



Stockton York Rite

Vol. 2011

March 2011

No. 03

Stockton Chapter No. 28
Stockton Council No. 10
Stockton Commandery No. 8

340 East Market Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Stockton York Rite
Address
City, State Zip

**Address Service
Requested**

Stamp

Richard Thornton
1221 South Pleasant Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

May Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth Prevail
and May the Blessings of Heaven Rest upon
you and Your loved ones



Stockton Chapter No. 28

High Priest

King

Scribe

Treasurer

Secretary

Chaplin

Captain of the Host

Principal Sojourner

Royal Arch Captain

Master of the 3rd Veil

Master of the 2nd Veil

Master of the 1st Veil

Sentinel

Inspector

Officer's Coach

Richard Slater

Donald Murchison

David Blundell

Donald Wilcoxon, PHP

Steven Fowler, PHP

Jesse Tanner

Clive Moss

Alberto Siesic

Jim Sanborn

David Clements

Billy Martens

Bill Blackford

Leland Routt, PHP

Leland Routt, PHP

Donald Wilcoxon, PHP

Saturday, March 26th, 2011: Breakfast at 8:00 am & Convocation at 9:00 am. Stockton Chapter No. 28 meets every odd month, January 22 (Installation), March 26, May 28, July 23, September 27, November 26, and December 17, (Elections).

Companions,

"Further Light in Masonry": ***An Introduction to Royal Arch Masonry***

What has attracted so many Brethren to seek further light in Royal Arch Masonry? The Royal Arch Degrees were considered most important in the early years of Freemasonry and so dogmatic was the Mother Grand Lodge - from which all Speculative Masonry derives - that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide Masons throughout the world forever on this matter:

"Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, namely, that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and

Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."

The landmark has never been changed and to this day no other degree has been officially recognized by the Mother Grand Lodge and every rite, system or additional degree in Freemasonry cannot confer its degree on a Master Mason until he has received the Royal Arch Degree. Naturally, this is as it should be, because a man is not a Master Mason until he receives the Master's Word and he can only receive it in the Royal Arch.

The Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry consists of four degrees, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

THE MARK MASTER DEGREE

The Mark Master Degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman's mark in those years distinguished by operative craft masons and their temple building. It was later developed into a full-fledged degree by the Masonic fraternity as we know it today, Some scholars say it was the earliest degree and may predate all others by many years. It is highly regarded by students in all Masonry, teaching lessons that have proven of value in all walks of life. Some Grand Lodges place so high an eminence on the Mark Master Degree, that they confine it to the jurisdiction of a separate grand body, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters.

THE PAST MASTER DEGREE

The Past Master Degree came into being because originally the degree of Royal Arch was conferred by the Symbolic (Blue) Lodge only on actual Past Masters. This degree was instituted to make it possible for all worthy Brethren to receive the Royal

Arch degree. The first record of its conferral is found in 1768 in England.

THE MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE

The Most Excellent Master Degree is a product of American innovation. It was conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter as early as 1783 in Middletown, Conn. It is by far the most spectacular degree in all Freemasonry. It is the only degree that brings forcibly to our attention the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple -- the very idea upon which all Masonic symbolism has been based.

THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

The Royal Arch Degree is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and Masonic Symbolism. It is described as "the root and marrow of Freemasonry." It is the complete story of Jewish History during some of its darkest hours. Jerusalem and the Holy temple are destroyed, the people are being held captive as slaves in Babylon. Here you will join with some slaves as they are set free to return home and engage in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and the Temple of God. It is during this rebuilding that they make a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason -- the long lost Master's Word.

Many historians have traced the earliest origins of the Royal Arch Degree to Ireland, late in the 17th century and in England in 1738, In 1752, ambulatory or military warrants for Lodges were introduced. This was instrumental in placing the Royal Arch Degree on a par with the Master Mason Degree.

Military lodges were greatly responsible for planting Freemasonry in the Colonies and also gave birth to the use of the Mark and Royal Arch degrees in the "New World." Lodge records show that the Royal Arch Degree was conferred at

Fredericksburg No. 4 on December 12, 1753. George Washington was raised in this lodge a few months prior to this date.

The value of Royal Arch Masonry will be appreciated by all who are exalted to that most sublime degree, particularly by those who are seeking to complete their Masonic education. It reveals the full light of Ancient Craft Masonry, presents it as a complete system in accordance with the original plan and justly entitles you to claim the noble name of Master Mason.

(The above article is based on one published on the Internet by the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of California. Used here with their permission; with the acknowledgment and thanks of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of New Jersey.)

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Richard L. Slater
High Priest



Stockton Council No. 10

Illustrious Master
Deputy Master
Principal Conductor
Treasurer
Recorder
Chaplin
Captain of the Guard
Conductor of the Council
Steward
Sentinel

Inspector
Officer's Coach

Ioannis E. Patronas
Bill Alessio
Alberto Siesic
Donald Wilcoxon, IPM
Steven Fowler, IPM
Arley Smith, III
John Carr
David Blundell
Bill Hasenbuhler
Leland Routt, IPM

Steven Fowler, IPM
Dennis Meritt, IPM

Saturday, March 26th, 2011: Breakfast at 8:00 am and Assembly at 10:00 am. Stockton Council No. 10 meets every odd month, January 22 (Installation), March 26, May 28, July 23, September 27, November 26, and December 17, (Elections).

We are going to have a great year, with the focus on membership and attendance. We can do this with your help, please reserve the Morning of the 4th Saturday of each and every month as the day you attend Stockton York Rite.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Ioannis E. Patronas
Illustrious Grand Master



Stockton Commandery No. 8

Commander
Generalissimo
Captain General
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Recorder
Prelate
Standard Bearer
Sword Bearer
Warder
Sentinel

Inspector
Officer's Coach

Donald Murchison
Arley Smith, III
Richard Slater
Alberto Siesic
John Carr
Donald Wilcoxon, PC
Steven Fowler, KYCH
Sky Martin
Bill Hasenbuhler
David Clements
Clive Moss
Leland Routt, KYCH

Leland Routt, KYCH
Steven Fowler, KYCH

Saturday, February 26th, 2010: (Installation): Breakfast at 8:00 am and Conclave at 9:00 am. Stockton Commandery No. 8 meets even month, February 26, (Installation), April 23, June 25, August 27, October 22 (Inspection), and December 17 (Elections).

Want to thank all of you who attended our installation last month. Very pleased to see everyone, especially Dan Sissle, who I know had a very long drive. Thanks Sir Knight Dan, also the installing team, couldn't have been better. Plus 4 of the "Martins" with Ian being the only one missing! Sir Knight Wes, thank you for your offer to help this Commandery in the Order of the Temple in June and conferring with Past Commander Thornton on making this degree in June Successful.

At our next conclave, I hope to share some new ideas and its importance to get feedback.

I am truly excited about our 150th anniversary and will find out about protocol for Commandery's presence on the 26th.

Lastly, I want to thank Past Commander Richard Thornton for all his help with the bulletin and what he does for York Rite. Thank you Sir Knight!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Donald Murchison
Eminent Commander

A Knight Templar is a Sir Knight, right with God, Country, Family, and neighbor; honest with himself and others, ever ready to lay down his life, if need be, in the service of truth, justice, righteousness, and the American way of life. A Knight Templar has pledged to follow the banner of his Order and the American Flag wherever they lead in human service, no matter his condition in life or station in



Delta Council No. 216 AMD

Sovereign Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Secretary/Treasurer
Chaplin

Richard E. Thornton, PSM

Senior Deacon
Junior Deacon
Marshal
Chief Steward
Tiler

Saturday, March 26th, 2010, June 25th, September 24th, December 17th. Delta Council No. 216 meets every third month; March 27, June 26, September 25, and December 25 are the dates of Stated Meetings. Elections are held in December and installation ceremony held in March.

August 5, 1933, this Grand Council took as its date of formation January 14, 1892, since this date was the beginning of the Allied Masonic Degrees in America with the formation of the Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees at Richmond, Virginia, that on April 16, 1932, the subsequent establishment of a Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America occurred in Salisbury, North Carolina, and that the union of the two bodies was drawn up and entered into July 18, 1933, and was ratified by the North Carolina Grand Council August 5, 1933 and was ratified by the Sovereign College at Norway, Maine August 24, 1933, and became effective as of September 7, 1933.

Commentary

We just received word from Companion and Sir Knight Steve that all of our dreams for Stockton York Rite just came true. We are now one of the centers for York Rite Festivals. Now, all of us must step forward to support your Stockton York Rite.

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned in their dealing with one another, sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.”



WBro.

B. Franklin