-person receptions, and I thank our Deputy Grand Master, Right Illustrious Companion Guy Chalmers and Lady Jeanne, for representing our Grand Council at these receptions on behalf of Jan and me. It is our ardent desire to be able to travel and visit as much of the Councils in our state whenever my health allows it. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing all the Companions at virtual events. As the number of COVID-19 cases now appear to increase again owing to the highly transmissible Delta variant, I encourage the Councils to remain vigilant and cautious and to use the tools that are available to us to remain safe and healthy.

We will again include an article in this Sword and Trowel that will discuss the history of Cryptic Masonry. In this issue, you will find the controversial origins of Cryptic Masonry as presented in J. Ross Robertson's *The Cryptic Rite. Its Origin and Introduction on this Continent*, published in 1888, which contains quoted extracts from various brothers and companions.

From *The Cryptic Rite. Its Origin and Introduction on this Continent*, by J. Ross Robertson, published in 1888.

The following extracts are quoted from the history of Brother Robert B. Folger, of New York:

"The Masons of that day (1816) were divided in opinion concerning the proper place to which these degrees (Royal and Select) belonged. One party preferred that they should be kept separate and left where they were – a separate system. At the meeting of the General Grand Chapter in 1816, the whole matter then came up for discussion, Mr. Eckel, of Maryland, taking a very prominent part in advocating the union of these two degrees with the services of the Royal Arch Chapter. The discussion became warm and lasted the better part of two days, when the motion to unite them with the Chapter Degrees was rejected. Whereupon, immediately after the adjournment, the State Grand Council of Royal Masters was formed, and the different Councils then came under that governing power, and continued so up to 1828. It was this move on the part of the General Grand Chapter, in refusing a recognition of those degrees, that determined Mr. Cross in his future course of action.

"Mr. Eckel, the Baltimore delegate, then went home; and when Cross, who at that Session of the General Grand Chapter had been appointed and confirmed as General Grand Lecturer, started on his lecturing tour, he stopped at Baltimore and purchased and received the privilege from Eckel and Niles to erect and establish Councils of Royal and Select Masters throughout the Southern and Western States. This privilege he carried out effectually, beginning with New Jersey; and all the Councils in existence in those States mentioned in his narrative were established by himself, also the Eastern States, except Rhode Island."

Bro. Schultz, speaking of Maryland, says:

"From 1824 to 1852, the Select alone was worked in the Chapter. After 1852, both degrees were worked in Councils specially convened for the purpose, after the Most Excellent and just before the conferring of the Royal Arch degree. At one period, however, they were, as stated by Brother Dove, conferred before the Most Excellent. Such was the practice and teachings regarding the Council degrees in this jurisdiction, until the year 1872, when, for the purpose of being 'in Unison' with the majority of the States who had regular Grand Council organization the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in 1872, passed the following resolution:

" 'Resolved, That all the Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction are prohibited from conferring any other degrees than those of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch,'

"Although the Council degrees were not, properly speaking, conferred by the Chapters, but in councils separate from the Chapters, yet the resolution of the Grand Chapter was regarded as prohibitory of such a course, and the degrees ceased to be given by the Chapters. Councils were subsequently formed, and on May 12th, 1874, the representatives from five Councils organized in the City of Baltimore, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of the State of Maryland."

Brother Schultz, after quoting the extracts given says that:

"The general belief seemed to be that the control of the Royal and Select Degrees was vested in Eckel and Niles,"

but he adds:

"We think Brothers Dove, Mackey, Folger, and others, make a great mistake in coupling the Royal Master's degree with the Select in connection with the names of Eckel and Niles; for there is no evidence whatever to show that these brethren ever exercised or claimed control of the Royal Master's Degree, or that they were even in possession of that. degree, at the periods named by them."

The Warrants issued prior to 1810 by Cross, authorized the Companions "to form themselves into a regular Council of Select Masters," but after the date named, "the High Powers in him vested by the Grand Council at Baltimore," were enlarged to include the Royal Master's Degree.

Brother Schultz holds that in view of the action taken by the brethren of Baltimore, there is every reason to believe that the "enlarged powers" under which Cross claimed to act, were not granted or authorized by Eckel and Niles.

Cross, it is claimed, was expelled from the Grand Chapter of Maryland for forming Councils independent of the Chapter, and abusing the authority delegated, or meant to be delegated to him. Brother Schultz asserts, however, that there is nothing in the records which shows that Cross was struck from the rolls. Cross established a large number of Councils in the United States and gave similar powers to others, who also issued warrants for Councils. The modest sum of one hundred dollars each was asked from some of those who applied for warrants, others received them for sums varying from twenty to forty dollars.

Brother William R. Singleton, of Washington, has a photographic fac-simile of the original dispensation or commission purporting to be granted to Cross by Eckel and Niles, in which the Select Degree alone is mentioned.

Companion Josiah H. Drummond, of Maine, says that Bro. Folger's statement above quoted: is exceedingly erroneous and utterly unreliable. In 1816 these degrees were known to but very few, and their proper place had not been discussed. At that date the degrees were not, and never had been, conferred as a system. They were first united by Jeremy L. Oroes, in 1818. The proceedings of the General Grand Chapter for 1816 show that the subject was not before it at all. There was no two days' discussion, for the body was in session only two days and a short time in the morning of the third, and the record shows the continuous transaction of business, except that the last half of the second day was chiefly devoted to an address by the General Grand Chaplain. Nor was the State Grand Council of Royal Masters formed immediately after adjournment, for it was not formed till January, 1823, over six years afterward.

"Moreover, there is not the slightest evidence of the existence, at that time, of a single organized body of Select Masters in the world, but abundant evidence to the contrary. There was then in New York had only one Council of Royal Masters in active life – Columbian Council in New York City, organized as a voluntary body in 1810, without charter or warrant from any source. From correspondence of John Harris, of New Hampshire, in 1815, it seems that there had been a

Council of Royal Masters at Albany, but was then dormant; there was also a Council of Royal Masters at Hopkinton, New Hampshire, formed by four Royal Masters in 1815, of their own motion, and without any warrant. At the session of the General Grand Chapter in 1816, these were the only organized bodies of the Rite in the North; and in the South the select degree was then conferred only in temporary Councils. In fact I agree with Bro. Schultz, that up to that time the Select Degree only had been cultivated in the South, and the Royal Degree only in the North, except so far as the former had then been conferred by Abram Jacobs, and those receiving the degree from him. With this exception it was first brought North by Jeremy Cross.

"Cross was not appointed Grand Lecturer by the General Grand Chapter, but by some of its officers; as his correspondence shows, he did go to Baltimore, and undoubtedly there received the Select Degree from Eckel, and authority to confer the degree on Royal Arch Masons, but that he purchased the authority there is not the least evidence, and I do not believe. He then received no authority to establish Councils, and that idea was never broached by him until after his return from his Southern trip in the summer of 1817, and he had visited Baltimore and returned home and found there was then an organized Council (of Royal Masters) in New York City. Then he issued charters and sent them to the places where he had conferred the degrees, dating them back; but very few, if any, bodies were organized under those dated-back charters.

"These facts relating to Cross I derive from documents written at the time and in his handwriting, which I have personally examined, and of which I have copies."

Companion Drummond also states, on apparently good authority, that Eckel did not receive the Royal Master's Degree until 1819...

Companion Drummond says further:

"At the session of the Grand Chapter of Maryland in 1817, Hezekiah Niles, then Deputy Grand High Priest, sent in a communication in relation to the Select Degree; it was referred to a committee, and they reported the following resolution, which was adopted: Resolved, That all Royal Arch Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Royal Arch Chapter, shall have power to open and hold Chapters of Select Masters and confer the Degree of Select Master Mason on such as they may deem worthy of the same."

The same year Cole's "Ahiman Rezon" (printed by Benjamin Edes) was published, in which a full account of the Select Degree and of the manner of working it, is given...

In discussing California in 1888, Robertson observes the Grand Council was:

"Organized June 26th, 1860, by four Councils, two chartered by the Grand Council of Alabama, one by the Grand Council of Tennessee, and one by the Grand Council of Texas. It has met annually since, except in 1869. Its proceedings have been published, but until within a few years, only once in two or three years. They are paged consecutively for volumes, the first volume ending in 1873, the second not yet completed. Though three subordinates have surrendered their charters, it now has nine active Councils under its jurisdiction, with a membership of 874, a net increase of over one hundred during the last year. One of its subordinates is in Montana Territory. It is a constituent of the General Grand Council."

[It is interesting to note that California Cryptic Masonry grew in membership during both the Great Depressions of the 1870s and the 1930s.]

**Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California**



Illustrious Grand Master July Message

Dear Companions All,

Summer is a time of rejuvenation and growth. One of the things we can do this summer is renew our understanding of the origins of Cryptic Masonry. This has been a topic of controversy over the decades. On that note, we are including an article addressing this topic in this Sword and Trowel.

On a second note, our Lodges and Chapters are beginning to confer degrees this summer and in the fall. Remember: these men are potential Cryptic companions! Put yourselves forward and inform them of the benefits and meaningfulness of Cryptic Masonry.

Lastly, and on a personal note, I congratulate Sebastian and Damian Marano for having been initiated into the Order of DeMolay. I wish them well and all the best outcome as they take part in the efforts to establish a DeMolay Chapter in the Central Coast of our state.

Thank you and have great summer.

Most Illustrious Companion

Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

CRYPTIC RITUALS

Cryptic Rituals by George W. Warvelle

First published July 5, 1907, in *The American Tyler – Keystone* Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 271-273

The liturgic expression of the ideas, principles and traditions of Freemasonry is generally called "work," by analogy, I presume, to the actual physical employment of the early Craft when it was purely an operative guild. Every grand council, as well as the General Grand Council, prescribes some form of "work" to be followed and performed by its subordinates. As a general proposition, the lectures, as well as their practical renderings in the ceremonies of greeting, are those agreed upon and formulated by the Cryptic Convention which met at the City of New York in 1872-3. These rituals were formerly called "convention work" are still so spoken of by many of the old-timers.

The workings promulgated by the convention were, in many respects, a decided improvement on the crude methods practiced in many jurisdictions. This is true even of Illinois, for we had no uniform rituals in this state and every council was practically a law unto itself. The securing of a uniformity in sequence of degrees, titles of officers and rendering of the ritual was a great point gained and its benefits can hardly be overestimated. But in the settlement of the ritual the older tradition, then still held by a few states, was cast aside in deference to the wishes of the majority and for a time was almost forgotten. The new working was received and adopted in all quarters and the new generation that came in was utterly oblivious of the fact that there had ever been an earlier ritual.

A few years ago, I called attention to this earlier and well-nigh forgotten mode of work and suggested that its essential features could with profit be incorporated into the conventional ritual. Fortunately, we were not without ample date. The old ritual of Knoxville council had been preserved and furnished in crude form a part of the material from which an improved ritual could be constructed. An old monitorial ritual of the Royal Master's degree, compiled by Ebenezer Chase, of Massachusetts, and published in the "Masonic Casket" in 1823, shed still further light on the early and original lecture, while the undimmed memory of the venerable Edward Blackshaw furnished many details for the reconstruction of the degree. From all of these sources, as well as from the minutes of the council founded by Thomas Lownds at New York in 1807 and the early records of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, it was demonstrated that in the early ritual the character of H. A. B. was utterly unknown. His subsequent introduction came through Henry Wilman's degree of Select Master, when the two degrees were united into one system by Cross. The convention preserved the Cross system and the old and original lecture as practiced by the councils of New York and Massachusetts was discarded.

We found, however, that it was possible to preserve both the old and new. Not only that this was possible, but that by the union of the two each supplemented the other and served to explain or make more clear the ideas involved in either working. And so, today, the first section of the R. M. degree as conferred in the jurisdiction of Illinois, retains the workings prescribed by the convention, while the second section preserves the old work of Columbian council of New York, where the degree originated and was first conferred. The only changes we have made are slight phrasings, a few eliminations of duplicate matter, and the introduction of the incident of the candelabrum. This latter is an innovation, but the incident is not incongruous. On the contrary it forms a most symmetrical introduction to the drama and furnishes an explanation nowhere else afforded in Masonry. All who have seen the degree conferred are loud in their praises; all have found it beautiful and impressive, and as furnishing a key which the standard convention work omitted. I say, all—all but one. The grand master of Michigan thinks it is comparable only to a "dog show" and that the writer of these lines is like a sorry scribbler who attempts to re-edit Shakespeare or improve on the elegiac stanzas of Gray. All of which goes to show that the young man from Michigan is wise in his day and generation; in fact, another Danial come to

judgement, and that, from the viewpoint of at least on man, we did not know as much as we thought we did when we laid violent hands on the sacred work of the convention.

I presume there are few of you who at some time have not seen or heard the old and persistent story of Joseph Myers' importation of the Cryptic degrees. As the story goes, Myers brought the degrees from Berlin, Prussia, and in the year 1781, or 1788, for the accounts differ, he deposited the rituals in the Lodge of Perfection at Charleston and thereafter committed the authority for their diffusion to the Chiefs of Sublime masonry resident in that city. It was not until about forty years after the alleged deposit, and not until many years after the establishment of grand councils, that the chiefs made the facts known. Inasmuch as they were unable to produce the original rituals or any evidence of Myers' authority in the matter, the Masonic students have always regarded the statement as a sort of "pipe dream" on the part of the chiefs, and as something unworthy of credence.

I am inclined to believe that the story, to some extent at least, rests on a knowledge of the practices of the early German lodges and the coincidences found in the Select Master degree. Thus, from the earliest descriptions of the council chamber that have come down to us we find a prescription of triangular tablets, with a light on each angle, to be placed before the officers in the east. Neither the ritual nor its accompanying lectures furnish us with any very satisfactory explanation of this furniture. In the absence of such explanations we conclude that it represents an archaic survival, the original significance of which has been lost. But this form of table, and arrangement of lights, was employed in German lodges during the first half of the eighteenth century, and particularly is this true of the lodges located in Berlin. From the fact, therefore, of the coincidence of custom in the Berlin lodges and in the Select degree in America, it would be an easy matter for a lively imagination to deraign a descent of the latter from the former.

I have lately come across a little book published at Sulzback, Germany, in 1803. In this book the author, speaking of the initiation of Prince William of Prussia by Frederick the Great in 1740, describes an old and rare engraving in his possession. (Im Jahre 1740 nahm er selbst in der neuen Berliner Loge den Prinzen Wilhelm von Preussen in den Orden auf, wovon ich das seltne Kupferblatt habe.)

He then describes the picture as follows:

The King sits in the master's chair. Before him is an altar-shaped table upon which, in the form of a triangle, are placed three burning tapers. Near them are laid a sword, a gavel and skull. At the left hand of Frederick stands a warden. Before the table, without either sword or hat (which two brethren are holding) stands Prince William taking the oath.

I do not profess to be an adept in the translation of eighteenth-century German but I think I have faithfully rendered the spirit of the original. From the foregoing it will be seen that the east of the early German lodges resembled, in some respects, the east of a council of Select Masters and it is from this circumstance, probably, that the Chiefs of the Sublime degrees at Charleston evolved the romance of Joseph Myers' importation of the rite. A very searching investigation a few years ago revealed the fact that the Cryptic degrees are utterly unknown in Germany and, so far as could be ascertained, had never been heard of in that country.

For many years, the French tradition of Cryptic origins and diffusion was received without question. Even such Masonic scholar as the late Josiah H. Drummond endorsed the stories, for there were two of them. Further investigation subsequently induced him to discard his earlier opinions and to characterize the legends as untrue, or, at least, as not proved. Many persons, however, still cling to the old exploded fables and the pseudo-historian still drives his trade, as it is apparent from the lucid expositions which from time to time appear in the Masonic press.

One story is that Henry A. Francken, a Hebrew peddler of the eighteenth century, high degree Masonry, in the year 1767, introduced the Cryptic rite into the states of New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island by the institution of councils. As late as 1875 this story was generally accepted as correct. Just how, or where, or when, Francken received his degrees was never stated, but as he was an inspector general of the "Ineffable and Sublime" degrees and as the inspectors generally carried everything that any reasonable person could ask for, so it was assumed that he came rightfully by the Cryptic grades and had authority to sell them. Francken's stock in trade supposed to have been imported from France.

Another story was, that Joseph Cernau brought the degree of Royal Master to the city of New York, and in the year 1807 established a council for its exploitation. Cernau's authority was supposed to have been derived from the grand consistory in France.

Both of these romances passed current as genuine Cryptic history and were accepted by Mackey, and other writers. And particularly were they received by those who sought to trace the genealogy of the Cryptic degrees through the Scottish Rite.

With respect to the first store, there is not a scintilla of evidence to show that either of the Cryptic degrees were in existence in 1767, or that Francken ever heard of them, or that he ever conferred them. The whole story seems to be a pure fabrication. It grew out of the fact that Francken visited the city of New York in 1767, and while there conferred the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection on two gentlemen from Albany. Subsequently he gave them a warrant for the establishment of a lodge. The old records of these transactions, at one time supposed to have been destroyed, have been recovered, and there is not the slightest reference to the Cryptic degrees or a shadow of a foundation for the oft repeated yarn of Francken's introduction of the rite.

The other tale is equally destitute of truth. Cerneau was a resident of New York in 1807, at which time a council of Royal Master Masons was organized and from this circumstance the imaginative historians deduced the fact that he was the organizer. The old minutes of this council were found a few years ago and from them it appears that he was not even a member of the body.

But old myths die hard. The Scottish Rite historians are loath to relinquish their long-maintained hold on the genesis of the Cryptic degrees, and notwithstanding that the falsity of their claims has been often demonstrated they still continue to assert both the German and French traditions in support of their contentions.

Fraternally,

Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California



Illustrious Grand June Message

Dear Companions All,

his article starts my year as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons for the State of California. I have had the pleasure of serving the Grand Council for many years, and now it is time for me to step up as the MIGM. As most of you are aware, I have recently had three strokes and am in the process of recovery. I have been blessed with well wishes from Companions around the state, and working with all the Grand Council officers has been a wonderful and enlightening experience for me. Nobody gets to the position of Grand Master for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons without a lot of help, and I will need additional help this year. I have so many people to thank that I hardly know where to start. My Cryptic Council father, Brett MacDonald, is the first person I owe a thank you to because he was the one that started me on my Grand Council path. Next, I would like to thank Guy Chalmers, Deputy Grand Master, who has permission to speak on my behalf this year, and all the officers and officer's coaches who so patiently worked with me as I progressed through so many degrees and lines in the various Masonic organizations. Without their assistance, I would never have had the ability to learn all that was necessary to progress as I have. The next group of people I wish to thank are the Grand Officers that have gone before me. Being able to observe their work was truly a rewarding experience and equipped me with the knowledge necessary to accomplish what I have done.

The COVID situation today is in flux. There's a lot to be unhappy about there. Our society as a whole was challenged with shutdowns of most business, food service, and recreation opportunities. Our children were forced to adapt to distance learning over the inconsistent Internet and alone for the most part. As Brothers of the ancient craft of Masonry we are gifted with some incredible knowledge and direction accessed by research and learned through practice. This past year, most of us have attended Assemblies by Zoom. Most of the Companions who I have spoken to say they like the idea of a blended meeting where the Assembly is opened in person and then resumes in Zoom for those who are out of area or elderly. There is a structure to build on, and I hope to see the day when this all is commonplace. Looking at the future of our Cryptic Council, there is another article in this Sword and Trowel that describes 10 things your Council might want to do. You are not required to open assemblies in person for the time being. Please feel free to contact Richard Fonseca or Mark Harris if you have questions about blended assemblies. Thank you.

Thoughts for the New Cryptic Year

1. Assign members to call on companions to attend Zoom meetings/ and reserve seats at in-person opening for Assemblies.
2. Assign members to check on companions that were absent, but expected to attend.
3. Our Councils are not small. Average size worldwide of Masonic Lodges is 35 members.
4. Some Grand Lodges require Lodges to divide when they reach fifty members.
5. Fraternal connections are more than mere social connections.
6. California added thirty new lodges in the last decade. Prior to COVID, Masonry was growing worldwide.
7. When able to assemble, plan a Cryptic Festive Board, or family pot luck
8. Have discussion questions for Assemblies (publish questions in Trestleboard prior to Assembly).
9. Wear your Cryptic purple to lodge or a Christmas or Thanksgiving parade.

Fraternally,

Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH, & Lady Janice
161st Grand Master Cryptic Masons of California

***Sir Knight David W. Studley, KGC, KYGCH, 163rd Right
eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, Knights
Templar of California
Grand Commander's October Message***

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

Charles Dickens famously penned the following words in comparing London and Paris at the time of the French Revolution: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

And the superlative degree of comparison can only mean, Best or Most or whatever ultimate accolade one chooses to voice.

So why the literary allusion, you now may be asking yourself? Perhaps to remind us that there is nothing new under the Sun. Or that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. Whatever adage you select, we in the California Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, like our brethren in other Templar jurisdictions, are confronted by an intractable dilemma.

Our beloved Commandery and our parent the Grand Encampment are now locked in a fierce disagreement – possibly a battle – trying to decide whether power exercised by the Grand Master is absolute or subject to restraint? And if subject to restraint, how that issue should be joined? Arguments abound on both sides of the question. Some urge that the Grand Master can do whatever he decides is in the “best interest of Templary.” Others contend that absolute power is circumscribed by the requirements of fundamental fairness and procedural due process. Both sides presently seem willing to engage in a battle that, if fought, can only diminish the reputation of our Christian brotherhood.

As your Grand Commander, I plan to convene a Special Conclave of our Grand Commandery in November or early December (I have asked our Sir Knights to opine on a choice of dates) to decide whether to accede to the Special Call published elsewhere. If our voting members decide that is the prudent course of action, then we as a Grand Commandery can join with other jurisdictions in asking the Grand Encampment to review the recent Decisions and Actions of our Grand Master. When 9 or more Grand Commanderies jointly submit such a request, it is the constitutional duty of the Grand Master to convene such a session.

Impediments to seeking this relief abound. Scheduling, for one. The fact that all Grand Commanderies must agree to the same issues adopted in the Call. These are manageable with careful planning. Other obstacles seem intended solely to dissuade our Sir Knights from exercising their guaranteed rights under Grand Encampment Constitution. For example, the threat that unless the full cost of the Special Session is deposited in advance, which Grand Encampment claims will be \$150,000, that no session will be scheduled. Or the attempt by outsiders to justify the actions of the Grand Master and claim that any different outcome would be untenable, an obvious effort to stifle debate before any opportunity is afforded our Sir Knights.

I choose not to be diverted by these efforts to subvert the proper exercise of our Templar rights and urge you to decide similarly for yourselves. But I also ask, respectfully, that our passions be constrained and we approach this difficult task with objectivity and humility.

As Dickens said in yet another classic novel, “God bless you one and

“Fear Not: Proclaim and Celebrate Our Faith.”

**Courteously,
David W. Studley, KGC, KYGCH
Knights Templar of California**

Grand Commander's September Message

“Fear Not: Proclaim and Celebrate Our Faith.”

This article combines a piece that I wrote for the California Supplement of the *Knights Templar* magazine with some remaining thoughts. This introduction was necessitated because the KT Magazine has discontinued the inclusion of the State Supplements in the print version and now requires those who remain interested to search the website, click on the Supplement link, find the appropriate State and then select the necessary month. Excuse me for being dubious but I doubt many of you will go to that trouble. I hope I'm proved wrong, but

One of the things that disappoints me about this decision is that new contributors to the Grand Commanders Club and Grand Masters Club programs of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation will not see their names in print. I always liked the recognition given to our contributors and would, for the Sir Knights I knew, try to call and acknowledge their generosity. I still feel that way about those of you who commit your resources to this valuable and meaningful medical research. It saddens me that you may not be acknowledged to your peers.

Another disappointment is more personal. I've tried hard to provide content to you in my Message that might get you thinking about our Christian tradition and how it impacts our lives as Templars. Some of you have taken the time to acknowledge the message, for which I will always be grateful. This month I tried to tackle the issues of Time and Relativity, topics I'm barely literate about, but with a purpose. I wanted each of you to consider what you might do if God were to give you an additional day each month. Would you devote that time to considering your relationship to the universe and the ones you love? Would you consider how you could improve yourselves as men, leaders in your communities and Christians? I truly believe that most of you would. For me, when I wrote that State Supplement, I was thinking about my deceased lady, my wonderful, supportive and caring wife Hallie, who passed away last December. Because of this, I asked our editor Phil Hardiman, to reprint the article. Here it is:

September 2021 California Supplement

“If I could save time in a bottle, The first thing that I'd like to do, ...”

Jim Croce, *Time in Bottle* (1973)

Fellow Travelers on the Level of Time: How many of us have thought, “if I just had a little more time,” or perhaps, “if I had to do it over. ...” Most of us have, I'm guessing. But that musing got me to wondering about the meaning of time. Likely too metaphysical a topic for this brief monograph, but a curiosity of mine and one that I hoped my casual thoughts might pique your interest in too.

St. Augustine, an early Christian philosopher, observed in *Confessions* that time is ephemeral: the past is no longer; the future is not yet; the present is, but lasts a fleeting moment. To Augustine, time was an irreversible succession of linear events, progressing inexorably from the past, through the present, to the future.

Time as a linear concept was accepted dogma from the first awareness of seasons. But as so often happens, philosophers, science-fiction writers, and literary pundits began speculating about “what if.” What if we could travel back in time, whom would you visit? What if we could see the future, what would our lives be like? One notable author, H.G. Wells, penned a serial novella in 1895, entitled, *The Time Machine*. (I guess these days we'd call a serial novella either a comic book or a graphic novel. The Victorians are to be admired in many respects.) Most of us remember the story from High School English class: Wells' protagonist ventures forward thousands of years to a time when gentle, childlike creatures called Eloi live in pastoral innocence but are hunted at night for food by the fearsome, underground-dwelling Morlocks. Although societal commentary was surely behind Wells' plot, readers were fascinated by the concept of time travel.

Newtonian ideas about the relationship of material properties were questioned by theoretical physicists in the early 20th Century. Most importantly, Albert Einstein published his paper regarding the special theory of relativity in 1905. There he asserted that time was not constant but rather a relative. Einstein proposed that light traveling in a vacuum unaffected by gravity would alter time depending on the relative position of the observer. Thus, if a person were to board a spaceship traveling at near the speed of light and not subject to gravitational forces, the astronaut might complete the journey in what to him was but a few years. To an observer on earth, however, the trip would take decades. Thus, the 30-year-old astronaut might return home as a 35-year-old man, but his 30-year-old friends who remained behind would then be 80. Einstein called this concept the spacetime continuum, time being relative to the position and circumstances of the observer.

Einstein expanded his treatise with his general theory of relativity in 1915 to incorporate the effect of gravity. An explanation of this is well beyond the scope of my limited intellect but is fascinating reading for those of you with physics and/or mathematics curiosity. Subsequent astronomical observations have confirmed the presence of black holes as Einstein postulated, which raises the possibility of actual time-travel (I'm suggesting that you try this before me). The linear concept of time, evolving from past to future, is no longer the stuff of settled science.

My practice has been to try to tie my monthly columns to our faith. In that regard, September's message was prompted by a recent First Degree. At one point, the Master recites: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light:' and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3. To have a beginning, time must exist. Augustine argued that God created time at the conception of the Universe and that questions about what happened *before* creation are meaningless because "before" didn't exist. Try wrapping your head around the implications of that!

But to answer the question I first posed: what would I do if I could capture time? I think of my wonderful, recently departed wife Hallie, as you yourselves may think of your own families, and reflect on the remainder of Jim Croce's lyrics:

If I could save time in a bottle
The first thing that I'd like to do
Is to save everyday 'til
eternity passes away
Just to spend it with you.

God Bless. And Thank You for taking the time to read my own lamentation.

Courteously,
David W. Studley, KGC, KYGCH
Knights Templar of California

Grand Commander's August Message

“Fear Not: Proclaim and Celebrate Our Faith.”

Fellow Sir Knights, Companions and Faithful Readers:

August, a month of celestial splendor. For me, it was the month when football practice resumed, two-a-days, sled drills, running wind sprints and for those few of you who were fellow football travelers, the Burma Road. Awful. I know why athletes, even lowly Division III plodders like me, called it the “Dog Days”, because after the second practice each day, all of us were “dog tired.”

And that’s not so far from the truth of the matter. Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, appears in the Northern Hemisphere, rising generally in mid-to-late July and heralding the hottest part of the summer. It is approximately twice the size of our sun and because of its proximity and the composition of its elements, is the most luminous object in the night sky besides our moon and several planets of our solar system. It is the anchor star in the constellation *Canis Major*, translated from the Latin as the “greater dog” and thus earning the nickname, the “Dog” star. For those of you with an astrological inclination, it can be located by tracing a line downward from Orion’s belt (or at least it will be for the next 10,000 years or so).

Our Greek and Roman ancestors believed that the return of the Dog star signaled the onset of heat and fever, the spoilage of wine and the madness of dogs. It is mentioned in Homer’s *Iliad* and Seneca’s *Oedipus*, where the latter complains of “the scorching dog-star’s fires.” Perhaps Seneca had a vision of modern California.

Which brings me to the point: my schedule for the balance of the summer resembles the Dog Days that I recall with such exhaustion, albeit not from any current athletic enthusiasm. In-person gatherings have again emerged (for how long remains an open question), and travel is on the agenda. We all need to brush up on our opening and closing ritual and begin preparations for the upcoming festivals. It will be good to start back on the path to normal but that new “normal” will not be without challenges for us all. I wish you all Godspeed.

My calendar through Annual Communication appears below. I know many of the events are peculiar to me in my various roles, but I wanted to highlight how quickly my schedule, and that of my companions ME Ray Broomfield and MI Peter Champion is filling. But don’t be discouraged; there’s lots of time in the Fall. Enjoy the Dog Days.

**Courteously,
David W. Studley, KGC, KYGCH
Knights Templar of California**

Grand Commander's July Message

“Fear Not: Proclaim and Celebrate Our Faith.”

Greetings Sir Knights and Devoted Readers of Cross & Crown: I say “devoted” somewhat tongue-in-cheek as this is only the second issue of C&C, so devoted means you read the first one! But I’ve learned to accept graciously all accolades when offered, no matter how inconsequential and I recommend the same to you. Lessons learned at my mother’s knee.

I hope that Eminent SK Phil, who edits this publication, will include my latest General Order regarding Reopening (which I have yet to write, so any omission is on me, not Phil). Here, as a working summary, are the expected highlights:

- **State, County and Local directives supersede anything I might say. I know, I don’t think it’s fair either. So be sure to check the jurisdiction’s COVID website before wing my suggestions.**
- **The same rules will apply to practices, conclaves, degrees, and in-State festivals. See, however, point 1 above.**
- **We won’t have a Sergeant-at-Arms who is required to check for vaccination cards. Honor system prevails.**
- **Masks are required only for those not vaccinated. I don’t know why either if the vaccine prevents infection and the threat of contagion, but that’s the rule.**
- **Seating charts, distancing, and reservations are kaput. Thank the Lord for small favors!**
- **It’s up to the local Commandery whether to serve meals. I recommend that, until Cal-OSHA makes up its mind on the mask-for-servers mandate, that our servers wear masks. It might even be better to avoid prepared food service for a reasonable time to let this issue settle out.**

So on to brighter things. Masonic activities are starting to pick up. We Grand Officers have receptions scheduled for the San Francisco Peninsula York Rite on July 31 (12 noon, currently) and the East Bay York Rite on August 7 in Alameda (social beginning at 3 pm). Many of you are also starting to emerge from your Masonic cocoons, metamorphized into glorious York Rite butterflies. This means that at public and in- person meetings, the appropriate uniform does NOT include gym shorts and shower shoes!

Speaking of uniforms: at Receptions, if Class A is specified, then I encourage all Sir Knights to wear the chapeau, unless your commandery is cap and mantle or has all adopted the fatigue headwear. My personal view is that the chapeau distinguishes us and should be worn on formal occasions. Now, an addendum. Sometimes, it will be permissible for an officer to wear his blue jacket (Dodger blue, ugh), especially in the summer months if the reception is indoors. This is what I hope will be the case in Alameda because it’s hot upstairs and lacks AC. Generally, the Peninsula picnic is casual but I’ll specify the dress code when I hear.

So, summer’s here, we’re congregating outdoors again, my hearty wish to all is to enjoy the fellowship.

Courteously and fraternally,

**David W. Studley, KYGCH, KCT
163rd Grand Commander
Knights Templar of California**

Grand Commander's June Message

“Fear Not: Proclaim and Celebrate Our Faith.”

**Companions and Sir Knights,
My friends and Colleagues:**

As we begin our own “excellent adventure”, or perhaps more aptly, enter our *Brave New World*, a recognition of the challenges facing our Commanderies is appropriate. First and foremost, our local and statewide leaders face the tasks of reopening and reinvigorating our fraternity. Reopening is the easier chore but perplexing, nonetheless. We are commanded to follow State guidelines, whatever those may be, and abide by the procedures established by local Hall Associations for the safe resumption of our conclaves. This chore will undoubtedly be complicated by those who refuse to be vaccinated for whatever and however worthy their personal beliefs may be. While many of us might sympathize with these concerns, we are still required to follow Grand Lodge dictates implementing prescribed Statewide procedures. (The local news this morning reported that mask requirements may remain in effect into 2022. I am befuddled by the “science” supporting this restriction but adherence to State mandates is required.) There is certain to be tension regarding the checking of vaccination “passports” and the desire of our Sir Knights to freely participate in our gatherings. I wish you all well in these endeavors and encourage our officers to give thought in advance to managing these concerns.

Reinvigorating our brothers who can participate is the more difficult task. We haven't performed ritual for a year. Many of our celebrations, including the Easter and Christmas events, were not performed. We knighted no new Sir Knights after March 2020. It will be a task for most commanderies just to open in 9-man form. I know that our Inspector General and his staff of Inspectors are working hard to anticipate these difficulties and “re”-educate our Sir Knights. Practice never hurts. Even small groups can work on sword proficiency, floorwork and ritual recital. Your Inspectors are there to help. But you can address any questions, no matter how trivial and at whatever time of the day or night, to James Baum, Inspector General, (268) 669-5245 (the numbers spell “County Jail” on the telephone keypad, which is where you'll likely wind up if you take my advice and fail to go through your Inspectors first).

Grand Conclave. Attendance at our virtual business meeting and installation was outstanding, almost identical to what we've enjoyed at our in-person events. Accolades to SK Gregg Hall, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, for registering all the attendees and verifying the voting status of participants; and, to SKs Jordan Yelinek and Marty Cusing for scripting the remarks and flawlessly handling the electronic communications.

Our proposed Legislation passed with a single exception. Of note, our Sir Knights overwhelmingly adopted a \$5 increase in *per capita* tax and authorized any changes by Grand Encampment to the *per capita* tax to be included – and separately stated – in the annual bills. I will publish a General Order this month authorizing expedited approval of annual dues assessments by our local commanderies.

Scheduled Events. We're off to a slow start on receptions and events and most commanderies await the new State guidelines scheduled for June 15th. Hopefully, given time to assemble and practice, we can resume these festive gatherings this summer and fall.

At present, these are the scheduled events for Commandery:

June 12, 1:00 pm	Channel Islands 3-way Reception
(virtual) July 31, TBD	San Francisco Peninsula Picnic/Reception
August 7, 3:00 pm	East Bay York Rite Reception

Summer is upon us. Get outdoors, start barbecuing with friends and family, enjoy our upcoming July 4th celebration, and return to normal.

Courteously and Fraternally,

**David W. Studley, KYGCH, KCT
163rd Grand Commander
Knights Templar of California**



Secretary Essential's-Chapter

Secretaries new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.

Another good source of information for the Secretary can be found in the Grand Chapter Forms and Documents folder, called Chapter Secretary Desktop Procedures, at:

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Chapter>

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is:

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org

Scroll down and click on "York Rite Forms and Documents." Then click on the appropriate logo. A window opens where you enter the userid, which is "**cagyr**" and the password, which is "**brio**"

Scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to the Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

1. Dues Collection – You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.

2. Membership control -- Especially important is the very last item, "Royal Arch Monthly Report." This is relevant to you as a Secretary/Recorder if you do not yet have a userid for access to MMS – Masonic Membership Solutions. If you fill the paper report out each month, whenever you encounter changes to the membership, you will find it much easier at the end of the year to produce the year-end report, which is used to compute the amount of per capita the Chapter needs to pay. That payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.

3. Do not cavalierly suspend members for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: See Section 201 in the Constitution

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Chapter/ROYAL%20ARCH%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Council/Grand%20Council%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/cagyr/forms/Commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202018%20Rev1.pdf>

4. Per Capita -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year number of active members that is crucial for us when we compute your per capita payment. Without good data you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS.

5. Insurance -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary-Recorder.

6. Lodge Book of Marks – Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.

7. Minutes – Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s). Also, please send the candidate class names to the Grand Secretary.

8. Grand Sessions – Before the April meeting, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend, and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of the Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members cannot issue proxies. The appropriate forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials."

9. Order of High Priesthood – Be sure the current HP and PHPs know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander’s Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the secure website.



Recorders Essentials-Council

Forms & Documents: located at Grand York Rite website: [Grand York Rite of California](#).

Click on "**Special Documents.**"

Click on Grand Council Documents (In white). You will be presented with a screen (links):

- **[Grand Council COVID-19 Response](#)**
- **[Council Budget](#)**
- **[Council "pdf" Forms \(fillable\)](#)** Please use these pdf forms and if you find any errors, please notify web master as to error.
- **[Council Proceedings](#)**
- **[Council Questionnaires for Dias Officers](#)**
- **[Council Resolutions](#)**
- **[Close Full Form Cryptic Masons](#)**
[Illustrious Master of the Year - Report Card](#)
[Thrice Illustrious Masters Petition](#)
[Elected Representative Proxy Credentials](#)
[Elected Representatives Credential](#)
[2019 Grand Sessions Results](#)
- **[2020 Ample Form Usage by ADR & Inspectors](#)**
[2020 Election Procedures](#)

1. **Dues Collection:** You should send out dues' notices no later than **October**, with payments from members due by December 31st. MMS Database is used by Grand Recorder for per-capita billing to each Council of Cryptic Masons, with data updated by December 31.

2. **Membership control:** MMS Database is used to compute amount of per capita Council needs to pay. Billing is accomplished by Grand Recorder & payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits & deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members & you can easily then forward monthly newsletter, **Workman (Royal Arch Masons) & Sword & Trowel (Cryptic Masons) to them.**

3. Do not cavalierly **suspend members** for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved & not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See following sections of relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Section 30-10. SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

1. Any member whose dues & assessments are unpaid for a period of 12 months may be considered for suspension.

2. Prior to such suspension, Recorder, at first Stated Assembly following first day of August of each year, shall furnish to Illustrious Master a list of members who have not paid current dues & assessments. Such members, if possible, shall be personally contacted with reference thereto by Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of Work or member appointed for this purpose, who shall report thereupon at next Stated Assembly.

3. Members who have not paid current year's dues & assessments by last day of October, & for whom remission of dues has not been recommended by Illustrious Master, shall be notified by Recorder under seal of Council by first class mail to his last known address that either his dues for current year be paid or cause shown for such failure or he may be subjected to suspension by Council at last Stated Assembly of year. Council may, by vote, suspend such members effective 31st day of December, provided their dues have not been received & no action has been taken to remit dues for that cause.

4. **Per Capita:** Per-capita is billed to each Council by Grand Recorder. Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by Council to be paid.

5. **Insurance:** You will be billed for Insurance payment by Grand Secretary-Recorder. Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid.

6. **Minutes:** Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made & vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate basic petitioner information in minutes. It is also a good practice to keep names of attendees at each meeting in minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of cast members & candidate(s).

7. **Grand Sessions:** Before April meeting, remind Dais officers they are responsible to attend, & arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members cannot issue proxies. Appropriate forms can be obtained on Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative & Proxy Credentials."

8. **Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of California:** Be sure current Illustrious Master & Illustrious Past Masters' know they are eligible to receive this Order. Share petition with them & send to Grand Recorder. Petitions for all three bodies are available at website.



Scholarships

Companions, your children, grandchildren, & for some, great-grandchildren may receive financial help for attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center website, have them go to bottom of page & find the Scholarship Manual in (PDF format – 450KB) to download.

There they will find instructions for filling out the forms.

This is the [link](#) which will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All the information you need should be right there. This is a complete manual that you can download that talk about all of the scholarships available from the California Masonic Foundation as well as the [Scottish Rite](#), [York Rite](#), [Eastern Star](#), [High Twelve](#), [DeMolay](#), [Job's Daughters](#), & [Rainbow for Girls](#).

Grand Chapter Scholarships

For information about Royal Arch Scholarships go to the following website: [Scholarship Fund](#) or at

<https://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really “KNOW” they are available?

California Royal Arch \$1,000 Scholarship requirements:

- A member of the Masonic Family (ie: Rainbow, Jobs Daughter or Demolay)
- A US Citizen
- A California Resident
- A 3.0 Grade Point Average
- Enrolled or Accepted at an Educational Institution

Deadline to apply for Scholarship Program is explained on [Scholarship Fund](#) or at <https://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>. Scholarship requirements will remain the same. Early submissions can be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Chapter Secretary at

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons
Attn: Grand Secretary
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (562) 924-6500 x 1123
E-mail: sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org.

Once chosen, the award of \$1,000 is renewable for a total of 4 years, as long as the requirements are maintained. Do you know a Rainbow Girl, Job's Daughter or DeMolay that could benefit by knowing this information? What are you waiting for – make that call! Note above that no DeMolay received an award this year. If you know a qualified DeMolay, please bring this information to his attention.



Grand High Priest Chapter Under Dispensation

PETITION FOR THE MARK MASTER MASON DEGREE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Members of GRAND HIGH PRIEST CHAPTER U.D., Royal Arch Masons of California:

I, the undersigned petitioner, respectfully represent that I am a Master Mason member in good standing of _____ Lodge No. _____, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____; and that I desire to receive the Mark Master Mason Degree of Capitular Masonry.

I submit no fees with this petition. However, if I am elected, receive this degree, and if I subsequently wish to receive the degrees of Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Mason, I will submit a Petition to Affiliate with a local Chapter of Royal Arch Masons along with the degree fees required by that Chapter.

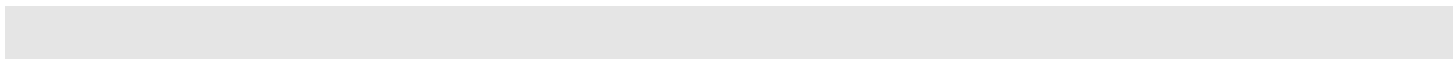
I further represent that I have not, within six months past, made application to and been rejected by any Chapter of Royal Arch Masons*; and I promise, if found worthy of membership, to conform to all the usages, customs, laws and regulations of the above named Chapter and the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California.

* If such application has been made, state the name and location of the Chapter on the line above.

FULL PRINTED NAME: _____
Residence Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Occupation: _____
Dated: _____ Signature: _____
Closest Chapter or Chapter Preference (if any): _____

REFER TO (Please Print):
Companion: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
REFER TO (Please Print):
Companion: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Secretary Pro Temp Area:
MMM Degree Conferred Yes / No Date Completed: _____
Affiliated with Royal Arch Chapter: _____ Date: _____
Notes:



Petition
Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of California

To The Grand Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters of California:

Companion First Middle Last

Address

Birth Date Telephone

I am a member of Council No.

I am was Illustrious Master of Council No.

Located at, having served during

Illustrious Companion Signature

Illustrious Masters and Illustrious Past Masters, who have not received the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, should complete this petition for membership and submit it with the required fee of \$40.00 to the Grand Recorder, 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2809 no later than April 1st of each year. The conferral of the degree will take place on the afternoon of the Grand Council Assembly. Make Check payable to: GRAND YORK RITE OF CALIFORNIA.

For Grand Recorders use only

Life Membership Fee \$40.00
Honorary Membership - no fee

The following were issued: Certificate
Jewel
Member card
Lapel Pin

Date petition received

Date initiated

MAIL TO: Grand Recorder
ATTN: TIM
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2809

TIM Form (rev. 1 - 2019)



CALIFORNIA
PAST COMMANDERS ASSOCIATION
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE PRINT _____, 20__

SIR KNIGHT _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

NUMBER/STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

AREA CODE BUSINESS PHONE AREA CODE RESIDENCE PHONE

I AM A MEMBER OF _____ COMMANDERY NO. _____, K. T.

LOCATED AT _____
CITY STATE

I WAS/AM COMMANDER OF _____ COMMANDERY NO. _____, K. T.

LOCATED AT _____ IN THE YEAR _____ A. D.
CITY STATE

SIR KNIGHT _____
SIGNATURE

For Recorder's Use Only

NUMBER

LIFE MEMBERSHIP - FEE OF \$30.00 RECEIVED

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

THE FOLLOWING WERE ISSUED:

JEWEL LAPEL PIN

CARD PATENT

BY-LAWS RITUAL

DATE RECEIVED

DATE INITIATED

MAIL TO: RICKEY O. WARD; 4265 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE; SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-3727

CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons

Most Excellent Companion

**Raymond A. Broomfield, DSM-B, KYGCH & Lady Christine
Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of
California**

Calendar

Grand Council, Cryptic Masons

Most Illustrious Companion

Peter G. Champion, KYGCH & Lady Janice

Grand Master, Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California

Calendar

Grand Commandery, Knights Templar

Sir Knight David W. Studley, KYGCH

**Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, Knights
Templar of California**

Calendar

Grand Secretary/Recorder:

Philip Hardiman, KTCH, PGHP

Grand Secretary/Recorder

1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Workman

Grand Secretary/Recorder – Assistant:

Thomas A Krummell, KCT, KYCH

Assistant Grand Secretary/Recorder

1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Editor

Richard E. Thornton, KCT, KYCH

Encompasser

Sword and Trowel

Grand York Rite of California

Facebook

Officers: Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California

<p>Most Excellent Companion <u>Raymond A. Broomfield</u>, DSM-B, KYGCH & Lady Christine Grand High Priest Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Ventura Chapter No. 50</p>	
<p>Excellent Companion <u>R. Scott Husmann</u>, KYCH & Lady Robyn Grand King Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California Delta Chapter No. 27</p>	<p>Excellent Companion <u>Thomas Chavez</u>, KYCH & Lady Angie Grand Scribe Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California California Chapter No. 1</p>
<p>Most Excellent Companion <u>Leland G. Routt</u>, DSM-B, KTCH, KYGCH, PGHP & Lady Leslie Grand Treasurer Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California Stockton Chapter No. 2</p>	<p>Most Excellent Companion <u>Phil Hardiman</u>, EKA, DSM-B, KTCH, KCT, KYGCH, PGHP & Lady Nancy Grand Secretary Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California Sacramento Chapter No. 3</p>
<p>Most Excellent Companion <u>Steven R. Goad</u>, KTCH, KYGCH, PGHP Grand Lecturer Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California Norris C. Viles Chapter No. 153</p>	
<p>Excellent Companion Walter G. Crossley Grand Chaplain North Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Oakland Chapter No. 36</p>	<p>Excellent Companion William S. Downey, & Lady Anita Grand Chaplain South Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Ventura Chapter No. 50</p>
<p>Excellent Companion <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u>, DSM-B, KCT, KYCH & Lady Marcia Assistant Grand Secretary Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Gold Country Chapter No. 11</p>	<p>Excellent Companion David E. Sokol, DSM-B, KTCH, KYCH & Lady Sandy Grand Captain of the Host Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Shasta Chapter No. 9</p>
<p>Excellent Companion <u>David G. Rathgeber</u>, & Lady Nancy Grand Principal Sojourner Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Jerrold A. Wohfarth Chapter No. 130</p>	<p>Excellent Companion Gary M. Iverson, & Lady Janet Grand Royal Arch Captain Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Whittier Chapter No. 91</p>
<p>Excellent Companion Lynn R. Wallingford, & Lady Charmaine Grand Master of the Third Veil Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Oxnard Chapter No. 86</p>	<p>Excellent Companion Rees W. Padfield Grand Master of the Second Veil Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Oxnard Chapter No. 86</p>
<p>Excellent Companion Oliver Martinez Grand Master of the First Veil Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Woodland Chapter No. 46</p>	<p>Excellent Companion Marty M. Cusing, & Lady Jennifer Grand Orator Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California California Chapter No. 1</p>
<p>Excellent Companion Francisco de A. Marques Grand Marshal North Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Sacramento Chapter No. 3</p>	<p>Excellent Companion Steven D. Lerner, & Lady Roxanne Grand Marshal South Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California Jerrold A. Wohlfarth Chapter No. 130</p>
<p>Excellent Companion <u>Thomas E. Colgan</u>, & Lady Addie Grand Soloist</p>	<p>Excellent Companion Massimo del Grande, Lady Julie Grand Sentinel Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons California</p>

Officers: Grand Council Cryptic Masons California

We, Grand Officers of your Grand Cryptic Council, have pledged to serve you, our beloved Companions of the Cryptic Arch, to achieve excellence & satisfaction of your well-earned labor. We aim for your best & most imaginative efforts as we emerge from this life-changing pandemic to reconstruct our world in a better way

Most Illustrious Companion
Peter G. Champion, KYGCH & Lady Janice
Grand Master Grand Council Cryptic Masons of California
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38

Right Illustrious Companion
Guy M. Chalmers, KYCH & Lady Jeanne
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Redwood Empire Council No. 46

Right Illustrious Companion
Michael T. Sherman, KYCH
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Helix Council No. 58

Right Illustrious Companion
Thomas A. Krummell, KYCH & Lady Marcia
Grand Treasurer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sierra Nevada Council No. 13

Right Illustrious Companion
Philip Hardiman, KYGCH, PGHP, & Lady Nancy
Grand Recorder
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sacramento Council No. 1

Right Illustrious Companion
K. Mark Harris, KYCH
Grand Director of Ritual
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Oakland Council No. 12

Right Illustrious Companion
Thomas A. Krummell, KYCH & Lady Marcia
Assistant Grand Recorder
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sierra Nevada Council No. 13

Right Illustrious Companion
Michael J. Ramos
Grand Chaplin (North)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sword and Trowel Council No. 65

Right Illustrious Companion
Christopher N. Radcliffe & Lady Deyanira
Grand Chaplin (South)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Helix Council No. 58

Right Illustrious Companion
Jeffrey A. White, KYCH & Lady Lisa
Grand Captain of the Guard
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Pacific Council No. 37

Right Illustrious Companion
Andrew B. Pippin, KYCH, & Lady Juli
Grand Conductor of the Council
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Ventura Council No. 15

Right Illustrious Companion
Christian G. Marano, KYCH & Lady Mara Cristina
Grand Stewart
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38

Right Illustrious Companion
Jonathan H. Prestage & Lady Hanna
Grand Orator
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sword and Trowel Council No. 65

Right Illustrious Companion
Christopher Robert Trueblood
Grand Marshal (North)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Sword and Trowel Council No. 65

Right Illustrious Companion
Matthew J. McColm & Lady Chelsey
Grand Marshal (South)
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Helix Council No. 58

Right Illustrious Companion
Dean A. Clark and Lady Chris
Grand Sentinel
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
San Luis Obispo Council No. 38

Right Illustrious Companion
Floyd Griffin
Grand Soloist
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Ventura Council No. 15

Right Illustrious Companion
Peter Lynn Cunningham
Grand Bible Bearer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons

Right Illustrious Companion
Mark Alexander Nielsen & Lady Nicole
Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Council Cryptic Masons

Officers: Grand Commandery Knights Templar California

<p>Sir Knight <u>David W. Studley</u>, KYGCH Right Eminent Grand Commander Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Pacific Commandery No. 3</p>	
<p>Sir Knight <u>Craig L. Flagtwet</u>, KYCH Deputy Grand Commander Grand Commandery Knights Templar California St. Bernard Commandery No. 23</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Roger S. Ross</u>, KYCH Grand Generalissimo Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Orange County Commandery No. 36</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>Jordan T. Yelinek</u>, KYCH Grand Captain-General Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Morris Siminoff Commandery No. 80</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Anthony C. McLean</u> Grand Treasurer Grand Commandery Knights Templar California St. Bernard Commandery No. 23</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>Phil Hardiman</u>, OSV, KYGCH, PGHP Grand Recorder Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Sacramento Commandery No. 2</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Raymond E. Davies</u> Grand Prelate Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Golden West Commandery 43</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>Joseph K. Dongo</u>, KYCH Grand Senior Warden Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Sacramento Commandery No. 2</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Rick L. Baca</u>, KYCH Grand Junior Warden Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Los Angeles Commandery No. 9</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>D. Mike Edwards</u>, KYCH Grand Standard Bearer Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Marysville Commandery No. 7</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>William J. Miklos, III</u> Grand Sword Bearer Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Auburn Commandery No. 4</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>Jarrold D. Washington</u> Grand Warder Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Auburn Commandery No. 4</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Efren D. Prado</u> Grand Sentinel Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Vacaville Commandery No. 38</p>
<p>Sir Knight <u>James G. Baum</u>, KCT, KYGCH Director of Ritual Grand Commandery Knights Templar California High Desert Commandery No. 79</p>	<p>Sir Knight <u>Thomas A. Krummell</u>, KCT, KYCH Assistant Grand Recorder Grand Commandery Knights Templar California Auburn Commandery No. 52</p>





A "Class of 25" at the Fall Pilgrimage in Alameda.



Great October Stated meeting and Golden Veteran's Award ceremony



