



**Stockton York Rite
340 East Market Street
Stockton, CA 95202**

The York Rite Bodies Newsletter

Officers for 2008

Stockton Chapter No. 28

High Priest	Ian Martin
King	Richard Slater
Scribe	Chris Ross
Treasurer	Donald Wilcoxen, PHP
Secretary	Steven Fowler, PHP
Chaplin	Richard Thornton, PHP
Captain of the Host	John Patronas
Principal Sojourner	Sky Martin
Royal Arch Captain	Don Murchison
Master 3 Veil	Arley Smith
Master 2 Veil	John Lynch
Master 1 Veil	Alex Mendoza
Sentinel	Ken Edwards, PHP

Inspector	Leland Routt, KYCH
Officer's Coach	Donald Wilcoxen, PHP

Stockton Council No. 10

Illustrious Master	Leland Routt, IPM
Deputy Master	Ian Martin
Principal Conductor	Richard Slater
Treasurer	Donald Wilcoxen, IPM
Recorder	Steven Fowler, IPM
Chaplin	Dax Martin
Captain Guard	John Patronas
Conductor Council	Arley Smith
Steward	John Lynch
Sentinel	Ken Edwards, IPM
Organist	Carl Meiske

Inspector	Steven Fowler, KYCH
Officer's Coach	Dennis Meritt, KYCH

Stockton Commandery No. 8

Commander	Richard Thornton
Generalissimo	Chris Ross
Captain General	John Patronas
Senior Warden	Don Murchison
Junior Warden	Dax Martin
Treasurer	Donald Wilcoxen, PC
Recorder	Steven Fowler, PC
Prelate	Sky Martin
Standard Bearer	Arley Smith
Sword Bearer	John Lynch
Warder	Richard Slater
Sentinel	Ken Edwards, PC

Inspector	Ken Edwards, KYCH
Officer's Coach	Steven Fowler, KYCH

Delta Council 266

Sovereign Master	Leland Routt
Senior Warden	Richard E. Thornton
Junior Warden	
Secretary/Treasurer	William McVicker
Chaplin	
Senior Deacon	
Junior Deacon	
Marshal	
Chief Steward	
Tiler	

Inspector	
Officer's Coach	

Companions, Sir Knights, and Ladies, the Stockton York Rite Newsletter will rise without input from you - to the highest level of incompetency (known as the Peter Principle).

Delta Council No. 216 AMD: Next meeting Saturday, July 26th, after Chapter and Council.

(From the internet – more history)

- ‡ On August 5, 1933, 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, 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.
- ‡ Many of these detached degrees became dormant in some places; although in others they were conferred as side degrees. In time, the better of these degrees were grouped together in an organized body under the title of Allied Masonic Degrees. The degrees comprising the system in our Jurisdiction in the U.S.A. are the Royal Ark Mariner, Secret Monitor, Knight of Constantinople, Saint Lawrence the Martyr, Architect, Superintendent, Grand Tilers of Solomon, Master of Tyre, Excellent Master, Installed Sovereign Master, Installed Commander Noah, Red Branch of Eri, and Ye Ancient Order of Corks. They are conferred in the United States in Councils chartered by the Grand Council. Each Council is limited to twenty seven members, with two exceptions. One of these Councils is known as the Council of the Nine Muses and is limited to nine members. The other is Grand Masters Council, which has what is known as a roving charter. The purpose of the latter Council is to provide a place of membership in the Allied Masonic Degrees for brethren residing in localities where Councils have not been organized. Membership in every Council of Allied Masonic Degrees is by invitation, and is predicated on membership in the Royal Arch Chapter.
- ‡ The highest honor awarded to an AMD member by his Council is that of **Knight of the Red Branch of Eri**, given for unselfish and faithful service to his Council and/or the AMD.

York Rite in the United States of America

The York Rite in the United States is actually a grouping of separate Rites joined in order, namely the Capitular Rite, or Royal Arch Masons, the Cryptic Rite, or Cryptic Masons, and the Chivalric Orders, or Knights Templar.

Stockton Chapter No. 28: Saturday, July 26th is the next meeting.

The Royal Arch Degree was maintained as a part of the Craft until the 18th Century. There are Four Capitular Degrees: Mark Master, Past Master (Virtual), Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch.

The Mark Master Mason degree is in some respects an extension of the Fellow Crafts' second degree. In some jurisdictions the degree is conferred in a Fellow Craft Lodge, that is, the second degree of the Blue Lodge.

The Past Master (Virtual) degree is conferred because of the traditional requirement that only Past Masters of a Blue Lodge may be admitted to Holy Royal Arch. Because there are so many applicants for this degree, Virtual Past Master is required to qualify them for it. Much of the work is the same given to install the Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge. There is no such requirement or procedure outside the USA.

In the Most Excellent Master degree the building of King Solomon's Temple, which figures so prominently in Blue Lodge, has been completed. In England the degree is conferred by Cryptic Councils.

The Royal Arch Mason degree is said by many to be the most beautiful degree in all of Freemasonry. Freemasons who reach this degree may continue to Cryptic Masonry or go straight to Knights Templar (where permitted—requirements vary in different jurisdictions).

Inspector Leland Routt made an announcement concerning the ritual; we must do it without the use of our crutch, the book. And again, just as we have been pushing in all of the York Rite Bodies, we must lose this crutch.

Stockton Council No. 10: Saturday, July 26th is the next meeting.

ROYAL MASTER DEGREE: This is the first degree of the Cryptic Rite as conferred in the United States. Candidates who receive the degree are impressed with its dignified ritual and relevant teachings. It contains one section which is generally regarded as an outstanding display of symbolism and content of philosophy. The ritualistic presentations in the degree explain the articles contained in the Holy of Holies of King Solomon's Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant. A knowledge of which is essential to those who would fully understand the preceding degrees. The principal characters in the degree are Solomon and his royal assistant.

SELECT MASTER DEGREE: The degree of Select Master has not always been associated with that of Royal Master. Jeremy Cross, a traveling Masonic lecturer, author, and educator of the early 1800's, is given credit by most writers for having combined the two degrees into one rite. There is strong evidence to support the theory that the degree came from a similar degree in the Scottish Rite called Intimate Secretary or Grand Tiler of King Solomon. Regardless of its origin the legend of this degree is old.

The scene of this degree is laid in the underground vault of King Solomon's Temple. The events which characterize the degree are stirring enough to make it one of intense interest. The ritualistic presentations contain the story to "complete the Circle of Perfection" in Ancient Craft Masonry.

SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE: As we have stated, the degree of Super Excellent Master is not a degree of the Crypt. But, it relates events that lead to the recovery of the lost Word. This degree beautifully tells of a period in history in which all Freemasons are interested, that period following the destruction of the first Temple. The essence of the degree is foretold in the presentation by the Principal Sojourner in the Royal Arch Degree when he makes reference "Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God," etc.

The degree of Super Excellent Master is one of the best devised, most impressive, and beautiful degrees. It is most enlightening and relevant to one's daily life. In a display of exciting events, Biblical characters come to life exemplifying the historical drama of the Holy Bible. Here Nebuchadnezzar rules again; Zedekiah proves the results of his wicked life; Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesy the promises of Almighty God.

Inspector Steven Fowler made an announcement concerning the ritual: we must do it without the use of our crutch, the book. And again, just as we have been pushing in all of the York Rite Bodies, we must lose this crutch.

Stockton Commandery No 8: Next stated conclave is August 23rd. From the bottom of my heart, my congratulations go to each of you for all the hard work and dedication you have put forth for the Order of the Temple. We are well known World Wide for the work accomplished for the Order of the Temple.

The Knights Templar is the final order joined in the York Rite. Unlike other Masonic bodies which only require a belief in a Supreme Being regardless of religion, membership in Knights Templar is open only to Royal Arch Masons who promise to defend the Christian faith. Its affiliation with Masonry is based on texts that indicate persecuted Templars found refuge within the safety of Freemasonry.

- ‡ June 7th, we, **Stockton Commandery No. 8** held a full walk though of the Order of the Temple and afterward we held a York Rite Family Picnic. This picnic brought tears to my eyes and gladness to my heart, it was beautiful. This was an excellent picnic and Sir Knights; this is the beginning, we have established and let's keep this beautiful tradition. Hamburger was excellent, all of the salads were a gourmet's delight, strawberry's were some of the biggest I have seen, ice-cream was very good, chicken was moist, what more can be said? We sat around as a family and talked and had fun. Thank you.
- ‡ **Order of the Temple** held at Sacramento, Saturday, June 14, **Stockton Commandery No. 8**, did the honors. Sir Knights' as stated in the opening paragraph, each of you did excellent in the Order of the Temple Ritual. From the very beginning; from the Commander's ritual, to the Prelate's ritual, to the Flag of our beloved Country, my thanks from the bottom of my heart goes to each of you for your dedication to the York Rite and to the Commandery. The York Rite bodies of Chapter, Council, Delta, and Commandery can only rise in excellence because of your dedication to the ritual. Thank you.
- ‡ **During the June conclave**, we did an excellent job with Commandery Ritual. We were a little short on officers due to vacation and other commitments, but each of you can be proud, you did a wonderful job. The Opening, with Ian Martin, our Junior Past Commander acting as Captain-General went excellent – Ian took the time to review the ritual and did the entire ceremony without the book as did all the officers. Thank you.
- ‡ The **Meritorious Service Medal & Award** was done prior to opening of Stockton Commandery No. 8. I was humbled and honored to escort Sir Knight Leland Routt through the lines and the recipient, Sir Knight Leland Routt is well deserving of this medal and award because of the time and effort he puts into Masonry.
- ‡ **For the August 23rd conclave**, we will be doing the ritual, (Opening, forming the lines, rehearsal, forming triangle, and rehearsal of duties). The ritual will be done, without the book. We will receive prompts, if needed from the officer's coach and only the officer's coach.

- ‡ While at Vallejo, a discussion was held with the **President of the Festival** and we should be doing the **Order of the Temple** for the festival next year – Saturday March 28th – all necessary paperwork has been submitted. The Order of the Temple was done by California No. 1 and they were fantastic in the work except for the hour and half speech about their fancy uniforms.
- ‡ Many of us have seen a signature in our log sometimes followed by **KYCH**. Many of us have sat in a conclave where all Sir Knights having the **KYCH**, please stand for recognition. What is the KYCH? The Order of the Knights of the York Cross of Honour was formed in Monroe, North Carolina, on March 13, 1930. The intent of the Order was to create an honorary group of York Rite Masons who had demonstrated leadership and dedication to the several York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry. It is an honorary organization composed of individuals who have each been Master of a Blue Lodge, High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter, Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar.
- ‡ During **Meritorious Service Medal and Award Ceremony** some Orders were mentioned; what were they, just some long ago forgotten organization? Not so, some has a very proud history, which we should take time to read about.
- ‡ **Order of Christ of Portugal**: Founded in 1318, the Military Order of Christ was the heritage of the Knights Templar in Portugal, after the suppression of the Templar's in 1312.
- ‡ **Order of St. James of the Sword of Portugal**: This military order of knights began in the year 1171, to protect pilgrims who were visiting St. James's shrine. They also built and staffed hospitals on roads leading to Compostela, St. James' Way. (Still receiving vacationers).
- ‡ **Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem**: Five major orders were formed in the Holy Land in the late 11th century to the early 12th century: Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (circa 1099), Knights Templar (circa 1118), Knights Hospitaller (circa 1099) (St John), Knights of the Hospital of St Mary of Jerusalem (Teutonic Knights) and Knights of St Lazarus.
- ‡ **Order of Alcantara of Spain**: major military and religious order in Spain. It was founded in 1156 or 1166 by Don Suero Fernández Barrientos and was recognized in 1177 by Pope Alexander III in a special papal bull. Its purpose was to defend Christian Spain against the Moors. In 1218 King Alfonso IX of Leon gave to the order the town of Alcántara, and during the next two centuries its knights defended the southern borders of Christian Spain.