



## March 2022 Journal and Trestleboard

Vol 2, Issue 3, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Journal/Trestleboard

### Worshipful Master's Corner

Brothers and friends,

This is our **March 2022 Journal and**

**Trestleboard**. This month we begin with the important *calendar of events*, and then a *review of our last stated meeting*. Also, we address how we are making available to our members and friends our *150 year lodge history*. Then there is some important information about *dues and your dues card*. Then there is information about our *recent Masonic events and activities*, *school support* and our *community support projects*. There is also information about our *new rental website*, and adjustments being made to our *Facebook and Lodge website*. Then, we have a Masonic formation essay written by a brother in Tennessee which offers further insight in the *Three Great Lights of Masonry*. As part of our series on Freemasonry around the world, there is an essay about the *Swedish Rite of Freemasonry* that is popular in a number of nations. By popular request, we have another look at *local Masonic history*, this time about the earliest years of our Lodge. Additionally, there is the first article in a series about Masonic youth organizations; specifically, this one is about *The International Order of Rainbow for Girls*. As always, there is *contact information* for our lodge and building, the youth organizations, Eastern Star, the Shrine, and for both the York and Scottish Rites. Your suggestions concerning our monthly Journal and Trestleboard are always appreciated.



# Calendar of Events

## Table Mountain Lodge Events (3 months)

- March 5, 2022, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm, Lunch at 1 pm.
- March 19, 2022, Saturday, Lodge Workday, starting at 1 pm.
- April 2, 2022, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.
- April 9, Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> Deg starting at 2 pm.
- **Tentative** April 16, 2022, Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree starting at 2 pm.
- **Tentative** April 23, Shrine Oasis, time TBA
- April 30, Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deg starting at 2 pm.
- May 7, 2022, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm.



## School of Instruction (SOI)

- March 15, at Chico lodge, at 6 pm, practice 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- April 19, at Paradise lodge, at 6 pm, basics of ECT
- May 23, at Orland lodge, at 6 pm, review basic meeting.

## Golden Feather Chapter Eastern Star

Note: Golden Feather Chapter of Eastern Star is a combination of the old Paradise and Oroville Chapters. As such they split their events between those locations. They will be meeting in Paradise for their 2022 Official Visit event on the evening of May 6, and for their regular meetings in June and September.

## Other scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- March 12 and 13, Homespun Holidays Crafts Fair
- Paradise Rod and Gun Club – Executive meeting first Wednesday of every month at 6pm. General membership meeting third Thursday of every month 6:30pm
- Butte County Family Health classes and counseling , Every Wednesday until May 2022, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- Intermittent use of the kitchen by various contractors.

**Note:** Several private parties are looking to book our facilities on various dates. When the contracts are finalized, those events will be added to the calendar.



## Our Recent Stated Meeting of Feb 5, 2022

At 1 pm, just prior to our February 2022 Stated Meeting, Brother Cole Hamilton and his lovely wife Lisa provided a wonderful Mexican lunch. There was carne asada, homemade beans, a truly great Mexican quinoa dish, both wheat and corn tortillas, and numerous additions and condiments. Everyone very much enjoyed the meal.

This was an exceptionally productive and enjoyable meeting. Beyond the normal business of paying bills and reading communications we voted on a new member and discussed several other projects and ideas. The brothers voted for Mr. Brandon Moran-Smith to receive the degrees of Masonry in our lodge. This means that at the meeting we had two fellowcrafts working on their proficiency, two entered apprentice for the next scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> degree conferral, one candidate waiting for his initiation as an entered apprentice, and one prospectus and perhaps another preparing a petition.

Worshipful Nelson presented our junior past master Charles Haggerty with his Past Master apron. Worshipful Haggerty, himself a fire fighter, provided inspiring leadership through some of the toughest times after the fire and during renovation of our facility.



Worshipful Nelson and brother Campbell gave the report of our building association which included our current renters, new renters, our improvement projects and our positive financial position. We also discussed what we desire to accomplish on the upcoming lodge workday. There was also a good discussion of the building's security system, and we reached general agreement among the brothers that alternatives should be investigated.



Worshipful Nelson presented the idea of creating an outdoor lodge area, on some accessible but remote forest land of his, and then having an outdoor degree, likely a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, sometime in October of this year. After the initial surprise and much discussion, the brethren enthusiastically supported the idea. Some of the brothers agreed to meet and visit the proposed site to develop a layout and preparation plan to be presented to the brethren.

Worshipful Nelson updated us on the status of our Lodge signs to be posted at the entrances to Paradise. As most of you know, there are two major entrances to Paradise and Magalia ridge area. They are the Skyway, and Clark Road. Currently the City and Chamber of Commerce only has funding for the Skyway entrance signs board, which should be erected within a few months. Efforts are under way to raise funds and obtain access rights to locations at the other entrances.



Worshipful Nelson also gave an update on the planning process for our elementary schools birthday project. We are currently looking at starting it at the beginning of the next school year. There are several complexities to be discussed with the school leaders.

Our calendar of events and degrees was reviewed and discussed (as noted in the Calendar on Page 2). Worshipful Glenn Story of Chico-Leland Stanford Lodge was present and invited the brethren to his lodge's scheduled events, and thanked our lodge for the support that we are providing Chico in their upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> degree conferral.

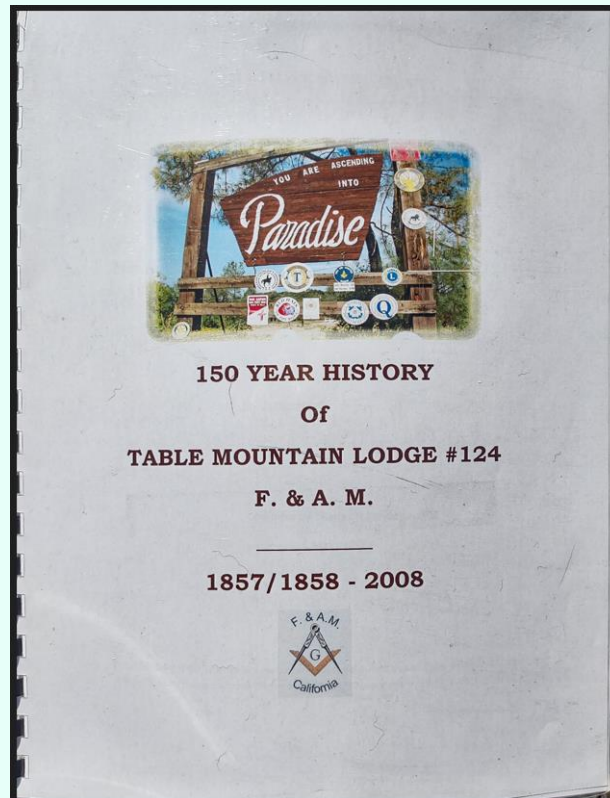
The brethren were then made aware that our Inspector, Brad Marr, had reinstituted the *School of Instruction* (SOI) program. While primarily for pedestal officers, any member can attend an SOI for instruction. SOIs are monthly, and rotate between three locations (Paradise, Chico and Orland) which are the lodges in our district, the dates and subject of the SOIs have been added to our calendar of events.

Also discussed was ensuring that all members pay their dues as soon as possible. We will likely have to remove some members from active status, specifically those they do not pay their dues and are significantly in arrears.

Brother Richard Gingery graciously offered to provide the lunch for our March stated meeting.

Brother Haggerty PM informed the members, that a now passed brother spent many years preparing a 150 year history of Table Mountain Lodge. He shared that he remembered seeing at least one copy somewhere in our building, and that we should find it, preserve it and if

possible, reproduce it for those brethren and family members interested in a copy of it. We agreed, noting that many brothers that may have had copy of it, may have lost it in the Camp fire. Immediately after the meeting a diligent search of the lodge began, and we located a copy of the history publication (see below).



We had these reproduced, spiral bound and they are now available at cost to you. Unfortunately, the price of paper has dramatically increased (like so many other things), so these copies cost \$30 each. This is a high quality reproduction of an important Masonic historical record. The books will be available at the stated meeting, or you can have a copy mailed to you. Please contact Doug Campbell, at (530) 519-1695, or [dgcphd@gmail.com](mailto:dgcphd@gmail.com).

The Brethren also agreed that we would start work on compiling the material for a historical supplement covering the recent years of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge, starting with 2009.

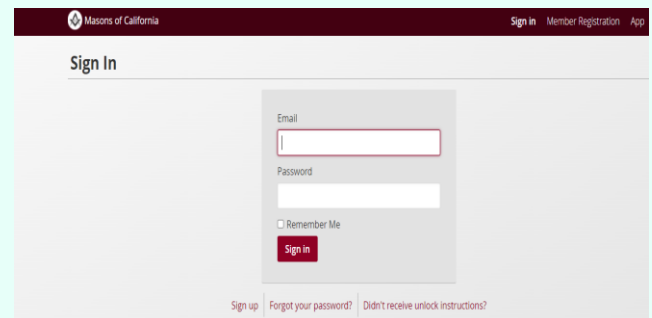
The Feb stated meeting ended in good spirits and standard manner.



## Brothers, please pay your dues as soon as possible!

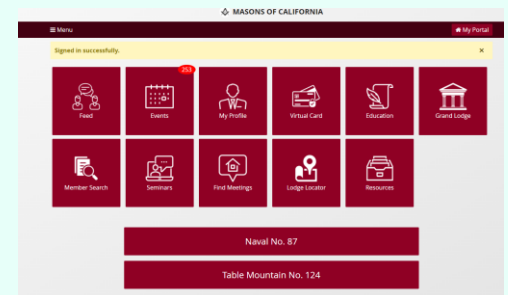
Brothers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge. Yearly dues should be paid before January. To pay your dues, you now have two options. You may still pay your dues by sending a check for \$186 to the lodge secretary at P.O. Box 212 Paradise, CA 95969. However, you can also speed the process by paying online with a credit card. This is an easy, safe and secure process, and you can then immediately print your official dues card. Simply link to the dues notice and the pay page will appear. You will be charged an additional small processing fee of about \$6. After paying by this method, you can immediately print your dues card. Using your computer, open your browser and go to <https://freemason.org/>. You will see this website. In the right corner, push “member sign in”

This is the “sign up” and the “sign in” page. If you have never been to this website before, then go to “Sign up” in the lower left. It will only take you a minute to create your password. You will need your member number which is on your dues card. After that you sign in using your email and password

A screenshot of the 'Masons of California' website's 'Sign In' page. The page has a dark blue header with the logo and navigation links: 'Sign in', 'Member Registration', and 'App'. Below the header, the title 'Sign In' is centered. There is a form with fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Remember Me' checkbox, and a 'Sign in' button. At the bottom of the form, there are links for 'Sign up', 'Forgot your password?', and 'Didn't receive unlock instructions?'.

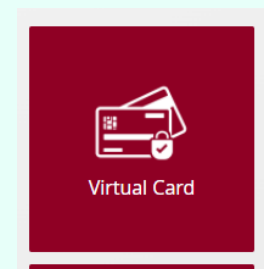
This will be the page you see after signing in

There will be a noticed posted on this page if you have not paid your dues. There will also be a link so that you can immediately pay your dues using a credit card.



To download and print your dues card, go to “Virtual Card”

Follow the very simple instructions to print your Due card. The new dues card does not have to be signed by the lodge secretary.



There is also a I Member 2.0 app for your smart phone. Find out about it at:

<https://masonichome.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Intro.iMemberLOApp.pdf>



## Helping other Lodges

On Thursday Feb 17, Worshipful Woody Nelson Assisted North Butte Masonic Lodge no. 230 in Gridley, in conferring the 1<sup>st</sup> degree of Masonry. Worshipful Nelson filled the position of Senior Warden. Our brothers of the Gridley Lodge were most appreciative of his assistance. This was the first initiation at Gridley Lodge in some time.

On Tuesday Feb 22, Worshipful Woody Nelson Assisted Chico Leland Stanford Lodge No. 111 in Chico, in conferring the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of Masonry. Worshipful Nelson filled the position of Junior Deacon for the first section, and Senior Warden in the second section. Our brothers of the Chico Lodge were most appreciative of his assistance.



## Our Facebook and Lodge website

Before the Camp Fire, the Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Facebook webpage was widely known and read in the US and in many foreign countries. Brother Paul Bissett did an outstanding job of creating and maintaining it. However, after the fire and during the depths of the pandemic there was little to add to our Facebook webpage. That will all change. Brother Bissett is relocating to Tennessee for work, so one of our newest brothers, Cole Hamilton, will be taking over management of our Facebook webpage and our lodge website. Brother Hamilton has expertise and vision for our website, and will also be created an *Instagram* web media page which will tie to our Facebook webpage. We hope these changes will please you. <https://www.facebook.com/TableMountainMasonicLodge124/> .

We are also working to regain control of and update our Lodge website <http://lodge124.freemason.org/> which is currently hosted by Grand Lodge, and hasn't been updated since 2020.





## Helping the Community Schools

On February 12, Paradise High School held their dance at the Table Mountain Masonic building. For the event the students were given access to the entire building, except for the upstairs. Worshipful Nelson along with brother Hamilton were present to assist the faculty and take care of the building. The student committee responsible for choosing the site of the dance looked at several places in Paradise before choosing our building. To support the school, we offered the building to them at a very minimal cost (enough to cover utilities). The students, teachers and administrators of the High School were delighted to find our lodge brothers to be so supportive of them. They hope to use the facility for future events. Our support of this High School dance is part of our larger initiative to support the local schools. In the last year we have also extended support to the elementary schools, and we also have future programs planned for the elementary schools.





## Our new building rental website - Supporting our Community

A vibrant and healthy community needs a low cost location to hold all sorts of small and large community events, meetings, fund raisers and private events. To facilitate greater community awareness of our facilities and thus generate more building use and rentals we have created an additional website to facilitate rentals. <http://www.paradisecavenue.com/> is our new website that specifically focuses on the spaces and facilities that are available for rental to the general public.



On February 12, a community fabric sale was held at our facility

## Future Cornerstone Ceremony and Rededication Ceremony

We are working with the schools and Grand Lodge on a cornerstone laying ceremony for one of the new schools. This will occur in 2024, when Brother Sean Metroka, a Paradise High Graduate who was raised in Table Mountain Lodge, will be the Grand Master. He will also be formally rededicating our building.



## Masonic Formation:

*Editor's note: Since the earliest ancient times when humans first formed moral and spiritual communities, man has known that symbols are powerful and flexible tools for communicating, inculcating and reminding people of principles, ideas, ethics and life lessons. A symbol can have many meanings and represent a variety of ideas. Consider the U.S. flag, a symbol of our nation. Yet, when we see it majestically waving in the breeze, each of us see more than a national symbol, we see a combination of the ideas, principles and struggles of our nation. We may be reminded of sacrifices made, of great accomplishments and tragedies overcome. It may bring to mind your service, or the service of others. Our own experiences enlarge the meaning of the flag for us. So it is with the Holy Bible, square and compass. The symbols of the Holy Bible, square and compass occupy a special place in Masonic education, and in our degrees. While as Masons, we all remember what we are taught about them, still some brothers have found additional meaning in those symbols, due to their research efforts, education and personal experiences. The below essay comes from a brother in Tennessee, and offers an interesting and expanded understanding of these important Masonic symbols. Please enjoy.*

### The Three Great Lights of Masonry

*Content edited for readability and to improve comprehension*

One of the earliest lessons that we are taught in Freemasonry is that of the three great lights; the Holy Bible, square, and compasses. While it is relatively easy to understand that the Holy Bible is given to us as the rule and guide of our faith and thus considered one of the great lights, it may require additional explanation to understand why the square and compasses are also considered two of the great lights of Masonry.

When most people are asked what comprises the “secrets” of Freemasonry, many would justifiably reply that the grips and words are the secrets of this fraternity. However, in a much more complete sense, Freemasonry can best be understood as a fraternity based on symbols, and it is perhaps the meaning of such symbols that are the true “secrets” of Freemasonry.

In that regard, the square and compasses must be very important symbols to be afforded such elevated status in our fraternity. Thinking about a square reveals that it is an instrument that can only be applied to flat surfaces. In ancient times, the Earth was presumed to be flat, and so the square became a symbol of that which is earthly.

A compass is used to describe circles and shapes in trigonometry and geometry that cannot be adequately described by a square. Thinking for a moment, you will realize that the sky or heavens above constitute a half-sphere or half-circle which can be drawn by the compasses. Thus, compasses came to signify the heavenly or spiritual.

Every human being has a dual nature. One side of human nature involves the animal and material, while the other involves the intellectual and spiritual. Man's body is said to be formed from the dust of the Earth, while his soul, spirit, and intellect are formed in the heavens by God. The physical body arises from the Earth and returns to the Earth and is considered animal and material. The soul, spirit, and intellect are immortal and are heavenly and spiritual in nature.

There are competing forces affecting human conduct. The compasses represent those which are heavenly and spiritual, while the square is a symbol of the earthly and material.

The compasses' two arms represent man's moral sense and reason. Moral sense can be defined as that which has been given to man to discern right from wrong. The concept of reason is one by which man decides the wisest and best course of conduct. Alternatively, the square represents man's earthly, material nature and can be described as the sensual appetites and passions of a human being. These characteristics man shares with animals, in that they can come to rule a man.

When a candidate is prepared for initiation, he represents man in the state of ignorance, and subjugation to darkness. You will recall that the candidate is neither naked nor clad, barefoot nor shod, meaning that his faculties are but less developed than desired and that morality and reason, though they exist in him, need further refinement. Furthermore, the candidate is hoodwinked and so symbolically deprived of the light of knowledge.

The candidate is also divested of all metals. This phrase originally referred to the most precious of metals, that of gold and silver. In ancient time, gold symbolically represents the sun, and silver represented the moon. Therefore, a hoodwinked candidate divested of all metals is blind to the light of knowledge and has no vision of the sun and moon. In other words, the candidate is initially deprived of the light of reason and moral sense, and therefore the ability to discern morally or think rationally.

During the obligation, the candidate's attention is drawn to the square and compasses on the altar. Remembering that the two points of the compasses represent moral sense and reason and the two arms of the square represent sensual appetites and passions gives us great insight into the significance of these symbols.

With great care it is pointed out to the candidate that the two points of the compasses are under the square in the entered apprentice degree. As the candidate is deprived of light, the candidate's ability to distinguish right from wrong and think rationally are symbolically overpowered and ruled by his earthly appetites and passions represented by the square. Thus, without moral compass and rationality, man is destined to be no better than an animal and governed only by blind instinct.



In the Fellowcraft degree, one point of the compasses is elevated above the square, and this fact is specifically pointed out to the candidate. Such teaches the candidate that by zealous work he can begin to attain light and that the progressive journey of a faithful man is from darkness to light. In our teachings, the candidate is reminded that Freemasonry is a journey and can be attained only by degrees, the journey of a man traveling from ignorance to enlightenment and that of a man maturing from his animal instincts to a willingness to serve God and community. The Fellowcraft degree represents that the candidate's earthly appetites and that passions no longer have complete control over his conduct.

The third degree is the culmination of the blue lodge degrees, and as a new Master Mason, the brother is instructed that both points of the compasses are elevated above the square. This teaches the candidate that he is expected to have developed his moral, intellectual, and spiritual forces so that they control his material and animal forces. It is the recognition that man owes a greater duty than just to himself and that the best expression of his nature is one of service to others. Thus, as a Master Mason, his moral, intellectual, and spiritual forces have become superior to his material and animal forces. The brother becomes a Master Mason because, symbolically, he has become a Master of himself.

You may be familiar with the phrase describing a Master Mason as one who has “passed from the square to the compass.” Knowing the meaning of the symbolism gives us much greater insight and a more complete understanding of this phrase. As one “passes from the square to the compasses,” one is growing in maturity and evolving from the earthly and sensual appetites to those heavenly and spiritual virtues which are the ultimate rewards for those who seek the true light.

We are also taught that the principal tenants of Masonry are said to be included between the two points of the compasses. Likewise, the compasses are said to circumscribe our desires, which means that by discerning morally and thinking rationally, we keep our sensual appetites and desires in check and make them subordinate to those higher and nobler virtues of service to God and our fellow man.

The symbolism of Blue Lodge is of critical importance. Our ritual is what sets Freemasonry apart from other good and useful charitable and fraternal organizations. It has been said that the ceremonies of Freemasonry served two primary purposes. First to inculcate and promote moral and social virtues and second to serve as a vehicle for transmitting knowledge through symbols. We would be well-served by undertaking a diligent study of Masonry's symbols whereby we can obtain the true secrets and gifts that Masonry has to offer.

Original unedited version available at <http://www.chattanooga-scottish-rite.org/masonic-education.html>

# Freemasonry around the World:

## The Swedish Rite of Freemasonry

As we have discussed in our previous Journal / Trestleboard, we have found *regular* Freemasonry around the world to be quite varied. One such example of a different form is the *Swedish Rite of Freemasonry* that is dominate in Scandinavian countries (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark) and exists to a lesser extent in Finland and Germany. It differs from other forms of regular Freemasonry in that, rather than having the three self-contained foundation degrees and a variety of side degrees and appendant bodies (as in the US), the Swedish Rite has an integrated system with only ten degrees. Also, rather than moving through the offices or 'chairs', progress in the Swedish Rite is instead based on moving through the ten degrees.

Another fundamental difference of the Swedish Rite is its position on religious affiliation. Masonry in the US, UK and many other nations requires a belief in God, but accepts candidates of any theistic religion. However, the Swedish Rite requires a candidate to be a Christian. The candidate can be a member of any Christian religion/sect that has the trinitarian doctrine. These requirements exclude some middle eastern Christian church members, some modern or new wave Christian groups, the Latter Day Saints (Mormons), Jehovah's Witness, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and others. This may seem foundationally wrong to American Freemasons, because of our focus on universal brotherhood of all good men who profess a believe in God and the possibility of spiritual life after death. Nonetheless, Swedish Rite Freemasonry is recognized as *regular* by regular Grand Lodges throughout the world. Additionally, there have been other forms of Freemasonry in other nations that have had requirements similar to the Swedish Rite. It is interesting to note that Swedish Rite Freemasonry has strong connections with the various national Lutheran churches which are the majority churches of all the Scandinavian nations. Strangely, Lutheran churches in the US have been traditional hostile to American Freemasonry.

There is, of course, some disagreement concerning when the first Freemasons were active in Scandinavia, but we can agree that by the middle of the 18th century, around 1750, functional lodges started appearing in various places in Scandinavia. These lodges, their leaders and their royalty supporters (often the same people) were influenced by their contacts with forms of English, German and French Freemasonry, and thus a unique rite began to be developed, aligned with their social and cultural norms and needs. The Swedish Rite appears to have fully developed into its current form around 1800.

The Swedish Rite has ten degrees divided into three groups. The first two groups are called lodges, while the third is called simply Chapter. There is an eleventh degree, given only to Grand Lodge members, but this is really an honorary award not a specific educational

attainment, so it is similar to the 33d degree in the US Scottish Rite Masonry. Very few Swedish Rite-masons will receive the honor of their 11th degree.

#### St. John's degrees

- I Apprentice
- II Fellow Craft
- III Master Mason

#### St. Andrew's degrees

- IV/V Apprentice and Companion of St. Andrew (a double degree)
- VI Master of St. Andrew

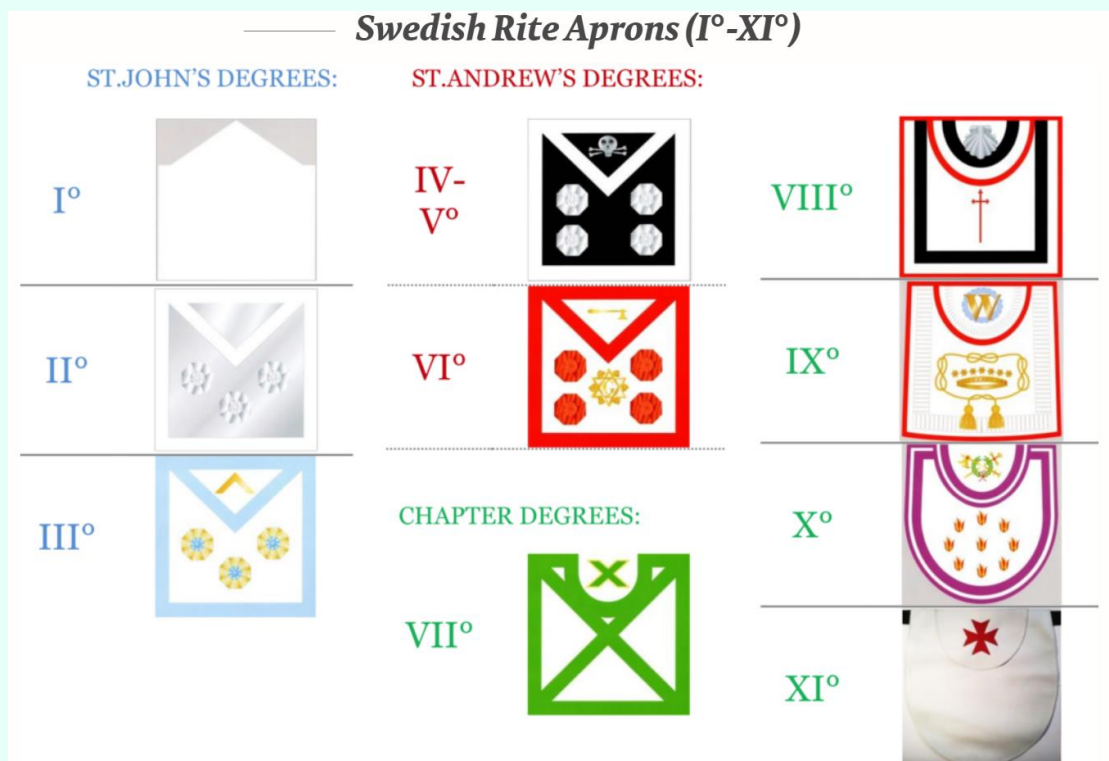
#### Chapter degrees

- VII Very Illustrious Brother, Knight of the East
- Novice (Only in Denmark)
- VIII Most Illustrious Brother, Knight of the West
- IX Enlightened Brother of St. John's Lodge
- X Very Enlightened Brother of St. Andrew's Lodge

#### Grand Lodge degree

- (XI) Most Enlightened Brother, Knight and Commander of the Red Cross

Each degree of the Swedish Rite has a specific Masonic apron:





The St. John's Lodge is approximately equivalent to what we call the Blue lodge. The morality and symbolism taught being the same as that of our Blue Lodge. The St. Andrew's Lodge, in some way resembles our Scottish Rite degrees. A Masonic ring is given in the eighth degree, and consists of the customary red St. Andrew's Cross and sometimes their Masonic motto, *Veritas Persuadet* (the truth persuades). It is worn on the index finger of the right hand. A Knight of the West is required to design his own coat of arms taking the traditional European rules of heraldry into account. The resulting coat-of-arms hangs in his Provincial Grand Lodge. The tenth degree is the highest ordinarily attainable; it can be received after roughly twenty one years of regular attendance and demonstrated proficiency in the ritual, but the time between the degrees may be shorter if the member is active and accepts different offices in his lodges.

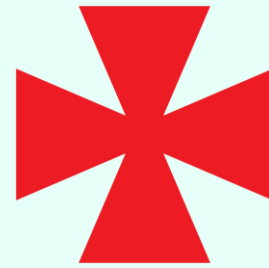
The lodges are managed by a Worshipful Master, who is assisted by one or more Deputy Masters. There are also the Primary and Secondary Wardens, a Master of Ceremonies, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Orator, and a Director of Music.

The lodge offices do not rotate as in American freemasonry. A Swedish Rite mason is not obliged or expected to take up an office, nor is there a progression between the offices. Any member holding the appropriate degree may campaign for election as Worshipful Master without ever having held any office before, and the same holds for all the other offices of the Rite. *Regular* masons elsewhere in the world are fully accepted as visitors. The layout of a St John's lodge-room and that of our Blue Lodge is different, as is their ritual, excepting the word and grips of recognition, which are universal in regular Masonry.

The American and UK versions of Freemasonry emphasizes memorization and strives for word-perfect ritual, yet the lodge atmosphere is generally relaxed and friendly. In contrast, observers say that the Swedish Rite places more emphasis on the mystical and the spiritual, and the atmosphere of the Swedish Rite meeting have been described as "mysterious and gloomy", and "intensely solemn and almost mystical... otherworldly atmosphere". The Swedish Rite focuses strongly on the spirit of the ritual and little, if any, emphasis on the participants being word perfect. For rituals, the lodge officers are given a book from which to read from during degree ceremonies. The task of delivering the major speeches falls on an officer known as the Orator. As in our lodges, Swedish Rite candidates are examined on their proficiency prior to being passed or raised. Also, during lectures the candidates are expected to write down the salient points of the morality being taught.

Another significant difference is the *Foundational Story* of the Swedish Rite. The central figure of the Master Mason's narrative is the biblical character Adoniram rather than Hiram Abiff. In US and UK Freemasonry, no mention is made of Adoniram in the three blue lodge degrees. However, he is a character in the higher degrees of our York and Scottish rites.

Another difference is in symbology. The red cross shown here, known in Scandinavia as a St George's cross, is the commonly used symbol for Freemasonry in the Swedish Rite, alongside the more internationally recognized Square and Compasses.



Cultural and political differences being a reality, there are differences in degrees and requirements in each of the Scandinavian nations. Examples are: In Denmark, Norway and Germany a mason will retain his craft lodge-membership while advancing through the St. Andrew's and Chapter degrees, and pay dues to all. In Denmark, dues are collected by the Danish Order of Freemasons and distributed to the relevant St. John's, St. Andrews and Chapter-organizations. In Sweden, Finland, and Iceland a mason will not retain his craft lodge-membership, when he advances to the IV–V.-degree, or his St. Andrew's Lodge-membership, when he advances to the VII.-degree. Also, dues are paid only to the lodge which the mason is presently a member of. Because of the sometimes large distance between one's home and the closest St. Andrew's Lodge, travel outlays can be excessive. To remedy this, Square-and-Compasses Clubs or Friendship Clubs were created in small towns so that St. Andrew's or Chapter Freemasons can socialize without travelling inordinate distances; in Denmark these are called Instruction Lodges. Friendship Clubs cannot confer degrees, except by dispensation from Grand Lodge. Swedish freemasons can, in rare cases, be rewarded with the Order of Charles XIII. This is a Royal order of chivalry, equivalent to a knighthood and given only to Knights-Commander of the Red Cross at the King's pleasure. The Order of Charles XIII is not classed as a degree.

#### Grand Lodges Currently using the Swedish Rite

Swedish Grand Lodge

Danish Grand Lodge

Icelandic Grand Lodge

Grosse Landesloge der Freimaurer von Deutschland

Norwegian Grand Lodge

Note: there are other forms and groups of regular and irregular Freemasonry in these nations.

In future editions of the Journal / Trestleboard we will discuss other forms of Freemasonry in other nations.



# Some History of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

## Overview 1848 to 1936

Before the Grand Lodge of California was founded, Masons from many jurisdictions had moved to California and were meeting as Masons. Sometimes these informal lodges met under no jurisdiction's authority, and at times these lodges were formed under a distant jurisdiction. These early California residents knew that meeting as Masons was more important than having an official status from any Grand Lodge. In Butte County, such Masons met in 1848, and then in 1849, and officially established *Pacific Lodge* (under the Grand Lodge of Illinois) at Long Bar. Long Bar, which was destroyed by fire in 1854, was a location about 2 miles upstream from the town of Ophir (name changed to Oroville in 1855). Despite the establishment of the Grand Lodge of California in 1850, Pacific Lodge continued to operate until 1851 when it was dissolved. Its membership, for the most part, moved to the lodge in Ophir (Oroville), although that lodge wasn't officially chartered until 1856.

Oroville was a growing and thriving community. However, all was not well in that lodge. There was apparently enough controversy and disagreement within Oroville lodge, to result in its division into two lodges occupying the same building. The nature of the controversy and disagreement is currently unknown. However, the brothers peacefully agreed to an arrangement. So, in late 1857 Table Mountain Lodge was formed, and in 1858 it was officially recognized by the Grand Lodge of California. Its initial members were a cross-section of the successful officials, entrepreneurs and miners of the Oroville area. Many of the members had been members of the earlier Pacific Lodge.

During the American Civil War period, 1861 to 1865, times were difficult for Table Mountain Lodge. This was an era in California when residents often and suddenly moved to follow financial, farming or mining opportunities. During the Civil War, California remained with the Union, but much of the population were supportive of the Confederacy. As a result, inter-community conflict was common and emotions ran high. It was also an era when life expectancy was significantly shorter, and travel was difficult in the relative wilderness of California. The production of Gold near Oroville began declining in 1857, and in a few years had seriously affected that community. However, the War increased the demand of Gold, so in 1862 Table Mountain Lodge petitioned to re-form in the mining camp of Cherokee, also known as Cherokee flats.

With the end of the civil war, many war veterans who were Masons returned or moved to California, swelling the size of many lodges and resulting in the opening of new lodges. The opening of the transcontinental railroad in late 1869, and the opening of the first local bridge across the Feather river made travel easier, and brought some needed economic boost to Butte County.





Early bridge across the Feather River

So, in 1871, after finally receiving permission from the Grand Lodge of California, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge moved to the mining town of Cherokee.



The Cherokee Mining Community

Perhaps the 9 years of waiting for Grand Lodge's permission is part of the reason the Lodge's move was not particularly well planned. There having been no arrangements of any kind for their own structure, the lodge met in Balder's Store, later known as Vinton's store.



Our first meeting location in Cherokee.

This space was also used by the local Oddfellows lodge. As in most places, the Masons and Oddfellows coexisted very well, and individuals were often members of both organizations.



Painting of your first meeting location in Cherokee.



For the next 66 years Table Mountain Masonic Lodge thrived in Cherokee. Records show that the lodge was extremely active in caring for its members and the community. Initially it was a tightknit community somewhat isolated by distance and terrain. The social life of the community was built around the few commercial activities, the lodges and of course church. Often the same people were active in all these organizations. Over time the population of the community and the complexity of the community grew. In many ways it was another example of a Masonic mining community, as discussed in a previous journal/tresleboard. The miners and other residents came from a variety of backgrounds and professions. Sometimes, they were educated professionals, that left the urban world for the lure of wealth and the freedom offered by mining. The successful gold mining operations and pleasant weather drew visitors from around the world. Many of the lodge's members and officers traveled from nearby communities to be part of Table Mountain Lodge. The lodge even acquired part ownership in one of the local gold mines. The lodge's membership stayed between 50 to 60 during the 1880s.

As there was little in the way of a social safe net for those that fell upon difficult times, the lodge was deeply involved in relieving the distressed, and sometimes paying for funerals and burials. Social events were regularly held by the lodge to support various charitable activities.

The records show that during 1919 and 1920, no meetings were held for 4 months. This was during the time of the Spanish Flu pandemic. Perhaps those brothers took precautions similar to those that we had to recently endure.



Cherokee area in the 1930's



Table Mountain Lodge experienced a boom of activities during the period known as the *roaring twenties* (1920s). However, as the number of operating gold mines and the amount they produced declined throughout California, so did the mining communities decline as their population and institutions moved on to new locations. Additionally, as a result of extensive hydraulic mining, the Cherokee area was environmentally damaged, contributing to the eventual decline of mining activity and the size of the population.



Hydraulic mining in the Cherokee area

The Great Depression that started in 1929 and continued until the second war world, brought difficulty to the Cherokee area. Additionally, some unusually difficult winter weather impacted the area. By 1935, the nation was deep into the Great Depression, and the lodge's flexibility and activities had dramatically declined as the economy and population of Cherokee declined. The remaining brothers knew it was time for a serious discussion about the future of the area and the lodge. Moving the lodge to different communities was discussed. The area near present day Paradise had a more diversified and stable economy and a larger population than other locations that were discussed. In 1936, after much consideration, the remaining members of the lodge, decided to physically relocate the lodge to its present location in Paradise, thus beginning a new chapter in the history of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge.



## Masonic Youth Programs

There are three Masonic youth organizations, *DeMolay International* for boys and young men, and *The International Order of Rainbow for Girls*, and *Job's Daughters International* for girls. I have recently discovered that some of our brethren are not familiar with these organizations, or have misconceptions about them. Therefore, this month we have some information about the Rainbow Girls which has a very successful Chico / Paradise Assembly. In future issues of this publication, we will discuss DeMolay which also has a successful Chico / Paradise Chapter, and Job's Daughters International.

### The International Order of Rainbow for Girls

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) is a Masonic youth service organization for young women (ages 10 - 20) that inculcates Masonic values and leadership principles through ritual, activities and community service. Majority Membership is reached in two ways. A young woman receives age majority when she reaches her 20th birthday, or marriage majority if she marries before age 20 (which is rare). Girls are not required to have a familial connection to a Mason. This is the same as in DeMolay. Former Rainbow Girls are eligible for Eastern Star when they reach adulthood.



To join Rainbow, interested young women must submit an application and associated fee to an Assembly, as is done in other Masonic organizations. An applicant must believe in a supreme being and have the permission of her parents/guardians. Once the application is accepted, the assembly will vote on accepting the candidate into the Assembly. Membership then starts with an Initiation Ceremony. Members are expected to serve their community, be law-abiding, acknowledge the authority of the Supreme Assembly, and show loyalty to the other members, among other things. For girls between ages 6 and 10, some jurisdictions have a "Pledge" program for prospective members, so that they can become familiar with Rainbow ceremonies and activities. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls has Assemblies in 46 states in the United States as well as in several other countries.

A few years ago, before the fire, some brothers of Table Mountain Lodge together visited a meeting of the Chico/Paradise Rainbow Assembly. The girls were very happy to see us there. I recall one brother who was previously unfamiliar with Rainbow, suddenly become a huge supporter of the organization. He was surprised and impressed by the masonic principles and lessons taught through the ritual, inspired by their excellent memory work and the poise of the girls. Rainbow girls are widely known for what has been called the "Rainbow walk", an exceptionally elegant and poised way of walking and carrying themselves. The girls also

develop superior speaking and leadership skills by moving through the various positions, and by being mentored by the older girls and the adult advisors. There is also strong but gentle emphasis on personal appearance. All these benefit the girls throughout their lives.

The girls can hold many different offices (also called *Stations*) in the local Assembly. Each requires some memory work and all but two serve for one term. Some offices are elected by the other members in the assembly. The elected offices normally include Treasurer, Recorder, Faith, Hope, Charity, Worthy Associate Advisor, and Worthy Advisor. The other offices are appointed by the Worthy Advisor (President) and Mother Advisor.

The offices are:

- **Worthy Advisor (WA)** - Presides at meetings and plans activities for her term like a President: the highest office in an Assembly
- **Worthy Associate Advisor (WAA)** - Duties similar to a Vice President. Presides over a meeting in the absence of the Worthy Advisor
- **Charity** - Teaches about charitable deeds
- **Hope** - Teaches that hope is always there for us
- **Faith** - Teaches that faith is our constant companion. She is the officer who guides new candidates throughout an initiation ceremony
- **Recorder** - Records minutes and handles correspondence
- **Treasurer** - Handles money and bills and compiles reports about the balances of the Assembly's various money accounts
- **Chaplain** - Leads in prayers
- **Drill Leader** - Leads the officers in their floor work and leads guests around the room
- **Seven Bow Stations** - Teach lessons about the colors and their corresponding virtues:
  - ✓ **Love** (Red) In all its forms
  - ✓ **Religion** (Orange) The importance of religion in all its forms (based on love and forgiveness)
  - ✓ **Nature** (Yellow) Its importance in your daily life
  - ✓ **Immortality** (Green) The understanding of death is a part of life
  - ✓ **Fidelity** (Blue) Emphasis on being honest and reliable
  - ✓ **Patriotism** (Indigo) Encouraging citizenship to your country
  - ✓ **Service** (Violet) Service to others which bind all the colors together
- **Confidential Observer** - Guards the inner doors of the assembly room.
- **Outer Observer** - Guards the outer doors of the assembly room.
- **Musician and Choir Director** - Provide music for the meetings.

The Rainbow Girls also engage in many fun activities and charitable activities. The girls plan and run all their own events, with oversight from the adult Mother Advisor and sometime board members. The Rainbow Girls sometimes attend and assist with events with DeMolay.

The Rainbow Girls attend a yearly Grand Assembly of Rainbow girls from throughout California. Some of the girls are elected to fill statewide offices and serve on statewide committees. There has also been a Rainbow outdoor camp in past years. These trips along with most of their activities are funded through fund-raising events that the girls organized and run throughout the year. There is also a statewide Rainbow Girls charity project every year.

In California there are a variety of Rainbow Girls specific scholarships. Any California Rainbow Girl in good standing who needs financial assistance to attend college or prepare for a particular career may apply for a scholarship. There are several general academic scholarships programs, and another specifically for books and materials. There is also a music scholarship and scholarship for entering the field of education. Additionally, Rainbow girls can apply for other Masonic youth scholarships and financial assistance programs from a variety of Masonic organizations. Additionally, Rainbow leadership experience and charitable activities are well received on any scholarship application.

While Rainbow emphasizes the important of religion, the organization does not emphasis one Religion or church over another. The girls must believe in a higher power, and that belief in a Higher Power enhances the lessons that are taught in Rainbow. The various service projects helps them to feel closer to their creator and grow in their faith.

The Chico/ Paradise Rainbow Assembly 204 has been very successful for many years, They meet at 7 pm, on the first and third Mondays of each month, at Chico Masonic Center. The contact for the Chico/ Paradise Rainbow Assembly 204 is the Mother Advisor, Laura Ray, 530-828-4748.





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