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THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION VEHICLE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP. THE PUBLICATION IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT ALL CONVOCATIONS, ASSEMBLIES AND CONCLAVES OF THE YORK RITE WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. EDITOR: SK J.E.ARMSTRONG CONTENT SUBMISSIONS TO: JEA800@YAHOO.COM

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite (SJ) USA
 A short biography of Albert Pike 33°



Albert Pike, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 29, 1809, and was the oldest of six children born to Benjamin and Sarah Andrews Pike. He was raised in a Christian home and attended an Episcopal church and passed the entrance examination at Harvard College when he was 15 years old, but could not attend because he had no funds. Pike's life changed dramatically in 1831, when he got the urge to go west. After traveling as far as Santa Fe, Pike settled in Arkansas, where he worked as editor of a newspaper before being admitted to the bar. In Arkansas, he met Mary Ann Hamilton, and married her on November 28, 1834. To this union were born eleven children. On August 15, 1861, he was commissioned Brigadier General in the army of the Confederate States, and at the battle of Pea Ridge he commanded a brigade of Indians. Pike resigned his Confederate commission on July 12, 1862, and his resignation was accepted on November 5, 1862. In 1876, Pike's wife, Mary Ann Hamilton, died, of the children three would survive him.

His Masonic Career

He was 41 years old when he applied for admission in the Western Star Lodge No. 2 in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1850. Active in the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, Pike took the 10 degrees of the York Rite from 1850 to 1853. He received the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite in March 1853 from Dr. Albert Gallatin Mackey (1807-1881) in Charleston, S.C. Pike was appointed Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas on November 7, 1864, from 1853 onward he was, at various times, chairman of numerous committees and boards, as well as Grand Representative of four jurisdictions.

The Scottish Rite had been introduced in the United States in 1783. Charleston was the location of the first Supreme Council, which governed the Scottish Rite in the United States, until a Northern Supreme Council was established in New York City in 1813. The boundary between the Southern and Northern Jurisdictions, still recognized today, was firmly established in 1828. Mackey invited Pike to join the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction in 1858 in Charleston, and he became the Grand Commander of the Supreme Council the following year. Pike held that office...

Continued Page: 8



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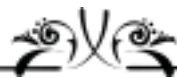


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 "Masonry on the Rise"*

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2009 CALIFORNIA GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS COMPANIONS AND SIR KNIGHTS

On behalf of the 2009 Grand York Rite Committee, we welcome you to the Marriott-Bakersfield (formerly the Holiday Inn Select). The hotel has been completely remodeled and is ready for your enjoyment. I urge you to make your reservations early. (Note- reservation forms, that are post marked after 3/28/09 are subject to a 25% late fee.)

The keynote speaker at the Grand York Rite Banquet will be Most Worshipful Larry Adamson, Grand Master of Masons of the state of California. Most Worshipful Larry is a member of our York Rite Bodies. He is sure to bring us a very inspiring message.

The ladies hospitality room will be hosted by Los Angeles Assemble # 42 Social Order of the Beauceant. I am certain that they will have some fun and games and delicious snacks & beverages for your enjoyment. We are going to schedule an Allied Masonic Degree Ingathering this year, at 7:00 pm on Saturday night. There will not be a Saturday night BBQ this year. If your A.M.D. is interested, please contact Richard Cooper at (661) 259-4350. The annual Golf tournament will be held at the Sycamore Canyon Golf Course at Arvin. See the reservation form for more information.

The Souvenir Program has been a very successful financial support for our Grand York Rite Sessions. I urge you to continue your assistance in the solicitation of Ads for our upcoming Grand Sessions Souvenir Program. The request forms and information are published in this edition of the Encompasser.

See the reservation form for the schedule of events. The Grand Council will kick off on Monday morning, the Grand Commandery, on Tuesday and the Grand Chapter on Wednesday. All of the Grand Officers are ready for the 2009 York Rite Sessions. They depend on your attendance and loyal support to make this year a success.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Richard T. Cooper
General Chairman, 2009



Content Submission Guide & Schedule

- Standard data submission deadlines are as follows; 1st quarter issue [December 1st], 2nd quarter issue [March 1st], 3rd quarter issue [June 1st], and 4th quarter issue [September 1st].
- Data received after dates noted above will be scheduled for publishing in the following quarterly issue.
- Data types; pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx, and txt...jpeg, tiff, bmp; and most general digital file types.
- Submissions over 8MB in volume must be submitted by *FTP (File Transfer Protocol). Please contact the editor.
- Articles & announcements about your Chapter, Council and Commandery wanted.

ITEMS OF NOTE...

— In This Issue —

- **Biography of Albert Pike – Brief**
- **Grand York Rite Sessions – Letter**
- **Grand York Rite Sessions – Event Application**
- **Knights of St. John of Jerusalem – Article**
- **Freemasonry is a ‘system of education’ – Education**
- **A Concise History – Article**
- **Soldier Shatters World Record – Article**
- **California Commandries All Drill Team – Application**
- **Golden State Chapter of Research – Research Paper Competition**

Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California

The late M.:E.:Companion Carl R. Moore of Doric Chapter № 66 was Grand High Priest of the M.:E.: Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California in 1951. He presented a Resolution for the encouragement of Capitular Education in 1950 and the formation of a Research Chapter in 1951. The Golden State Chapter of Research was chartered in 2003 by M.:E.:Companion Edgar W. Fentum.

Conditions

Papers must not exceed 5,000 words.

The subject matter must be related to Freemasonry.

1. The paper must not have been previously published in print or on the Internet.
2. All Masons who are members in good standing in the Grand Lodge of California are eligible—excluding the Award’s adjudicators and panel members.
3. All quoted material must be identified and referenced in a Bibliography.
4. Title and outline to be submitted to the Moderator **by December 1st 2008**.
5. The completed Paper must be in double spaced 12 point manuscript in print or on CD to the Moderator with an administrative fee of \$5 by **March 2, 2009**. The Paper must be in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect. The pages must be numbered at the bottom center.
6. A separate title page must include the subject title, name, address, telephone number, Lodge name and number with email (if any).
7. The Papers, without the name of the author or title sheet, will be submitted to a Panel of anonymous adjudicators to decide the winner.
8. All authors will be informed of the **winner by April 21, 2009**.
9. The Chapter prefers to publish selected entries on its website. However, no paper will be placed on the Internet until consent has been obtained from the author. Papers dealing with esoteric content may be edited by the Chapter as appropriate prior to publication.

Carl R. Moore Award

The winner will receive a **tribute of \$200** together with a Certificate from the Golden State Chapter of Research. Winners who are members of the Chapter of Research will receive the title of ‘Fellow’ and the runner-up will be known as a ‘Licentiate’ of the Golden State Chapter of Research. Masons and Royal Arch Masons who are selected, but are not members of the Royal Arch or the Chapter of Research will be listed as ‘Honorary Fellows’ and ‘Honorary Licentiates’ on the Web site.

Contact the Moderator: Edgar W. Fentum. 34400 Mission Blvd. Union City. Ca 94587-3604
Tel 510 476 4839 fentumew@gmail.com <http://goldenstatechapter.org/>



...**KNIGHTS: Ccontinued** while 200 ships blockaded the harbor. The force was later strengthened by the Grand Vizier ‘Suleiman the Magnificent’ with more ships and his best troops. Rhodes was defended by about 7500 ‘Men at Arms’ including 270 Knights.

The constant bombardment from land and sea plus the undermining of the walls took its toll. The defenses were in ruins while food and weapons were in short supply. Despite this the Knights and defenders acquitted themselves with honor and with devastating effect upon the Turks. it is recorded that many attacks were repelled including one on the English ‘tongue’ that resulted in the death of over 2000 Turks.

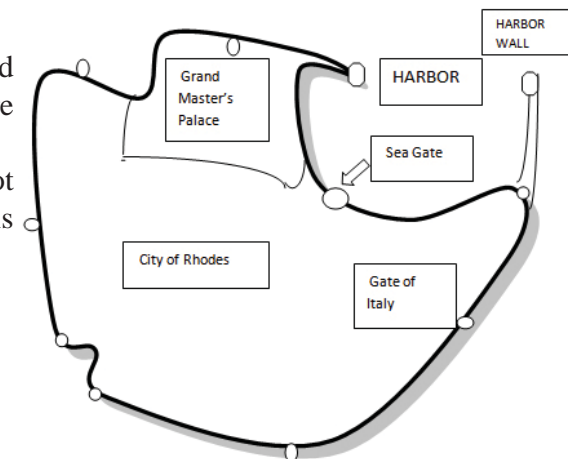
By this stage of the fighting about 50,000 Turks and 2000 Christians had fallen. The Knights wanted to fight on but were driven by the populace to call a truce. A treaty was agreed with Suleiman, after which about 4000 residents of Rhodes including the defending Knights sailed away to Crete and eventually to settle in Malta and became known as the Knights of Malta And that is not ‘.... the end of the story’!

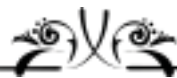
FORTRESS OF RHODES

N.B. The Order in Malta fought mostly on the sea against the spread of the Ottoman Empire. From there they moved to Rome. The Knights were revived in 1834 as part of a Roman Catholic religious Order

As my wife and I left Rhodes we lamented the fact that we had not allowed sufficient time to enjoy the delightful hospitality and history of this beautiful historic island.

Submission By:
Edgar W. Fentum P.G.H.P., K.Y.G.C.H.





CALIFORNIA COMMANDERIES ALL DRILL TEAM CAPTAIN'S

Your drill team committee is busy preparing a schedule for the 2009 competition. We have a schedule for a Class "B", Class "C" & Class "D" team. All Commandery that is interested in entering a Drill Team. Should contact the Drill Team committee chairman, to obtain an application and a copy of the schedule, for the class your Commandery wishes to enter.

The Drill team committeemen are:

Richard T. Cooper- Chairman
Phone #-(661) 259-4350
e-mail address is -rcooper005@ca.rr.com
Or contact:
Robert W. Holder @ (661) 270-9012
David J. Kussman @ (714) 524-8790

All Commanderies are urged to enter a Drill team. It only requires that nine dedicated Sir Knights plus two Supernumeraries.

(D) Team—2 Sets of Threes—2 Guides—1 Captain
2—Supernumeraries
Total of 11 Sir Knights

(C) Team---3 Sets of Threes---2 Guides---1 Captain
2---Supernumeraries
Total of 17 Sir Knights

(B) Team---4 Sets of Threes---2 Guides---1 Captain
2---Supernumeraries
Total of 23 Sir Knights

Last year there were four teams entered in the competition. If your Commandery is interested, I urge you to contact a committeeman early. We will assist you as much as possible.

Richard T. Cooper Chairman



GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH

The Officers are:

High Priest. Edgar W. Fentum PGHP
King. John L. Cooper PHP
Scribe Mark Sandstrom PHP .
Treasurer Kenneth Hope HPGHP
Secretary Al Lewis PHP

Web Address: <http://goldenstatechapter.org>

The Carl R. Moore 'Research Paper' Competition
Promoting Excellence in Masonic Research



2009 Grand York Rite Sessions April 25th to April 29th, 2009 – Bakersfield, CA

Each person attending must fill out a registration form (Please print your names and titles as you would like it printed on your badge)

Name: _____ Lady/Guest: _____
Title(s): _____
Lady / Guest Title(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____
RAM # _____ CM # _____ KT# _____ e-mail: _____

Arrival Date / Time: _____ Departure Date / Time: _____ Shuttle Requested?
Arriving Via: Driving Bus Train Flight Departure Via: Driving Bus Train Flight Yes No
 No Meals Requested or PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK THE AMOUNT IN THE ENTRÉE CHOICES

Day	Date	Time	Event / Meal	Quan.	Price	Total
Sat	April 25 th	9:30 AM tee time Open to all attendees	Golf Tournament Preference of Others in your foursome		\$40.00	
Sun	April 26 th	11:30 AM	Battalion & Belles Luncheon Sunrise Breakfast Buffet		\$25.00	
		6:30 PM	Grand York Rite Banquet Entree Choice: Slow Roasted Flank <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Marsala <input type="checkbox"/> Veg <input type="checkbox"/>		\$38.00	
Mon	April 27 th	7:00 AM	Grand Council Breakfast: "Tiny's Special" <i>Open to the Companions and the Ladies</i>		\$22.50	
		12:00 PM	Grand Council and Ladies Luncheon: Turkey, Ham & Cheese Croissant <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$20.00	
Tue	April 28 th	7:00 AM	Grand Commandery Breakfast: French Toast <i>Open to Sir Knights and the Ladies</i>		\$20.00	
		12:00 PM	KT Ladies Luncheon & Fashion Show: "Life is a Beach" dress is beach casual Mandarin Orange Chicken Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$22.50	
		12:15 PM	Grand Commandery Luncheon: Chicken Alfredo Pasta <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$23.50	
Wed	April 29 th	7:00 AM	Grand Chapter Breakfast: English Muffin & Eggs <i>Open to Companions and the Ladies</i>		\$20.00	
		12:00 PM	RA Ladies Luncheon: Tortellini Al Fresco <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$22.50	
		12:15 PM	Grand Chapter Luncheon: "The French connection" <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/>		\$22.50	

Check# _____ payable to **Grand York Rite of CA** Signature: _____ **TOTAL:** _____
or Visa / MC / AMEX: _____ Exp / / _____
If your credit card billing address is different than the address above, please provide the billing address on the back of this form

Do you prefer your meals confirmation: email none phone call (latest time to call _____)

Please send this form and payment to: CA-GYRS 6431 Valley Hi Dr Sacramento, CA 95823-4838
Reservation forms postmarked after 3/28/09 are subject to a 25% late fee

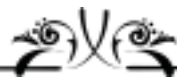
Contact the Marriott Bakersfield Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn Select)
801 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301 at (661) 323-1900
for your hotel reservation before 03/28/09 Room rate: \$86.00 + tax per night

Questions, please contact: Richard Cooper General Chairman (661) 259-4350 chairman@ca-gyrs.org
or: James Baum, Executive Officer (760) 843-9258 executiveofficer@ca-gyrs.org
Dave Glass (about meal reservations) (916) 454-5335 reservations@ca-gyrs.org

S:WW

No refunds after April 10th, 2009 unless approved by the Grand York Rite Sessions Executive Committee
More forms are available from www.ca-gyrs.org along with menus and further details.





Knights of St. John of Jerusalem

One of the many memorable visits on our recent tour was to the old fortress town of Rhodes in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The earliest historical records of the Island of Rhodes go back to 1500 B.C. However, my interest was in 'The Knights of St. John' founded after the First Crusade. This is not to be confused with Masonic Order of the 'Knight of St. John the Evangelist' that is part of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine for the United States of America, Mexico and the Philippines.

As we stood in the narrow cobble stone streets near the high walls of the fortress we could well imagine in 1480 the heroic and frantic efforts of the inhabitants to repair the damage and dig an improvised moat within the walls. Men, women and children, Jews, Armenians and Christians alike would have been scrambling to clear debris as Turkish cannon balls, with resounding thuds impacted the walls. The violent vibrations caused dust and cracks to appear as large slabs of plaster fell inwards on the inhabitants. Through the noise they could hear the sound of the incessant drums, the banging of weapons against shields and cries of 'Allah Akbar' – 'God is the greatest'. From above through the dust and smoke arrows rained down from the sky.

The Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (after St. John the Baptist) was also known by different names during its history. Some of these names were: Sovereign Military Hospitallers Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta; Order of St. John; Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta; Knights of Malta; Knights of Rhodes; Chevaliers of Malta; Knights Hospitallers of St. John and later as Knight of Rhodes.

These Knights of St. John were formed in the 12th Century by Pierre Gerard, also known as Blessed Gerard, an enigmatic and legendary figure of whom little is known. The formation was based upon the Amalfian Hospice that became the Order of Hospitallers. Together with its rival, the Knights Templar, it became a strong defender of the Christian Faith.

In August 1309, after a period of unrest in Cyprus the Knights of St. John and Grand Master Frater Guillaume de Villaret, moved to Rhodes. In 1312 (after the demise of the Knights Templar, they received much of the Knights Templar property and became a powerful force against the westward surge of the Ottoman Empire. Despite a revolt among their own Knights in 1317 and a conflict with the Greek Orthodox Church the Knights of St. Johns developed Rhodes into a commercial and thriving port.

The fall of the Byzantine Empire to the Turks finally reached Rhodes and on the 23rd May 1480 a fleet of 170 ships with 100,000 Turkish soldiers arrived to besiege the city. The defense of the city was arranged in 'tongues' or sections of the perimeter of the walls and these were allocated to different Countries or Provinces. These sections were divided into Italy, Provence, Aragon, England, Spain, Castile, Auvergen, Germany, France and one section to the Grand Master in his strongly fortified Palace on the North side of the fortress. The siege lasted nearly three months

At dawn on the 27th July 1480 2500 Turkish janissaries came through the gaps in the wall and over the Tower of Italy into a newly and hastily dug moat. Here their superiority of numbers was negated. In the narrow confines of the streets where a few well trained Knights could stand shoulder to shoulder and swing their broad swords to devastating effect. Others on horseback could charge down the narrow streets with lance and mace. Men at Arms stood with Pike and Halberd jabbing and slashing at the Turks. From above on the roof tops and narrow windows Christian arrows and missiles rained down on the Turks. In this city of many narrow side streets. The Turks were held in a trap. Yet, they still came forward in waves, climbing over their own dead and dying, and eventually through weight of numbers forced the Knights back.

As the battle progressed it seemed the Turks had won the day and resistance by the Christians was failing. The Knights in the heat and in heavy armor fought almost to exhaustion. It all seemed lost. One final effort and the Turks would have overrun the city.

Then like a Hollywood movie reinforcements arrived led by the Grand Master Frater D'Aubusson who had driven back the attackers from the northern sector of the city. A further three hours of intense hand-to-hand fighting in summer heat and heavy armor took its toll with blood shed on both sides. At the vital moment it was not the Knights who gave quarter but it was the Turk's will and determination that was broken. They began to withdraw carrying their wounded commander-in chief. Standing there in the warm mild winter month of January it was difficult to image a long battle in August!

...Continued Page: 9

Page: 9

...**KNIGHTS: Continued** The Grand Master Frater D'Aubusson, although wounded five times, led the final counter attack to drive the Turks from the city. The Hospitallers fought their way outside the walls to the tent of the Grand Vizier and captured the Holy Islamic Standard. This chivalric and heroic attack was a morale killer for the Turks and a boost to the defenders. At the end of the day there lay nearly four thousand dead Turks and many more were wounded. The first siege of Rhodes ended three weeks later on August 17th 1480 when Meshach Pasha with his army boarded their ships and sailed away.

We walked down the narrow 'Street of the Knights' where the Knights had their quarters. It was easy to see that the town and specially the Grand Master's Palace were designed to be defended. The Grand Master's Palace was a fortress in itself with two main stone staircases. One staircase was inside a courtyard and the other staircase inside large doors within the Palace. Both were overlooked by windows from which arrows could be aimed at the invaders. The staircases were wide with no balustrade so three or four 'Men at Arms' with a pike could force the invaders over the side to crash on the stone floor below.

Many doors within the Palace were small while the rooms were large. The attackers were forced to come through the narrow doors that could be defended by a few Knights. There were many secondary staircases along the corridors from which defenders who knew their way could move about the Palace and position themselves behind an invading force.

We have a misty eyed romantic view of gallant and Chivalric Knights. Yet, I saw paintings of naked Turkish captives who, after being tortured are seen dangling from beams while others were impaled upon pikes above the battlements. It reminded me that these were barbaric times. Both the Jews and the Armenians in the city suffered persecution and privation at the hands of the Christian Knights

The second siege of Rhodes from June 1522 to the January 1523 was even more bloody and violent than the first. A strengthened and determine force with over 200,000 Turks attacking the Fortress

...Continued Page: 11



Soldier Shatters World Record for Rucksack-Run

By The Bayonet, Caroline Gotler



2nd Lt. Dustin McClure set a new world record for fastest 5,000-meter run with a 40-pound rucksack Oct. 12 at Fort Benning's Stewart Field. McClure completed the run in 20:06, shattering the previous record of 22:20 set by Spc. Jake Truex in 2006 in Hanau, Germany. McClure finished 24 seconds under his personal goal, and his feat qualifies him for a spot in the 2009 Guinness Book of World Records. When asked about the accomplishment he said "I feel good about it."

McClure trained for less than two months for the run, but was "very confident" he would easily break the record. Many of McClure's colleagues turned out to cheer him on, which he said helped him stay motivated during the run. "I had a bit of a chest cold, and so my

breathing was different," he said. "It definitely played a role."

McClure's success comes three years after he first considered going for the record, and he credits his drill sergeant with inspiring him.

"When I joined the Army in 2005, I ran two miles in under 10 minutes," he said. "My drill sergeant was impressed and showed me an article about the guy who held the record for the rucksack run. He challenged me to set a new speed record."

McClure said he didn't give much thought to his drill sergeant's challenge until he began running with a Soldier who was training for a marathon and realized that he could keep up.

Because of the high number of record attempts that Guinness receives each year, the company can't guarantee that McClure's record will make it into print. But, his record-breaking days are far from over. After learning of McClure's success, Guinness representatives contacted him with a challenge of competing in a 10,000-meter run.

"Guinness has waved the carrot in front of my face," McClure said. "I'm definitely going to attempt it as soon as possible."

Brother/Companion/Sir Knight Dustin is a member of BarstowBoron lodge # 682, High Desert Chapter # 127, Oasis Council # 64, and High Desert Commandery # 79. The High Desert supports all efforts of our troops and prays that they will have a safe and prosperous career.

ALBERT PIKE: Continued ...from 1859 until his death, while supporting himself in various occupations such as editor of the Memphis Daily Appeal from February 1867 to September 1868, as well as his law practice. Pike later opened a law office in Washington, D.C., and argued a number of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. However, Pike was impoverished by the Civil War and remained so much of his life, often borrowing money for basic living expenses from the Supreme Council before the council voted him an annuity in 1879 of \$1,200 a year for the remainder of his life. He died on April 2, 1892, appropriately enough, in the Scottish Rite Temple in Washington, D.C. It had been his wish to be cremated and have his ashes spread in the vicinity of the Home of the Supreme Council. Instead, he was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington. Here he remained until 1944, when his body was removed to the Scottish Rite Temple. A statue of Pike was erected in Washington by the Supreme Council. It is the only statue of a Confederate general sitting on federal property in Washington, D.C.

Realizing that a revision of the ritual was necessary if Scottish Rite Freemasonry were to survive, Mackey encouraged Pike to revise the ritual to produce a standard ritual for use in all states in the Southern Jurisdiction. Revision began in 1855, and after some changes, the Supreme Council endorsed Pike's revision in 1861. Minor changes were made in two degrees in 1873 after the York Rite bodies in Missouri objected that the 29th and 30th degrees revealed secrets of the York Rite.

Pike is best known for his major work, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, prepared for the Supreme Council of the Thirty Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States and published in 1871. *Morals and Dogma* should not be confused with Pike's revision of the Scottish Rite ritual. They are separate works. Walter Lee Brown writes that Pike "intended it (*Morals and Dogma*) to be a supplement to that great 'connected system of moral, religious and philosophical instruction' that he had developed in his revision of the Scottish ritual." *Morals and Dogma* was traditionally given to the candidate upon his receipt of the 14th degree of the Scottish Rite. This practice was stopped in 1974. *Morals and Dogma* has not been given to candidates since 1974. A *Bridge to Light*, by Rex R. Hutchens 33° G.C. is provided to candidates today. Hutchens laments that *Morals and Dogma* is read by so few Masons. A *Bridge to Light* was written to be "a bridge between the ceremonies of the degrees and their lectures in *Morals and Dogma*."

Western Star Lodge No. 2, Little Rock, Arkansas

Entered Apprentice: July 1850

Fellow Craft: July 1850

Master Mason: November 4, 1850

Demitted: November 4, 1852

Magnolia Lodge No. 60, Little Rock

Charter member: November 4, 1852

Worshipful Master: 1854

emitted: 1858

Affiliated: 1884

Kilwinning Lodge No. 341, Memphis, Tenn.

Marion Lodge No. 68, New Orleans, La.

Affiliated: 1858

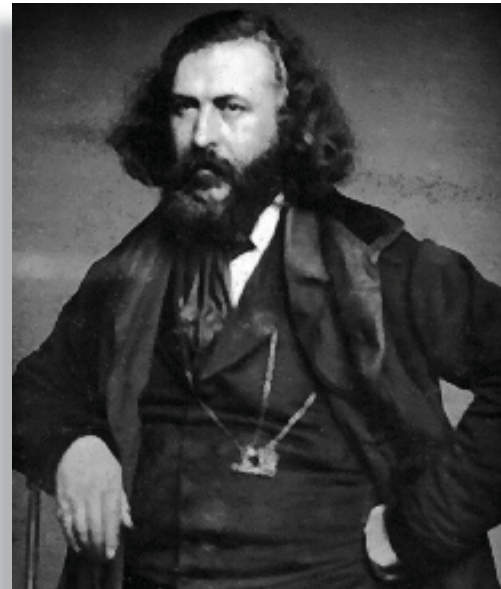
Demitted: 1860

Honorary member: February 24, 1871

Pentalpha Lodge No. 23, Washington, D.C.

Affiliated: October 4, 1880

Demitted January 1, 1883



Submitted By:
S.K. Gary D. Miller,
Grand Commander



<http://www.themasonicsociety.com/>



Page: 8
Page: 5



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FREEMASONRY IS A 'SYSTEM OF EDUCATION'

Part of that system is to 'research'. We need to:

- discover knowledge past;
- prove legitimacy of same;
- prove the truth; and
- prove and justify the theoretical basis of the topics.

Research must:

- deal with establishing and proving facts, not ideals, by comparing and contrasting substantiating sources;
- challenge and expand original thought;
- be useful and useable, and
- extend its influence to the ordinary Mason.



At the consecration of the premier Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research No. 2076 (UGLE) in 1886, the following was said: "...we may help forward the important cause of Masonic study and investigation, may induce a more scholarly and critical consideration of our evidences, a greater relish for historical facts, and subserve at the same time the increasing and healthy movement for the extension of libraries and museums in all Lodges...[We believe] that such a study, thoughtful and prudent, zealous yet discriminating, is essential to a proper understanding of Masonic archaeology and Masonic formulae

...For thus it may chance that we shall be enabled to rescue contemporary Freemasonry from the charge frequently brought against it, that it sacrifices an intellectual study of Freemasonry proper to the more pervading requirements of the social circle, and that it is too easily contented with a routine of ritual on the one hand, and the pleasing exercise of hospitality on the other...as Freemasons who take pride in their order, and who feel strongly that knowledge and light, the opposites of ignorance and darkness, are, ever have been, and we trust ever will be, characteristic features and the abiding distinction of Freemasonry." - That was in 1886, some 122 years ago.

We are accepted into the Craft because we affirm a general desire for knowledge. We are admonished to make daily progress in the acquisition of Masonic knowledge, and we are rewarded for making progress in the science. Two kinds of knowledge are described, that of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the hidden mysteries of Nature and Science. We must be prepared to make the effort and discover the vast unknown of Masonic knowledge.

Research requires dedication. Research requires time.

We need more Brethren to undertake research.

We need to make research 'sexy', the place to be.

We need to promote ourselves to the very early grass roots of this organization, the very first steps.

We need to mentor and tutor these Masons, and say strongly 'we want you, we need you', and put out a hand of scholarly friendship: no closed shop, no closed minds, no 'wait for your turn'.

We must identify and engage talent, promote, present, and be seen.

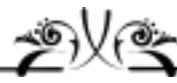
Research is a career path in Freemasonry that should have specific attractive signposts. Active participation is the way to learn, and original thought and work is within all of us.

Research is necessary to define 'What is Freemasonry'. Freemasonry as a living organization with a distinguished history is in need of a contemporary, flexible image. We must enjoy our Freemasonry, and learn to 'talk-the-talk' across the generations.

The discipline of training, study and analysis is crucial to the process, and creates the differential between 'a member' and 'a Mason'.

And Brethren, if we need time to take up research, there is no better time than right now, to attract the hearts and minds of all our Brethren. Right now! I challenge you to do so.

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A Concise History of Freemasonry

Is there a Proven History?

Empirical evidence supporting the history of Freemasonry prior to the 18th century is hard to find. Theories vary wildly from the plausible to the sensational. Most masons believe that Freemasonry is derived from the early medieval stonemasons guilds and enquire no further. However, a well rounded study in Freemasonry should look more deeply at all possible roots, even if only to be able to dismiss most of them.

There is no commonly accepted Ancient History of Freemasonry – even the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) does not publish a house view prior to its own initial conception in 1717. This is curious because a resemblance of modern Freemasonry (judging from a corpus of medieval manuscripts) was already in place beforehand, even if its pedigree was lost.

Most historians concur that Freemasonry, in its current form, probably developed as an adjunct from medieval stonemasons through the ages leading up to the Operative Stone Masons Guilds. Just how or when the transition took place from Operative Guild Free-Stone Masonry to Speculative intellectual Freemasonry (using stonemasons tools, clothing and customs as allegorical aids to teach their precepts) is not clear, although the Scottish Lodge Kilwinning has records showing non Operatives being admitted by at least 1672 and some Lodges in England were entirely non Operative by the time that Elias Ashmole was initiated in 1646.

What was so special about stonemasons? They possessed great skill to create the castles, cathedrals and palaces and the necessary sculpted works and ornaments demanded of their masters. Such skill must have seemed almost magical to the vast illiterate masses. They were clearly the elite of the labor force, had secret customs and marks and would have attracted some of the brightest non-educated recruits. However, given the complexity and the emphasis on morality of the various Masonic rituals and teachings, this simple explanation of Freemasonry seems inadequate. To obtain a deeper historical appreciation, one could consider the various ancient and medieval legends with an open mind and then decide for yourself which ones are a better fit.

Legend: The Ancient Scientific Perspective

It has recently been suggested by the authors Knight and Lomas that Freemasonry ultimately evolved from Megalithic tribes who, having discovered science and astronomy, constructed numerous astounding astronomical observatories including Newgrange on the river Boyne, Bryn Celli Ddu and Stonehenge between 7100 BC and 2500 BC. It is believed that these sites enabled those tribes to chart the seasons and years by observing the rotations of the sun and the third brightest object in the sky, Venus. These were essential skills as without such timekeeping, civilization would be hopelessly unable to plan or progress beyond mere day to day subsistence.

Indeed, the Book of Enoch, discovered amongst the Dead Sea Scrolls from the Qumran and from which many higher Masonic Orders draw their inspiration, explains the scientific principles by which those earliest observatories (or Uriels Machines) operate. It is then argued that this knowledge was shared and taken to the East prior to a predicted and devastating comet impact and subsequent world flood in 3150 BC.

Many survivors maintained Enochian and Noachide customs and when the Enochian-Zadokite priests were expelled from Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans, having first hidden their scrolls and treasures deep under the ruins of Solomon's Temple as recorded in the Qumran Copper Scroll, it seems possible that their alleged descendants, the founding Knights Templar families led by Hugues de Payens, would return in 1140 AD to dig them up and retrieve them. A great story, but it is doubtful whether this theory will take hold in serious academic circles.

Legend: The Ancient Stone Mason Perspective

Whilst Freemasonry draws much imagery from the history and construction of King Solomon's Temple (945 BC) by masons from the Phoenician city of Tyre, it seems fanciful to claim direct Stone-Mason links from that era. Nevertheless, skills in the manipulation of stone had been well established by then and had been handed down through the ages and through the hands of many peoples including craftsmen from the Greek, Byzantine and Roman eras.

Certain present day Masonic words and meanings seem rooted from the time of the early Egyptians of

this era: The virtues of truth and justice were said by them to be “on the square”. Confucius in 500 BC referred to the squareness of actions; even Aristotle in 350 BC associates square actions with honest dealings. The square and its symbolism is very old and has maintained a remarkable consistency of meaning over the centuries. However, it does not necessarily follow that Freemasonry began in those eras any more than trying to assert that Euclid was a Freemason because his 47th Proposition (as used on the jewel in England) has relevance in modern Freemasonry!

Legend next informs us that King Athelstan, having subjugated most of the minor kingdoms of England, gathered together many skilled masons and established York Rite Masonry in 926 AD by granting them a Royal Charter. The charter enabled the stonemasons to meet in general assembly once a year and seems to have been a catalyst for a host of construction projects including numerous abbeys, castles and fortresses. Athelstan's importance to Stonemasons is mentioned in both the Regius and Cooke Manuscripts. The Scottish Rite, by contrast, was established many centuries later by Chevalier Andrew Ramsay (Ramsays Oration of 1737) and other exiled Stuart Scots in France who were plotting the restoration of James II. This has led to a diversity of subsequent Orders following the three basic Craft Degrees.

The Medieval Operative Masonic Guilds

We have evidence that Operative Masonic guilds (or gilds) existed in Scotland as early as 1057 and possibly in England from 1220 when we know the Masons Livery Company was in existence. Those guilds, associations or Compagnons as they were known in France and mainland Europe, were conscripted to produce sufficient masons of all qualities to satisfy the aspirations of Kings and the Church in their respective building programs.

In days where travel and communication for all but King and Church was highly restricted, the guilds are believed to have developed their own methods of introduction and secret modes of recognition when working on various programs around the country. These were essential in order to distinguish a skilled master from the aspiring apprentice. This was important because they were no written credentials in those days because only top Master Masons could read, let alone write letters of introduction on expensive parchment. However, some historians (chief among them John J. Robinson) argue it is difficult to prove English stone masons guilds (unlike Scottish guilds) existed at all given the relative lack of evidence available to corroborate them.

Box Club Charity Theory

A more recent theory suggests modern Freemasonry developed from charitable beginnings. In the 1600's many trades operated what have become known as box clubs where their members would set aside earnings for the group or individual members to fall back on if they suffered hard times. Those without such assistance usually starved through lack of other reliable welfare support. Evidence indicates these box clubs began to admit members outside their trade and had many of the characteristics of early masonic lodges. Perhaps Freemasonry arose from an early and successful box club framework which was later taken over by the leading intellectual lights that emerged in the 17th century?

The Knights Templar

Masonic legend and some tradition is borrowed from the fanciful stories of the Knights Templar, an enigmatic and powerful military Order of fighting monks set up by Hugues de Payens in 1118. Their illustrious history has been the subject of numerous fascinating books and their effect upon the course of world history, religion and commerce is much greater than generally recognized. They were also responsible for the erection of many churches and the assembly of numerous large estates and would themselves have employed a great many stone masons.

Although their effect upon Freemasonry is very uncertain, they had amassed considerable wealth and influence in London, Scotland and throughout the United Kingdom that cannot be overlooked. Most serious historians dismiss a direct link to the Knights Templar for lack of evidence. However, is it possible that the Knights Templar might have shared some of their knowledge and rituals with their more senior stone masons with whom they employed who later incorporated them into their own traditions?

The Knights Templar ostensible purpose was the protection of pilgrims on their journey from the coastal port of Jaffa to Jerusalem. Initially however, there were too few of them to be an effective escort. In any event, for the first nine years of their existence, they were far too busy purposefully digging under the ruins of King Solomon's Temple to be offering any support to Pilgrims. It seems clear that during their excavations they discovered something of immense spiritual or material value for they ***TO BE CONTINUED...***