



Table Mountain Masonic Lodge #124, Paradise, CA

 **April 2023 Journal and Trestleboard** 



Vol 3, Issue 4,
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Website: <https://lodge124.freemason.org>
Building and Room Rentals



Worshipful Master's Corner

Hello Brothers and Friends,

This month we begin with **contact information for our lodge officers** followed by the **calendar of events**. Then there is a **summary of our last stated meeting**, then some information about the **funeral masters training** held on Mar 8, our March 11 **triple 1st degree**, the **Grand Lecturer instructional** on March 18, the **Setting Maul dinner** also on Mar 18, the March 25 **Community Market** sponsored by our lodge and the OES official Grand Chapter visit on March 26. Those were followed by our continuing feature **Questions that you might be asked about Freemasonry: With answers**. This month we have three Masonic Formation essays. The first is entitled **International Differences in Freemasonry, Example: The York Rite degrees**. The second is entitled **Freemasonry, the Brotherhood of Man**, and the third is **A History of Military Lodges in Freemasonry**. Then we offer another collection of **quotes suitable for Masonic reflection**. Then, there is an important reminder to our brothers that have not yet paid their **yearly lodge dues**. There is also information about **obtaining your own custom Lodge polo shirt**, getting a copy of our unique **150 year history of Table Mountain Masonic lodge**, and on **how to print your dues card** using your personal computer. Finally, there is **contact information** for our lodge and other Masonic organizations.



This Journal / Trestleboard is posted in our lodge's message board at the Grand Lodge website and also at the **Table Mountain lodge website:** <https://lodge124.freemason.org>

Calendar of Events

Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

- April 1, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm, and is free.
- April 29, Saturday, Tentative 2nd Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- May 6, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm, and is free.
- May 11, Thursday, Lodge Social / Celebration. Time and location TBD
- May 20, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.
- May 8, Monday, Public Schools Employee and Students of the Year Award Ceremony at 6 pm.
- June 3, Saturday, Stated Meeting starting at 2 pm. Lunch at 1 pm, and is free.
- June 17, Saturday, Tentative Degree, starting at 2 pm.

Important Future Date

- Sept 16, Saturday, Outdoor Evening 3rd Degree, - Performed by the Scottish Rite/Shriners Past Masters Team at our outdoor mountain top lodge.

Other local area Masonic Events

- **DeMolay** – Apr 6 and 20 at 7 pm. Location to be announced.
- **Rainbow** – Apr 3, 17 and May 1 at 7 pm at the Chico Masonic center.
- **Ben Ali Shrine, Sacramento** – [Ben Ali Shrine - Ben Ali Shrine](#) .
- **Golden Feather Eastern Star** (Paradise and Oroville) - April 5, at 7 pm, in Oroville.
- **Scottish Rite** – April 18 Stated Meeting and Dinner at 6 pm, at the Sacramento Scottish Rite center.
- **Chico Leland Stanford lodge** – Stated Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.
- **Oroville Lodge** – Stated Meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Gridley Lodge** - Stated Meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Forbestown lodge** - Stated Meeting, 1st Saturday of the month at 7 pm.
- **Orland Lodge** - Stated Meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

Other Scheduled Community Events at the Table Mountain Masonic Center

- **Community Market at TMML**, April 8 and 29, from 5 to 9 pm.
- **Paradise Rod and Gun Club** – Executive meeting first Wednesday of every month at 6 pm.
General membership meeting third Thursday of every month 6:30 pm
- **Butte County Family Health classes and counseling** , Every Wed, 4:30 to 9 pm.
- **PG&E and contractors** are having regular work meetings in our facility.
- Intermittent use by various private parties. Check with Woody Nelson for available dates

Table Mountain Building/Rooms Rentals

Woody Nelson, (530) 877-7852 email: paradisefreemasons@gmail.com

2023 Officers of Table Mountain Masonic Lodge

Master – Doug Campbell

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Email: dgcphd@gmail.com

Senior Warden – Juston Purcell (PM)

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Junior Warden – Ehren Hawkins

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Secretary - Brian Grandfield (PM)

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Treasurer – Rich Gingery

Phone: 530-519-6089

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Chaplain - Bob McElroy

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Senior Deacon - Cole Hamilton

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Junior Deacon – Justin (Oso) Harju

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Tiler – Caleb Chinn (PM)

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March 4, 2023, Stated Meeting

At 1 pm, just prior to our Saturday March 4, stated meeting, the brothers and guests met for an excellent lunch of homemade chili, salad and refreshments provided and prepared by Worshipful Doug Campbell and his wife Dana. Everyone appeared to enjoy their meal. As normal for our lodge there was lively conversation and good humor. Please note that family and friends are invited to our monthly luncheons and there is no cost.

Then at 2 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conducting the March 2023 stated meeting business. Worshipful Doug Campbell presided, and all positions were filled.



Our Secretary Brian Grandfield (PM) read the minutes of the previous meeting, and later presented the secretary's report and bills to be paid. All bills were paid. Additionally, our Secretary informed the brothers that the background investigation and committee interviews on our latest petitioner were favorable. Thus, the brothers voted to confer the degrees of Freemasonry on Mr. Joseph L. Sciligo. There were no new petitions.

Our Treasurer, brother Rich Gingery reported that the account had significantly increased due to our efforts to have past dues paid. However, the donation the lodge is to receive has not yet arrived from the investment firm. Brother Gingery will be reaching out to the firm to determine the reason for the delay.

The sacred scrolls for three of our recently departed brothers were read, followed by an appropriate period of silence. Then our brother Secretary shared the communications that the lodge had received during February.

Reports from the Building Association and Investments committees indicated that the organizational and legal requirements had been or would soon be complete. They were currently engaged in reviewing all the possible and necessary repairs and modifications to our existing facilities, and would be sharing a more extensive report at the April stated meeting.

Brother Nelson informed the lodge that he had no information to share at the time concerning the proposed Camp Fire Memorial. The Worshipful Master encouraged the brothers to share feedback about the lodge's Journal and Trestleboard, and also to considering submitting an article for the publication.

The Junior Warden Fund report was shared. It was indicated that our next stated meeting we consider replenishing the fund, sufficient for it to complete 2023.

Brother Hamilton, the Lodge's Liaison to the Ridge Arts and Crafts Community, reported on the past and future Community Markets to be held at the lodge. He shared his success at those events in obtaining donations to our community and youth programs, and for the Shriner's Hospital.

Brother Hamilton, who is also our Lodge Social Media representative, then shared that he would proceed in setting our Lodge's new Facebook page. Then we will proceed with removing the old Facebook page that has been problematic.

Brother Harju, one of our Lodge's Liaisons to the Boy Scouts reported that at this time Scouting does not need any assistance from the lodge. He noted that they are doing well and growing fast. However, he would appreciate suggestions on where he could take the scouts on hikes when the weather improves.

Brother Gingery and Brother Hamilton, the Lodge's Liaisons to the Masonic Youth Groups gave a brief report on the current challenging situation with DeMolay, and their upcoming Devo day trip to San Jose and the Great America amusement park. Brother Hamilton shared the opportunity for lodge members to donate time to the upcoming Paradise Chocolate Festival, to support the Rainbow girls share of future funding.

Brother Gingery, one of the Lodge's Liaisons to the Magalia Parks Association gave a brief update on the continuing challenges that the association is having in securing title to land where the park is currently situated.

Our School Liaison committee reported that they were in the process of coordinating the awards and event date with the school district.

Worshipful Campbell then reminded the brothers that any of them could submit article for the lodge Journal/Trestleboard, simply by emailing it to him. Also, that we are open to recommendations to improve this publication.

The Worshipful Master then proceeded to address the problem of missing or significantly delinquent members. After explaining the efforts that were made to contact and get payment, the Master read a significant list of names of brothers that would be suspended in April if their payment is not received by then. The Master also read a list of names of members whose dues would be remitted in accordance with Masonic code.

Then the status of each current Entered Apprentice's progress on their proficiency was discussed, and each coach reported on their progress and efforts to facilitate the process. All members were reminded that a 2nd degree conferral is scheduled for April 29.

The Master then stated that due to a lack of consensus, the Lodge as an entity would not be attempting or supporting any specific project to alleviate the homeless problem. However, the Lodge would continue to support the individual effort of those brothers contributing to alleviating the problem.

The Master then asked for the members input and thoughts about the proposed lodge decorations, on display in the lodge. All comment were positive, so the building association committee stated they would proceed with placing them on the walls.

The Master informed the brethren that the preparation of the digital copy of the Lodge's 150 year history, has proved to be more challenging than expected. Thus, it will take considerably more time to finish.

The lodge then returned to the difficult issue of possibly raising the application fee and the annual dues. Everyone recognized the need to raise the fee and dues, but also lamented the possible impact on applicants and members. After an honest discussion, the brothers requested that we delay voting on these issues until our next stated meeting. Thus, giving them more time to think and seek divine guidance.

The Master then challenged the brothers to consider new ways for funding our community, schools and youth program. A few brief ideas were shared.

Positions, preparation and practices for the upcoming Mar 11 double 1st degree were then reviewed to ensure the readiness of the Lodge and members to give the candidates an excellent experience.

The calendar of events for the next 3 months was reviewed, and there was discussion of other important events scheduled for later in the year.

Brother Frank Beard volunteered to provide the April stated meeting lunch, and brother Cole Hamilton volunteered to provide the May lunch. Our thanks and appreciation to both brothers.

There being no further business, the lodge was then ritually closed, brotherly love prevailing.



March 8 - Funeral Master Class

One of the most important duties of any Masonic lodge is to provide a suitable funeral service or remembrance ceremony for a recently deceased worthy brother. Masonic funeral rites are performed, upon request of the family, by the deceased Mason's lodge, so that he can be honored by those who have known him and his works. It is one of the few and most important public ceremonies performed by Freemasons. These ceremonies are conducted by a certified Masonic Funeral Master, who has been specifically trained to perform the ceremony.

As of result of the 2018 Camp fire, all of Table Mountain Masonic lodge's certified Funeral Masters left the area. Due the restrictions of the 2019 through 2021 Covid pandemic there was no Funeral Masters training. Recently, five members of Table Mountain Masonic lodge and five members from other nearby lodges gathered in Paradise, on a snowy evening, to receive the training from Assistant Grand Lecturer Mike Edwards. The following are the names of our brothers that received the certification training.

Douglas Campbell – Master
Juston Purcell (PM) – Senior Warden
Cole Hamilton – Senior Deacon
Justin (Oso) Hamilton – Junior Deacon
Woody Nelson - PM



March 11 – Triple 1st Degree

On Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm, Table Mountain Masonic Lodge # 124 opened on the 1st degree of Masonry, for the purpose of conferring the Entered Apprentice degree on Mr. Roger P. Colvin, Mr. Jeffrey B. Vandegrift and Mr. Joseph Sciligo.

Worshipful Master Douglas Campbell opened the lodge and served as the Master of the Lodge for the first two initiations, Our Junior Warden Brother Ehren Hawkins, served as the Master of the Lodge for the initiation of his good friend Mr. Sciligo. Glenn Story (PM) presented the lecture and our Senior Deacon Cole Hamilton delivered the Charge. Juston Purcell (PM) was Senior Warren, Brian Grandfield (PM) was Secretary, Rich Gingery was Treasurer, and Caleb Chin (PM) was Chaplain. Justin (Oso) Harju was Junior Deacon, Marshal was Matt Sutter, Senior Steward was Phil Howard, Junior Steward was Frank Beard, and Glenn Story (PM) performed the duty of Tiler for most of the afternoon. The ceremony was beautifully done and enjoyed by all. After the completion of the degree, the Worshipful Master encouraged our newly initiated brothers to work diligently on their proficiency, in hope that they too would be qualified for the 2nd degree, currently scheduled for April 29, 2023. The lodge was then ritually closed, and afterwards everyone met downstairs for refreshments, and cream pies. Peace and harmony prevailed. Special thanks to Lisa Hamilton for managing the refreshment and pies, and taking picture after the degree.



March 18 - Grand Lecturer Class

On the morning of March 18, Masonic Lodge Officers from throughout Division II met at the Chico Masonic center to receive instruction from the Grand Lecturer Ricky Lee Lawler. Unfortunately, brother Lawler was not well that morning, so the Assistant Grand Lecturer for Division II, Mike Edward, stepped in to give instruction. The day began with some morning refreshment and food, followed by an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice degree. Brothers from throughout the division combined to present the exemplification. There were many questions from the gathered brothers, indicating some varying practices, and some needed corrections.

In addition to ritual procedures, Worshipful Mike emphasized the importance of respectful behavior by all lodge members, guests and inspectors. Specifically, the importance of silence during degrees and of having only the one designated prompter assisting when necessary. He also addressed the correct and respectful way to prompt. Additionally, Worshipful Mike emphasized that lodges have considerable latitude to adjust the ceremony (within the spirit of ritual) as appropriate to conditions, lodge layout, safety and any limitations of the candidates. The instruction lasted 2.5 hours, and afterwards the available brothers went to a local restaurant for lunch.



March 18 - Setting Maul Dinner

On March 18, at 5:30 pm, brothers and their spouses or guests from throughout Northern California gathered at the Sacramento Scottish Rite Center, to celebrate those brothers raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason during 2022. The event was attended by the Grand Master of Masons in California, Most Worshipful Randy Brill and other Grand officers, Masonic dignitaries and honored brothers. Refreshments and a fantastic dinner was served to accompany the speeches and presentations. Our own brothers Steve Kane and Cole Hamilton (picture below) as well as brother Justin (Oso) Harju (picture on the next page) were available to attend this year's celebration.





Table Mountain Masonic lodge extends its congratulations to all our members that were raised in 2022. The Setting Maul dinner is an annual event, but due to the Covid pandemic restrictions, it was not held in 2020 or 2021. Therefore, we also extend our recognition of our Treasurer, brother Richard Gingery, who was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason near the end of 2019.

Note: a Setting-maul is heavy wood or padded stone tool used by Operative Masons to tamp down the finished stones into their proper position.

March 19 – DeMolay Devotion Day

On March 19, our young men of the Paradise / Chico chapter of DeMolay, gather with DeMolay from across Northern California (from the Oregon border to Fresno) and some from Nevada and Hawaii, at both the San Jose Lodge and the San Jose Scottish Rite Temple for devotional services. Additionally, 10 new members were initiated. This was followed by a recreational day at the Santa Clara *Great America Amusement Park*. DeMolay was joined by the young ladies of Rainbow.

Our brother Dr. Rich Gingery who is one of our DeMolay advisors, and his son Trey (the current chapter Master Councilor) and Noah attended the event and greatly enjoyed the day. Due to the exceptionally efforts of brothers Cole Hamilton and Rich Gingery, DeMolay has experienced growth in our ridge communities.



March 25 – Table Mountain Masonic Lodge Community Market

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/440244160790023/>



March 26 – OES Grand Officers Visit

The members of Paradise and Oroville Golden Feather Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES) gathered with members of other OES chapters in the North State for the official visit of the Grand Chapter of OES in California. This year's visit had a Scottish theme, including bagpipers.

During the visit the Worthy Grand Matron Kimberlie Kruse and Worthy Grand Patron Gary Dunham announced that Table Mountain Masonic Lodge's current Master who is also a member of Golden Feather Chapter of the OES, brother Douglas Campbell, was appointed Grand Representative of Maine in California OES. The term of his commission being March 2023 through February 2025. Worshipful Campbell and his wife Dana are now planning a 2024 trip to the Maine Grand Chapter meeting.

Prior to the devastating Camp Fire of 2018, Paradise had its own highly successful Eastern Star chapter. As of result of the depopulation of the area resulting from the fire, the Paradise and Oroville chapter combined into a new chapter, taking the name Golden Feather chapter.

Golden Feather chapter meets in both Oroville and in Paradise. Its members now come from Paradise, Magalia, Chico, and Oroville. The Quincy chapter of OES, which has suffered from the recent devastating fires in their area, is in the process of joining the Golden Feather chapter, greatly expanding its geographical boundary.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a Masonic appendant body open to both men and women. It was established in 1850 and adopted and approved as an appendant body in 1873.



Questions that you might be asked about Freemasonry: How to answer them

Who can join the Freemasons?

While we are selective about our membership, contrary what some people believe, there is no requirement to be family related to any Mason, and there no requirement for a candidate to belong to any specific religion or church, or to join one. Any man meeting our standards may apply for membership and received the degrees (learning experiences). However, we do strictly enforce our standards. An applicant must believe in God, specifically a God that responds to prayer. Also, a candidate must believe in the possibility of a spiritual life after death. No atheist or deist can ever be made a Mason. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age and be of sound mind. He must have a respectable reputation among those who know him. There must be no evidence or record of moral turpitude. We do understand that sometimes a man, in his youth, makes mistakes. For that reason, we look at the whole man, specifically what he has done with his life since his mistakes.

How does someone join Freemasonry?

If a man is interested in possibly becoming a Freemason, or just learning more about Freemasonry, he should contact a local Masonic lodge. If he is within reasonable driving distance of Paradise CA, contact us. However, almost anywhere there is a nearby Masonic lodge. In our lodge, the first step is to meet and talk with one or more of our brothers. We would like an interested individual to tour our lodge building and if possible, attend one of our luncheons. We want him to have the opportunity to meet the brothers and ask any questions that he may have. We also want our brothers to have the opportunity to meet him. If he has a spouse or significant other, he should feel free to bring them to our luncheon. They too should feel comfortable with the lodge and with Freemasonry in general. If after meeting with us and getting his questions answered, he would like to join Freemasonry, all he has to do is tell us and we will provide him with an application. He must complete the application and return it to us with the small initiation fee. At our next monthly business meeting his application will be read to the assembled lodge members, and then three brothers will be assigned to individually interview him. Also, a criminal records background check will be performed at that time by the California Grand Lodge. After the records check and after positive reports from the brothers that interviewed him, his application will be formally voted on by the assembled brothers at the next monthly business meeting. The vote for an applicant must be unanimous. Once his application is voted upon and accepted, he will be scheduled for his initiation, which is the first degree of Freemasonry. If he is not accepted into the fraternity then his money will be immediately returned.

Masonic Formation

International Differences in Freemasonry

Example: The York Rite degrees

It may surprise many readers of this journal / tresleboard that outside of the U.S., the York Rite is often referred to as the American Rite. In the U.S., the York Rite is one of the appendant bodies of Craft Freemasonry that a Master Mason may join to further his knowledge. Our American/York Rite is a series of progressive degrees that are conferred by various U.S. Masonic organizations or bodies, each operating under the control of its own central authority. The three primary bodies in the York Rite are the:

- The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons,
- The Council of Royal & Select Masters or Council of Cryptic Masons.
- The Commandery of Knights Templar.

However, the York Rite is not a single worldwide system. Outside of the United States there are often significant differences in ritual, as well as organization. Below is a short summary of some of those differences. Note that there are so many differences between jurisdictions around the world that it is difficult to fully explain or fully grasp all of them.

Royal Arch Masons

United States

Royal Arch Masonry is the first order a Master Mason joins in the York Rite. A

Chapter confers the following degrees:

- The Mark Master Mason degree.
- The Past Master degree is conferred because of the traditional requirement that only Past Masters of a Blue Lodge may be admitted to Royal Arch.
- The Most Excellent Master degree.
- The Royal Arch Mason (or Holy Royal Arch) degree.

In many jurisdictions outside the U.S. there are no York Rite organizations, therefore Royal Arch is a separate organization in its own right.

England, Europe and Australia

In these countries the Order of the Royal Arch consists of a single 'Royal Arch' degree, although there are three related ceremonies, one for the installation into each of the three Principals' chairs. They do have a Past Master degree. Much of the work is the same given to install the Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge.

The Mark Master degree is conferred in a separately warranted Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The candidate is required to be a Master Mason. A further degree may be conferred, one that is not in the American York Rite, that of Royal Ark Mariner; although strictly speaking this degree is conferred in a Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners – said lodge being 'anchored' or 'moored' to the parent Mark Lodge. In the U.S., the Royal Ark Mariner degree forms part of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and in Canada is conferred by a Council of Royal and Select Masters.

In England, a Holy Royal Arch Chapter is required to be sponsored by a Craft Lodge and bears the same number, and in almost all cases the same name; however, the Holy Royal Arch is a separate order from Craft Freemasonry. Their Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter is governed from the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, but the administration remains separate.

In England and Wales the degrees of Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master and Super-Excellent Master are conferred in a separately warranted organization, the Order of Royal and Select Masters.

Scotland

The Mark degree is conferred in a Craft lodge and is seen as the completion of the Fellow Craft Degree, but the candidate for advancement is required to be a Master Mason. The Mark degree may alternatively, and exceptionally, be conferred in a Holy Royal Arch Chapter as a prerequisite for *Exaltation* to the Holy Royal Arch. If a candidate has already received his Mark Degree in his Craft Lodge, then his initiation into the Chapter is preceded by a short ceremony of Affiliation to the Mark Lodge associated ("moored") to that Chapter. Due to a significant differences in ritual, Royal Arch Masons from England may not attend Scottish Royal Arch Chapters without completing the Scottish *exaltation* ceremony. Before receiving the Holy Royal Arch Degree, the candidate must first have the Mark Mason degree and the degree of Excellent Master. However, those *exalted* in Scotland may attend Chapter in England, or any Chapter in the world, in amity with Scotland's authority.

Ireland

The Royal Arch degree under the Irish Masonic Constitution is very unique, and while it is regular and recognized, it bears little resemblance to the same degree in the U.S., England or Scotland. The Royal Arch Degree under the Irish Constitution contains a legend concerning the first Temple, not the second. The elaborate "Passing of the Veils" ceremony is essential to the Royal Arch Degree in the Irish system and after it is completed it is followed immediately by the Royal Arch degree itself, containing the story of the restoration of Solomon's Temple under King Josiah. The three presiding officers of an Irish Royal Arch Chapter are called the First, Second and Third Principal. Irish Royal Arch Chapters are also permitted to meet as

Lodges of Mark Master Masons, and they are governed by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

Cryptic Masonry

United States

Within the York Rite, members of Cryptic Masonry meet as a Council, and the Council confers three degrees: Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master.

Other jurisdictions

Outside the United States, Grand Councils have the right to confer other degrees such as the Royal Ark Mariner degree in Canada and the Excellent Master degree in Scotland. In England and Wales, the York Rite degrees of Cryptic Masonry are part of the Order of Royal and Select Masters. Membership in the Council of Royal & Select Masters or the Council of Cryptic Masons is not required for membership in the Knights Templar in some jurisdictions, so it can be skipped. In others it is required. It is called Cryptic Masonry or the Cryptic Rite because a crypt or underground room figures prominently in the degrees. In some councils, a Most Excellent Master degree is offered between Select Master and Super Excellent Master, and some jurisdictions do not have the Super Excellent Master degree.

Knights Templar

United States

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 the Knights Templar is open only to Christian Masons who have completed their Royal Arch and in some jurisdictions their Cryptic Degrees. A local Knights Templar division is called a Commandery and operates under a state level Grand Commandery as well as The Grand Encampment of the United States. This is unique among Masonic bodies as most report to the state level alone. The Knights Templar confer three orders, and one passing order as opposed to the standard degree system found elsewhere in Freemasonry:

- The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
- The Passing Order of St. Paul (or the Mediterranean Pass)
- The Order of the Knights of Malta (or simply Order of Malta)
- The Order of the Temple

Other jurisdictions

In many national jurisdictions there is no York Rite organization, therefore the Knight Templar is an independent organization. Some jurisdictions maintain a separate Great Priory of the Temple and Great Priory of Malta, the Grand Master and other officers of both Great Priories

hold simultaneous equal office in both bodies. Three degrees are administered in the following system:

- The Degree of Knight Templar (Order of the Temple)
- The Degree of Knight of St. Paul (incorporating the Mediterranean Pass)
- The Degree of Knight of Malta (Order of Malta)

In England and Wales, the "Great Priory of England and Wales" for the Masonic Knights Templar is administrated from Mark Masons' Hall, London. In England and Wales, the teachings of the Order of the Red Cross degree are featured in the Red Cross of Babylon degree which forms part of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

In Ireland the Order of the Red Cross is a compressed version of the Red Cross Degrees or Green Degrees which make up the Order of Knight Masons which confers the Degrees of:

- the Red Cross of Daniel or The Babylonian Pass, also referred to as Knight of the Sword.
- The Jordan Pass, also referred to as Knight of the East.
- The Royal Order, sometimes referred to as Knight of the East and West.
- The Degree of Installed Excellent Chief for a member elected to preside over a Council.

Conclusions

There are of course other differences not explained in this short summary. Depending on the level of detail explored, there are perhaps too many differences to catalog. So, what should we learn from this? Perhaps not to assume that ours is the only way or best way to accomplish our primary purpose and communicate our teachings? We certainly cannot say that the different organizational structures, degree requirements or rituals referred to in this article are wrong or less effective, or that the different practices within the US states are wrong or less effective.

Even as you read this, Masonic organizations around the world are adapting and changing, yet staying faithful to our common Masonic principles. Freemasonry around the world, and also within the U.S., is a rich mosaic of our core principles, cultural adaptations and local innovations. That teaches us that those core principles alone are the unchanging body of Freemasonry, and that adaptation and innovation that are true to our core principles should be encouraged and rewarded, and not feared. For adaptation and innovation are the only time proven paths to enriching, satisfying and growing our Masonic Brotherhood.



Masonic Formation

Freemasonry, the Brotherhood of Man.

In Freemasonry we often use the term brotherhood. Sometimes we refer to ourselves as *the Brotherhood of Man, under the Fatherhood of God*. Brotherhood is not physical object that can be put on a table, measured, weighted and then objectively defined. Instead, brotherhood is a historically, scientifically, and socially important concept. As a concept, it is an idea, perhaps an ideal that can have different meanings to different people, depending on their experiences, education, cultural background and life perspectives.

To the general public, the word *brotherhood* can conjure up all sort of very different images, both positive and negative. Upon hearing the word, some may think of a robed and hooded religious order, such as monks. Others may think of a gang or something sinister. Still others may think of a profession such as the military (the brotherhood of arms), or even a labor organization such as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Some of the so-called *woke* public might be offended by the gender specificity of the word, or even feel threatened by the concept. Obviously, we can't control the fears and reactions of others, they will believe or think what they choose. However, we should have a firm understanding of why Freemasonry is a brotherhood, so that we can be better understood and communicate who we are. Therefore, let us explore the concept of Brotherhood.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of brotherhood is either:

- 1) The quality or state of being brothers, a fellowship, an alliance, an association (such as a labor union or monastic society) for a particular purpose.
- 2) The whole body of persons engaged in a business or profession.

The above definitions are surprising brief and inadequate. To those dictionary definitions of brotherhood, we can add the following:

- 1) A feeling of kinship with other people.
- 2) A feeling of common purpose.
- 3) A belief in or a feeling of cooperation and unity among men.
- 4) A group of men who hold themselves accountable to each other.

Freemasonry is clearly a Brotherhood because it fits, to some degree, all those descriptions. Freemasonry is an alliance of men freely associating to accomplish specific common purposes. As Freemasons we seek to improve ourselves, by striving to be better men, better citizens, better husbands, better fathers and to guide and support our fellow Freemasons in the same efforts. We are united through our shared practice of Freemasonry's principles and ethics. As Freemasons we hold ourselves accountable to God, and feel accountable to each other and the fraternity. We feel kinship with all Freemasons on this common path, and thus we call

each other brother, with true affection. We feel bound to each other and the fraternity through the common educational experience of our degrees. Through those degrees we are changed, made different from other men. Only our Masonic brothers can fully understand what effects that process has on us. That shared experience is a special bond between all Freemasons. We therefore immediately recall that bond and have the feeling of brotherhood whenever we meet another Freemason anywhere in our travels, nationally or internationally.

Being part of and feeling part of a brotherhood is very important to a man. When it is missing from a man's life, there is a hole or gap that the person knows is there even if they may not even be able to identify what it is. Brotherhood is much deeper than simply having male friends that you can drink with or watch sports with. Our Masonic brotherhood provides a sense of belonging and of personal legitimacy. When you are part of the Masonic brotherhood you know that you are not alone. You know that your brothers *have your back*. You know that there is a place where you can go and can talk with other wise and honorable men about any aspect of your life. Your Masonic brothers are there to offer advice, guidance, and support when requested.

Perhaps the clearest and deepest meaning of brotherhood is the ability to imagine yourself in the other person's position, and then treat that person as if you were him or her. This form of brotherhood takes a lot of imagination, a great deal of sympathy, and a tremendous amount of understanding.

Perhaps one of the greatest of the benefits of being part of the Masonic brotherhood is having a sense of accountability. We strive to live up to the high Masonic standards and not to let our brothers down. We strive to help our brothers stay on track in their efforts to be better men. Our Masonic brotherhood is a source of knowledge, advice and assistance for men by men for their professional and personal life.

Brotherhood, and specifically our Masonic brotherhood, inspires the mature and manly qualities of sacrifice, dedication, dependability, reliability, honesty, friendship, protectiveness and loyalty. Many men, of all ages and backgrounds often lack these qualities, or are frustrated by the lack of the qualities in the men they meet or work with. Thus it is not surprising that when such men find Freemasonry, they would be naturally attracted to our fraternity of honorable men.

Helping a brother
whenever I can;
however I can.

Freemasons develop a connection built on shared beliefs and experiences. This creates a profound bond that transcends ordinary kinship. They support and challenge one another, share knowledge and wisdom, and provide light and hope in times of darkness.

Masonic Military History

Note: As a retired military officer and a Freemason, I was pleased to have located the following article at the website of the *Overseas Military Lodge*. Unfortunately, there was no date for when it was written. From the form of attribution and content, I suspect it was written sometime in the 1990s. Since the author states that he reworked his 20 year old research, then the original research was likely done in the 1970's. Despite its age, it is still very informative, well written, and worthwhile. It required only minimal editing. The author only really addresses the history of military lodges from their beginning through shortly after the first world war, so it is not a comprehensive presentation of the subject. Military Masonic lodges still exist today. There were Lodges in the combat zone during the recent Afghanistan campaign. More about them in the future.

History of Military Lodges in Freemasonry

by H. Lloyd Wilkerson, Maj. Gen, USMC Ret.

About twenty years ago the North Carolina College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, asked me to present a paper about Freemasonry in the military services. This invitation motivated me to explore the history of Freemasonry for a better understanding of the Masonic communications available to the military service members throughout the centuries.

I have reworked that research for this presentation today. The major portion of my adult life has been spent in the service of my country. During that active duty career of more than 36 years, I was a Freemason for all but the first four years. I often craved to know more of the relationships between our fraternity and its military members in antiquity, but I had little time for such academic exploration.

From my childhood I have heard stories about brother Masons, serving in opposing armies, who spared each other from death upon being recognized as fraternity brothers. These stories are prevalent in the history of the American Revolution, the American Civil War, and in World War I, but are decreasingly prevalent thereafter in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. General George Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of our forces in the American Revolution, is reported to have visited a lodge with his British adversaries while under a flag of truce. The nature of warfare has changed so much over the centuries one cannot comprehend how such an act could be possible. But modern armies fight so differently! They do not go into winter quarters and bivouac for months in a gentleman's agreement that it is too cold to fight. They do not cease fighting just because it becomes dark. Let me share with you some of the highlights of my research.

I hope that those of you who have served in other branches of our Armed Forces will forgive my Marine Corps parochialism. I will begin with a discussion of the nature of Freemasonry prior to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, and of course, prior to the birth of our country and the establishment of the U. S. Marine Corps about which I will comment later.

To refresh your memories about Masonic affairs before Grand Lodges were formed, there were no charters, no regularly elected officers, and no regular lodges, as we know them today. Seventeenth and early eighteenth century lodges were very informal and were attended by any Freemason who happened to be in the area. Since they often had no permanent officers, the oldest master in attendance assumed the east. No dues were paid, and no dues cards were issued. Voluntary contributions from those present were solicited to pay for food and drink consumed at the meeting. They did considerable drinking compared to our modern lodge meetings where complete abstinence is the law. Freemasons met whenever and wherever they desired, had no lodge buildings as such, but most frequently they met in local taverns where food, drink, and lodging were available. At first, few if any records or minutes were kept.

It is interesting to me that "The very first record of the making of a Mason in England (but not in an English lodge) was in 1641 when General Hamilton and certain Masters and others from Lodge of Edinburgh met at Newcastle, England, and admitted the Rt. Hon. Robert Moray (Murray), General Quarter Master of the Army of Scotland. This proceeding outside the boundaries of the Kingdom was approved by the Lodge."² It was normal in the transition period between operative and purely speculative Freemasonry to bring in high-ranking military and civil leaders. Some lodges were known as "Leg of Mutton" lodges and required the candidate to provide food for the night of his initiation. When we consider that General Moray was the supplier of goods for the Army of Scotland, we might be suspicious about why they traveled outside the Kingdom to make him a Mason and what food and entertainment was required of him.

With the establishment of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, all between 1717 and 1736, Freemasonry quickly spread throughout Europe and the English Colonies. The nobility, the clergy, and men of great influence sought to become part of the Fraternity. Before the period of Grand Lodges, the Colonies had many military and civilian men who were made Masons prior to departure from their homelands. According to the practice of the time (that Freemasons had the immemorial right to meet together), these Freemasons doubtless held Masonic communications and initiated candidates just as was being done in England and elsewhere. Additionally, they appeared to have continued this practice far beyond 1717 when the Grand Lodge of England was established. Along with the Grand Lodges came more standardization of the ritual, more control of lodge affairs including chartering, meetings, and initiations.

Technically, all lodges in the Colonies became clandestine until they received written charters. Some lodges acted promptly and others rather slowly in obtaining charters. One that met at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia boasts of having the first recorded lodge meeting in America. It was denied being known as the oldest authorized lodge in America by its failure to submit a timely request for a charter to some Grand Lodge. Our Brother General George Washington was made a Freemason in the Fredericksburg (VA) Lodge, now Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, in 1752, technically a clandestine lodge, for it did not receive its charter until 1758. But such was the nature of communications and attention to detail in those days. Who would fault them? They saw no immediate need to apply for a charter.

Members of military organizations may well have held their own Masonic communications as their civilian brothers did in immemorial or Saints John Lodges, but I have not been able to document such events. The military Freemasons did join their civilian brothers in the taverns for meetings. However, an accommodation was made for the professional soldiers when Grand Lodges began issuing warrants or charters for Regiments to have Military (traveling) Lodges.

The first such authorization appears to have been made by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1743 when "at the recommendation of the Earl of Kilmarnock, Grand Master, the first Military Lodge (under the Grand Lodge) was erected, the petitioners all belonging to 'Colonel Lees' regiment," afterwards the 55th foot."³ "The first English Military Lodge was established in 1750, and attached to the 31st Foot."⁴ It had the distinction of providing the ten charter members of the first stationary lodge in Florida in 1771. The 31st Foot was departing Florida and these members were local civilians who had joined the Regimental Lodge. Regimental Lodges proliferated in the Forces of England, Ireland, and Scotland during the eighteenth century.

By 1760, because of the lengthy conflict with the French in which many Regiments from England participated, there were at least 50 Regimental Lodges in the Colonies. "They were warranted by both the Antient and the Modern Grand Lodges of England, and the Grand Lodges of Scotland, Ireland, and the Provincial Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York. At the time hostilities started in the Revolution, the number of military lodges had increased about 50 percent. At the close of the French and Indian Wars there were, in addition to the military lodges, about one hundred lodges warranted by the Grand Lodges previously named.

Military Lodges greatly accelerated the growth of Colonial Freemasonry."⁵ It is no wonder that so many of the civil and military leaders of the Revolutionary War were Freemasons! As the Revolutionary War approached, the U. S. Marine Corps was organized in that same Tun Tavern in Philadelphia where the first recorded meeting of Freemasons had taken place in

1731. The Innkeeper of Tun Tavern, Samuel Nicholas, was a member of the Lodge and later became its Junior Warden. He was commissioned a Captain of Marines by the President of the Continental Congress in 1775 and directed to recruit two battalions of Marines. He set up his recruiting station in Tun Tavern and he is recorded in our history as the First Commandant of the Marine Corps with rank of Major.

The Regimental Military (traveling) Lodge system was perpetuated in the American Military Forces, first by the Colonial Grand Lodges, and finally by the State Grand Lodges. Throughout the Revolution, the Mexican War, the Civil War in both camps, and to a lesser degree in the Spanish-American War and World War I, the military Freemason could find his brothers in a traveling Military Lodge in his organization.

The stories of Freemasons saving life and property of their brothers in the opposing camps are probably true. Dr. Joseph Newton in his book, *The Builders, A Story and Study of Freemasonry*, tells that the Union Army Commander who attacked Little Rock, Arkansas, ordered a guard to be stationed around the home of [Confederate] General Albert Pike to protect his library. What a blessing for Freemasonry!

Dr. Newton also expresses gratitude for the kindness of a brother Freemason in the Union Army who spared the life of his father, a prisoner of war from the Confederate Army and himself a Freemason. In the Final Foreword dated 1948, Dr. Newton makes some observations I cannot confirm or deny of my own experience. He states that the Fraternity was ill prepared to administer to the mobilized Masonic brethren during World War I, but by the World War II timeframe, the Masonic Service Association organized in 1919, and the War Service Work of the Grand Lodges of America were ready to serve and provided tremendous comfort and relief to military Freemasons away from their homes.

I must have fought in the wrong places in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, for these activities have never come to my attention. But Military Lodges did exist in World War I. For instance, near the end of the War, a lodge of particular interest to U.S. Soldiers and Marines was Overseas Lodge No. 40, Coblenz, Germany. This lodge was formed in an enemy country, and utilized lodge rooms in which Napoleon and his officers reportedly held Masonic communications more than a century before. Shortly after the American Army entered Germany in December 1918, a small group of brothers organized a Masonic Club in Coblenz. This Club met regularly in the Kaiser's Gymnasium Hall and in six months had become a body of some 3,200 souls. Overseas Lodge No. 40 was the outgrowth of this Masonic Club with a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. The Lodge did not hold its Masonic communications in the Kaiser's Gymnasium, but began conferring degrees utilizing the German Masonic Temple, home of Johannis Lodge, Frederick Zur Vater-land, originally an Army Lodge during the Napoleonic Wars. This lodge was first organized in 1812 as a field lodge during Napoleon's Campaign in Russia.

Three future Commandants of the U. S. Marine Corps became Freemasons in Overseas Lodge No. 40 during its short existence: General John A. Lejeune, probably the most outstanding Marine of the Twentieth Century for whom Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune NC, and John A Lejeune Lodge No. 350, Quantico, VA, were named; General Wendell C. Neville; and General Lemuel C. Shepherd, under whom I have often served and from whom I have taken this story. General Shepherd tells this story of General Lejeune's initiation as it originated with fellow U S. Army officers in the second Army Division when General Lejeune commanded it. "General Lejeune is reported to have called his driver and told him he was going to Coblenz. When he named the hour of departure, the driver's face fell. 'I was going to ask if I could get off this afternoon, sir,' he said. 'No, you had better come along,' the General replied, 'You will have plenty of time to yourself in Coblenz.' 'Yes sir,' said the driver, although he was not wholly cheerful. 'Where to, sir?' he asked as he was entering Coblenz about three o'clock that afternoon. The driver gave his chief a peculiar look as he nodded that he understood. "At the gate in front of the Temple, General Lejeune tarried a moment to tell the driver to be back promptly at seven o'clock. 'But, sir,' was the smiling reply, 'I also have been notified to report here this afternoon,' and together they entered the Temple to take their First Degrees." Generals Lejeune and Shepherd were raised in this same Lodge on the same night. When General Shepherd, then a company commander, submitted his petition, he was sponsored and coached by the company gunnery sergeant of his company. He elaborated and evaluated much later saying "Thus did Overseas Lodge develop and strengthen a fellowship between men of all ranks in the Army and the Marine Corps.

Upon its return to America, Overseas Lodge was established at Providence, Rhode Island, where it continues active at this time. In order to be eligible for admission an applicant must have served in one of the armed services. The work continues to be conducted in the same manner as in Germany, the officers of the Lodge wearing their service uniforms and carrying out the ritual with military precision." "An interesting souvenir possessed by the Lodge is a Masonic diploma presented by a descendant of the French Lodge stationed in Coblenz during the Napoleonic War, which was issued by the Great Orient of France in 1816 and bears the signature of both Napoleon and Marshall Ney."⁶

If there were any Military Lodges traveling with U. S. Forces subsequent to World War, I have overlooked the records about them. Some writers say there were none. This inquiry would not be complete without investigation of activities in the Orient. Freemasonry was established in the Philippines in 1898 by the Field Lodge that accompanied the North Dakota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry. This Lodge was established by a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of the State of North Dakota, and its charter members consisted of both officers and enlisted men of the regiment. In a short time it had received 100 petitions and had to refuse to receive more. I have read of no other lodge that has had the ceremony of obligation

of a candidate interrupted by rifle fire! It departed the Philippines with its regiment about a year later.⁷

Shortly after departure of the North Dakota Regiment with its Military Lodge, A Sojourners Club was formed in Manila. It was composed of Freemasons who were in good standing and who wished to promote good fellowship and contribute to the welfare of their less fortunate brothers. By 1901 this group of Sojourners had obtained a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of California to form a permanent Lodge in Manila. As the members of the Sojourners Club were charter members of the newly formed Manila Lodge, the Club was disestablished. But in 1907, the Sojourners Club was again formed in Manila, this time to provide a way for military Freemasons to know each other better and to be of assistance to those in distress.⁸

These military Freemasons, officers and enlisted men, returned home throughout the period preceding World War I with good feeling about the Sojourners Club and its function. In the months immediately following World War I, a group of commissioned officers of all the Military Services who were Freemasons held meetings in Chicago, Illinois, and formed the organization now known as The National Sojourners, Inc.⁹

It is now (at the time this was written) composed of Freemasons who are commissioned officers, warrant officers, or senior noncommissioned officers, past and present, of the Armed Services of the United States, the U. S. Coast Guard, the Public Health Service, or Coast and Geodetic Survey. Commissioned officers in any armed services of a nation allied with the United States in time of war may also be qualified for membership.

National Sojourners, Inc., is organized into chapters with the objective of strengthening our national defenses, promoting patriotic ideals, and providing good fellowship among its members. It has served its purposes well.

In modern warfare, combat is often continuous and intense for the span of time of an entire campaign. Armies must keep on the move to avoid destruction by the enemy. No winter bivouacs are possible, nor is there an opportunity for much rest for the troops. Rather, personnel are replaced in the combat zone on a periodic basis and returned to their homeland for recuperation from wounds or sickness, and for reorientation and retraining.

The combat zone is hardly a place to confer degrees! The North Dakota Regiment discovered that in 1898! Nor is man capable of evaluating the true qualifications of a petitioner in the combat environment. Emotions for survival run too high and "loyalties of necessity" are too strong for one to make an accurate assessment of the overall moral character of his fighting companions. Even if time were available to conduct regular lodge communications in military traveling lodges, the experiences of the North Dakota Lodge would be repeated, for men of many varied moral persuasions tend to fraternize under the pressures of common dangers. Joining the Masons might become the "thing to do at the moment" and the ballot box would

be too timid to be effective. I would not subscribe to the establishment of traveling lodges in our Armed Forces today.

The Masonic Services Association, sponsored by our Grand Lodges in the United States, is now the proper organization to provide assistance to Freemasons in combat overseas. In the final analysis, except in the combat zone, military Freemasons are seldom stationed beyond easy commuting distances of regular lodges where their presence would be honored.

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Masonic Reflections: For your consideration

"In poverty and other misfortunes of life, true friends are a sure refuge. The young they keep out of mischief; to the old they are a comfort and aid in their weakness, and those in the prime of life they incite to noble deeds."

ARISTOTLE

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people know about you.
Honor is what you know
about yourself.

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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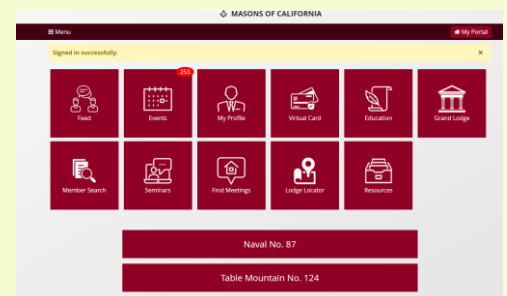
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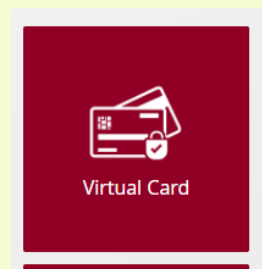
This will be the page you see after signing in.

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

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3. To support our public schools and local charitable organizations, and in general contribute to efforts to alleviate the suffering of those in need.
4. We seek to advance and spread Masonic principles and ethics throughout our local communities by being examples worthy of emulation by the general public.