

## EARLY HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY – PART THREE **SCRIPT**

### **PICTURE 1: EARLY HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY – PART THREE**



The 17<sup>TH</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century was an age of wars and social changes. In Europe, it was also the time that marked the birth of the “Age of Reason” which inspired the French Revolution.

London was a European Capital city which shockingly and generously also provided entertainment of a sophisticated and extraordinary sexual nature.

### **PICTURE 2: SIR ROBERT MORAY (1609 – 1673)**

#### **A Covenanter/French Spy/Royalist/Freemason.**



Sir Robert Moray was born in Craigie Perthshire and educated at St. Andrews University before serving with the Scots Guards of Louis XIII in 1633.

Towards the end of Cardinal Richelieu's life Moray became his favourite and then acted as a spy for him.

In 1638 the Assembly of the Covenanters in Scotland were rebelling against Charles I. Richelieu gave Moray a commission, promoting him to Lieutenant-Colonel in Louis's elite Scots Guards, and dispatched him to Scotland.

He was to recruit more Scots soldiers, but he also had the objective of assisting his fellow countrymen in their dispute with Charles. **(Covenanters were linked to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland)**

He was responsible for laying out camps and fortifications, through his knowledge of mathematics and surveying. He marched south with the Scottish Army towards the Tyne and played his part in defeating the Earl Stafford's English conscript Army at Newcastle.

On 20 May 1641, Sir Robert Moray was initiated into Freemasonry by members of the Lodge of Edinburgh. The event took place south of the border: this is earliest record of a man being initiated **into Speculative** Freemasonry on English soil.

### **PICTURE 3: JOHN MYLNE – (1611-1667) - MASTER MASON AND MASTER MASON**



John Mylne of Perth (c. 1585 – 1657) was a Scottish master mason who served as Master Mason to the Crown of Scotland. He was born in Perth, the son of John Mylne, also a master mason.

He learned his craft through assisting his father on his Tay Bridge construction project at Perth. In 1631, Mylne was appointed Master Mason to the Crown.

Mylne was also a prominent Freemason, a member of the Lodge of Edinburgh from 1633, and Master of the Lodge of Scone from 1621 to 1627. He is buried against the southern wall of Greyfriars Churchyard in Perth.

## England vs Scotland Membership

### PICTURE 4 – ELIAS ASHMOLE (Ashmolean Museum)



Ashmole was born on May 23rd, 1617 in Lichfield, Staffordshire. He attended Lichfield Grammar School and became a member of the choir at Lichfield Cathedral. Ashmole would publish three books on alchemy.

The first two were collections of poetry and other information from private libraries that had not been seen by the public. The third was published in 1658 and included various therapeutic remedies. It recommended a balanced diet, moderate exercise and enough sleep would prevent illness.

Over the rest of his life Ashmole would help to catalogue a variety of other collections. Eventually he would bring them all together to create a museum which is believed to be the first public museum in England. Ashmole passed away on May 18th, 1692.

Ashmole joined Warrington Lodge on October 16th, 1646. We know this from a diary entry he made which states "I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring of Kermincham in Cheshire." Ashmole's diary entries are some of the earliest references to Freemasonry in England.

It is evident that the lodge which initiated Elias Ashmole at Warrington was mainly or entirely composed of speculative or accepted masons.

### Early Grand Lodge period - Establishment of Freemasonry in North America

### PICTURE 5 – JOHN SKENE 1648 - 1690



John Skene was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was persecuted for being a Quaker, and he moved to New Jersey around 1680 near Burlington, where he served as Deputy Governor of West Jersey.

He is well documented as the first Freemason to come to America. He lived on a large Plantation in present-day Westhampton, and died in 1690. He arrived in the New World via the Delaware River with his family aboard the Golden Lion in 1682, and settled at Mount Holly, New Jersey on a plantation that he named Peachland.

### First Grand Lodge (I have tried to keep a chronological order)

In 1717, four lodges and "some old Brothers" met at the Apple Tree Tavern in Covent Garden and agreed to meet again the next year to form a "Grand Lodge".

These were the Goose and Gridiron, the Crown, the Apple Tree, and the Rummer and Grapes. The "old Brothers" were probably from the Cheshire Cheese and at least one other lodge.

### PICTURE 6 – GOOSE AND GRIDION



We have already presented this part of the lecture in Part Two of the trilogy but it is worth reminding ourselves that no minutes were taken until 1723.

It is known that the four lodges mentioned held an assembly at the Goose and Gridiron, in St Paul's Churchyard, on, 24 June 1717 (the Feast of St John the Baptist).

At this meeting, they elected Anthony Sayer, Master of the lodge at the Apple Tree. At this stage, it is unlikely that they saw themselves as anything more than an association of London lodges. This perception was to change very rapidly.

The next year, George Payne became Grand Master. He was a career civil servant with the commissioners of taxes. In 1719, they elected John Theophilus Desaguliers, a clergyman, an eminent scientist, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. (You may recall that mention of him is also in Part Two of the Trilogy).

The last commoner to serve as Grand Master was George Payne in his second term of office in 1720/21, when he wrote The General Regulations of a Free Mason which were later incorporated in Anderson's Constitutions.

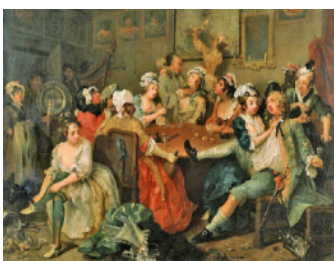
Thereafter, a deliberate attempt to raise the profile of the organisation, all the Grand Masters have been members of the nobility. This perhaps included Hell Fire Clubs and Freemasonry.

### A digression into the Nobility and Aristocracy of the time.

There was a distinctly love - hate relationship between Freemasonry and the plethora of hell fire clubs which blossomed in the British Isles in the eighteenth century.

Frequented by young members of the aristocracy which engaged in often violent and sometimes murderous pranks against unfortunate victims with impunity because of their social standing and economic position.

### PICTURE 7 – A RAKES PROGRESS AT THE ROSE TAVERN (by William Hogarth Member)



Drinking and whoring were also standard activities for these clubs. The hell fire clubs took the debauchery one step further by adding black masses and other satanic rites to their repertoire.

A History of Anti-Morality, showed club members came to meetings dressed as characters from the Bible and dined on such delicacies as “Holy Ghost Pie,” “Breast of Venus,” and “Devil’s Loin,” while drinking “Hellfire punch.”

If you’re a fan of Regency novels, you know that a “rake” (aka “rakehell” meaning “hellraiser”) is an antiquated term for a man who spends his time drinking, gambling, and womanizing.

Rakes typically were members of the upper class and their “light-o’-loves” (mistresses and prostitutes) were able to indulge in scandalous behaviour safe from the prying eyes of more respectable aristocrats.

### **PICTURE 8 – PHILIP, DUKE OF WHARTON (FOUNDER)**



Initiations began to be reported in newspapers. The noble grand masters were often fellows of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Wharton (1722–23) had just had his Hell-fire club shut down by the government, and joined, an anti-masonic group called the Gormagons almost as soon as he left office.

From 1721 the installation of the new Grand Master was the occasion for a parade, originally on foot, later in carriages. This became the subject of some ridicule, until starting in 1740 there were also mock processions by anti-masonic groups, leading to the discontinuation of the practice in 1747.

The rapid expansion of freemasonry also led to many new lodges failing after only a year or two. In addition to attacks from outside the craft, there were now disillusioned ex-masons willing to make money out of "exposures" of freemasonry.

### **PICTURE 9 – THE MONKS OF MEDMENHAM (founded c.1750)**



Inspired by his travels abroad, Dashwood conceived of a mock monastic order, where the members would indulge in distinctly un-monk-like behaviour.

He created the club to support his favourite pastimes: making fun of religion, drinking, and having indiscriminate sex.

About 1755, Dashwood and his friends rented Medmenham Abbey, an abandoned monastery located alongside the River Thames, just a few miles from Dashwood’s estate in West Wycombe.

### **PICTURE 10 – ENTRANCE TO THE HELL-FIRE CAVES IN MEDMENHAM.**



It’s even possible that rumours of their involvement are false and were just spread by their enemies to discredit them.

Although some believed that the club members practiced Satanism, there is no evidence to support this.

Dashwood and his friends did not perform their rituals in earnest; they just considered them part of the joke.

In letters to each other, club members speak gleefully of the “wickedness” of their “love feasts.” Everyone wore costumes, ate rich food, drank to excess, and got friendly with their companions.

## PICTURE 11 – THE GUEST LIST.



American revolutionary and founding father, Benjamin Franklin, attended meetings while a guest at Dashwood's home.

### Rival Grand Lodges

On 17 July 1751, representatives of six Lodges gathered at the Turk's Head Tavern, in Greek Street, Soho, London. Five were unaffiliated lodges of mainly **Irish membership**, and the sixth appears to have been formed shortly beforehand for the business of the evening.

On that night, they established the "Most Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Constitutions", now commonly known as the Grand Lodge of the Antients.

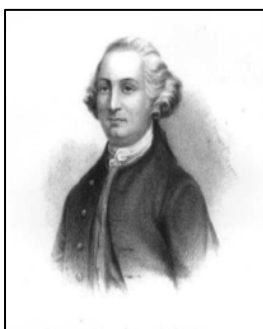
### Spread of Grand Lodges (1725–1750)

Even in London, there were many lodges that never affiliated with the new Grand Lodge. **These unaffiliated Masons and their Lodges were referred to as "Old Masons," or "St John Masons", and "St John Lodges".**

Nonetheless, the influence of the new central body spread quickly, and the 1725 minutes mention lodges in ten provincial towns as far north as Salford, with Provincial Grand Lodges in South Wales and Cheshire.

### Establishment of Freemasonry in North America

#### PICTURE 12 – HENRY PRICE (1697 – 1780)



In 1733, Henry Price, the Provincial Grand Master over all of North America for the Grand Lodge of England, granted a charter to a group of Boston Freemasons.

This lodge was later named St. John's Lodge and was the first duly constituted lodge in America. Between 1733 and 1737 the Grand Lodge in England warranted Provincial Grand Lodges in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

Benjamin Franklin re-issued Anderson's 1723 constitutions as Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Franklin had written in the Pennsylvania Gazette of 8 December 1730 of the several lodges of freemasons already in the "province", joined St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia the following year, and in 1732 was Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Philadelphia. All this before the "first" lodge in North America.

### PICTURE 13 – GEORGE WASHINGTON



George Washington was initiated into the Lodge of Fredericksburg in 1752. The same lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1758. The first properly chartered "Scottish" lodge was only two years earlier, being the Lodge of St. Andrews in Boston.

Members included Paul Revere and Joseph Warren, and (according to some) later lodge outings included the Boston Tea Party.

Many lodges were attached British Army regiments. The Moderns may have been wary of warranting lodges without a permanent address, so there was only one Grand Lodge of England warrant in the continental army from 1775 to 1777.

The Antients and the Grand Lodge of Scotland were slightly better represented, but the overwhelming majority of regimental lodges held warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Thus it was that a group of African Americans, having been rejected by the lodges in Boston, were initiated into Lodge No 441 on the register of the **Grand Lodge of Ireland**, which was attached to the 38th Foot (later the 1st Staffordshire).

### PICTURE 14 – PRINCE HALL

Prince Hall and fourteen other men formed African Lodge No 1, as the British departed, leaving them a permit to do almost everything but admit new masons.



Two of the members were seafarers, and obtained entrance to a lodge in London, being recognised as regularly initiated Masons. This enabled their master, Prince Hall, to apply to the Moderns for a charter, which was duly granted on 29 September 1784, now as African Lodge No. 459.

Such was the success of the lodge that it became a Provincial Grand Lodge, and Prince Hall the Provincial Grand Master. After his death, the provincial lodges reconstituted themselves as a grand lodge (African Grand Lodge), becoming Prince Hall Grand Lodge in 1847.

**Later members included Jesse Jackson, Duke Ellington, Sugar Ray Robinson, Booker T. Washington, Richard Pryor and a number of US Representatives.**

### PICTURE 15 - Sir Joseph Banks 1743 - 1820



**The Santa Barbara Mission was dedicated on December 4, 1786, the feast day of Saint Barbara, after whom the city and Mission were named.**

**Interestingly enough, Saint Barbara is the patron saint of masons and stone cutters.**

**The first Freemason in recorded history to visit the Santa Barbara area was English botanist Sir Joseph Banks in 1793. He was on a voyage with British Naval Captain George Vancouver as part of his exploration of the**

Pacific. This was the same year George Washington laid the cornerstone of the US capital building in a Masonic Ceremony.

Bro. Banks noted he found the small town of Santa Barbara to be more civilized and beautiful than any other of the Spanish coastal settlements he had visited. He remarked that most of the ceramic tableware used by those living at the Presidio and Mission were made in England.

The Santa Barbara Lodge #192 was formed in 1868, with the first formal meeting on July 10, 1868. Notable Masonic members were John P. Stearns (Stearns Wharf), Dwight Murphy (Fiesta), Thomas Storke (publisher), Dr. William Sansum, Burl Ives (actor), Wm. Butcher (Mayor), E.W. Scott (councilman).

### 19th century Freemasonry - Union of 1813

In 1809, the Grand Lodge of England (the Moderns) set up a "Lodge of Promulgation". Its purpose was to "revert to the Ancient Land Marks of the Society" and to promulgate those landmarks amongst the brethren.

One of its members was the Duke of Sussex, the Master of the Lodge of Antiquity, No 2, and sixth son of George III. The result of their labours was a reply to the Ancients in 1811 that the Grand Lodge had resolved to "return to the Ancient Landmarks...when it should be ascertained what those ancient landmarks and obligations were."

On 1 December 1813, the Duke of Athol ceded the leadership of the Ancients to the Duke of Kent, the older brother of Sussex and the father of Queen Victoria.

These two men oversaw the union in 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England, with the Duke of Sussex appointed as Grand Master of the new body.

### Now back to the Degrees and rituals of Freemasonry to finish this lecture.

In common with other trades or mysteries, medieval masonry recognised three grades of craftsman;— the apprentice, the journeyman, and the master.

**An apprentice** who learned his craft became a journeyman, qualified to do all manner of masonic work. The master was also qualified as a project manager, often functioning as architect as well. He would sketch the day's work on a tracing board for execution by the journeymen and apprentices.

An apprentice, after serving his term of seven years, could elect to pay to join a lodge, becoming an "entered apprentice". (Alternatively, he could elect to freelance on the lower grades of building work as a "Cowan".)

**The journeymen** were referred to as "fellows" or "fellows of the craft", which accords with the Regius poem's injunction (line 51) that masons should "calle other felows by cuthe".

The members of the lodge were "Brithers" (brothers), a Scottish legal term for those bound to each other by oath. The Master was simply the mason in charge of the lodge, or one who had held that distinction.

The operative masons having formed their own company in 1671, the Ancient Society used their copies of the Old Charges as warrants.

Because the old operative lodge had admitted freemen who had passed their apprenticeship, the apprentice degree at York was largely symbolic, and until 1770 candidates were made Apprentice and Fellow on the same evening.

**The new degree of Master** was administered separately. Candidates took an oath on a bible opened at the first chapter of St. John's Gospel. They were then invested with an apron, and seated at the lodge table, where they received their instruction.

From 1760, the Royal Arch, and later the Knights Templar degrees were introduced. All the time, the lectures and catechisms attached to the degrees increased in complexity, a special award being presented to the past master who gave the best rendition.

Grand Lodge Minutes of 20 June 1780 show resolutions confirming the authority of the Grand Lodge over the degrees or Orders of Masonry. These were -

1. Entered Apprentice
2. Fellow Craft
3. Master Mason
4. Sublime Degree of Royal Arch
5. Knights Templars.

### **Royal Arch Freemasonry**

The majority of this lecture deals with craft masonry, the three degrees that are common to all masonic lodges and jurisdictions.

The number and names of the "chivalric" orders and degrees depend on the local tradition of Freemasonry, and have varied greatly over the years. The oldest of these, and the most universal, is the Royal Arch Chapter (the Holy Royal Arch in England).

Laurence Dermott, the guiding force behind the Ancients Grand Lodge, he referred to it as the fourth degree, and campaigned to have it recognised as such.

English Master Masons were simply told that the degree of the Holy Royal Arch completes their third degree.



## Knights Templars in Freemasonry.

The Masonic order of Knights Templar derives its name from the medieval Catholic military order Knights Templar. However, it does not claim any direct lineal descent from the original Templar order.

The earliest documented link between Freemasonry and the Crusades is the 1737 oration of the Chevalier Ramsay. This claimed that European Freemasonry came about from an interaction between crusader masons and the Knights Hospitaller.

Ramsay was initiated as a Templar by his mentor François Fenelon into the non-Masonic French *Ordre du Temple* with his friend Philippe II, Duke of Orleans, Grandmaster in 1710.

After the death of Fenelon and the Duke of Orleans, Ramsay was initiated into Freemasonry around 1730. Since Ramsay's Templarism predated his relationship with Freemasonry by some 20 years, this is the likely source for the introduction of Templarism into Freemasonry.

### PICTURE 16 – PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON



President Andrew Johnson in a Knights Templar uniform in 1869.

### The 33rd Degree

The 33rd degree is a supreme honour bestowed only on those who have demonstrated outstanding service to the Brotherhood, as well as professional and personal accomplishments.

We have already noted that in the Roman conquest of Egypt in AD. 30, it was the reign of the Thirty-Third Dynasty (some 5,000 years old) so I leave the thoughts with you how the Thirty-Third Degree was transposed into Freemasonry.

**End.**